



# Thriftwood

School and College

website: [www.thriftwoodschool.com](http://www.thriftwoodschool.com)

30<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Dear Student and Parent/Carer,

## Accreditation information

We currently offer a range of different accreditation pathways at Thriftwood College. The accreditation pathway followed by each learner is individualised and depends on their year group, progress, ability and for Key Stage 5 learners, their chosen options.

The accreditation that learners are working towards each academic year is explained to students and discussed during parent–teacher meetings, annual review meetings and within progress reports.

## Accreditation on offer

**AQA Unit Awards** are designed to build confidence and motivation by recognising small steps of progress and achievement. Instead of exams, learners complete short units based on specific skills or activities. Evidence of learning may include work produced, observations, photographs or video. Students gain certificates throughout the year as they make progress.

**AQA Entry Level Certificates in Maths and English** help to build confidence, recognise progress and formally acknowledge achievement. These qualifications are non-exam based. Coursework and assessments are completed during regular college lessons (under exam conditions) and are marked then internally verified at college. Samples are then reviewed by a moderator appointed by the exam board. Assessment marks must be uploaded to the exam board by the 15<sup>th</sup> of May each year. Regular attendance is essential.

**TQUK Functional Skills Level 1 & 2 in Maths and English** are designed to demonstrate that a learner can apply their English and Maths skills independently. Functional Skills Level 2 sits at the same level on the national qualifications framework as a GCSE Grade 4 and is widely accepted by colleges, training providers and employers as a GCSE-equivalent for progression purposes. Functional Skills Level 1 sits just below GCSE level and is often used as a stepping stone towards Level 2. They are both commonly used as preparation for further education, training or employment. These qualifications are externally assessed through paper-based or online exams, which are set and marked by the awarding body. We have opted for paper-based on-demand exams to be sat by candidates in college, on formal exam dates, set in advance.

English also includes a Speaking, Listening and Communication (SLC) component which is non-exam based. Learners prepare for this assessment in lessons. The assessment is recorded and marked by the learner's English teacher, verified by our English Lead, and then submitted to the awarding body for moderation.

**NCFE Digital Functional Skills Entry Level 3 & Level 1** support students in developing independence and confidence with digital technology. They assess a learner's ability to use digital skills in everyday and work-related situations. These qualifications are externally assessed through on-demand on-screen exams, which are set and marked by the awarding body. Assessments are completed in the ICT Suite under supervised exam conditions on dates predetermined by the college.

Core students in Year 10 are enrolled on a two-year ICT course and may sit an on-screen Entry Level 3 exam during the summer term of Year 11 (where appropriate).

Core students who choose ICT as an option in Key Stage 5 (Years 12 and 13) are enrolled on a one-year course and might re-sit Entry Level 3, if they were not successful in Year 11, or may progress to Level 1 if they achieved Entry Level 3 (where appropriate).

**AQA GCSEs in Maths and English Language** are the most traditional and academic qualification route. They are exam-based, with assessments externally set and marked by AQA. Exams take place during a formal national exam series on fixed dates in the Summer Term. Learners sit written examinations under strict exam conditions.

English Language also includes a Speaking, Listening and Communication (SLC) component which is non-exam based. Learners prepare for this assessment in lessons. The assessment is recorded and marked by the learner's English teacher, verified by our English Lead, and then submitted to the awarding body for moderation.

**Leadership Skills Foundation: Sports Leaders Level 1** focuses on developing confidence, teamwork and basic leadership skills through hands-on, practical learning in sport and physical activity. This qualification is not exam based. Learners are assessed through practical activities and evidence gathered during the course. Regular attendance is essential. Learner Evidence Records are completed by learners and assessed by the college Sports Lead before being externally quality assured by the awarding organisation.

Core students who choose Sports Leaders as an option in Key Stage 5 (Years 12 and 13) are enrolled on a one-year course.

**Trinity College London Arts Award – Bronze (or Level 1) & Silver (or Level 2)** celebrate creativity, personal interests and skill development in the arts, while building confidence and encouraging learners to take ownership of their learning. These qualifications are not exam based. Learners create a portfolio of evidence that demonstrates their learning and progress. Regular attendance is essential. Portfolios are assessed by trained college staff and then externally moderated by Trinity College London.

On the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF), Bronze sits at Level 1 which is the equivalent to GCSE grades 1-3. Silver sits at Level 2 which corresponds to GCSE grades 4-9 and is recognised as an equivalent to a GCSE pass for progression to further education, training or employment.

Core students in Year 10 are enrolled on a two-year course, completing the Bronze (Level 1) award at the end of Year 11.

Core students who choose Media Studies as an option in Key Stage 5 (Years 12 and 13) are enrolled on the Silver (Level 2) award which is a one-year course.

**Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Bronze** supports young people in developing confidence, independence and life skills through personal challenge. These awards are not exam based. Learners complete activities across four areas: a skill / a physical activity / volunteering to help others and an outdoor expedition involving camping overnight. Achievement is based on commitment, effort and personal development rather than academic performance. Activities are completed over a period of time (regular attendance is essential), with progress recorded and supported by the college Duke of Edinburgh Leads and approved DofE assessors.

Core students in Year 10 are enrolled on a two-year course, completing the award at the end of Year 11.

FGP students in Year 12 are enrolled on a two-year course, completing the award at the end of Year 13.

## **Examinations and results**

Functional Skills and GCSE examinations will take place during the normal college day in the weeks commencing 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 and 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026. There will be slight adjustments to the college timetable during this period but learners will be supported and guided by college staff. If your child has been entered for one of these examinations, further details will be shared shortly.

Results for all accreditations will be collated then issued on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2026. We would prefer to issue results digitally via email to eligible students. If an alternative email address is not provided (in place of the student's college email), a provisional statement of results will be posted to the home address held on Arbor, our Management Information System. Letters will be addressed to the student. A member of our Senior Leadership Team will also be available on results day on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2026 between 10:00 and 12:00 for learners who would prefer to call and receive their results by telephone.

A celebration assembly and presentation evening will take place during the Autumn Term once confirmed certificates have been received, to recognise achievements and present portfolios or certificates. Students who have remained at college will attend the celebration assembly and students who have moved on will be invited to join us for a presentation evening. Details to follow next academic year.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me Monday to Friday between 09:00 and 15:00 on 01245 262779 (option 3) or by email at [kirsty.mountain@thriftwoodcollege.com](mailto:kirsty.mountain@thriftwoodcollege.com).

With very best wishes

*Kirsty Mountain*

Examinations & GDPR Compliance Officer

**Executive Headteacher - School & College: Mrs Georgina Pryke BSc (Hons) PGCE NPQH**

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