



Thornhill  
Academy  
*Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions*

# RECRUITMENT PACK

Autism Support Assistant



Consilium  
Academies  
*Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions*

# Welcome from the CEO

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in the position of Autism Support Assistant at Consilium Academies.

At Consilium, we believe in enriching lives and inspiring ambitions through:

Partnerships

- Opportunity
- Integrity
- Excellence
- Equity
- Being people-centred

We believe in the unique value of each individual – whether that be staff or student – and are dedicated to ensuring each member of our Trust achieves their full potential. As a result of this, we work collaboratively with our stakeholders and external organisations to foster relationships that will enhance opportunities for all our members across the Trust.

At Consilium we're people centred, and want everyone in our Trust, whether teaching or support staff to have access to exceptional professional development. that's why we created our Centre for Professional Learning, which is available for every single colleague across the Trust. here, our colleagues have access to bespoke training opportunities and resources tailored specifically for their needs.

We believe every student, no matter their background, is entitled to an excellent education with an equal opportunity to fulfil their potential. It is only through this vision that we can provide an environment where every pupil can thrive.

As part of our MAT, our Academies follow the collective aims of:

- Ensure everything we do has a focus on helping pupils achieve their potential academically, socially, and emotionally
- Instil a passion for life-long learning and continued improvement so our Academies, staff, and students can grasp their aspirations and ambitions
- Create a family of academies that are inclusive and embrace diversity, where all members of the community feel supported, inspired, and empowered to succeed
- Ensure all stakeholders are seen as partners in our work with the communities we serve

Consilium Academies is going through a huge period of development with rapid growth and opportunities for all staff; I can't think of a better time to join us.

Tracey Greenough

Acting Chief Executive of Consilium Academies.

# Welcome from the Headteacher

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for the interest in working at Thornhill Academy. I am immensely proud to be the Headteacher of this academy and work within our trust. All our staff at Thornhill are committed to giving our students high-quality education, that will help them become the best they can be. As well as aiming to prepare our students for success in studying at the Academy, we aim to prepare them for success in their life beyond Thornhill too.

At Thornhill Academy, we aim to work collectively with our local community to provide the highest-quality education in an environment which is welcoming and inclusive. We believe only in this setting can learning and personal development flourish successfully. Our aim is clear, to develop the whole person in a dynamic and progressive learning environment that expects exemplary standards of behaviour and respect and demands a thirst for continuous learning. Every member of our Academy is clear on what we want to deliver to current and future students, through equal opportunities, for every pupil to succeed.

We are committed to:

- Providing students with an exciting, engaging, and rich education;
- Recognising and celebrating the unique nature of every child in our community;
- Celebrating the successes of our Academy and our community to the full

Thornhill Academy is proud to be part of Consilium Academies Trust. As part of Consilium, we are dedicated to working towards the Consilium mission of 'Enriching Lives' and 'Inspiring Ambitions.'

Thank you again for your interest, this is an exciting time to work in our forward-looking academy. Our Ofsted inspection in March 2022 highlights the rapid improvement journey our school is on and we look forward to new staff joining us who share our belief in our young people and want to support our school on this journey of providing our young people with the skills, knowledge and opportunities to be the best they can be

I look forward to receiving your application.

Kind regards,



Mrs Sue Hamilton

Headteacher



## About the Academy

Thornhill Academy is an 11 to 16 secondary academy, with over six hundred students which occupies a large site in close proximity to Sunderland City Centre. Thornhill Academy is a unique school in its area, this uniqueness comes from the diversity of our student population. Across the school, students come from 14 different ethnicities, with 35 different languages. We are proud to be this vibrant and diverse community and have developed a culture that has moved far beyond tolerance and one in which we celebrate, learn from, and embrace our differences. The diversity of our community offers students and staff rewarding and deeply engaging experiences and supports staff on their journey to become inspirational and reflective practitioners, improving life chances for all in our community.

At Thornhill we take pride in developing each individual pupil to achieve their potential and make a positive contribution to society. We provide a safe, happy and nurturing environment in which we challenge all to strive for personal accomplishment and excellence.

Students, parents, staff and governors are proud of recent achievements here and, as well as helping students achieve the results they need to follow chosen career paths, has a huge and varied programme of activities and extra-curricular opportunities on offer.

Our Aims are to create an environment in which all take responsibility for their actions, behaviour and learning; relishing and learning from challenges. We want to create a safe, supportive and happy working environment in which diversity is celebrated and pupils and staff thrive. We have high expectations of all students in terms of behaviour and commitment to learning and of our parents in working with us as partners to support individual progress.

Thornhill Academy is a fantastic school and I believe it is our job to develop a lifelong passion for learning through high quality teaching which fosters curiosity and promotes independence. We are committed to recognising and developing the whole child: physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually, creating active and responsible citizens who lead a successful and fulfilling life.

Our young people tell us they are very happy here and we work closely with parents and carers to ensure a successful experience for all.

In December 2022, we were delighted to be named on the Department of Education's list of schools as part of the School Rebuilding Programme (SRP), being named in July 2023 as one of the fifty initial schools for development. We are now beginning the exciting journey to bring a state-of-the-art school to our community.

# About the Trust

## The Consilium Mission

*“Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions”*

We are proud to be Consilium Academies, a Trust that believes in the unique value of each individual. Our vision, actions, and purpose are guided by this principle and a dedication to do all we can for the communities we serve.

We never put a ceiling on potential. Instead, we work with our Academies to provide high-quality education that is truly inclusive, giving every student the same opportunities to develop the skills and knowledge they need to thrive in life beyond the classroom.

We are committed to enriching the lives of all those involved in our Trust through an ambitious, student-centred approach to education.

Consilium Academies is a Multi-Academy Trust consisting of nine schools based across three hubs in Salford, South Yorkshire, and the North East of England.

We believe in inclusivity, both in the schools and communities we serve and are committed to working with our Academies to ensure our ethos is realised on a daily basis.

- The lives of our young people should be enriched by care, experience, and opportunity. This is achieved by;
- helping children and young people to succeed to their potential academically, socially, and emotionally;
- instilling a passion for lifelong love of learning and continued improvement so that our academies, staff, and students achieve their aspirations and ambitions;
- creating a family of academies that are inclusive and embrace diversity, where all members of the community feel supported, inspired, and empowered to succeed;
- ensuring all stakeholders are seen as partners in our work within the communities we serve.

The Trust operates a Central Team led by our Interim Chief Executive, Tracey Greenough. The team provide direct services to our schools as well as Trust-level accountability, leadership, and management. We operate a strong partnership model and our partner schools are instrumental in the continual growth and development of our Trust. We work with our schools in a supportive way that does not detract from the individual identity of a school, instead allows them to grow and focus on student achievement and success.

## WE ARE PROUD TO OFFER THE FOLLOWING STAFF BENEFITS:

- Pension with the Local Government Pension Scheme and Teachers Pension Scheme
- 34 days annual leave plus bank holidays for all support staff (pro-rated for part-time employees)
- 36 hour working week for all full-time support staff
- Automatic pay progression for all staff in line with their current grading structure
- Enhanced contractual sick pay in line with the Burgundy Book and Green Book
- Employee Assistance Program with access to counselling and CBT 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Access to an Occupational Health Provider
- Free membership to Vivup, with hundreds of exclusive offers and discounts available online and in store at many shops, gyms, and restaurants
- An excellent CPD offer for every member of staff; to help you perform as well as you can in your role, provide you with a sense of wellbeing at work and to help you reach your career aspirations

# About the Role

**Job Title: Autism Support Assistant**

**Start date: To Be Confirmed.**

**Hours: 36 hours term time + 5 days**

**Contract: Permanent**

**Salary: Grade 4 (NJC scale points 6 – 8) (Actual salary £21,411.80 - £22,136.79)**

Do you have the drive, passion and commitment to deliver outstanding support? This is an opportunity to join a dedicated team of staff at Thornhill Academy, part of Consilium Academies who are committed to providing the best possible education for our pupils.

We are looking for an experienced, friendly and hard-working Autism Support Assistant to join our team.

We are looking for:

- An inclusive individual, with high expectations of their students, who is committed to maximising rates of progress and has innovative ideas to support all pupils.
- Someone with a sense of humour, who understands the importance of developing a positive culture in our organisation.

If you feel you share our values, have the vision and drive for excellence and want to be part of an enthusiastic and dedicated team, committed to ensuring that students fulfil their potential, then we would like to hear from you.

The successful candidate will present the best possible example of professional standards to colleagues.

To apply please download and complete the attached application form. Please note we do not accept CV's. We ask that all completed application forms are sent to Kim Weller at [kim.weller1@consilium-at.com](mailto:kim.weller1@consilium-at.com)

Please ensure that within your application you provide the names, addresses, and contact details for two referees, one of whom should be your current or most recent employer.

**The closing date for applications is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 09:00 AM.**

**Interviews will take place on a date to be agreed.**

Consilium Academies is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Appointments are made subject to an Enhanced DBS Check, and where applicable, a prohibition from teaching check will be completed for all applicants.

In accordance with our statutory obligations under Keeping Children Safe in Education Consilium Academies is required to conduct an online search as part of our due diligence on shortlisted candidates. This may help identify any incidents or issues that have happened, and are publicly available online, which Consilium Academies might want to explore with you. Further information on online searches can be found in paragraph 221 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

The Trust is an equal opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees.

Under Part 7 of the Immigration Act 2016, the Public Sector fluency duty requires state funded schools to ensure candidates for their customer facing roles have the necessary standard of spoken English.

*Please note: If you have not been contacted within one week of the closing date please assume that your application has been unsuccessful on this occasion. We are unable to provide feedback on individual applications. Applications received after the closing time stated will not be considered.*

## Job Description

Job Title:	Autism Support Assistant
Reports to:	Business Support Officer
Based at:	Thornhill Academy
Grade:	Grade 4 (NJC scale points 6 – 8)

### Main purpose of the Role

To work under the instruction/guidance of a teacher, to provide specific work/care/support programmes. To enable access to learning for pupils and to assist the teacher in the management of pupils and the classroom. Work may be carried out in the classroom or outside the main teaching area. To support students with autism on a 1:1 and small group work basis.

### Core Responsibilities & Tasks

#### Support for the Pupils

- Encouraging pupils to interact and work cooperatively with other and engage all pupils in activities. Promoting independence and employing strategies to recognise and reward achievement.
- Supervise and provide particular support for pupils, including those with SEN, ensuring their safety and access to learning activities.
- Assist with the development and implementation of individual Education/Behaviour Plans and Personal Care Programmes.
- Establish constructive relationships with pupils and interact with them according to individual needs.
- Promote inclusion and acceptance of all pupils.
- Encourage pupils to interact with others and engage in activities led by the teacher.
- Set challenging and demanding expectations and promote self-esteem and independence.
- Provide feedback to pupils in relation to progress and achievements under guidance of the teacher.
- Support for the Curriculum.
- Undertake structured and agreed learning activities/teaching programmes, advising activities according to pupil responses.
- Undertake programmes linked to learning strategies e.g. literacy, numeracy, KS3, foundation etc. and feedback to teacher.
- Support the use of ICT in learning activities and develop pupil's competence and independence in use.
- Prepare, maintain and use equipment/resources required to meet the lesson plans/relevant learning activity and assess pupils in their use.

#### Support for Teachers

- Assisting with display work and create and maintain a purposeful, orderly and supportive environment, in accordance with lesson plans.
- Assist with planning of learning activities and support pupils to achieve learning goals.
- Monitor the response of pupils to learning activities and record achievements/progress as directed.
- Determining the need for and preparing and maintaining general and specialist equipment and resources and assisting pupils in their use.
- Provide detailed and regular feedback to teachers on pupils' achievements, progress, problems etc.
- Promote good pupil behaviour, dealing with incidents in line with School Policy and encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own behaviour.
- Undertake routine marking of pupils' work.
- Establish constructive relationships with parents/carers.
- To be responsible for keeping and updating records as agreed with the teacher, through the monitoring and evaluation of pupil's responses to learning activities through observation of achievement against pre-determined learning objectives.

- Undertake structured and agreed learning activities/teaching programmes, adjusting activities according to pupil's responses/needs.
- Administer routine tests and invigilate exams, and accurately record achievement and progress.

#### **General Tasks**

- Be aware of and comply with policies and procedures relating to Child Protection, health, safety and security, confidentiality and data protection, reporting all concerns to an appropriate person.
- Contribute to the overall ethos/work/aims of the school.
- Attend and participate in relevant meetings as required.
- To assist in meeting the physical care needs of students as required.
- Work with external professionals, such as the Autism Outreach Team, to ensure the best outcomes for students with autism in school.

#### **Corporate Responsibilities**

- The Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment
- To pursue and promote the achievement and integration of diversity and equality of opportunity throughout the Trust
- To plan, monitor and review health and safety within areas of personal control
- To participate in the Trust's Professional Development Review process and engage in continuous professional development and networking to ensure that professional skills and knowledge are up to date
- To maintain high professional standards of attendance, punctuality, appearance, conduct and positive, courteous relations with students, parents, and colleagues

#### **Additional Notes**

- The job purpose and key statements remain indicative and by no means exclusive. Given the evolving needs of the Trust, flexibility among staff is very important. All staff may be required to undertake other such reasonable duties as may be required from time to time in line with the grade of their post.
- An Enhanced DBS Check will be requested on successful application to a position at the Trust.

**Person Specification**

<b>Qualifications and CPD</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
NVQ 3 for Teaching Assistants or equivalent qualification or experience.	X	
Where designated to work in a particular curriculum area, to work towards NVQ 2 in that subject area.		X
<b>Experience, Knowledge and Skills</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
Experience of working with children of relevant age.	X	
Experience of working with pupils with additional needs.		X
Very good Numeracy/literacy skills (equivalent to NVQ 2 in English and Maths).	X	
Full working knowledge of relevant policies/codes of practice and awareness of relevant legislation.		X
Ability to relate well to children and adults.	X	
Work constructively as part of a team, understanding classroom roles and responsibilities and your own position within these.	X	
Working knowledge of national curriculum and other relevant learning programmes.	X	
Understanding of principles of child development and learning processes and in particular, barriers to learning.	X	
Ability to plan effective actions for pupils at risk of underachieving.	X	
Full understanding of the range of support services/providers.		X
Knowledge and understanding of autism and the impact that this has on learning	X	
Ability to support students with autism on a 1:1 and small group basis	X	
Ability to self-evaluate learning needs and actively seek learning opportunities.	X	
<b>Personal Attributes</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
Ability to relate well to children and adults.	X	
Ability to self-evaluate learning needs and actively seek learning opportunities.	X	
<b>English Fluency</b>		
Possessing a relevant qualification for the role attained as part of education in the UK or full taught in English by a recognized institution abroad	X	
Passing an English or Welsh spoken language competency test or possessing a relevant spoken English or Welsh qualification at CEFR Level B1 or above, taught in English by a recognized institution abroad.		X