



## Thornden School Newsletter

### 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

#### Head of School Welcome



Hello everyone,

I hope that you have been keeping warm and dry!

Lots to tell you about these past two weeks. I have had lots of meetings with parents and with staff. It is always good to hear from staff on what is going well and what we need to do to make the school experience even better for our students. I love walking

the school with prospective parents – I am really proud to show them around so that they can see the calm and purposeful atmosphere that we have in classrooms.

Year 11 have completed their trials and are awaiting their results. We are so proud of the way that they have conducted themselves and the diligence with which they have worked.

I met with our teacher training lead for the Trust this week. We are so excited to welcome new trainee teachers to our school. It is essential that we develop new talent so support our students now and in the future.

Excitingly I have been accepted on to OFSTED's Ethnic minorities shadowing programme. I am not looking to become an inspector any time soon but the programme allows me to shadow a real inspection, which I think will be an invaluable learning experience for me and the school. I met with lots of important people at OFSTED's regional office on Petty France in London last Friday for our first training session.

We are interviewing this week so I hope to bring you exciting news. The recruitment and retention crisis continues but we have new staff joining in January – I will introduce them to you very soon. I have also met with IT team within the Trust and hope to update you with our plans in the New Year.

I am really looking forward to the Christmas Music Concert on Monday so I hope to see some of you there.

Have a wonderful Christmas break,

Caroline

## Artist of the week

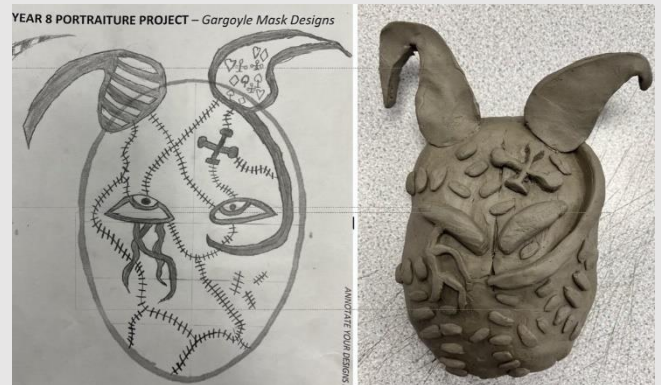
### Week 27<sup>th</sup> November

This week's Artist of the Week is Georgia H in Year 8. Her lovely lino print design of a wolf is inspired by the work of indigenous American artists. Well done Georgia!



### Week 4<sup>th</sup> December

This week's Artist of the Week is Denys V of Year 8 for his wonderful Gargoyle mask. We were really impressed with how carefully Denys had followed his design idea in order to produce his lovely clay mask. Well done Denys!



Last day of term-Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Non-school uniform day. Donations for this is via Arbor.

Finish time 11.50am & 11.55am

## Christmas Market Trip- Written by Jemima Gleeson Year 10



This week German Year 10 and 11 students went on a trip to Stuttgart, Germany. We embarked on this trip on Friday when we got our first taste of German food and our first look at the markets. Everyone was stunned by the picturesque snowfall outside and lots of snowball fights ensued. Despite the cold, over the 4 days we visited the Mercedes-Benz Museum which gave us a glimpse into the past as we learnt about the history of how transport was revolutionised and the Fernsehturm up in the clouds. We also saw the Ritter Sport chocolate factory, in which we bought enough chocolate to last for years, and the Stuttgart Football Stadium which were all exciting new experiences. The beautiful coloured lights from the market and the many hot chocolates we drank meant that the evenings were lovely. Lots of Currywursts and huge pretzels later, we came back to England after a wonderful trip away.



## Persuasive Speaking Competition



### Year 9 Speaking Competition: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

On the 6<sup>th</sup> December, the English Department hosted our annual Year 9 Speaking Competition. In lessons, we have been studying the art of rhetoric and students have been learning about the Aristotelian Triad of ethos, logos and pathos. Students have been exploring how powerful speakers from history, such as JFK, make use of rhetorical methods such as extended metaphor, analogy and emotive

vocabulary. Students then planned and crafted their own persuasive speech on a topic or issue that they felt strongly about. Each Year 9 English class chose a class representative who delivered their speech to the whole of their year group.

The students that performed for us blew us away with their talent, passion and expertly crafted speeches. There was a range of topics that were spoken about; these ranged from racism and sexism to the use of VAR, fast fashion and the ancient craft of blacksmithing. Every single one of the speakers were a credit to the school and should be incredibly proud of their performance. They spoke powerfully, thoughtfully and with conviction. It was a difficult decision given the calibre of all the speakers, but the winners selected by Mrs Peaston were:

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Albert Hide with 'The ancient craft of blacksmithing'.

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Fikunmi Badejo with 'Racism'

1<sup>st</sup> place: Abby Flood with 'Purple, white and green'.



What a fantastic afternoon in Thornden Hall this was. The year group were incredibly attentive and supportive of the speakers and there was a real atmosphere of celebration for the hard work that this year group have put into their English studies this term.

## Thornden Hall



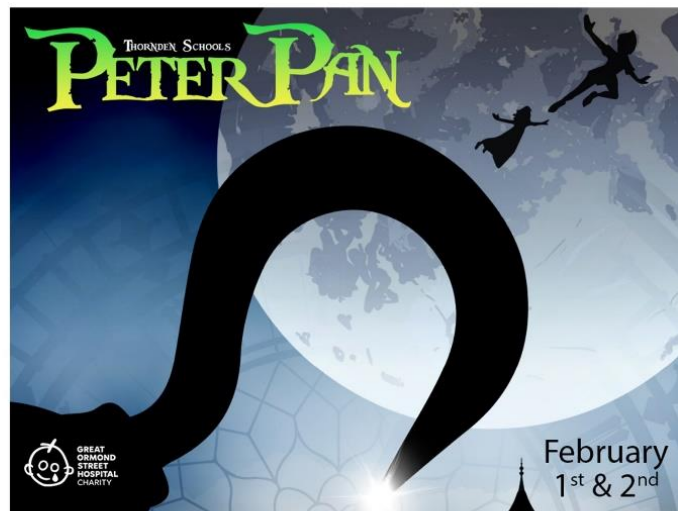
Thornden School  
Music Department

### Christmas Concert

Tickets £6

7pm  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Tickets from the box office on 023 8024 6555 or [www.thorndenhall.co.uk](http://www.thorndenhall.co.uk)



## Guide Dog Walk-Phoebe Baker Year 7

During October my family and I walked 100Km in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind. We were sponsored and raised £250. My dog was given a Guide Dogs bandana to wear when we were walking and lots of people stopped us and talk to us about Guide Dogs. Once we had finished the walk I received a t-shirt and a medal. I also sponsor a guide dog whose name is Albus.



## Online Safety Message

### Online Safety During the Christmas Holidays

#### Staying Safe and Secure in the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

##### Introduction

As we celebrate the festive season, it's important to remember that online safety remains a crucial aspect of our digital lives. With increased online activities during Christmas – from shopping to socialising – this article aims to highlight key safety tips to ensure a joyous and secure holiday experience.

##### The Christmas Digital Rush

Christmas often sees a spike in online activities. Shopping, social media interactions, and digital greetings increase significantly. While this brings convenience and joy, it also opens more avenues for potential online risks.

##### Safe Online Shopping

- **Secure Websites:** Look for the 'https' in the URL and a padlock symbol.
- **Avoid Public Wi-Fi for Transactions:** Use a secure network when shopping online.
- **Strong Passwords for Accounts:** Ensure your accounts have robust passwords, as discussed in our earlier article.

##### Beware of Christmas Scams

- **Phishing Emails:** Be cautious of emails claiming unbelievable offers and requesting personal information.
- **Fake Websites:** Watch out for websites that mimic popular brands but are fraudulent.
- **Charity Scams:** Verify the authenticity of charity organisations before donating.

##### Smart Social Media Use

- **Privacy Settings:** Review your privacy settings to control who sees your holiday posts.
- **Location Sharing:** Be cautious about sharing your location or travel plans.
- **Digital Detox:** Consider spending less time on screens to enjoy family time.

##### Keeping Children Safe Online

The holidays can mean more screen time for children. Keep them safe by:

- **Monitoring Their Online Activities:** Use parental controls and check browsing histories.
- **Educating Them:** Talk about the importance of not sharing personal information.
- **Setting Screen Time Limits:** Encourage offline activities and family time.

##### Conclusion

The festive season is a time for joy, not for dealing with the consequences of online negligence. By staying vigilant and following these simple tips, we can ensure that our holiday season is not just merry but also safe and secure.

##### Further Reading and Resources

- [Get Safe Online - Safe Online Christmas Shopping](#)
- [National Cyber Security Centre - Cyber Aware](#)
- [Internet Matters - Keeping Kids Safe Online Over Christmas](#)

We wish you a safe, happy, and secure Christmas holiday!

Mr A Thomas  
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr T Baldwin  
Head of Computer Science

## Sports Update

Thornden Sport News WB 4<sup>th</sup> December

### Recent Results

U12	Girls	Netball	vs	Toynbee	League	Lost 3-9	Mia & Laycie
U12	Boys	Football	vs	Calthorpe Park	County Cup	Won 2-1	
U12	Boys	Hockey	vs	Perins	Friendly	Won 1 - 0	Ben, Harry & Jacob
U12	Girls	Netball	vs	Perins	District Tournament	Won 7 - 2	Mia
U12	Girls	Netball	vs	Kings	District Tournament	Drew 3 - 3	Mia
U12	Girls	Netball	vs	Westgate	District Tournament	Drew 2 - 2	Mia
U12	Boys	Football	vs	Weydon	National Cup	Lost 1 - 5	
U12	Boys	Rugby	vs	Perins	Friendly	Lost	Keanu & Josh
U13	Girls	Netball	vs	Toynbee	League	Lost 11-25	Ava & Heather
U13	Boys	Football	vs	Cams Hill	County Cup	Won 4 - 3	Rafferty
U13	Girls	Netball	vs	Kings'	District Tournament	Lost 1 - 9	Georgia
U13	Girls	Netball	vs	Mountbatten	District Tournament	Won 4 - 2	Katie B
U13	Girls	Netball	vs	Henry Beaufort	District Tournament	Won 7 - 1	Lily
U13	Girls	Netball	vs	Perins	District Tournament	Won 5 - 2	Isla
U14	Girls	Netball	vs	Toynbee	League	Lost 15-30	Cerys
U14	Girls	Football	vs	Medina School	County Cup	Won	Ruby and Amelia
U14	Boys	Football	vs	Mountbatten	League	Won 4 - 1	Sandro & Fikunmi
U14	Boys	Badminton	vs	Various Schools	District Champs	Won all games	
U15	Girls	Rugby	vs	Mountbatten	Friendly	Won 20 - 15	Isabelle & Ellie
U16	Girls	Netball	vs	Toynbee	League	Won 33 - 13	Olivia S
U16	Girls	Football	vs	Testbourne	National Cup	Won	Jess

### Badminton District Success

Well done to the U14 boys badminton team who won all their matches at the Eastleigh and Winchester district's competition. They have now qualified for the county finals in the new year.

### England Hockey

We are incredibly proud of one of the most modest students you could meet. A huge well done to Khai Ren who has been selected to represent England in the U16 hockey squad. What an incredible achievement. We are looking forward to watching him represent England in the new year. Well done Khai!

### 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](mailto:b.hall@thornden.hants.sch.uk)

### Twitter

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

## Keeping Safe and Well Over Christmas-Mr Thomas

Hi everyone,

We know that the Christmas break can be a wonderful time for many people. But it can also be a difficult time for young people (and their families or carers) for several reasons.

Below, you can find services available to young people during the Christmas period, if they need someone to talk to about how they are feeling. All are free to access, and some provide a skilled professional to talk to 24/7.



**KoothTalks - Parents/ Carers:**  
Support for young people experiencing anxiety or stress this Winter

Kooth.com



### KoothTalks - Parents/ Carers: Support for young people experiencing anxiety or stress this Winter

Please complete this form in order to attend

KoothTalks - Parents/ Carers: Support for young people experiencing anxiety or stress this Winter

This session is designed for parents and carers and will provide the following:

- Stress and Anxiety in young people
- Talking about mental health
- Activities and Resources!
- How Kooth can help

- This is a free, safe and anonymous online support for young people.
- Chat 1-2-1 with a counsellor online.
- Access to tips on staying well.
- <https://www.kooth.com/>

**childline**

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME  
[childline.org.uk](https://childline.org.uk) | 0800 1111

Comforts, advises and protects children 24 hours a day and offers free confidential counselling.

Phone 0800 1111 (24 hours).

Chat 1-2-1 with a counsellor online

<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/>

Also please remember our Well Being Hub and the upcoming events. December focuses on Friendships and how we can support our young people around this. Forward looking to January the focus will be on Technology and the Developing Brain. Please remember to use the QR code in the last newsletter to create an account, if you haven't already.

### January/February - Act For Autism course

Created by Tessa Morton, Co-Founder of Act For Autism, this course will introduce you to the 3C pathway and explore topics including sensory challenges, communication strategies, autism in girls, teenagers and lots more. This course will be a permanent feature in The Wellbeing Hub, but the Q&A is a live session.

- Module 1** A better understanding of autism - Connection (Wednesday, 10th January)
- Module 2** The sensory system - Calm (Wednesday, 17th January)
- Module 3** Talking about feelings - Communication (Wednesday, 24th January)
- Module 4** Girls, the teenage brain, and school (Wednesday, 31st January)
- Module 5** Live Q&A - with Tessa Morton (Wednesday, 7th February)



## The Wellbeing Hub Content Lineup - Autumn Term 2023 -

### December - Friendship

**Week 1:** Blog: Supporting young people through friendship conflicts by Dr Amanda Gummer, child development expert and Founder of The Good Play Guide

**Week 2:** Webinar on friendships and relationships by Alicia Drummond, BACP Accredited Therapist and Founder of The Wellbeing Hub

**Week 3:** Podcast: Self-esteem and building positive friendships with Kate Megase, Psychotherapist and Author of 'Dump the Baggage'

**Week 4:** Blog: Neurodiversity and social skills: Kids who need a little help to make friends by Dr Maite Ferrin, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist

**Bonus content:** Blog: Nurturing friendships: A guide for parents and carers by Elizabeth Cole, Author of the 'World of Kids Emotions' and 'My Way' book series



These webinars are in addition to the monthly Q&A sessions run by our in-house experts on the first Tuesday of every month at 1pm, and the weekly resources.

## The Wellbeing Hub Content Lineup - Spring Term 2024 -

### January - Technology and the developing brain

**Week 1** Blog: Don't demonise the screen by Dr Amanda Gummer, Child Development Expert and Founder of The Good Play Guide

**Week 2** Webinar: The Impact of AI in Education with Speaker TBC

**Week 3** Video: How to quit gaming in 60 seconds by Cam Adair, Leading expert on game addiction and Founder of Game Quitters

**Week 4** Webinar: Effects of technology on brain development with Dr Crystal Collier, Therapist, Educator and Author of The NeuroWhereAbouts Guide

**Week 5** Activity: Technology and my brain for pupils aged 8-11 by Dr Crystal Collier

## 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](#).

### Careers Talk – Southampton University Earth & Marine Sciences

On Wednesday 13th December, a professor from Southampton University will be coming into school to talk about the Earth and Marine Sciences courses available at the university. If your student has a genuine interest, please encourage them to sign up using the QR code provided. If they wish to attend, they must sign up by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December. We will not accept students just turning up on the day. The talk will take place in the canteen at 8.35, please remind your student to go to tutor first to ensure they are registered and then head straight to the canteen.



All year groups welcome.  
Miss Stickland & Miss Quinn

### Year 11 parents

The deadline for submitting Peter Symonds College applications is **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm**.

Please ensure applications are submitted on time as the college does not offer flexibility on deadline dates. Colleges are often oversubscribed so if students miss the deadline, they risk being unable to apply to their college/s of choice.

Students can apply to multiple colleges and all applications are done via the college website.

## Useful information-from the community

- Chandlers Ford Scouts are looking for volunteers to help them run the group. Please see attached leaflet for more information.
- Please see attached leaflet about free parenting courses from Solihull Approach.
- Personal Best Education run a free teen project over the Christmas break, please see attached leaflet for information.



Christmas kindness calendar made by Year 10 students. This has been shared with all tutor groups and is displayed around the school. It contains lots of lovely ideas!

## 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](mailto:info@thornden.hants.sch.uk)

[reception@thornden.hants.sch.uk](mailto:reception@thornden.hants.sch.uk)



**TRAIN TO TEACH  
IN HAMPSHIRE**



Part of the HISP Multi  
Academy Trust