



YEAR 6 TRANSITION INFORMATION

FAQs

Who are the Transition Team at Thornden School?

Our transition team is made up of a number of staff, Dr Judith Evans (Assistant Headteacher and DSL), Mrs Cerys Rowcliffe (Head of Year 7), Mrs Kelly Rood (Admissions Officer), Mrs Sarah Vincent (Pastoral Support), Ms Nic Rowthorne (Pastoral Support) and Mrs Louise Peaston / Mrs Jacqui Beckingham (SENCO team). We also have a number of Year 9 Transition Mentors who help during the transition events.

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

Someone from the transition team visits all the link primary/junior schools during the summer term and meets with the Year 6 students and their primary 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 to meet with the Year 6 teachers.

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?

A full list of the Thornden school uniform is detailed in the Year 6 Transition Booklet

Where can I buy the school uniform?

We have two main school providers, Skoolkit (<https://www.skoolkit.co.uk/>) and Koolkskools (<https://www.koolkskools.co.uk/>).

Can I request a preferred language choice?

Thornden teaches three languages in Year 7 and throughout the school; French, Spanish and German. 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 an even number of boys and girls, a mixed academic ability and a range of students from all of our main linked schools.

Whilst wishing to engage with parents 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.

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 contact Mrs Kelly Rood (Admissions Officer). In this situation, a student may or may not then be allocated the same language as a sibling.

What are the school day hours?

The school day starts at 8:30 with a warning bell 5 minutes before the start of morning registration. A warning bell is also rung 5 minutes before afternoon registration, which starts at 1:35. Full timings of the school day can be found using the following link www.thornden.hants.sch.uk/the-school-day

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

Plenty of staff will be on hand to meet your child outside reception and direct them to the appropriate place. Our Year 9 Transition Mentors will also be there to escort students.

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 for a replacement. Please download and complete the locker form (link can be found on our Transition Page on the Thornden School website). Please return with payment to Mrs Kelly Rood (Admissions Department) ASAP.

When are students grouped for the core subjects?

Students are put into sets for Maths only in Year 7 based on their KS2 scores.

How does the school canteen operate?

Our school caterers are award-winning caterers HC3S. From morning break, hot and healthy light bites, to nutritious lunches from the deli range, there's something to suit everyone's taste. The cashless biometric system means that students don't need to worry about carrying loose change.

A student link code will be provided by email within the first week of the Autumn Term. The email will also contain details of how to link a Thornden SCO Pay account to siblings if needed. If you do not receive the email, please contact the Finance Office.

Students can top up their Canteen Accounts by bringing in Cheques payable to 'HC3S' or Cash in September until the Online payment system is available.

If you have any queries please contact the Finance Office.

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 differentiate individual's property; a clear name tag makes returning items much easier. If your child has lost something they should check to see if it has been handed in to lost property by seeing Mrs 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 day they should go and see Mrs Prince in the medical room at break or lunch, or if in a lesson, ask their teacher if they can go there. Mrs Prince will discuss how your child is feeling and ascertain if it is necessary to contact you. Sometimes a child just needs a quiet sit down after which they may be able to return to lessons. On certain occasions Mrs Prince may not be available, if this is the case students should go to reception where a first aid trained member of staff can attend and assist them. We discourage students from contacting parents in the first instance.

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

Please download and complete the relevant form (link can be found on our Transition Page on the Thornden School website) and return to Mrs K. Rood (Admissions Department) ASAP.

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

Please download and complete the relevant form (link can be found on our Transition Page on the Thornden School website) and return to Mrs K. Rood (Admissions Department) ASAP.

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 Transition Day being held at Thornden School?

This will take place on Thursday 8 July 2021 (further details can be found in the Year 6 Transition Booklet)

Who should I go to if I have a concern about my son/ daughter?

Pastoral concern or query:

Your child's tutor is your first port of call. Tutors are available to be contacted via email. If you would like to see a tutor, please email to arrange a date and convenient time.

Academic concern or query:

Please contact your child's subject teacher or Head of Department via email. If you would like to see a teacher, please email to arrange a date and convenient time.

If you have any questions which have not been answered above then please send an email to admissions@hispmat.org and we will endeavour to answer you ASAP.

Student's 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. The Year 7s move around in their tutor groups so it is generally quite easy to spot a group of 29 lost students! If you are lost around the school feel free to ask anyone in the corridors and they will be happy to help.

What happens if I am late for lessons?

In September, we know that you won't 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 older year groups.

Top tip: Stick with someone else in your class between lessons and arrange a meeting place at the end of break and lunch so that you find your way together.

Where are the toilets?

This is a very popular question. You will be given a map on your first day of school but also the Transition Mentors will show you where all of the toilets are. You will also be shown where the toilets are during your transition day in June.

When will I get my student planner?

You will be given your student planner during morning registration on your first day of term.

What subjects will I do in Year 7?

You will study a wide range of subjects – a sample Year 7 timetable is included within the Year 6 Transition Booklet.

What if I get stuck doing 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 don't 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, we will make sure you have a chance to meet new people in the same situation as you.

Will I need my PE kit on the first day?

A list of Year 7 tutor groups that will require their PE kit on the first day of term will be confirmed on the Transition Page prior to the start of the summer holidays.

What 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 in the Year 6 Transition Booklet.

Can I bring mobile phones into school?

Students should have phones switched off and out of sight from 8:20 or the time they come onto the school site, until they leave at the end of the day. This is to ensure that phones are not used inappropriately, continuously or dangerously.

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 parent/carer 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.

In order to model sensible and appropriate use of "devices", teaching staff will on occasions allow students to use phones under supervision. Examples could include recording speaking in languages or taking photographs of information to support learning.

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. All this will be recorded by the HOY.

If a student persists (5 times) in using their "device" without permission, parents/carers will be contacted by the HOY or tutor and asked to ensure that the "device" is left at home or an alternative agreement is agreed.

If you have any questions which have not been answered above then please send an email to admissions@hispmat.org and we will endeavour to answer you ASAP.