



Thornton College Guide

A supportive environment that will provide students with Special Educational Needs (SEN) the opportunity to develop independence and life and work skills

Welcome to Thornton College

Applying to a College is a big decision and this guide is designed to help you find the right course and support.

This guide will help you find out more about Thornton College and the skills that you can learn there. It will also tell you about our dedicated teams of tutors and support workers who can support learners in all our classes. They will help you to get the most out of your experience at college.

You will receive a warm welcome at Thornton College. All our learners are treated as individuals and our staff respond to your needs from the moment you contact the College to the moment you leave. We look forward to supporting you in whatever way is needed for you to complete your course successfully – and to enjoy your time at Thornton College.

What is Thornton College?

Thornton College is a specialist centre dedicated to providing a caring and supportive environment for young people with learning difficulties and/or physical disabilities. The staff are experienced, specialist teachers and support teams who work in collaboration with Sefton Special Educational Needs Schools. The College builds on prior learning and provides a progression route to help students develop the skills necessary to achieve their individual potential.

All of our students receive high needs funding from their local authority. This funding is allocated on an annual basis.

What Ofsted said about us...

Learners with high needs on specialist courses make good progress. They develop good skills and progress to become independent in everyday life.

In specialist programmes, learners enjoy a thorough assessment of their starting points before they enrol. They visit the college regularly before they start their programme. Lecturers design activities to build on learners' previous achievements. Consequently, learners settle in quickly and make good progress.

Managers have high expectations of learners on specialist courses. They provide an interesting and varied curriculum, including cooking, art and essential everyday living skills.

At Thornton College, managers put in place specialist support, such as on-site speech and language therapy, and invest in specialist equipment. As a result, learners are further enabled to overcome their barriers to independence.

Staff regularly check and record learners' progress on specialist courses. They promptly set new, challenging targets for their next steps. Learners develop good relationships with staff. As a result, they gain confidence and take pride in their work and make gradual but important steps towards independence. Learners on specialist programmes know their targets and which ones they have achieved. They enjoy their programmes and learn useful new skills through their enrichment activities.

For a full copy of our latest Ofsted report, please visit www.hughbaird.ac.uk/thorntoncollege

Parents, Guardians & Carers

Coming to Thornton College may be different to what your son/daughter/dependent has been used to at school, but don't worry!

We're known for the support we provide our students and we're here to help every step of the way.

What we can offer:

- Effective communication with local schools to enable a smooth transition.
- A safe and inclusive environment.
- Dedicated Safeguarding Officer.
- Access to financial packages to help with the costs of College.
- Work experience opportunities that bring students face to face with employers (if appropriate).
- Excellent links with Hugh Baird College and other local providers to aid transition to the next level of study.
- Commitment to ensuring our students are healthy. As recognised by national healthy colleges award we have achieved.
- Support for Care Leavers. Endorsed by the Frank Buttle Trust Quality Mark.
- Commitment to the embedding of British Values.
- Strong commitment to improving maths and English.
- Classes that are regularly observed to ensure they are up to standard.
- Access to financial packages to help with the costs of College.
- A confidential counselling and chaplaincy service.

The quality marks we are proud to hold:



CASE STUDY

Samantha Roberts from Norris Green

When the time came for Samantha to leave Redbridge School we looked at several places. As soon as we visited Thornton College we knew this was the right place. The staff were so welcoming and helpful, and extremely interested in Sam and her individual needs.

The staff are highly skilled in planning appropriate and stimulating activities and lessons which have enabled Sam to make fantastic progress in her communication and understanding. The support team have a really good understanding of Sam and offer excellent care and support.

Communication between home and college is also excellent. We attend regular events and parents evening

What are the facilities like?

Thornton College has good, modern facilities to give you the right training and experience to learn new skills.

We have multimedia facilities, a horticulture room, kitchen and even a small apartment which will help you to learn how to live as independently as possible. The canteen and cafe area are attractive and spacious and also provide drama and performance space. The extensive grounds include an allotment area and sports facilities.

What can I do when I finish at Thornton College?

You can progress on to further study at College, go into employment or supported employment or independent living.

How to find us



What will I study?

We will help you to achieve your maximum potential, and we will take into account any learning that you have already done. We will also work with you to help you develop your life goals.

For the first six weeks that you are at Thornton College, your tutors will check to see what skills you already have. They will also find out which skills you would like, or need, to help you to live independently, get into further education or find a job.

If you have joined Thornton College from school we will also talk to your school so that we can understand what help you need. Once we have all of this information, we will plan a detailed learning programme for you. This will ensure that you can learn at a level and pace to suit your needs, abilities, interests and learning styles.

You will study a range of areas which will help you to develop your skills, and you will enjoy practical activities and projects which will help you to become as independent as possible.

You will gain qualifications relating to your achievements and interests and your progress will be recognised with a College Certificate of Progress.



Your classes will include:

- **Maths for everyday life**
(including managing money, time and measuring)
- **Reading, writing, speaking and listening**
- **Art**
- **Home management**
(including cooking and healthy eating)
- **Everyday living skills**
(including being out and about in the community)
- **Work skills**
(including learning routines, health and safety, IT applying for jobs)
- **Enterprise and charity work**
(including work and voluntary placements)
- **Enrichment**
(including a choir, woodwork club, sports clubs and photography club)

A day in the life... at Thornton College

When you come to Thornton College you will have lots of help and support from the staff.

They will help you to get around the College, keep up with your work, and to enjoy yourself with friends at lunch and break times. Different students will study different courses, and you will be able to choose the activities which interest you. The information below gives you an example of what you might do during a day at College.

8.50am - Arrival at College

Your transport will drop you off at Thornton College, where you will be met by our friendly

9am to 12pm - Morning lessons

In your class groups, you will meet your tutor for the morning lesson. Support Workers will stay with you in your lessons in case you need any extra help. During the break, there are a wide range of hot and cold drinks available to buy in the canteen and you will also receive a free healthy breakfast. If you need any help, the Support Workers will assist you.

12pm to 1pm - Lunch

You will receive a choice of free hot or cold lunches from the canteen, or you can bring your own packed lunch with you. If you need any help with money, making choices or even carrying items, the staff will assist you.

1pm to 3.30pm Afternoon lessons

In your class groups you will meet your tutor for the afternoon. Support Workers will again stay with you in your lessons in case you need any extra help.

3.30pm - End of the College day

Staff will supervise as you leave College.



Support at College

At Thornton College we have staff who will make sure that you can get to your classes at the right time.

Staff are also available to help you use the canteen at breaks and lunchtimes, to help you in the classroom, and to make sure that you keep up with your work.

Who can help me at College?

When you come along to talk about coming to College, we will explain how we can help you at College, and what will happen every day.

Our staff meet students when they arrive at College every day. They will make sure that you get to the right place at the right time, and if required, will spend time with you and your friends at break times. They can help you with whatever support you might need, such as eating, or going to the toilet.

Our Support Workers will help you in your classes. They will help you to understand the lessons and can help you with writing, spelling and organising your work.

Do I have to do exams?

A lot of your work will be developing practical skills, so you may not need to sit an exam. For example you might need to show how you would travel on a bus, or prepare a snack.

Other people to contact for information:

Centre Manager

Email: thorntoncollege@hughbaird.ac.uk

Tel: 0151 934 4811

Care Assistant Team Leader

Tel: 0151 353 4421 / 4552

Student Services at Hugh Baird College

Tel: 0151 353 4444



How do I apply to Thornton College

Applying for college can be a big step, but we're here to help you all the way. Follow the steps below if you wish to apply or simply want to find out more about what life is like at Thornton College.

Step 1

Visit www.hughbaird.ac.uk/thorntoncollege here you will find a form that you can complete in order to get a phone call back from the team at Thornton College.

Staff at Thornton College will call you back within 3 days.

Step 2

On this call they will find out a little bit more about you and will be able to answer any questions you or your parents / guardians / carers might have.

During this call you can also arrange a suitable time to come and have a tour of the college, meet staff and students and ask more questions if you have any.

Step 3

Once you decide you want to come to Thornton College and join us in September, the team at the college will work with your current school and with the Local Authority Special Educational Needs team in order to make the process as smooth as possible for you.

If at any point, you or your parents / guardians / carers wish to know where your application is up to, then you can call 0151 934 4811 for an update.

Where can I get more information?

Thornton College Staff can help you with information about Thornton College, and can arrange for you to discuss the College and courses with teaching and support staff.

Please contact the college on 0151 934 4811 or email thorntoncollege@hughbaird.ac.uk

Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

Both Thornton College and Hugh Baird College are committed to the Sefton Child Protection Procedures and Guidelines, including dealing with the protection of vulnerable adults and children under the age of 18.

For a copy of the policy please ask our Student Services team, or visit our website www.hughbaird.ac.uk.



Find out more

Contact the Centre Manager to find out more or to arrange a convenient time to visit Thornton College and see the facilities.

Telephone: **0151 934 4811** or email: **thorntoncollege@hughbaird.ac.uk**

Thornton College, Edge Lane, Thornton, Sefton, L23 4TF 0151 934 4811

www.hughbaird.ac.uk/thorntoncollege

The College is committed to Equal Opportunities

Please contact Thornton College if you require an alternative format of this publication.

Information is correct at time of going to print. Hugh Baird College reserves the right to withdraw or amend courses, entry requirements and details included in this publication.