



Thornden School Newsletter 15th March 2024

Head of School Welcome



Dear Parents/Carers

This term just seems to be flying by! I cannot believe that we are in March already.

I had a brilliant experience at the ASCL Conference in Liverpool last weekend. We had speakers from lots of different fields including the Secretary of State, Gillian Keegan, the new Chief Inspector for OFSTED; Sir Martyn Oliver and the shadow Secretary of State, Bridget Phillipson. I had the honour of introducing Bridget to the stage – it was quite daunting on the stage in front of thousands of my colleagues but I was so proud to see Thornden's name on the big screen.

I will gloss over the fact that I had to drive up to Liverpool dressed as Miss Trunchbull! World Book Day last Thursday was a lot of fun. It was wonderful to see all of the different costumes, particularly the friends that all dressed as a theme.



Last Tuesday we had a beautiful Spring Music Concert – the talent on show at Thornden is just sublime. I felt completely refreshed after listening to the gorgeous music. Thank you to everyone on the team.

This week we have had a two-day School Improvement visit from our colleagues in the central team at HISP. The programme was packed with lesson visits, talking to groups of students, talking to staff and walking around at break and lunchtime. Overall, the initial feedback has been very positive. The team agree that there has been a significant shift in the safeguarding culture of the school and students were full of praise for the school and its staff. We are so pleased that we are making progress along our journey.

On Wednesday night this week our students and staff took to the stage for our Star for a Night event. It takes a special kind of bravery to get up in front of your peers to perform and we are so proud of those that took part.

Lastly, I want to tell you about the first ever Iftar meal at Thornden. On Thursday we welcomed over 150 students and their families to break the Ramadan fast with us – some of them were Muslims and some were from other backgrounds. It was a wonderful occasion, lots of wonderful food, happiness and laughter. As I said before, we would welcome any other support from members of our community to put together a calendar of events for the year. Thank you to everyone who supported and came along. Thornden is a completely inclusive school and we value every single one of our students.

Have a great weekend – the weather is warming and the nights are getting even longer.

Take care and keep in touch,

Caroline



4th March 2024

Winners of our 'Light the South' Lighthouse design competition. Well done to Amy M, Parthiv N, Isaac L, Theo N-A, Ellen P, Alya N, Sylvia T & Elena I on your wonderful designs!



11th March 2024

This week's Artist of the Week is Olivia C for her excellent painting of Campbell's soup cans, inspired by the artist Andy Warhol. Olivia has used acrylic paint on MDF for this piece.



Meet the team behind the scenes!

Lucy, Kav, Jane and Helen play a vital role in supporting the Science teachers to enrich practical learning by preparing and managing equipment/chemicals for class practical's and demos by providing technical guidance on best practice, techniques, and methods. They also trial new curriculum aligned experiments and dedicate time to extra-curricular activities such as STEM club and Science Week. Their knowledge, technical expertise, flexibility, and commitment provide an engaging, hands-on educational experience contributing to the delivery of high-quality Science at Thornden School.

The Technicians collaborate closely with the Science teachers, ensuring that the 10 labs are well equipped and prepared for practical lessons and experiments so that they are conducted safely and effectively, enhancing students' understanding and engagement with scientific concepts across Biology, Physics and Chemistry.

Kav -the Senior Technician has been with us for 11 years and is a talented amateur photographer. Lucy has been at Thornden for 9 years and she loves to craft! Helen has been at Thornden for 5 years and she loves cooking and spending time with her family and cocker spaniel Ruby. Jane joined 4 years ago, enjoys running and is a black belt in Taekwondo.



Performing Arts Alumni

Kenya and Caity were recently nominated for a Brit award and attended the event on 2nd March 2024.

Kenya left in 2014 after completing her GCSE's which included music and dance and was involved in all of Thornden's concerts and productions. Kenya was nominated for song of the year with her song Strangers.

Caity left in 2018 after completing her GCSE's including dance, drama and music. She also got involved in school productions. Caity was nominated for the Rising Star award.



Year 8 HPV vaccinations- Tuesday 7th May

Just a reminder about the email that was sent out to Year 8 parents recently. If you have not yet completed a consent form, please use the link below.

School Code: SH136715

Session date: Tuesday 7th May 2024

Link to website: [Teenage Immunisation Programme : Hampshire Healthy Families](#)



Department Spotlight

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

It is one of the busiest times of year for us in Technology with Year 11's all working hard to meet their NEA deadlines. The week before last saw our Food Preparation and Nutrition students complete their practical exam, whereby they all produced 3 dishes in 3 hours with some fantastic work being completed. GCSE Design & Technology and Engineering students are now on the last leg of their NEAs with the practical work being fine-tuned and evaluations written in preparation for the deadline on the 22nd March.

This year we will be holding our first Year 11 Design Show on the 16th April (4-6pm in Technology 3) where we will invite parents and students in to see the work produced over this year. Dylan Year 11 – "I have enjoyed learning about how to use the tools and equipment which have given me a foundation and I am able to do bigger projects."

Our Year 10 Engineers have just completed their Screwdriver module which gives them a chance to use the lathes and the heat treatment room. D&T Textiles students are undertaking an Alphabet tabard project, having completed a module to make their own hoodie in the Autumn. D&T Timbers and Papers and Boards are working on their practice NEA's after having produced wooden coffee tables and hanging mobiles. This is all in preparation for the release of their NEA context challenges on the 1st June, whereby they will work on their project which is worth 50% of their GCSE throughout Year 11. Year 10 Food are about to embark on their trial 3-hour Food Practical in a couple of weeks - again they have to make 3 dishes in three hours, lots of planning ahead!

Year 7 and 8 students are about to move onto their fourth rotation across the different material areas of the year. They have been busy producing some great project work, from Year 7 – Stationary set (Graphics), Electronic torches (Systems) Mobile phone case (Textiles), Wooden dinosaur (Timbers) to Year 8 – Exciting lighting lamp (Systems), Mechanical toy (Timbers), Supermarket stitch cushion (Textiles), Mug & packaging (Graphics) and of course Food practical in both years. Ruby & Pippa Year 7 – "Techs different to what we did in primary school, its creative, with lots of practical in lots of different areas and its fun."

Year 9 have the opportunity to undertake more creative projects and have been working on Board games (Graphics), Pyjama's (Textiles), Electronic dice and garden hanging mobiles (Engineering), Shadow box (Timbers) and Cultural cuisines in Food. Alistair in Year 9 – "Timbers is fun and practical with good life skills, with lots to do, and you get a sense of achievement when you take your project home."

We look forward to welcoming Year 11 students and parents to see their hard work on display in April.



Online Safety Message

Safeguarding Personal Information in a Connected World Navigating Virtual Playgrounds with Awareness and Caution

Introduction

Online gaming offers a vast universe of entertainment and social interaction. However, it also presents unique challenges and risks, from exposure to inappropriate content to encounters with online predators. This article aims to equip students and parents with strategies for staying safe while enjoying the benefits of online gaming.

Understanding the Risks

- **Inappropriate Content:** Games may contain violent or sexually explicit material unsuitable for younger players.
- **Cyberbullying and Harassment:** Online interactions can sometimes turn toxic, exposing players to bullying and harassment.
- **Privacy Concerns:** Sharing personal information or making in-game purchases can jeopardise privacy and financial security.
- **Online Predators:** Multiplayer games can be hunting grounds for predators looking to exploit young players.

Safety Strategies for Online Gaming

- **Use Privacy Settings:** Most gaming platforms offer privacy settings that help control who can communicate with you and what information is visible.
- **Choose Age-Appropriate Games:** Use game ratings to select suitable games for children's age groups and maturity levels.
- **Enable Parental Controls:** Platforms like PlayStation, Xbox, and Nintendo Switch offer parental controls to restrict content, manage playtime, and monitor online interactions.
- **Teach About Online Dangers:** Educate gamers on the risks of sharing personal information and the importance of reporting uncomfortable situations.
- **Encourage Positive Interactions:** Promote respectful and kind communication and recognise the signs of cyberbullying.

Creating a Safe Gaming Environment

- **Open Dialogue:** Encourage open discussions about gaming experiences. This ensures children are more likely to report any negative interactions.
- **Community Guidelines:** Familiarise yourself and your children with the community guidelines of their preferred gaming platforms.
- **Report and Block:** Teach children how to report abusive players and content within games. Blocking problematic users can also help create a safer gaming space.

Conclusion

Online gaming should be a fun and positive experience. By taking proactive steps to safeguard privacy, promote respectful interaction, and select appropriate content, we can ensure a safer gaming environment for all players.

Further Reading and Resources

- [Common Sense Media](#) – A range of guides that are linked to gaming and consoles that provide tips and advice.
- [Childnet Online Gaming](#) – An overview of the benefits and risks of online gaming, with tips for staying safe.
- [Internet Matters](#) – Offers comprehensive guidance on keeping children safe in the gaming world.

Mr A Thomas
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr T Baldwin
Head of Computer Science

Wellbeing Den-develop, encourage and nurture



The Breakfast Club (Bereavement Support Group)

On Friday 8th March it was lovely to watch our balloons rise into the blue sky with heartfelt messages to Mums no longer with us. Afterwards we enjoyed a warming hot chocolate and relaxing conversation.

Our Father's Day balloon launch will be on Friday 14th June 2024 during period 7&8, meeting in the Wellbeing Den.

Young carers – It was Young Carer's Action Day on 13th March 2024. Being a young carer should not be a barrier to a young person's learning, to find out how you can support further please visit [Young Carers Action Day 2024 - Carers Trust](#). If you have a child in your family that is a Young Carer and would benefit from being part of our support group please do email s.kingsley-smith@thornden.hants.sch.uk for further details. The group meets every Wednesday during breaktime for hot chocolate and biscuits.

Sally Kingsley-Smith
Pastoral Support Manager

Update to basic kit-erasable whiteboard pen

In lessons, we are increasingly using mini whiteboards to help students with their thinking and as a way of checking understanding mid-lesson. Although we have some pens in school, it is much easier for students if they have their own whiteboard pen that they can use in all lessons. Therefore, for all students in Years 7-10, we are adding erasable whiteboard pen to the list of basic kit. Please can all students in Years 7-10 come equipped with a whiteboard pen at the start of the summer term.

In the meantime, we have purchased a white board pen for every student in the school which they now have and are using in lessons. Because Year 11 do not have very long left, we are not adding to their basic kit, but it would, of course, be useful if they carried a whiteboard pen as we use the mini whiteboards to support revision and retrieval practice in lessons.

Mrs Fuller

Careers

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

Thornden Hall



THE ARTS PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN ENRICHING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR OUR STUDENTS. **THORNDEN HALL** SERVES AS A CREATIVE HUB, ALLOWING OUR TALENTED STUDENTS TO EXPLORE THEIR PASSION FOR MUSIC, DANCE, DRAMA AND MORE.

FROM SCHOOL PRODUCTIONS TO VISITING GUEST PERFORMANCES, **THORNDEN HALL** MAKES ARTS AND CULTURE MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR OUR COMMUNITY. FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.THORNDENHALL.CO.UK



TOMMY
BLAIZE

JAMES
PHELAN

GEORGE
KO

Spring concert



On Tuesday 5th March Thornden held its annual Spring concert. This event allows students to showcase their amazing musical talents. The flute choir played a wonderful version of Somebody to Love followed by the Recorder Consort playing Hey Jude, which were very much enjoyed by the audience. Thank you to all the students and staff involved and we look forward to the upcoming summer concert next term.

Big Barton Give Back Day

Barton Peveril College is running an event to engage the college community in all things sustainable.

They will be looking for any donations of unwanted A Level textbooks and revisions aids. These will be donated to disadvantage students that start the college in September.

If you have anything you would like to donate, please drop these to reception and we will make sure Barton receive these.

Study-the relationship between pain and educational outcomes.

Please see attached information regarding a study which needs parents of children in Year 7 and 8. The researcher is aiming to investigate the link between chronic pain and educational outcomes by comparing Year 6 SATs results of children with and without chronic pain.

If you think you can help, please scan the QR code on the attached information poster.

Sport Update

Recent Results

U14	Boys	Football	vs	Westgate	District Cup (Semi-Final)	Won 4 - 1	U14
U14	Girls	Hockey	vs	Perins	Friendly	Won 3 - 2	U14
U12	Boys	Hockey	vs	Priestlands	Friendly	Won 6 - 0	U12
U12	Boys	Rugby	vs	Bay House	Friendly	Lost 30 - 40	U12
U13	Boys	Rugby	vs	Bay house	Friendly	Won 35 - 30	U13
U12	Boys	Rugby	vs	Henry Beaufort	Friendly	Lost 10 - 25	U12
U16	Boys	Football	vs	Wyvern	District Cup (Semi-Final)	Lost 2 - 4	U16
U13	Boys	Hockey	vs	Perins	Friendly	Lost 0 - 2	U13
U12	Girls	Rugby	vs	Priory	Friendly	Lost 20 - 25	U12
U12	Girls	Rugby	vs	Ringwood	Friendly	Won 20 - 5	U12
U12	Girls	Rugby	vs	Ringwood Match 2	Friendly	Won 15 - 0	U12
U16	Girls	Netball	vs	Kings	League	Won 30 - 7	U16
U13	Boys	Football	vs	Trafalgar School	County Cup (Semi)	Won 5 - 1	U13
U15	Boys	Football	vs	Perins	League	Won 1 - 0	U15
U14	Boys	Football	vs	Kings	League	Lost 0 - 1	U14
U12	Girls	Football	vs	Romsey	League	Won 3 - 0	U12
U14	Boys	Football	vs	Westgate	District Cup (Semi-Final)	Won 4 - 1	U14

Gymnastics Success

Well done to Alfred and his team, who competed last weekend in the British championship's qualification held in Northumbria University in Newcastle. Alfred and his team finished in a very respectable third place. Congratulations all.



Also well done to Chaia who is working her way up the gymnastics talent ladder. She has recently been invited to compete at the women's artistic gymnastics, Welsh Open. As well as qualifying to compete at the English championships last week. She managed to put in a good performance and enjoyed her experience. She now continues to work towards qualifying for the British Championships.

Well done Chaia.

Netball Liddington Weekend 2024

23 students across year 7 and 8 headed to Liddington at the start of March for a weekend of netball and outdoor activities. Friday started well..... a couple of students forgetting the very essential kit needed, old shoes for the outdoor activities! Miss Jones, Swindon's local B&M store (not a sponsored post) and a sparkly set of shoes came to the rescue and the girls eventually had something somewhat practical to wear!

Saturday and Sunday consisted of lots of netball and "queue and do" activities including giant swing, zip wire, leap of faith and aeroball. Despite the wet weather and extremely muddy conditions, the girls faced some fears with heights, worked well as a team and played some great netball. Evening activities consisted of team games, a film, and the staff's personal favourite...silent disco! No injuries were sustained whilst cutting some serious shapes on the dance floor!

The Year 8's had some tough games against Oxford High, Churches and Chislehurst but were resilient and came away with some great wins. The year 7s had a nail-biting semifinal match against Churches, just losing out to the final by 1 goal. Kirsty Harris, Team Bath player, made an appearance on the Sunday to take photos with the students and award the year 7s with a bronze medal.

Overall, a great weekend, full of fun, mud, adventure and teamwork.



Cross Country News

A huge well done to Frankie who finished 2nd in the under 13 girl district cross country, picking up a silver medal and gaining selection to represent Hampshire at the Southern School's Inter-Counties. We wish her the best of luck at the next competition.

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.

Safeguarding and Wellbeing-Mr Thomas

Please see attached leaflet from the NHS Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service regarding upcoming free health and wellbeing events for parent and carers.

Wellbeing Hub upcoming themes:

April - Revision and exam stress

- Week 1** Podcast : Revision skills: How to revise effectively with Steve Badger, Deputy Head in charge of Teaching and Learning at Lord Wandsworth College
- Week 2** Video : Setting yourself up for exam success for parents and pupils by Alicia Drummond, Therapist and Founder of The Wellbeing Hub
- Week 3** Activity : Creating a revision timetable that works for you by The King's School, Chester
- Week 4** Webinar : Nutrition for concentration and performance with Tina Lond-Caulk, The Nutrition Guru - Author, Speaker, and Nutritionist
- Bonus** Podcast : The art of learning, knowledge retention and memory with Murray Morrison, Founder and CEO at Tassomai

Student Celebration-Meet Millie



Millie started Irish dancing following her primary school teacher offering her class the opportunity to learn basic reel, just prior to Covid. Her teacher had been a World Champion Irish dancer, and as such shared his experiences and knowledge with the children, this showed the impact a teacher can have on students, when they least expect it.

When the parents attended to watch an assembly of their dancing, Millie was awarded a trophy, given to her for having the most promise. Later mum spoke to her teacher who told her where they could find out more about Irish dance classes locally, and the rest is history. She learnt all of her basic steps over zoom during Covid, and her new Irish dancing teacher really kept her going throughout. She built relationships with other children from outside of school and thrived on her 45 minutes of daily zoom, where they all came together. Coming out of Covid, Millie started to compete.

In 2021 she attended her first Southern England regional qualifiers for the World championships and came last place. The following year she won the preliminary championship and was one place off of qualifying to go to the World championships. In November 2023 she came 6th place and qualified to attend the World championships (placing her in the top 200 of all dancers in her age group globally) in Glasgow 2024. Millie has now danced all over the country. They have attended the All Ireland championships, Great Britain championships, All Scotland's and Scottish Nationals, where she placed 13th in a huge national competition. Her work ethic is astonishing, she always ensures schoolwork comes first, but without fail will practice every day and currently dances in class 7-days a week, in the run up to the worlds. From very basic beginnings Millie has truly found her passion, it has taught her huge discipline, resilience and will be a feature in her life for many years to come.

Useful Information

Want to know the sorcerer's secrets?! Come join us at our wonderful 1-Day Magic Skills Camp this Easter!

<https://bigmouththeatre.com/easter-camp>

Thursday 4th April - Thornden School, Chandlers Ford, 9am - 3:30pm

The amazing Ketsy's Young Magicians are providing us with their magic genius at 2 action-packed venues, full of confidence-building, illusion-learning fun!

Your child will learn the methods behind some wonderful magic effects whilst making friends and even taking home some magical goodies to carry on the magician's fun at home!!

So, if your child thinks of themselves as the next Potter or Granger, and would love to learn the sorcerer's secrets, book their place on the link above.

Upcoming Dates:

End of Term	28 th March
Start of Term	15 th April

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

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.

