



Thornden School Newsletter 19th April 2024

Head of School Welcome



Dear Families,

I hope that you had a lovely Easter break. I have really enjoyed speaking to students to hear about what they have been up to. Mark D in Year 8 went to Guyana, where my mother is from. His family sent me some wonderful pictures of the rainforest and were kind enough to get me some Demerara sugar!

This week we have been back with a bang. Year 11 are gearing up for their “real” examinations. We are so proud of all of them for the hard work that they have put in so far. On Tuesday I visited Portswood Primary School – one of the schools in our Trust. It is so important that we learn from the primary sector. Unfortunately, the secondary sector can often underestimate Year 7s – it is vital that we know how capable and independent they are in Year 6 so that we can hit the ground running when they arrive.

On Tuesday evening the Design and Technology department held a Showcase of all the wonderful work that has been produced by Year 11. It was lovely to see the range of excellent projects and we thank all of the families who took the time to come along.

This Wednesday we had our Sports Awards Evening. It amazes me that we have so many talented young people in so many different sports and disciplines. It was wonderful to celebrate this with students, staff and families. Thank you to the PE department and to those of you who attended. A huge congratulations to Khai-Ren who won Sports Personality of the Year. The competition was fierce but Khai-Ren gained the most votes from students, parents and staff for his Hockey achievements.

I attended the opening of a new pastoral provision at Barton Peveril on Thursday afternoon. I have been a governor at the College since last academic year – it has been brilliant to see the College go from strength to strength. Around half of our students go on the study at Barton so this local link is important.

On Friday I met with local primary and secondary Heads at Toynbee, a cluster that has been resurrected since last academic year. It is so important to build a constructive relationship with the schools in the area so this meeting was very welcomed.

Lastly, we would like to increase the number of governors that we have on our local academy committee. My current academy committee are a dedicated and passionate group of people who give up their own time to support me and the work of the school. I could not do my job without them! If you are interested then please complete [this form](#) and we will get in touch.

Have a lovely week and enjoy the lighter evenings,

Caroline

Meet the team behind the scenes!

Gemma's job role is Senior Finance assistant and has been here for 6 years. She is in charge of all purchasing for Thornden School, reconciling invoices, assisting with Arbor Finance issues and booking transport for trips and activities.



A fun fact - She used to work at Wave 105 and once did the voiceover for the Paultons Park advert!

In her spare time she enjoys going to gym classes, music events, eating out and paddleboarding.

15th April 2024

This week's Artist of the Week is Albert H for his fantastic clay building! Albert worked really well creating his components from clay before assembling them and adding the details. Well done Albert!



Berlin 2024-written by Lara W Year 10



Over the Easter weekend, 40 GCSE History pupils travelled to Berlin to further their knowledge on Weimar and Nazi Germany. They were an absolute credit to the school, and staff and students alike had a great time! Lara W, in year 10, has written a short blog about our time there:

To begin our trip we headed towards the Reichstag and Brandenburg gate before going back to our hotel for some rest, for the busy day we had ahead of us. On our second, and first full day, we began our walking

tour. We saw so many awesome things, most notable being the Topography of Terror (based on the former site of Gestapo headquarters), pieces of the Berlin Wall, Babel Platz, the Sowjetisches Ehrenmal Treptow (a truly remarkable soviet monument) and so many other things. On our third day we visited Sachsenhausen concentration camp and learned loads about how the camp was run. We then visited the Olympic stadium and got to see the view of the pitch from some of the best seats. Finally, we visited the Reichstag dome as the sun was setting and saw some truly beautiful views of Berlin and could see directly into the German parliament. On our fourth and final day we saw more memorials across the city and went into the German Resistance Memorial Museum before catching our flight home in the afternoon.



Wellbeing Hub

Wellbeing Hub Summer Term Content Line-up:

May - Self-esteem

- W/c 06.05** Podcast: Self-esteem and building positive friendships with Kate Megase, Psychotherapist and Author of 'Dump the Baggage'
- Wed 15.05** Webinar : How to build your child's self-esteem with Dr Maryhan Baker 15th May, 6:30pm GMT
- W/c 20.05** Podcast: How identity impacts self-esteem with Fiona Yassin Founder and Clinical Director at The Wave Clinic.
- W/c 27.05** Blog: Identity attached to mental health/illness by Fiona Yassin Founder and Clinical Director at The Wave Clinic.
- Bonus** Blog: Crisis to confidence by Moja Trachonitis Assistant Head -Wellbeing at Sutton Valence School

Careers

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

Careers Talk - Engineering

If your students are interested in careers in engineering, please encourage them to sign up using the QR code below and come along to the canteen at 8.35 on **Wednesday 24th April** to hear from Southampton Engineering Training Association (SETA). Their main focus is apprenticeships. However, even if students currently think they will go to university, it is good for them to know about all the options available to them for getting into the industry. The talk is open to all year groups.



University Courses - 'Try Before You Buy'

Is your student keen to study a particular subject at university? Springpod, a careers and university link organisation, have provided a host of short sample courses in a range of subjects. These short courses should take about an hour, can be accessed at any time and will provide a certificate of completion at the end that can be used on applications and CVs.

Click on the link below to review the list of topics and sign up:

<https://www.springpod.com/subject-spotlights/search>

Barton Peveril year 10 Open Event

We are excited to announce our upcoming **Year 10 Open Evening** at Barton College and would like to extend a warm invitation to students and parents to attend this special event.

Date: Thursday 2nd May 2024

Time: 16:30 - 20:30 pm (attendees will need to book a timeslot)

[Link to book tickets](#)

The Year 10 Open Evening offers a fantastic opportunity for pupils and their parents/guardians to explore the various options available after completing GCSEs. From our diverse range of A Level and Vocational Level 3 courses to our extensive Q-XTRA enrichment programme, Barton Peveril has something for everyone.

During the event, visitors will have the chance to:

- Tour our state-of-the-art facilities
- Learn more about each of our subjects and extra-curricular activities
- Speak directly to current students and teachers
- Experience the vibrant and energetic atmosphere of our College community

Important Information about Parking:

- Students must book a ticket for the event; however, additional guests from the same household do not need to book separately (one ticket per household).
- We kindly encourage attendees to arrive promptly at the start time indicated on their ticket. Each timeslot is limited to 45 minutes.
- Parking will be available on the field. Please consider the type and size of vehicle you bring, and accessible vehicles must display their blue badge at all times.
- While we cannot guarantee a parking space, we suggest alternative transportation options, such as public transport. The Eastleigh Train station is conveniently located within a 20-minute walk to the campus, and we also provide bike shelters for safe bike storage.

If you or your students have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact our Marketing team at marketing@barton.ac.uk. Please allow 1-2 working days for our team to respond.

We look forward to welcoming you and your students to Barton College for an informative and enjoyable evening.

We need Governors for schools

Many of our schools are in need of more academy committee (AC) members. Serving as an AC Member allows you to positively impact children's lives and the community's future by supporting strategies for improvement, ensuring accountability, and promoting high educational standards.

Schools require a combination of hard and soft skills to ensure their boards operate effectively. Whether you're an experienced professional or embarking on the first stages of your career, we'll work hard to match you with an appropriate school. You don't need to be a parent or education expert to volunteer.

To find out more about becoming a governor with HISP, please visit our [website](#).





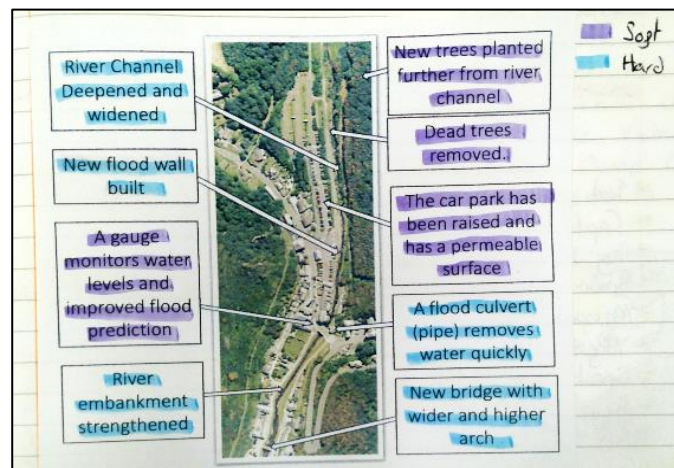
Department Spotlight

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

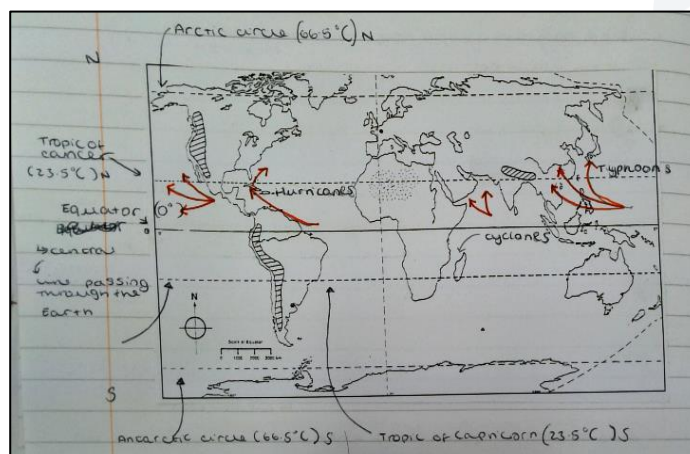
Geography-Nick Shepherd

In the second half of the Easter term in the Geography department we have been loving progressing through our Extreme Geography KS3 schemes of work in each year group. Each of which have a physical geography focus and incorporate hazard management, drawing on the interconnectivity of the human and physical domains.

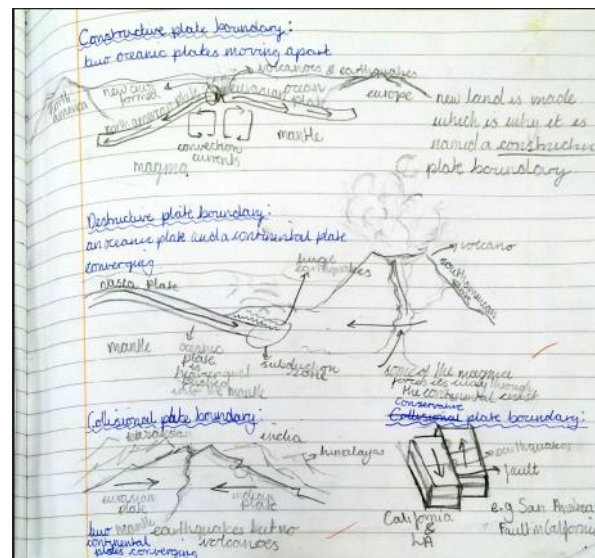
In Year 7 the focus has been on Rivers. By studying the physical process that create rivers and their corresponding landscapes the students then assess the effective management of them, considering different hard and soft engineering methods. The 2004 Boscastle flood case study enables students to see the effects, as well as the long-term responses, which demonstrates how lessons have been learnt from a natural disaster. As with all our units, students are supported in extended writing practices with points fully developed and including specific details. Students are taught to review and improve their work from Year 7 and it is a critical aspect of our teaching.



In Year 8 the focus has been on extreme weather, again with a focus on hazard management to draw on the interconnectivity of the physical and human geographical domains. This is a strategic theme to draw on the synoptic links throughout the whole of Key Stage 3. Global and local extreme weather events were explored. For example, the 2018 Beast from the East and 2022 summer heat wave provide a relevant and local study, whereas Tropical Storm formation and management provides a more global perspective with the responses to Hurricane Katrina being assessed.



In Year 9, and to conclude the extreme Geography focus. Tectonic hazards and management strategies are studied. Tectonic physical process were defined in detail and students assessed the benefits and hazards of living near tectonic plate boundaries. A series of case study examples including the 2010 Eyjafjallajökull eruption and the 2004 Boxing day Tsunami are investigated as well as a study on the potential effects and responses to a potential Supervolcanic eruption at Yellowstone National Park. This is a topic that the students tend to love investigating, we do to. We are excited about starting our summer term schemes of work now. China, Coasts and Ecosystems this side of half term, before St Catherines Hill field trips, Australia, and Rainforests. Exciting times!



Student Lanyards

All students have been offered a student lanyard to hold their new student cards in. We hope this will help students to not lose their cards.

If your child loses their student card or lanyard, replacements can be purchased via Arbor.

Online Safety Message



The NSPCC offer lots of useful resources and training to support your child with online safety. Advice on online gaming, social media and internet connected devices are just some of the areas they have provided advice on.

Here are links to a few of the useful articles and extra resources:

- Preventing online harm and abuse-[link](#)
- Responding to online abuse-[link](#)
- The 4Cs of online safety-[link](#)

Safeguarding and Wellbeing -Mr Thomas



Dear All,

This week I was part of a meeting with CAMHS and their Mental Health Support Team. We have been lucky able to secure the support, alongside several other local schools of this team, which will mean that we will be able to refer our students directly to them and they will then visit the students in school to help. It works on a Tiered System of support and at the moment offers support around concerns such as low mood, panic attacks, sleep problems, stress management, school avoidance due to anxiety amongst others.

We are aware that supporting the mental health needs of Thornden students and helping parents to support them, is our priority at present, and as part of a successful pilot of their parent workshop 'Understanding and Supporting your child with Low Mood' in September 2023 CAMHS will be offering this workshop digitally once per term for any of our parents/carers who may feel that they would benefit from this.

The workshop will be mostly informative, with some optional opportunities for discussion, input, and questions via the digital chat function. You will not need to have your video-camera or microphone on for the workshop. The workshop aims to upskill parents and carers to understand low mood and depression, the signs, and symptoms of this in young people, and provide some simple skills and strategies for you to take away and use to support your young person who may be struggling with their mood.

This terms workshop will take place as follows:

Date: Monday June 10th, 2024

Time: 11am until 12.30pm

Duration: 1.5 hours

Location: Zoom Webinar, details below:

MHST South-East is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Understanding and Supporting your Child with Low Mood Parent/Carer Workshop

Time: Jun 10, 2024, 11:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://spft-nhs-uk.zoom.us/j/93204638969?pwd=NUdDbjZ2RURUMGtBYnMwNDBjUmxPUT09>

Meeting ID: 932 0463 8969

Passcode: 553786

This support is in its launch stage but it is an exciting opportunity for us to be part of and I will continue to update you moving forward.

Event opportunity: Celebrating Neurodiversity- Wednesday 19th June. Please see attached poster.

Student Achievements

Emi T Year 7

Emi is a tumbling gymnast who trains at Andover Gymnastics Club in their FIG (Federation International Gymnastics) development program.

Emi won a silver medal at the Southern Regional Qualifiers held over the Easter break. She competed in the 11-12 age group Regional 4 category (highest level in the National Development Program) and will go on to represent the Southern Region in the English National Silver & Gold Championships that will be held at the Telford International Centre in June this year, and also the Inter Regional Challenge Cup at the Birmingham Utilita Arena in July this year.

Huge congratulations to Emi!



Yixiang H Year 9

Yixiang won double Silver medals for men singles and men doubles in Victor Junior OLVE international badminton tournament in Belgium between 30th March -1st April. Yixiangs parents are so proud of him to be the top badminton player in Europe, and so are we!

Yixiang has been selected to represent England to compete 2024 U15 Home Countries Quadrangular (26th -28th April) and an International Junior competition in Croatia (16th -20th May).

Huge congratulations to Yixiang!



Thornden Hall



Come and join us at Thornden Hall.

This is just a sample of what's on offer in April, check out the website for more details of our other events.



Sports Update-Mr Hall

Watch this space for more updates next newsletter!

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.

Music Lesson Sign Up

If you would like your child to start or continue having music lessons in school from the start of the academic year 2024-2025, please fill in the form. The deadline for music sign up is Friday 26th April.

If you have any questions regarding the music lessons, please do not hesitate to email e.laird@thornden.hants.sch.uk

<https://forms.office.com/e/bqYEra4sal>



Wellbeing Den-Develop, encourage and nurture-Mrs Kingsley-Smith

The Breakfast Club (Bereavement Support Group)

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

Young carers

Our Young Carers continue to meet weekly on a Wednesday. If you know someone that is a young carer who would benefit from being part of this supportive group please do let me know s.kingsley-smith@thornden.hants.sch.uk. Miss Willson and I have also met with Eastleigh Carers who run a fantastic and popular service, we are able to refer to them too.

Wellbeing Den visits

Students are able to self-refer to the Wellbeing Den for a check in, they can contact us in person or email pastoralsupport@thornden.hants.sch.uk. Please do remind your son or daughter, if they are struggling, to do this or drop in and see us at breaktimes.



Upcoming Dates:

Non-uniform day
Bank Holiday
End of Term

Monday 29th April
Monday 6th May
Friday 24th May

Payments can be made via Arbor
School closed
School closed for 1 week

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.

