

BUILDING FUTURES *from* SMALL MOMENTS



THORNS
COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

PROSPECTUS



SIR MARK GRUNDY

CEO

SHIRELAND COLLEGIATE ACADEMY TRUST

Thorns Collegiate Academy is proud to be part of the Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust. Our strength is built on a clear vision: **Innovate. Inspire. Collaborate.**

We strive to provide the best education possible for your children so that they make good progress while they are in our care. Children at Thorns form strong and positive relationships with their teachers and enjoy the time they spend with us.



MR MANNY KELAY

PRINCIPAL

THORNS COLLEGIATE ACADEMY





SHIRELAND
COLLEGIATE ACADEMY TRUST

Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust was established in 2007 and founded by Shireland Collegiate Academy, an **OFSTED rated Outstanding** school located in the Smethwick area. Having a reputation both locally, and nationally, for innovative teaching methods and using modern technology to enhance student progress, our practises are designed to inspire students within our care.

Most importantly, we believe that every student should be safe, happy, ambitious for themselves and respectful of all.

BUILDING FUTURES
from **SMALL MOMENTS**



Literacy for Life aims to develop both our students' academic and life skills, with a particular focus on raising levels of achievement in both Numeracy and Literacy.

Literacy for Life is an integrated, thematic, competency based curriculum created for our Key Stage 3 students.

The L4L curriculum is delivered through the principles of project based learning. Our L4L curriculum focuses on creating an actively engaging learning experience, rich in the use of new technologies, and one which is personalised and responsive to the needs of our students.





LEARNING IN L4L

All of our Year 7, 8 and 9 students have access to a laptop. These laptops are used intensively within the delivery of the L4L curriculum as all learning is driven through our Learning Gateway (our online learning environment).

The L4L curriculum in Year 7 is delivered by a team of 7 specialists, for 70% of the Year 7 curriculum. Each member of staff will have a pastoral responsibility for a group of students and is their main deliverer of L4L.

Literacy for Life is delivered in a self-contained base within our Academy, which has been remodelled to fully serve the needs of our curriculum. Within this area there are 11 specialised teaching spaces.

To ensure the highest quality of academic teaching, all staff have collaborative planning time to deliver the flexible curriculum. We invest heavily in ensuring that the L4L team have Year 7 as their sole focus point. The team has a single priority: to ensure the academic and personal development of your children as Year 7 students.



THEMES IN L4L

YEAR 7



Citizen Me



Journey to the Centre of the Earth



In Days Of Old



Fairy Tales



Journeys



iRobot



Water



Growing



Off With Your Head



Silent Movies

YEAR 8



Pudding Lane



Grand Designs



Coming & Going



India



Da Vinci



Freedom



Coast



Apps For Good



Please Sir



Over The Top

YEAR 9



Whose Earth is it Anyway?



Tragedy



Made In China



America



Britain All Change

KEY STAFF



MR M CUSWORTH-YAFAI

Assistant Principal
Literacy for Life



MRS S O'NEILL

Director of Literacy for Life



MRS L O'GORMAN

Director of Literacy for Life



MS O ALLEN

Head of Year 7



MRS N HARRIS

Head of Year 8



MISS R TURLEY

Head of Year 9





STUDENTS ON L4L

"L4L has given us the opportunity to learn many things in one lesson. I like the fact that we have the devices whenever we are in lessons which helps us with our learning."

- Abby

"I like the fact we can express our creativity with our work in the range of lessons in L4L."

- Max

"I enjoy L4L for a variety of different reasons. The use of laptops truly does make learning more simple and fun. It gives me a chance to use different programmes like Movie Maker to create my own movies. I love the different themes and how they incorporate many subjects in every lesson. I feel like I am learning even more now with L4L than without it."

- Erin

"L4L is an expression of education, it indulges you with a phenomenal team work experience. L4L's originality keeps homework and class work fresh for all students."

- Ibby

COMPETENCIES IN L4L

A group of five students in school uniforms (white shirts and dark ties) are gathered around a smartphone, looking at the screen with interest. The background shows a classroom environment with posters and a door.

At Thorns we believe the competency structure, shared with students and parents and combined with our safe environment and fantastic teaching, provides the best way for students to make progress throughout Key Stage 3.

The rapid progress students show in L4L is underpinned by assessing their competencies in ten different areas. These are the key skills in which students need to be proficient. At Thorns we use this system for three key reasons.

REASON 1

Students know what they need to do to improve

Rather than a single grade for English, students would have assessments for many different competencies in Communication and Reading. This allows them to see exactly where they need to make progress and what they need to improve.



REASON 2

Students constantly make progress

Students often have a competency attached to the lesson they are studying and may receive instant feedback which is stored on the online tracker. Students regularly gain a real sense of accomplishment rather than having their grades updated once a term.

REASON 3

All areas of students talents are nurtured

The competencies gauge more than just students' academic progress, they explore all of the areas needed for students to be successful. Students work on their creativity, career planning, learning skills and personal development. These areas allow students to be successful in the Academy and later life.

BMS TEAM



MR N SPARKS

Senior Assistant Principal
Inclusion, behaviour, and
designated safeguarding lead



MRS K FULLWOOD

Inclusion Manager



MRS T TIMMIS

Senior Behaviour Worker
& Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead





BEHAVIOUR

At Thorns we have the highest expectations of our students at all times. These expectations will be shared with your child regularly during their time with us and we will insist that they are met.

This is the Code of Conduct that students will be expected to follow:

Arrive on time

Be respectful

Correct equipment; smart uniform

Do your best work

Expect challenging work!

Follow instructions first time

We have recently introduced a new Behaviour System known as Behaviour Management Services (BMS).

SAFEGUARDING

Thorns Collegiate Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people both within the school environment and outside. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.

In order to fulfil the responsibility effectively, Thorns will ensure that its approach is child-centred. This means that we will consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.

For further information about BMS and Safeguarding, please visit:
<http://thornsca.org.uk/the-academy/academy-policies/>





MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

Thorns Collegiate Academy believes, that success is possible for every child that high expectations should be in place for every learner and that every pupil will make significant progress during their time here.

Here at Thorns we promote a supportive ethos where students feel able to talk about their emotional health and wellbeing. We encourage positive attitudes towards mental health and strive to ensure everyone within our Academy community feels valued and listened to.

At Thorns we want empower students to realise their own abilities, cope with the normal stresses of everyday life and work productively as they begin their journey in year 7 through their secondary phrase.

Through their L4L resources students have access to Kooth articles to support their mental health and discuss how they can look after themselves and help other people.

EXTRA CURRICULAR

Thorns Collegiate Academy offers students a wealth of Extra Curricular activities, and we encourage students to explore these opportunities, as doing so has been proven to have a positive effect on their academic performance.

The Benefits of Extracurricular Activities:

- Improved Academic Performance
- Explore Interests & Create Broader Perspectives
- Higher Self-esteem
- Social Opportunities
- Productive Breaks
- Essential Life Skills

Extra Curricular activities also introduce students to “real world” skills. These skills include:

Goal setting, teamwork, time management, prioritisation, problem solving, analytical thinking, leadership, and public speaking. The more a student pushes themselves in their extracurricular endeavours, the more they will develop these skills.

PRODUCTIONS

While Performing Arts allow students to develop creative passions, they simultaneously teach them language and communication skills, helping them to communicate effectively with others with confidence. Performing Arts are all about self expression, exploring alternative options and embracing individuality.

Throughout the academic year, Thorns hosts many productions in which students have an opportunity to develop and test their performance skills in front of a live audience.

High standards have been set for our annual Dance, Music, Drama, and Whole School Productions, and for our yearly GCSE Art Exhibition.



**HIPPODROME
EDUCATION
NETWORK**

As a Multi-Academy Trust, we strongly believe in establishing partnerships with the wider local area to create diverse and innovative opportunities for all pupils within our care. This year, we continue our strong partnership with the Birmingham Hippodrome Education Network which will be led by the Trust initiative Passport to Success, to develop these ever-important special moments within the classroom.

We hope that we can expand on our provision to create even greater moments outside of the classroom by providing performance and participation opportunities for our pupils that family, friends and the wider community can support and enjoy. This is an exciting time for the Trust, and we look forward to more adventures together in the next school year.

WEEK ONE

MONDAY

Hot dogs
Herb potatoes, seasonal vegetables
✓ Mexican vegetable burrito
Bakewell tart

TUESDAY

Mediterranean chicken pasta bake
Croquette potatoes, seasonal vegetables
✓ Quorn hot dogs
Chocolate crunch w/ custard

WEDNESDAY

Roast chicken & seasoning
Roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables
✓ Macaroni cheese
Red cherry crumble w/ custard

THURSDAY

Homemade beefburgers
Jacket wedges & sweetcorn
✓ Vegetable lasagne
Jam & coconut w/ custard

FRIDAY

Battered cod
French fries, baked beans / garden peas
✓ Cheese & onion pasty
Assorted cakes

WEEK TWO

MONDAY

Piri piri chicken
Tortilla wrap & salad
✓ Cheese & potato pie
Apple pie w/ custard

TUESDAY

Homemade chicken pie
Creamed potatoes, seasonal vegetables
✓ Fish finger baps
Strawberry shortbread w/ custard

WEDNESDAY

Roast pork & seasoning
Roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables
✓ Vegetable chilli wraps
Rhubarb crumble w/ custard

THURSDAY

✓ French bread pizzas w/ various toppings
Jacket wedges, seasonal vegetables/salad
Chocolate sponge w/ custard

FRIDAY

Battered cod
French fries, baked beans / garden peas
✓ Cheese omelette
Assorted cakes

ALSO AVAILABLE DAILY:

Pasta bar
Chicken wraps (halal)
Freshly made sandwiches
Jacket Potatoes (various fillings)
Curry & Rice

WEEK THREE

MONDAY

Homemade lasagne w/ garlic bread
Croquette potatoes, seasonal vegetables
✓ Cauliflower cheese
Lemon sponge w/ custard

TUESDAY

American style chicken burgers
Diced herb potatoes, sweetcorn
✓ Cheese, onion & tomato plait
Chocolate brownie w/ custard

WEDNESDAY

Roast chicken & seasoning
Roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables
✓ Broccoli & potato bake
Apple crumble w/ custard

THURSDAY

Homemade cottage pie
Seasonal vegetables
✓ Tomato & basil pasta bake
Egg custard tart

FRIDAY

Battered cod
French fries, baked beans / garden peas
✓ Homemade vegetable pizza
Assorted cakes

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HEALTHY EATING

We believe in making food a pleasurable and appealing part of school life. Diet and healthy living is a key part of the education process we strive to provide, that is above all, an experience that students will enjoy.

We understand the requirements of students at all ages through their school years and develop our food offer with this in mind. We deliver outstanding homemade food, produced by committed a team with a real passion for food and service.

By taking a positive approach to healthy eating and nutrition we make sure our dishes are as good for students as they are delicious. Our 3 week menu cycle uses a combination of seasonal, healthy, fresh ingredients to produce creative dishes that pupils enjoy.

PARENT PAY

We would like to offer you a convenient way to pay for school meals and trips using a secure service called ParentPay.

ParentPay is live at school now, and offers you the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you like, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - safe in the knowledge that the technology used is of the highest internet security available.

Making a payment is straightforward and ParentPay holds a payment history for you to view at a later date; no card details are stored in any part of the system. Once you've activated your account you can make online payments straight away.



PUPIL PREMIUM

Depending on your circumstances, your child may qualify for free school meals and additional funding that will support them through their time at Thorns.

If your child is entitled to free school meals, whether you choose to receive them or not, they will automatically be eligible for a Government-funded initiative called the Pupil Premium.

We feel that it is important that you are aware of the additional support that Pupil Premium funding may be able to offer your child during their time at Thorns, and that your child's entitlement to free school meals will mean much more than just a meal at lunchtime.

For further information about Pupil Premium, please visit:
<http://thornscsca.org.uk/the-academy/pupil-premium/>

UNIFORM

Research shows that school uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school. If students are dressed for success and look smart, it can instil a sense of pride, aspiration and can also support positive behaviour and discipline.

Uniform Expectations

- Black shoes (plain black, polishable leather-type shoes, with no logos, colours or trims)
- A black blazer (new badge will be provided for you in September)
- Smart black trousers – no jeans, jeggings or leggings OR a plain black pleated knee length skirt
- Plain white shirt – tucked in with top button fastened
- Optional plain black V-neck jumper or long-sleeved cardigan
- Plain black or white socks
- A sensible, waterproof coat
- A bag to carry all necessary equipment

IMPORTANT

- No extreme hairstyles e.g. shaved patterns or bright colours
- Trainers or boots are not permitted.
- Only one ring and one small stud per ear
- Make-up, if worn, must be discrete
- No facial piercings (one small nose stud is permitted)
- No bright nail varnish/nail extensions
- No wide fashion belts
- No hoodies or baseball caps
- No bracelets or necklaces





EQUIPMENT

Compulsory Equipment

Student planner (to be provided)

A pencil case containing the following:

- Black or blue pens, and a green pen
- Pencils
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener
- Scientific calculator

Desirable Equipment

- Pencil crayons or felt pens
- Highlighter pens
- Mathematics geometry set (pair of compasses, protractor)
- Folder with dividers
- French or German dictionary (when allocated either French or German lessons in September)

We are very much looking forward to getting to know your child throughout the next academic year and believe that by working together with you, we can fully support your child to achieve their full potential.

For further information regarding term dates, uniform (including PE kit), and equipment please visit:

www.thornsca.org.uk

FAMILY FORUM

Giving parents a voice - a say on Academy matters and involvement in decision-making on issues that affect students - enables us to effectively meet the needs of our community.

Our aim is to create an open and welcoming culture, providing multiple opportunities for parents and carers to be involved.

All parents and carers are welcome to attend our Family Forum meetings.

PTFA

Our PTFA play a vital role in buiding the Academy community.

Whilst fund-raising is a major part of our PTFA's activties, and directly contributes to the improvement of the Academy, forming relationships and developing links with the wider society also benefit the academy, whilst offering a positive influence within the local area.



Thorns' PTFA also provide willing and able organisers when the Academy needs help, and hold social events to bond the Academy community.

Members are knowledgeable about the school and enthuse about it to enhance its reputation to the wider community.

The varied work means there's something for everyone - it's not just about being on the committee. Studies suggest that students excel in their studies when their families actively engage with their school.

So why not join our PTFA? You can benefit your son/daughter, improve their educational environment and make friends too.



S O C I A
M E D



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<http://bit.ly/ThornsVideo>



FOLLOW US

Recognising and celebrating success is a very powerful motivator for students because it reinforces the purpose of their hard work whilst also showing appreciation for their achievements. This, in turn, boosts self-esteem and it motivates individuals to take the next step towards achieving the next goal.

At Thorns we use our social media platforms to not only promote upcoming events and opportunities, but to also share student success with the local community and our families. This recognition creates positive classroom communities and raises the aspirations of our students.

By engaging with the academy through social media, parents can keep up to date with what their children are learning and what they have achieved during the day, keeping them involved in classroom activities.



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