



**Thornhill Academy**

Head Teacher: **Mr I Redford**

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 **0191 500 7981**

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Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

We hope that you are well.

We appreciate that this is already a challenging time, but we wanted to inform you of some tragic news we were notified of yesterday.

It is with great sadness that I let you know that Mr Jones, our long-serving Teacher of Art, has passed away.

I know that this will come as a tremendous shock to our school community, particularly as Mr Jones has taught some of our parents as well as our current pupils. Unfortunately, I don't have any other information to share with you at this stage, other than to confirm that we do not believe this to be related to the current outbreak of Covid-19. While I know that there will be many questions, I am sure that you will join me in respecting the privacy of Mr Jones' family at this incredibly difficult time.

This news is even more challenging to give because of the current social distancing guidelines and the closure of our school. While we can't come together as a community, I want you all to know that the school and Consilium, our Trust, are here to provide whatever help we can. Please do get in touch either by telephone or email if you require support. Our SENCO and school counsellor will coordinate support or assistance to help everyone come to terms with this shock.

Main school reception: 0191 500 7981

SENCO - Mrs Neeson: neeson.k@thornhillacademy.com

School Counsellor - Ms Lorna Gray: gray.l@thornhillacademy.com

Our staff are also grieving their friend and colleague, so please do bear with us if there are a few minor disruptions at the start of next week to the online learning we are providing.

Thornhill is a strong community, one that I am so proud to be part of. Together we will help each other through this most challenging of times. Meanwhile if you would like to send a message of condolence to Mr Jones' family please follow the link below. We will collate all the messages and pass them to Mr Jones' family at an appropriate time.

<https://tinyurl.com/yclb3xmr>

Yours sincerely

**Ian Redford**  
**Headteacher**