



# Thornhill School

BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE COLLEGE

Learn to live

Dear Parent/Carer/Stakeholder or Partner

Our primary aims are always to sustain our continual programme of improvement, to the quality of learning, to educational outcomes and to the future success of our pupils. These aims have served us well and resulted in Thornhill being the highest performing secondary school in Sunderland. As such we believe we are best placed to identify the needs and opportunities for young people at Thornhill and to develop strategies that will achieve and maintain our vision.

In the rapidly changing educational landscape Governors have maintained a watching brief regarding the variety of types of school status available and believe we have now identified a multi-academy trust which shares our long, and closely held, educational values, to which we believe membership will bring great benefits to our pupils and staff. Academy status within the Consilium Academies Trust would retain the freedom to move swiftly to address need and to take the opportunities offered by belonging to a larger collection of partner academies based in the North of England.

As with most academies already established in Sunderland, Thornhill would wish to continue to be a fully-fledged partner within the local secondary sector.

The partnerships we have developed over the years with our local primary and secondary schools and in particular with Washington, our sister federated school, have been an essential part of our success and we wish to continue to develop them further. Some of the best staff training has been organised between schools and we would see this aspect of partnership developing even further as an academy. Whilst academy status frees the school from Local Authority control it does not mean that we wish to work any less closely with them. Indeed, we wish to use these new circumstances to develop and strengthen all our partnerships in mutually beneficial ways.

The small amount of extra funding available to academies will also pay for some additional services and allow us to become more efficient and effective, for the benefit of our school and all our pupils, by ensuring that we continue to provide:

- The highest standards of teaching and learning
- Opportunities for creative growth and fantastic experiences as preparation for life
- High standards of behaviour
- Decisive and responsive leadership
- Strong partnerships

We will continue to be the high performing school that our community wants and deserves.

We are interested in your thoughts regarding this proposal and so would be pleased to receive them via our response portal on the Thornhill website [www.thornhillschool.org.uk](http://www.thornhillschool.org.uk) by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

Yours faithfully

D Butler  
Chair of Governors

J Hallworth  
Executive Head Teacher



**Thornhill School Business & Enterprise College**

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