



## Thornden School Newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

### Head of School Welcome



Dear Families,

Another packed fortnight for us at Thornden. You may have seen in the local newspapers that we have opened our refurbished main block. The building suddenly has more curb appeal and will be much better for the environment. We celebrated with Saints legend Francis Benali – the full story is [here](#).

I would like to say a huge thank you to the staff who took residential trips out over the February half term. Both the Ski Trip and the New York Trip were hugely successful, and students were a true credit to the school.

This week we had our half termly safeguarding visit from the central team at HISP. We are so pleased to share the news that this went very well. The school is moving from strength-to-strength with regards to safeguarding and are continuing to be more pre-emptive rather than reactive. Students spoke eloquently about their school experiences, how they feel safe at school and how staff support them to do their best.



This week I am the keynote speaker at the Portsmouth regional Early Careers Teachers meeting – talking to new teachers about a subject that you know is close to my heart – Diversity. I hope to share with them some of the work that we have done at Thornden as well as my own journey.

With this in mind, thank you to the families that have signed up for our Iftar meal. We have had an overwhelming response with over 150 people coming! Thank you, also, to the people who sent in emails regarding the event – I hugely appreciate your support. We really hope to develop a whole calendar of yearly events that we can celebrate together. I have been very lucky to be supported in delivering the Iftar event by the local Muslim community. If you have any links to other cultural and religious groups that might want to support us in the future with similar events then we would really like to hear from you.

I hope that you enjoy reading our newsletters and that the information is helpful to you. Please do let us know if there is anything else you would like to see featured.

Regards,

Caroline

### 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024

This week's Artist of the Week is Lucas C from Year 9. Students had great fun experimenting with collage and pen to create work in the style of Hattie Stewart and we loved Lucas' imaginative response!



### 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024

This week's Artist of the Week is Alice T of Year 9 for her lovely clay pot inspired by Japanese Jomon pottery. Well done Alice!

### Meet the team behind the scenes!

Marta is responsible for the running of Thornden School's Management System (MIS), Arbor, and associated platforms. Her role involves managing the day-to-day operations within Arbor, offering support to staff, parents, and students, and generating both routine and tailored reports on pupil progress.

She collaborates with the Senior Leadership Team to coordinate the school's data recording and reporting calendar. She works closely with teaching staff, to ensure the timely and accurate recording of data, and support staff with data and assessment-related queries. Additionally, she is responsible for parents' evenings and provides base data for external agencies by completing the School Census and other statistical returns.

In her free time she likes reading and long walks with her dog Dodo!



## Warner Brothers Studio Trip-Mrs Jeffries

On Thursday February 1st, Year 10 Media students were whisked away to the magical world of Harry Potter, when they visited the Warner Brothers Studios in London.

The day started with a Media lesson in mise-en-scene, the name given to everything on screen - everything that will appear in front of the camera. For example, we looked at factors like costuming, lighting, set design, and camera angles. The next time you watch a movie, consider the characters' costumes: everything from the colour and type of material to how worn and weathered the clothing is, has been carefully considered to convey meaning to the audience.



After the Media lesson, we explored the Studio Tour to see more examples of the attention to detail required in moviemaking. Some of us even had a go on a broomstick or used motion-capture to pretend to be Dobby the house-elf.

By the end of the trip, though we were too exhausted to enjoy anything else - but then we entered the giftshop. Ms Herridge and Ms Jeffries were clearly living their best lives by this point and spent all their lunch money on posters and mugs. We hope future Media students enjoy the Harry Potter trip just as much as we did!

### Star for a Night

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 7pm, you have the opportunity to go along to see some of the great talents our students have, whilst we raise money for charity. Tickets are priced at £5 per adult and £3 per child. Come along for a night filled with talent, laughs and entertainment!

Please see poster attached!





## Department Spotlight

New feature! Each newsletter we will shine a spotlight on the work of one of our fantastic departments.

### Spotlight on the Maths Challenge-Written by Nicky Davis

At Thornden we offer all students the option of taking part in one of the UK Maths Trust Maths Challenges, with students from Years 7 & 8 participating in the Junior Maths Challenge and Years 9, 10 & 11 in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. These are the UK's most popular school Maths competitions. Every year, over 700,000 students take part across the country, in these 60 minute, non-calculator, multiple choice challenges, which are a great opportunity for students to utilise their critical thinking skills, needing mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency to make students think to solve unique and interesting questions and challenges on the paper. For the first time this year, we invited students to sign up to take part in the competitions, opening it up to everyone, rather than just the most able, so it was great to see the number of students wanting to participate.

The UKMT award the top-scoring 40% of participants in the challenge Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates in the ratio 3:2:1 to recognise high achievement and hard work. Around 1500 of the very highest performers in the challenges are invited to take part in the one of the Olympiads and over 10,000 are invited to take part in the Kangaroo challenges which are follow-on challenges. The highest-scoring participants each receive Certificates of Distinction and Merit.

In recent years, we have even had elite success in the Olympiads with Thomas B, twice achieving an Olympiad Bronze Medal which are only awarded to students in the top 100 nationally, well done Thomas – We look forward to seeing how he will do again this year!

So far, we have had 58 students across Years 9, 10 & 11 who have taken part in this year's Intermediate Maths Challenges. The results for this are now out and below are the stories of our successes...

#### Intermediate Maths Challenge

We had 58 students taking part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge across years 9, 10 and 11 with over 90% of students earning themselves either a Bronze, Silver or Gold award – A wonderful percentage!

We had 23 GOLD awards which totals a whopping 40% of all participants, with the top performances from Lucas C (Year 9), Thomas B (Year 10) & Mila H-R (Year 11) who came Best in Year for their respective year groups, with Thomas B achieving Best in School!

Other notable scores were from the other 6 students who scored over 100 in this tricky challenge – Well done to Hugh W, Nathan S, Jonathan W, Ryan M, Isabel T & Marguerite VZS and we also had 16 SILVER and 12 BRONZE – Well done everyone!

Following on from this, 25 of our very highest performing students were selected for the follow-on round, the Grey Kangaroo for Year 9 and Pink Kangaroo for Year 10/11 and both Thomas B and Mila qualifying for the Hamilton and Maclaurin Olympiads, which is reserved for only the ELITE performances in the top 600 in the country – Well done, what an achievement!

The follow-on rounds and Olympiads are later in March and then the Junior Maths Challenge for Years 7 & 8 comes in April, so watch this space for how we get on in these...

#### Puzzle of the Month

Don't forget to keep your eyes peeled for our regular Puzzle of the Month competition, which gives all students in the school a chance to test their Maths skills and be in with a chance to win a £10 Amazon Voucher – You have to be in it to win it!!! This is sent every month via Satchel and email.

## Online Safety Message

### Understanding and Utilising Privacy Settings on Social Media Platforms Safeguarding Personal Information in a Connected World

#### Introduction

Social media platforms connect us with the world, but they also expose personal information to a wide audience, sometimes wider than we intend. Understanding and utilising privacy settings is essential for maintaining control over what we share and with whom. This article will guide students and parent on how to navigate privacy settings effectively.

#### The Importance of Privacy Settings

Privacy settings are tools provided by social media platforms that allow users to control who can see their posts, personal information, and even who can contact them. Properly configured, these settings can significantly reduce the risk of cyberbullying, stalking, and identity theft.

#### General Tips for Managing Privacy Settings

- **Review Regularly:** Social media platforms often update their privacy policies and settings. Regularly review your settings to ensure they are set to your preference.
- **Limit Sharing:** Default settings might be more public than you are comfortable with. Customise who can see your posts, photos, and profile information.
- **Be Mindful of Personal Information:** Be cautious about sharing sensitive personal information such as your address, phone number, or date of birth.

#### Platform-Specific Advice

Each social media platform has its own set of privacy controls. Here's a quick guide to a few popular ones:

- **Facebook:** Offers comprehensive settings for who can see posts, tag you, and see your profile information. Utilise the "Privacy Checkup" feature to guide you through securing your account.
- **Instagram:** Allows you to set your account to private, control who can comment on your posts, and manage story sharing settings.
- **TikTok:** Provides options for managing who can view your videos, send you messages, and comment on your posts. You can also review and adjust your "Digital Wellbeing" settings.

#### Conclusion

In the digital age, privacy settings are not just optional extras; they are necessary tools for protecting our personal information. By becoming familiar with and regularly updating these settings, we can enjoy the benefits of social media while minimising its risks.

#### Further Reading and Resources

- [National Cyber Security Centre](#) – Social Media: how to use it safely
- [Information Commissioner's Office \(ICO\)](#) – Social media privacy settings
- [Internet Matters](#) – Social networks made for children

Mr A Thomas  
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr T Baldwin  
Head of Computer Science

## Wellbeing Den-Develop, Encourage and Nurture



We would like to remind parents and carers of upcoming support for students available in School.

**The Breakfast Club** (Bereavement Support Group) Meet once a half term for activities and refreshments. Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July during period 3&4 in the Conference room. We are also remembering Mums no longer with us with a balloon launch on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024 during period 7&8, meeting in the Wellbeing Den, we will be doing the same for Father's Day on 24<sup>th</sup> June period 7&8.

**Young carers** - Meets every Wednesday at breaktime for hot chocolate and biscuits.

**Pride Group** – Meets once a week during Monday breaktime.

If you would like any further information regarding any of the above or know of someone that would benefit from some support, please email [s.kingsley-smith@thorden.hants.sch.uk](mailto:s.kingsley-smith@thorden.hants.sch.uk).

Sally Kingsley-Smith  
Pastoral Support Manager

## Useful Information

- NHS Parent/Carer events
  - How to cope when your child can't. Please see attachment for more information.
  - Health and Wellbeing events-please see attachment for more information.
- Cyber Choices Webinars
  - 4 March, 11am - Registration:  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_2fwzDzv3RMmo7Gm0PGf\\_3w](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2fwzDzv3RMmo7Gm0PGf_3w)
  - 4 March, 8pm - Registration:  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_2ROjhhKsSKueNgILJ7ISfQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2ROjhhKsSKueNgILJ7ISfQ)

If you have any queries, please contact the SEROCU Cyber Choices team  
[cyberchoices@serocu.police.uk](mailto:cyberchoices@serocu.police.uk)
- Connect4Communities-Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. Please see attachment for more information.
- Personal Best Education-Free Hampshire Teen project-activities to keep teens entertained, making friends and memories, please follow [link](#) for more information and to book.

## World Book Day



Hi everyone

Literacy is a fundamental responsibility in education, and at Thornden it is promulgated by all departments, and championed in particular by our Year 7 Read Know Grow teachers and by our exceptional library staff. With such a strong correlation between literacy and GCSE success, encouraging our students to read has never been more important.

With this in mind, on Thursday 7th March, which is World Book Day, we will be encouraging students to come to school dressed as a literary character. This should be a specific character that is obvious or easily explained, and students should be able to identify their chosen character, and which book they originate from. I must stress that it will not be a non-uniform day, and as it is a fun way to raise awareness of literary figures, students wishing to be involved cannot just wear their own clothes, claiming to be a generic character. For those students who do not want to dress up, normal school uniform will be required.

Thank you in advance for your support with this. We have not done this for many years, so I look forward to seeing an impressive array of Miss Havishams, Draculas and Robison Crusoes on World Book Day!

Paul Bridgeman

Teacher of Religious Studies and Read Know Grow

**If students do come in to school in non-uniform, as opposed to in a World Book Day costume, then we will contact parents and ask students to go home to change into uniform.**

### Lost Property

We have lots of unclaimed items in lost property, most of which are not labelled. Please remember to label all parts of the school uniform so that we can return it to you. We have a mixture of PE kits, coats, shoes, and normal uniform to claim.

If your child is missing any items, please ask them to check lost property. Any unclaimed items will be donated to FOTS after Easter.

## Careers

[Click here](#) for all the latest careers news, events and opportunities.

### New and Improved Careers Newsletter

To ensure our students get the most up to date information about the exciting careers events and opportunities available to them, we have upgraded the careers newsletter to now be a full page on the Thornden careers website. On this page you will find information about college open events, local apprenticeship opportunities, in school careers events (e.g. our broad range of career talks) and where to find ongoing career opportunities. This page will be updated regularly so please keep an eye on it so you (and your student/s) don't miss out!

[Careers Newsletter](#)

### Totton College-Apprenticeship and Careers evening.

If your student, or you, are interested in finding out more about apprenticeships, Totton College are holding a fantastic event where you can find out all about apprenticeships, how they work, where to find them and local employers. Apprenticeships are a growing area where students spend 80% of their time in the workplace and 20% studying a relevant qualification. This could be the perfect option for students ready to get into the workplace and make their learning more practical. Scan the code to register.



### School of Ocean and Earth Science

Please see attached poster regarding upcoming events for Science and Engineering.

### National Careers Week 2024 - 4th-9th March

National Careers Week aims to empower young people to make informed choices about their next steps by making sure they are getting the best careers advice and information possible.

### How can you help?

Talk about careers regularly at home: the different jobs you may have had, how you decided on your current career path and what you have learned from all of your combined experiences.

Share your CV and help them in producing their own. Going through the motions of detailing their skills, experiences and qualifications on paper can really help students to see their current development clearly.

Run through typical interview questions and talk about your own encounters – both good and bad! Learning how to present themselves professionally and keeping a cool head in an interview situation is a valuable skill which will benefit them for the rest of their lives.

Attend college/apprenticeship/university open days to explore what different establishments have to offer. Prospectuses are always available but there's nothing quite like walking around a campus to really get the feel of a place.

Get directly involved yourself! If you are, or work for, an employer who would be willing to support our careers education, please get in touch. You might consider offering a student a work experience placement, mentoring a student or presenting an assembly about your chosen field of expertise.

### Where can you find out more?

The Thornden School Careers website is designed help students and parents/carers find careers information and guidance throughout their time at Thornden and beyond .

[Click here](#)

## Sport Update

U12	Girls	Netball	vs	Mountbatten	League	Won 14 - 5	Mia
U12	Boys	Football	vs	Kings'	League	Drew 1 - 1	
U12	Boys	Football	vs	Romsey	League	Won 5 - 0	
U12	Girls	Netball	vs	Perins	League	Won 11 - 1	Mia L
U12	Girls	Football	vs	Mountbatten	League	Lost 0 - 2	
U12	Girls	Football	vs	Toynbee	League	Lost 0 - 1	Mia L
U12	Girls	Netball	vs	Mountbatten	League	Won 14 - 5	Mia
U13	Girls	Netball	vs	Mountbatten	League	Won 17 - 10	Ava and Hera
U13	Girls	Football	vs	Wyvern	County Cup (Semi)	Won 1 - 0	
U13	Boys	Football	vs	Kings'	District Cup (Semi)	Lost 2 - 5	Jay and Will
U13	Girls	Indoor Cricket	vs	Kings'	County Cup	Won 61 - 59	Ameila and Katie B
U13	Boys	Rugby	vs	PGS	Friendly		
U13	Boys	Rugby	vs	Shipton	Friendly		
U13	Boys	Rugby	vs	Weydon	Friendly		
U13	Girls	Football	vs	Henry Beaufort	District Competition	Won 4 - 0	Caitlin and Laila
U13	Girls	Netball	vs	Perins	League	Won 7 - 4	Ava B
U14	Boys	Badminton	vs	Romsey	County Championship	Won 5 - 0	
U14	Boys	Badminton	vs	St. Edmund's	County Championship	Won 5 - 0	
U14	Boys	Badminton	vs	St. George's	County Championship	Won 5 - 0	
U14	Boys	Badminton	vs	Rookwood	County Championship	Won 5 - 0	
U14	Boys	Badminton	vs	Bitterne Park	County Championship	Won 5 - 0	
U16	Boys	Hockey	vs	Priestlands	Friendly	Lost 3 - 4	Oliver

### Trampolining Success

Elouise Littlewood has been busy trampolining again. On Saturday 17th she competed in the British Gymnastics Southern Regional Qualifiers and achieved the qualification score to go through to the BG Southern Regional Championships in April. She was 10th 11-12 Female out of 26 in her first Regional Level 1 competition.

Well done to all the students who took part in the Southampton Schools Championships at the weekend. A special well done to Elouise who finished 3rd in the U13 category and then both Megan T and Otto H-S who both finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the U16 category. Thornden also managed to win the U16 team category too! Well done to all the Thornden students who took part.



## Cheerleading Success

Congratulations to Eliza L in Year 7 who recently travelled to Guildford to compete in the ICC Southern Championships with her cheer team. They came away with first place in their category! Well done Eliza and your team!

## Extra-Curricular Timetable Half Term 4

### Extra-Curricular PE Timetable Half Term 4

(\*Each half term there will be a new timetable that may have slight changes, **these are highlighted in yellow**)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Lunchtime</b>					
<b>Sports Hall</b>	Year 7/8 Basketball Mr Hall	All Years Badminton Miss Hall	Year 9/10/11 Basketball Mr Hall	Year 7/8 Basketball Miss Jones	GCSE PE  Mr Hall
<b>Gym</b>		Year 7/8 Table Tennis Mr Lax		Year 9/10/11 Table Tennis Mr Lax	
<b>After School (3:00pm – 4:00pm)</b>					
<b>Field</b>		Year 9/10/11 Boys Rugby Mr Hall & Mr Gibbs			
<b>Astro</b>	Year 7/8 Boys & Girls Hockey Mr Lax	All Years Girls Football Miss Jones & Miss Hall  Year 9/10/11 Boys Football Mr Osben & Mr Lax	Year 7/8 Boys Football Mr Osben & Mr Lax  All Years Girls Rugby Mr Hall	Year 7/8 Boys Rugby Mr Hall	Year 9/10/11 Boys & Girls Hockey Miss Jones
<b>Sports Hall</b>	All Years Badminton Mr Osben	All Years Boys & Girls Trampolining Club <b>Jo James (External Coach)</b>			
<b>Courts</b>	Year 8/9 Girls Netball Miss Hall		Year 10/11 Girls Netball Miss Hall	Year 7 Girls Netball Miss Hall	
<b>Gym</b>	GCSE PE Revision (invitation only) Room TBC – Meet in Gym Mr Hall				

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

## Twitter

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

## Ski Trip 2024 – La Thuile

A message from one of the students who went on the trip:

During February half term, we went on an amazing ski trip to La Thuile, Italy. We spent 4 1/2 days on the slopes, even the beginners who had never skied were on the slopes by the end of the second day, thanks to the amazing instructors, for all levels, who pushed everyone to their best.

There were daily awards for king/queen of the slopes and plank of the piste, that were carefully chosen out. This also included lots of honourable mentions throughout the day for hitting stop signs, falling off lifts, getting locked out of rooms, and of course for just being kind and making the trip enjoyable.

The year 11 rugby boys never failed to make us all laugh at dinner, with a different speech every day following whoever got their own plank of the piste of the day.

We went out for a pizza night at a lovely restaurant nearby to where we were staying and went ice skating on another day.

A massive thank you to all the staff who made the ski trip possible and making it as amazing as it was.



## Wellbeing Hub

Don't forget to regularly log into the Wellbeing Hub for access to lots of free resources, webinars and courses.

This month's webinar is about Alcohol, Vaping, and Cannabis. If this is of interest to you, you can register [here](#), for free.



**ALCOHOL, VAPING, AND CANNABIS, WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH, 6:30PM**

With Helena Conibear, CEO at The Alcohol Education Trust

### Upcoming Dates:

World Book Day	7 <sup>th</sup> March
End of Term	28 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 11 Progress meetings	Date change to 19 <sup>th</sup> March

## 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)

Inspiring Future Teachers (IFT) is a national School Centred Provider of Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) working through regional partners to offer one-year postgraduate routes to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) with the option to study for a master's level Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE). Inspiring Future Teachers – HISP Teacher Training is your local hub and aims to provide the opportunity to train to teach in Hampshire.

