



Thornden School Newsletter 15th September 2023

Head of School Welcome



Hello Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first Thornden Newsletter of the academic year. Every fortnight we will send this communication so that you have information about upcoming events and an update on the life of the school.

We have had two successful weeks! Year 7 have settled in superbly and it has been a joy to see them making new friends and getting to know the staff at the school.

Year 11 are in this week after a whole week of Work Experience at the start of term. Nationally, work experience suffered during the pandemic and the majority of schools no longer offer such an extensive taste of the workplace, but we believe that this is so important for young people. Mrs Stickland, our Head of Careers and Mrs Quinn, a valued member of our admin team, work tirelessly to ensure that students have excellent placements and a positive experience. This year placements ranged from Harlequins Rugby Club in London, the Army Flying Museum near Andover, IBM at Hursley and John Lewis department store. Some students were at a barristers and were able to observe cases at court, others joined Air Traffic Control and a group watched riot training with Hampshire Constabulary. Some more unusual experiences were Rick Stein's restaurant in Winchester, a historical costumier, Southampton Arts Academic and Funky Whippet Pet Care! Will Mack (pictured) did his week at Trant Engineering.



During assemblies this week I have shared the successes of the Class of 2023 and asked students to think of one 'New Years' resolution' that they will put in place – a small thing that will make a big difference. It might be that they spend a little longer on their Maths homework or make sure that they are fully equipped the night before school. I also shared that teachers have also made a resolution to improve on one area of the Thornden Teaching and Learning DNA – the things that we know improve learning.

I talked about the science behind learning and how retrieval practice (thinking hard to remember things in our long term memory) is important. Every lesson at Thornden will start with a Do Now – this is

a short task at the very start of the lesson where students have to do some retrieval practice. This might be a few questions, labelling a diagram or filling in the gaps of a paragraph. This 'little and often' approach to learning will enable students to remember more over time.

Students have come back looking smart, but we do still have some issues with jewellery, sagging trousers and short skirts. We will start to sanction uniform issues very soon so please discuss this with your child and support us in making sure that everyone looks smart and feels part of the community.

Open Evening was a highlight of our week – we welcomed over 500 people to Thornden Hall for a presentation with me and then a tour around the school. Two of our Y11 students and two Y8s spoke with great eloquence about their school experience and were fantastic ambassadors for Thornden.

The feedback that we received was extremely positive. Thank you to all of the students who were involved and thank you for parents for allowing them to take part.

Lastly, a HUGE well done to Bethan Wilby and Hattie Evans who walked and cycled from Lands' End to John O'Groats this Summer and raised over £7000 for charity. What an incredible achievement.

Just before the Summer, Isabelle Mugford won the Barton Peveril Art competition for this beautiful



acrylic painting. If your child has achieved something special – either in school or outside of school – then please do let us know so that we can celebrate it. I am really keen to keep the channels of communication open between school and home so please do let me know there is anything else that you would like information about. If you would like to chat with me or anyone at the school, then please email info@thornden.hants.sch.uk or call the school.

Have a lovely weekend,

Caroline Lowing
Head of School

HISP Announcement

Following Su Whelan's announcement in the summer term that she planned to stand down as CEO of the HISP Multi-Academy Trust, the board has appointed David Pike as the Interim CEO.

During the summer break Su asked if she could be released early from her contract. That request was accepted by the board and Su has now left the Trust.

We would like to wish Su all the very best for the future and continue to be grateful for the legacy she leaves from her time with Thornden School and then the Trust.



Careers

To visit our Thornden School Careers website that covers a range of options, information and guidance (and also includes our Careers newsletters), please click on the following link:

<https://sites.google.com/view/thorndenschoolcareers/home>

World Mental Health Day-Tuesday 10th October

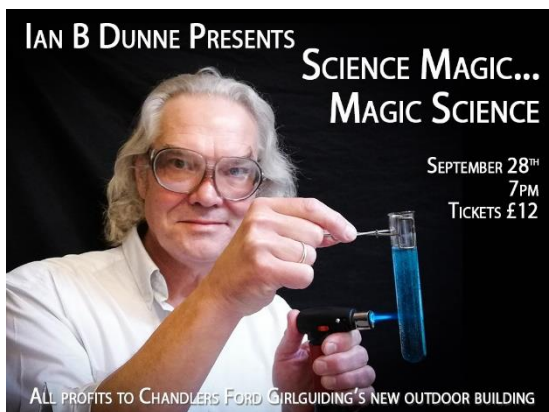
On Tuesday 10th October we will be recognising and supporting World Mental Health Day across Thornden. Please see link for information about how the school will be supporting this day.

[World Mental Health Day Letter](#)

[World Mental Health Day Website](#)



Thornden Hall Events



th | **THORNDEN
HALL
ARTS CENTRE**

CALL THE BOX OFFICE ON 023 8024 6555 OR WWW.THORNDENHALL.CO.UK

Online Safety Message

Introduction to Online Safety

Why Online Safety is a Must in Today's Digital World

Introduction

In today's interconnected world, the internet is no longer a luxury; it's a necessity. While the digital realm offers unprecedented opportunities for learning, communication, and entertainment, it also presents unique challenges and risks, particularly for young users. This article serves as an introduction to a series aimed at equipping students and parents with the knowledge and tools to navigate the online world safely and responsibly.

Importance of Online Safety for Students

The internet is a treasure trove of information and a playground of possibilities. Students use it for everything from homework help to social networking. However, this vast digital landscape is not without its pitfalls. Cyberbullying, online predators, and exposure to inappropriate content are just a few of the hazards that young internet users may encounter. Understanding the importance of online safety is the first step towards a safer digital experience.

Topics to Be Covered in This Series

Given the complexities of the online world, understanding how to protect oneself is a challenge. In this series, we will delve into various aspects of online safety, including but not limited to:

- Creating Strong Passwords
- Recognising Fake Profiles and Social Bots
- Combating Online Bullying
- Understanding Online Grooming
- The Risks of Sexting
- Navigating Live Streaming Safely
- Screen Time Management
- ...and much more.

Why This Series Matters

As the internet continues to evolve, so do the types of threats that come with it. Staying informed is the first line of defence against the risks associated with online activities. This series aims to provide actionable insights and practical tips to help build a culture of online safety within our school community.

Conclusion

Online safety is not just the responsibility of parents or teachers; it's a shared duty that each one of us must take seriously. By being more informed, we can make better choices online and encourage a safer digital environment for all. Stay tuned for more articles in this series that will delve deeper into the intricacies of online safety.

Further Reading and Resources

- [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#): Advice about keeping your child safe online
- [National Online Safety](#): A website full of guides and advice on a range of online safety topics.

Mr A Thomas
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr T Baldwin
Head of Computer Science

Sports Update

Recent Results

Watch this space for our sports results.

Extra-Curricular PE Clubs

Extra-curricular PE clubs are now up and running. Please follow this [link](#) to the timetable for half term 1.

Saint's New Signing

A massive well done to ex-student Tommy Dobson-Ventura who has just signed his first professional contract with Southampton Football Club. Tommy sat his Year 11 GCSE's just a few months ago, where he balanced his school life alongside his academy training with Southampton. Tommy has worked extremely hard to achieve success in both his studies and with his football. Congratulations Tommy, well deserved!



[Dobson-Ventura pens first professional deal | Article | Southampton FC Official Site](#)

Gymnastics Success

Well done to Max H (Year 9) and Alfred H (Year 11) who competed in the finals of the British Gymnastics Team, gym competition, at Northumbria University Newcastle, in the holidays. They are both members of micro teams - competing in tumble and trampette disciplines. Max is a member of Waterside Gymnastics club, Dibden Purlieu, and Alfred competed with Abbey Gymnastics, from Belfast! Waterside achieved an amazing 3rd place, taking the bronze medal, and Abbey finished in 5th place. Well done to both.

Student Success

We are always keen to hear about success stories from our students outside of school, please do get in touch if there is news we can share. For any sporting successes, please email Mr Hall, Head of PE: b.hall@thornden.hants.sch.uk

Reminder

The new netball breakfast club runs every Thursday morning, starting at 7.45am, in the sports hall. Students should arrive in their PE kit and change into their school uniform after the session ends at 8.15am. Please see Miss Hall for more details.

Twitter

Follow @PEThornden on Twitter for more pictures and regular updates from the PE department.

Update of our Privacy Notice

We are required to share the following Data Protection Privacy Notice. If you wish to change consent, this is completed via Arbor.

[Privacy Notice 2023](#)

Free event for parents

On Wednesday 27th September 2023, Investin is holding a free webinar for parents on "Breaking into Medical School". Please see the link for further information.

[Making it into medical school](#)

Extra-Curricular Timetables

We provide a wide variety of extra-curricular activities across the school for the students to access. Please see below to access the timetable for all activities. Check back each half term for any changes.

[Extra-Curricular Timetable](#)



General Contact

If you need to contact the school, please use either of the email addresses below. In an emergency, please contact the school during office hours on 023 8026 9722.

info@thornden.hants.sch.uk

reception@thornden.hants.sch.uk