



Thornden School Newsletter **1 3th October 2023**

Head of School Welcome



Dear Families,

What beautiful weather we have had! Out on duty at break and lunch we have been enjoying the sunshine and it feels like the Summer is back again.

We have had a busy fortnight at Thornden. Last week we welcomed prospective parents on our Open Mornings to meet with me and the Senior team and have a tour of the school. The feedback was very positive with the highest praise saved for our Year 9 tour guides. They were such brilliant ambassadors for the school – thank you to all of them for sharing their experiences and doing a super job.

Last Tuesday I met with all of the Heads across HISP Multi-academy Trust. We currently have a new interim CEO, David Pike, who outlined his experience, and we worked on plans for moving forwards. It was very beneficial to touch base and to share ideas.

We have a small team of dedicated governors who make up our Academy Committee. I had the pleasure of meeting with them on Wednesday evening. They do a great job at supporting the school but also at being the 'critical friend' needed to help the school to improve. We are currently looking to recruit to the Academy Committee and our Trust board – there will be more details on this to follow.

On Thursday and Friday last week I attended ASCL Council in Warwick. Whilst I try to ensure that I am out of school as little as possible, I have made a commitment to my professional association to serve on Council for 4 years and it is a privilege to do so. It is an interesting time in the lead up to a general election and ASCL is uniquely placed to influence education policy, on both sides of the House of Commons. I feel very strongly that policy should reflect the issues and experience of serving school leaders, so I am keen to continue this work on behalf of the school and the Trust, but most importantly, on behalf of all young people who so often do not have a political voice.

This week I have been dropping into English lessons as part of our Curriculum Review cycle. Every area of the Curriculum will have one or two weeks where members of the Senior Leadership Team will visit every teacher to build up to a developmental report. This will enable departments to understand the strengths and the areas for development so that we maintain a sharp focus on how to improve over time. It has been lovely for me to speak to students about their learning in English, to look at their impressive classwork and listen in on their discussions.

We have had a couple of visits from our Community Police this week. We welcomed the K9 unit to walk around school on Tuesday and some of the local Community officers popped in at break time on Wednesday to introduce themselves to the students and have a chat. This is all part of our safeguarding duties to ensure that students are safe, in school and outside of school.

Year 10 information evening was really well attended on Wednesday. Me and Mr Jewell, Head of Year 10, talked to parents about how they can support their child during these important two years and shared some of the highlights from last year and plans for this year. It is so heartening to see what excellent support students have at home – the more that we can work together, the better.

Lastly, we welcomed the Class of 2023 back for Presentation Evening on Thursday night – to present their examination certificates and present them with prizes. As I said on the evening, it is so amazing to see how grown up they are already and to hear about how college/ apprenticeships and work is going. We all entered the profession to help young people to be the very best versions of themselves, so it was wonderful to see how they have flourished already since they were with us.

I wish you all the very best and hope that you have a good half term break.

Caroline Lowing
Head of School

Artist of the week

2nd October 2023

This week's artist goes to Amelia B from Year 8. Amelia created this lovely drawing of a crushed Coke can as part of her food and drink mixed-media project. Well done, Amelia!

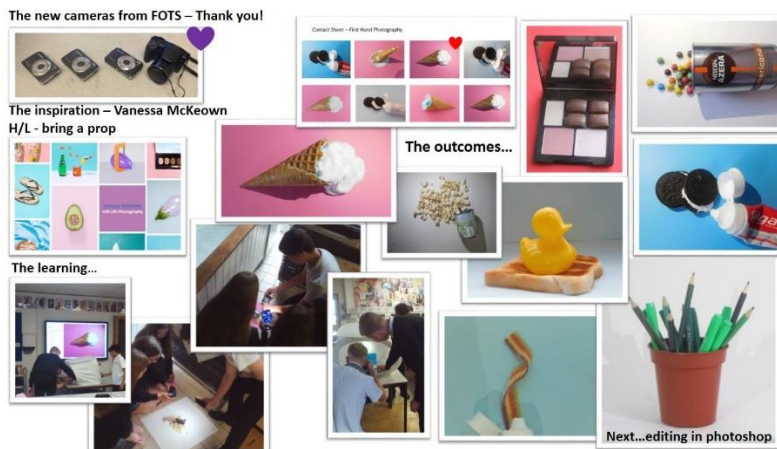


9th October 2023

This week's artist of the week goes to Chen in Year 7 for his exceptional pencil drawing of a key. Well done, Chen!



FOTS update



FOTS have had a busy start to the new school year with the Open Day and our Y7 Welcome Event. Many thanks to all those who helped out in any way, whether by giving your time, making or supplying delicious cakes. It is very much appreciated!

Last year was a record-breaking year in terms of money given to the school for projects to enrich the experience of all Thornden students, with an **amazing £23,000** of funding from FOTS. From 3D printers to Art cameras, trombone to trampolining tuition,

Maths puzzle prizes and ducklings in science - it is always encouraging to see how our funding makes a positive difference.

I am also delighted to be able to say that FOTS have been **awarded £500 from the Wates Family Enterprise Trust's**, 100 for 500 annual giving. I put in a successful bid for ELSA resources over the summer, via an incredibly supportive Thornden parent who works for Wates. Do let me know if your company does anything similar and we can work together.

We now have a date for our AGM - Tuesday 14th November at 7.30pm (hopefully in the Conference room) which we will combine with our first bids meeting of the year. Everyone is invited!

We pretty much cleaned out the accounts at the end of last term, burning through any remaining surplus from the Covid years, but then our aim is always to get your money out working to benefit your child as soon as possible. At our last meeting we had bids of £9000 but only £4500 in the pot so tough decisions were made.

Since we set up the Donation scheme in February 2016, FOTS have been able to give a whopping **£87,000** to projects around the school. While only about 15% of Thornden families currently contribute to the Scheme, every child benefits multiple times over. **Thank you so very much to those who contribute. We cannot do it without you!** If you are one of the 85% who have not got round to setting up a standing order yet, the forms are [here](#).

It is never too late to contribute - even if you have a Y1 !! - it makes such a difference to your child if families are able to make a regular donation, as it helps us to plan for more good things.

If you drop the forms back at Thornden reception, addressed to the FOTS Treasurer, then he will do the rest.

Having said that, David Holdsworth who since 2015 has been a fantastic FOTS Treasurer, has let me know that he intends to step down from his role at our AGM. I just wanted to record here my huge thanks and appreciation for the time and support that David has given to FOTS, over the last 8 years. I know you will want to join me in thanking him for all his hard work and dedication. He makes the job look effortless and his calm good humour has been a big personal encouragement over the time we have worked together.

While David assures me that it is not too onerous a role, he will be on hand to guide the next treasurer where needed, I am really concerned as the tiny Fots team only has a handful (<10) of active members. Could you be our next Treasurer? Do contact me at fots@thornden.hants.sch.uk and we can explore it further, if this is something you feel you might be able to offer our charity, so we can carry on making a big difference.

Thank you for your support.

All the best
Polly Gleeson

Thornden Hall Events

Whether you show up for a serious drama, a romcom or a sold-out award-winning hit, Thornden Hall are delighted to bring you unmissable theatre courtesy of National Theatre Live.

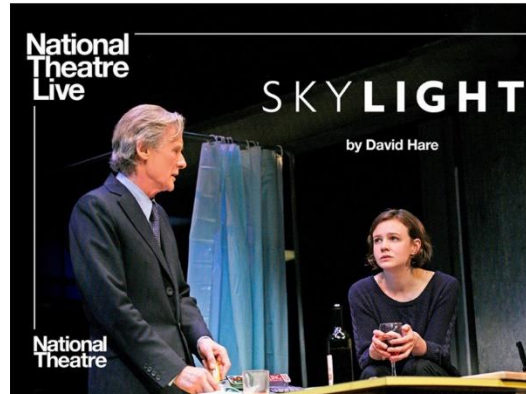
New releases announced this week:

23rd November 2023

Returning to the big screen after nearly ten years, Bill Nighy and Carey Mulligan feature in the critically acclaimed revival of David Hare's play, directed by Stephen Daldry (The Audience).

On a bitterly cold London evening, schoolteacher Kyra receives an unexpected visit from her former lover. As the evening progresses, the two attempt to rekindle their once passionate relationship only to find themselves locked in a dangerous battle of opposing ideologies and mutual desires.

Captured live from Wyndham's Theatre in London's West End in 2014.



25th January 2024

Joseph Fiennes plays Gareth Southgate in James Graham's gripping examination of nation and game.

The country that gave the world football has since delivered a painful pattern of loss. Why can't England's men win at their own game?

With the worst track record for penalties in the world, Gareth Southgate knows he needs to open his mind and face up to the years of hurt, to take team and country back to the promised land.

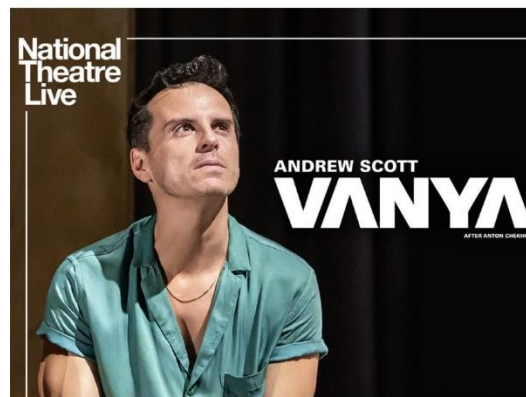
Filmed live on stage at the National Theatre, Rupert Goold (Judy) directs this spectacular new play.

22nd February 2024

Andrew Scott (Fleabag) brings multiple characters to life in Simon Stephens' (The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time) radical new version of Chekhov's Uncle Vanya.

Hopes, dreams, and regrets are thrust into sharp focus in this one-man adaptation which explores the complexities of human emotions.

Filmed live during its sold-out run in London's West End, Vanya will be playing exclusively in cinemas in 2024.



www.thorndenhall.co.uk

Online Safety Message

Recognizing Fake Profiles and Social Bots Not All Online "Friends" Are Who They Seem

Introduction

In our ongoing series about online safety, we've explored the significance of this topic and the anatomy of strong passwords. Today, we turn our attention to another pressing issue: the prevalence of fake profiles and social bots on the internet. Knowing how to recognise these can save you from scams, misinformation, and even emotional distress.

The Rise of Fake Profiles

Fake profiles are not a new phenomenon, but their numbers have increased with the rise of social media. These profiles are designed to deceive and are often involved in scams, cyberbullying, or misinformation campaigns.

Dangers of Interacting with Fake Profiles

Fake profiles can be a source of various types of harm:

- **Financial Scams:** Fake profiles often lure individuals into scams, tricking them out of money.
- **Identity Theft:** Sharing personal information can lead to identity theft.
- **Emotional Manipulation:** Fake profiles can emotionally manipulate users, leading to distress and anxiety.

Identifying Fake Profiles

Fake profiles often have certain common characteristics:

- **Recently Created:** Check how old the account is.
- **Limited Posts:** Very few or no posts can be a red flag.
- **Generic Photos:** Stock photos or celebrity pictures are often used.
- **Inconsistent Information:** Contradictions in posts or biography.

What Are Social Bots?

Social bots are automated accounts that interact with human users. They can spread misinformation, manipulate opinions, and even engage in cyberbullying.

How to Spot a Social Bot

- **High Activity:** Bots often post at a higher rate than human users.
- **Generic Responses:** Bots usually have scripted or generic responses.
- **No Personal Information:** A lack of personal stories, photos, or realistic interactions.

Protective Measures

- **Report and Block:** If you suspect a profile is fake or a bot, report and block it.
- **Verify:** Use search engines to verify images and information.
- **Be Sceptical:** Always be cautious when interacting with unknown profiles.

Conclusion

In the digital age, not everyone we encounter online is who they claim to be. By learning to recognize the signs of fake profiles and social bots, we can protect ourselves and our community from many potential dangers.

Further Reading and Resources

[Snopes:](#) A fact-checking website that debunks myths and scams.

[How to Spot Fake Social Media Accounts, Bots, and Trolls:](#) This article on DW explores the different ways one could identify fake accounts on platforms like Facebook and Twitter

Mr A Thomas
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr T Baldwin
Head of Computer Science

Sports Update

Recent Results

U12	Girls	Netball	vs	Westgate	League	Lost 0 - 5	Mia L
U12	Boys	Football	vs	Kings'	League	Lost 0 - 4	
U12	Boys	Football	vs	Swanmore	League	Lost 0 - 3	
U12 A	Girls	Netball	vs	Priestlands	Friendly	Lost	Mia L & Izzy T
U12 B	Girls	Netball	vs	Priestlands	Friendly	Lost	Emily L
U12 (Blue)	Boys	Rugby	vs	Wyvern	Friendly	Lost	Alex T
U12 (Green)	Boys	Rugby	vs	Wyvern	Friendly	Lost	Alex T
U12 (Blue)	Boys	Rugby	vs	John Hanson	Friendly	Lost	Alex T
U12 (Green)	Boys	Rugby	vs	John Hanson	Friendly	Lost	Alex T
U12 (Green)	Boys	Rugby	vs	Thornden U12 (Blue)	Friendly	Won	Alex T
U13	Girls	Netball	vs	Westgate	League	Won 8 - 1	Ava B
U13	Girls	Football	vs	Horndean	County Cup	Won 6 - 0	Immy P
U13	Girls	Netball	vs	Wyvern	League	Won	Ella P and Heather G
U13	Boys	Football	vs	Henry Beaufort	League	Won 4 - 1	Oli
U13 A	Girls	Netball	vs	Priestlands A	Friendly	Won	Isla H
U13 B	Girls	Netball	vs	Priestlands B	Friendly	Won 8 - 2	Elena I & Lottie L
U13	Boys	Football	vs	Wyvern	County Cup	Won	
U13	Girls	Football	vs	Kings'	National Cup	Won 2 - 1	Caitlin
U14	Boys	Football	vs	Hounslow	National Cup	Won	Ethan and Sandro
U14	Girls	Netball	vs	Swanmore	League	Won	Alice T & Bella M
U14	Boys	Football	vs	Winchester College	National Cup	Won 5 - 1	Sammy
U14	Girls	Netball	vs	Wyvern	League	Won 23 - 10	Cerys P
U14	Girls	Football	vs	Priestlands	County Cup	Won 1 - 1 (Pens 5-4)	Megan
U15	Boys	Football	vs	Mountbatten	County Cup	Won 4 - 2	
U16	Girls	Netball	vs	Swanmore	League	Won	Olivia K & Bella B
U15	Boys	Rugby	vs	Emberly	County Vase	Drew 28 - 28	Kyson B
U15	Boys	Football	vs	Swanmore	League	Lost 1 - 2	

U15	Boys	Hockey	vs	Perins	Friendly	Won	Harry
U16	Girls	Football	vs	Mayfield	County Cup	Won 5 - 1	Charlotte
U16	Girls	Football	vs	Wildern	National Cup	Won 5 - 1	Ayo
U16	Boys	Rugby	vs	Mountbatten	County Vase	Won 36 - 14	Eddie R

Extra-Curricular PE Clubs

As you can see above, we are doing very well with our extra-curricular PE. We have now had over 1300 attendances, we have played 52 fixtures, where we have won 35, lost 15 and drew 2. Well done to all involved!

Student Success

We are always keen to hear about success stories from our students outside of school, so 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

Twitter

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

Early Support Service-Parent and Carer Webinar

Please see attached information and invite to attend the Autumn Term webinars. The following topics will be included:

- Low mood in adolescence
- Anxiety in adolescence: how can parents help?
- Adolescent self-harm: how to make sense of it and when to seek support
- Weathering the storms of strong teen emotions: do's, don'ts and when to consider talking to someone
- Building resilience, staying connected and nurturing your relationship with your teen
- Managing teen behaviour that challenges: tips and tricks



NHS-Understanding your child Solihull Approach

Please see attached poster regarding free online courses to support children's emotional development.

Date Change-Year 11 Information Evening

Please take note that the date has changed to Tuesday 6th February.

Thornden Tennis Club

Thornden Tennis Club

What's on offer?

Memberships - mini (free to 10 & U), Junior & Adult

Club mix ins - Adult & Junior

Teams in local leagues - Adult & Junior

Free Coaching

From as little as £20 per year

Other services: selection of rackets to buy at reasonable prices, restring service.

Coaching

Future tennis 🎾

Expert coaching from LTA licensed qualified Coaches

Paul Scullard - Great Britain Seniors player & Head Coach

Junior Coaching groups

Adult Beginner & Intermediate Groups

Girl's groups

Mixed Groups

Mini tennis groups

Private 1-1 Coaching

Contact Paul @ futuretennisps@gmail.com

To join please go to:

Thornden Tennis Club



Local Activities

Activities:

Dream Empire Market are holding a Pumpkin Festival in Eastleigh. There are lots of family activities, plus a scarecrow competition and pumpkin competition. Please see attachments for more information.

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