

Transition Information FAQs

Who are the Transition Team at Thornden School?

Our transition team is made up of several staff:

- Ms. E. Parker - Head of Year 7
- Mr. A. Thomas - DSL and Deputy Headteacher
- Mrs. W. Prince - School Nurse
- Mrs. K. Agboola - Transition Coordinator
- Mrs. S. Kingsley-Smith - Pastoral Support Manager
- Miss. H. Byrne and Miss. H. Malhi - Pastoral Support
- Mrs. R. Roadnight, Mrs. S. Little, Mrs. J. Beckingham, and Mrs. K. Maiden - SENCO team

We also have several Year 8 student buddies that help during the transition events.

Will my child meet anyone from Thornden School prior to starting in Year 7?

Someone from the Transition team will visit all the link primary/junior schools during the summer term, where they will meet with the Year 6 students and their teachers. The aim is to get to know and understand students, both academically and socially. Where required, we will also visit non-link primary/junior schools. Your child will meet their teacher and new tutor group when they attend the Welcome to Thornden Day.

Can my child be in the same tutor group as their best friend?

Using the knowledge of the students that has been collated from their Year 6 teachers, we do our best to place each student in the tutor group that is right for them. The Year 7 tutor groups are carefully constructed to allow the possibility for new friendships to develop and students to be supported in an effective way. There will usually be at least one other member of the tutor group from a student's link primary/junior school, but it should be noted that this is unlikely to always be a 'best friend.'

What is the school uniform?

The Thornden school [uniform policy](#) is detailed on the Thornden School website.

Where can I buy the school uniform?

We have two main school providers, [Skoolkit](#) and [Koolskools](#). You can also purchase second-hand school uniform through FOTS (Friends of Thornden School), please email uniform@thornden.hants.sch.uk

What are the school day hours?

Registration with tutors starts at 08:35 with a warning bell 5 minutes before. Full timings of the [school day](#) can be found on the school website. The school gates will automatically lock at 08:35. If your child is late, they are required to sign in at Reception.

How will my child know where to go on the first day?

All of our new Year 7 will meet in the Drama Courtyard on the first day. Lots of staff will be on hand to meet your child outside Reception and direct them to the appropriate place. Our Year 8 student buddies will also be there to escort students.

Can I request a preferred language choice?

Since September 2024, students have been taught one of two languages in Year 7 and throughout the school years: French or Spanish. On entry to the school, students will be allocated to a tutor group and subsequently to a language. Most lessons in Year 7 are taught in tutor groups, and the whole tutor group will, therefore, study the same language.

The formation of the tutor groups is critical as we want to ensure a balance of genders, a mixed academic ability, and a range of students from all our main linked schools.

Whilst wishing to engage with parents/carers to ensure students make a positive start at Thornden and are not put with students, they do not work well with; we cannot accommodate requests for a specific language. You will be able to indicate your preferred language on the admissions form in Applicaa; however, please note that this does not guarantee that your first choice will be allocated.

Students with siblings already at the school will be allocated the same language as an older sibling so that families and siblings can support each other. However, if a parent does not want this to be taken into consideration, please email yr6transition@thornden.hants.sch.uk as soon as possible. In this situation, a student may or may not then be allocated the same language as a sibling. Please note, if their sibling is currently studying German, they will not be allocated the same language and will be allocated either French or Spanish.

What is the school's approach to placing twins or triplets in classes, and how can parents/carers communicate any concerns or requests regarding this?

As a school, we wish to ensure that we create environments in which children thrive and we would wish to talk to any parents/carers who feels they have specific requests, concerns or information that would help us when placing their child in classes and supporting them through school.

With students who are twins or triplets, our starting point would be to place them in different tutor groups, meaning they would initially start secondary school not being together for the majority of their lessons. Siblings may then come together for lessons not taught in tutor groups or lessons where setting, based on academic ability, is introduced.

As twins/triplets move through the school, they may come together for more lessons or remain apart. This will depend on student/parents/carers' choices for GCSE subjects, issues relating to specific requests, or because of timetable constraints. If parents/carers have issues or concerns, we would welcome a conversation to try and ensure a smooth solution is achieved.

Our starting position would be to aim to have twins/triplets studying the same modern foreign language, something parents/carers have suggested is helpful when supporting students with home learning and ensuring opportunities are comparable. We would equally be happy to place students in different languages if requested.

We have several students of multiple births each year and have students who have not come together in lessons and others who have been in several groups together at different stages throughout their school career. In recent years we have seen twins study the same subjects at A level and then go on to the same universities. We have seen others move through the same sixth form college, studying different courses and progressing to separate universities.

Our intention is to treat students as individuals while recognising the unique situation that occurs when someone is a twin or triplet.

If you wish to discuss anything relating to your child, please email y6transition@thornden.hants.sch.uk

Are lockers available?

Lockers are allocated on a first come, first served basis. The cost of a locker is £25 for the five years. This is a one-off payment, and no money will be refunded when students leave. Please note that in the event of a lost key, there will be a charge of £3 for a replacement.

Once we have received all admission applications, lockers will be available to purchase through our online school shop via Arbor. More information regarding lockers can be found on our [Year 6 Transition page](#) on the Thornden School website.

How does the school canteen operate?

Our school caterers are Aspens. From morning break, hot and healthy light bites, to nutritious lunches from the deli range, there is something to suit everyone's taste.

The school canteen top-up system operates through Arbor, the parent portal system. There is a section within the Arbor parent app to top up your child's account by credit or debit card. This will be available a couple of days before the start of the term. All students will use a fingerprint system to buy food from the canteen. We will organise for fingerprints to be taken during the first week of term. If you have any queries, please email finance@hispmat.org

My child currently receives Free School Meals. How do I apply for this to continue at Thornden School?

Your child should automatically continue to receive free school meals provided the information passed to us from your child's primary school is correct.

If you need to make a new application, as you have not received free school meals before, please visit the Hampshire County Council website and complete an [application form](#).

What should I do if my child loses something?

Losing things at school is unfortunately part of school life. Chances of reuniting students with their belongings increase dramatically if they are clearly labelled. In such a large school, it can be hard to distinguish an individual's property; a clear name tag makes returning items easier.

If your child has lost something, they should check to see if it has been handed in to lost property by seeing Miss. O'Rourke. They should also retrace their steps and return to the classrooms/changing rooms they have been to that day to see if they have left it there. They should do this on the day that they discover the loss. If this proves unsuccessful, it is sometimes worth checking with lost property again, after a few days have elapsed.

What happens if my child feels unwell during the day?

If your child feels unwell during the school day, they should go to the Medical Room at break or lunch, or if in the lesson, ask their teacher if they can go. The medical team will assess your child and if necessary, contact you.

Often a child is assessed and treated in the Medical Room and after a while can return to class. Occasionally the Medical Room is unattended, if this is the case students are directed to go to Reception, where a first aid trained member of staff can assist them. Students **should not** contact parents/carers first.

My child has a medical condition/needs to take medication during the day

Please complete the relevant form/s which can be found on our [Year 6 Transition page](#), on the Thornden School website and return to medicalteam@thornden.hants.sch.uk

How many students are there in a tutor group?

On average, there are around 28-30 students in each tutor group.

When is the Year 6 ‘Welcome to Thornden Day’ at Thornden School?

This will take place on **Monday 29 June 2026**, further details can be found on the [Year 6 Transition page](#).

Who should I go to if I have a concern about my child?

Pastoral concern or query:

Your child’s tutor is your first port of call. Tutors are available to contact via email. If you would like to see a tutor, please email to arrange a date and convenient time. In addition, you can also contact your child’s Head of Year but please be patient as it is not always possible for them to respond immediately.

Academic concern or query:

Please email your child’s subject teacher or Head of Department. If you would like to see a teacher, please email to arrange a date and convenient time, but please be patient as it is not always possible for them to respond immediately.

If you have any questions which have not been answered above, then please send an email to yr6transition@thornden.hants.sch.uk, please note that **our policy response time is 48 hours**.

Student FAQs

How long will it take to find my way around the school?

It should not take too long for you to find your way around. For the first few weeks you will be given a map, and teachers will be very understanding if you are slightly late for your lessons. If you are lost around the school, ask other students and staff; they will help.

What happens if I am late for lessons in the first few weeks of school?

In September, we know that you will not know your way round and if you are a bit late, your teachers will understand. After a couple of weeks, however, we will expect you to be on time for lessons in the same way as the other year groups.

Where are the toilets?

This is a very popular question. You will be given a 'moving on-up' book, which contains a school map. But also, Year 8 student buddies will be with your tutor group on the 'Welcome to Thornden Day'. So, they can show you where the toilets are located.

What if I get stuck with my work?

Your teacher and tutor are always there to help you. If you are stuck with something in class or with your home learning, you can speak to your teacher or tutor and ask them to explain it again. Your fellow students are also on hand, so do not forget to ask them too.

Will I make new friends?

Of course, you will make new friends! If you are the only student from a primary/junior school coming here, there are plenty of opportunities to meet new people, such as lessons, break, lunch, and extra-curricular activities.

What extra-curricular and activities clubs are there for Year 7 students?

Thornden School provides a wide range of opportunities for students to get involved in. A list of extra-curricular clubs can be found on the [Year 6 Transition page](#).

Can I bring my mobile phone to school?

Our aim is to ensure that phones are not used inappropriately, continuously, or dangerously. As such, students should have phones switched off and out of sight from 08:35 or the time they come onto the school site, until they leave at the end of the day.

If parents/carers wish to contact students during the school day, we ask that this is done via Reception who will pass messages to students. If a student has a pressing reason to contact their parents/carers during the day, they should speak to their tutor, Head of Year or a senior member of staff, who, if appropriate, will allow them to make a phone call in private.

If students use a device for any reason without permission, it will be confiscated, taken to Reception, stored securely, and logged. The device will be returned to the student at the end of the school day by a member of staff. This will be recorded on Arbor.

If a student persists in using their device without permission, parents/carers will be contacted by the Head of Year or tutor and asked to ensure that the device is left at home, or an alternative agreement is agreed.

Where do I go if I have lost something?

Lost property is outside of the Reflection Room. You can check here at break, lunch, or before and after school. If you cannot find your item, please go to Reception who can take some details and let the team know to keep an eye out for it.

If you lose your locker key, please inform Reception as soon as possible. Your parents/carers must order a replacement key through Arbor. Once the new key is ready, we will notify you that it is available for collection from Reception.

If you have any questions which have not been answered above, then please send an email to yr6transition@thornden.hants.sch.uk, please note that **our policy response time is 48 hours**
