



Thornden School Newsletter 3rd May 2024

Head of School Welcome



Dear Families,

Firstly, I would like to launch our annual Parent Survey. Due to all of the changes that we have had in the last 18 months this has not happened and we want to remedy that. Every year we will be asking parents a few questions about their experiences. We have used the OFSTED questions – not because we cannot think of our own – but because we are then able to benchmark ourselves against national data to see how we are doing as a school.

Please do take the time to complete the survey that you will find [here](#). The deadline for this is Friday 10th May at 5pm. We really appreciate your feedback, and it will inform our next steps. I will get back to you on what your responses have shown us and what we plan to do about it.

A big thank you to everyone who expressed an interest in our governing body, also known as our Academy Committee. We are currently waiting for a new Governance professional to join HISP. Once they have joined, we can start the recruitment process. Please bear with us whilst this happens.

Well, the Thornden diary has been jam-packed again. Examinations in Modern Foreign Languages and Art is in full swing. The Artwork is absolutely stunning! Unfortunately, we cannot publish photographs of the work until it is marked but it is eye-wateringly accomplished.

On Tuesday last week, a group of Year 8 students and Ms Sanders and Ms McGreal were 'on set' for an advertisement for Inspiring Future Teachers, our new teacher training programme. The filming crew were so impressed with our students and staff and their acting abilities. RJ in Y8 even dressed up as a wizard! We will keep you posted on when the advert will be premiered on Sky TV and online. I have done my own filming in school – on a much smaller scale – asking some of students about their thoughts of Thornden School. I am going to use it during our INSET day in June with staff. Thank you to everyone who was involved.

It is interview season at the moment, and we have been busy making sure that every child has a specialist teacher in September. Even though recruitment and retention is still at crisis levels nationally I am pleased to report that we are very nearly there and have recruited strongly. I will introduce these new staff to you very soon.

As co-chair of the National Ethnic Diversity Network for my professional association, ASCL, I chaired a meeting last week with our group and a guest speaker – Naomi Evans from Everyday Racism. She has worked with the government and the Department of Education to give a platform for teachers from diverse backgrounds and we pledged to work with her organisation to bring about change. We also briefly discussed the recent news story regarding the ruling at Katherine Birbalsingh's Michaela School with regards to prayer rooms. As you may know, we have a prayer room at Thornden and we are keen to support students from all backgrounds to 'bring their authentic selves' to school so it was an interesting discussion! I would love to hear your thoughts on this so please do get in touch.

Thank you again for everything that you do. I have never worked at a school where parents are so supportive – it is a very special bond that we have with our families.

Regards,

Caroline

Meet the team behind the scenes!

Kate's role at Thornden is HR Assistant, working alongside Dom and Ali. She assists with a variety of administrative tasks from maintaining employee records and documentation to helping with recruitment and payroll processes.



A fun fact – In her previous role, Kate worked with study abroad students and led a trip to Norway for a group of Widening Participation students that resulted in several students deciding to return to Norway for work.

Kate is a linguist and spends her spare time learning Italian on Duolingo.

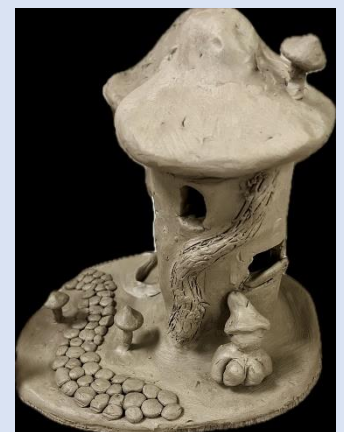
22nd April 2024

This week's Artist of the Week is Jess S of Year 8 for her lovely gargoyle modelled from clay. We loved his cheeky personality! Well done Jess!



29th April 2024

This week's Artist of the Week is Alice H of Year 9 for her fantastic, clay building! Alice was inspired by the artist/architect Hundertwasser to create her wonderful design.



Year 10 GCSE Trial Practical Exams

Year 10 Food Technology students started the half term with a busy week taking their GCSE Trial Practical Exams, cooking three high skilled recipes within three hours. Their amazing achievements can be viewed [here](#).



Georgia M cooked: Spiced Carrot and Lentil Soup with a bread roll, Paprika Chicken with Wholemeal Rice and Lasagne with Coleslaw, all delicious and beautifully presented.

Year 8 HPV vaccination 7th May, consent reminder and schedule

Year 8 Parents and Carers

Session date: Tuesday 7th May 2024

Please find attached the schedule for the HPV vaccination day. Please ensure your child has breakfast on the day and is aware of when they should attend the Conference Room; lining up outside by the library steps.



Thornden Student Leaders-Mr M Jewell (Head of Year 10)

From September 2024 Thornden School will be introducing a new model of student leadership, it will be called Thornden Student Leaders and is for the current Year 10 students. We are introducing this new model to increase opportunities for students to demonstrate leadership qualities in school. It will also provide students with future skills for the workplace and life as they move from school to post 16 options.



This will be the beginning of a growing body of student leadership at Thornden. Student leaders will take on additional responsibility around the school. The students selected will provide a positive role model for their peers and for younger year groups. Thornden student leaders will be visible ambassadors for the school and will consistently demonstrate and support Thornden's ethos.

Careers

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

Events (all events are advertised on the above link):

- Introduction to Allied Health Professional Careers. 12th June, 5pm-6pm. Please see attached leaflet to book.
- Helping Years 10 & 11 students plan for their future. 5th June 3.30pm-7.30pm. Please see attached leaflet to book.
- NHS Careers Insight Day-21st August at University Hospital Southampton 9am-3pm. Please see attached leaflet for more details.



Pride Colour Run-Thursday 13th June-Mrs H Weeks (Science teacher)



To celebrate Pride month this year, the Pride Group are organising a Colour Run, after school on Thursday 13th June. Students will run a route within the school grounds, running through colour stations where they will have different coloured powders thrown at them. They will finish the event looking like a rainbow, hopefully!

In order to cover costs and raise money for a local LGBTQ+ charity, we will ask for a minimum donation, through Arbor. We will be advertising the event in school over the next few weeks and, if your child wishes to participate, you'll be able to sign them up using the Arbor app.

We hope that this will be a fun event for all!

Any questions, please contact Mrs H Weeks.

Upcoming Dates:

Bank Holiday	Monday 6 th May	School closed
End of Term	Friday 24 th May	School closed for 1 week

Digital Detox-Mrs L Kehoe (Assistant Headteacher)



Digital Detox - 'Never Seen, Never Heard'

Thank you for all the support I have received since I wrote to you about our plans for Thornden's 'Digital Detox'. The response from you has been really positive - I certainly appreciated all our good luck messages! As you know, we began our Digital Detox on Monday 29th, following a week of assemblies and tutor time activities for students. We recognise that for some of our students' habits will be hard to break, which is why all students are receiving a visual and verbal reminder at the end of every lesson and tutor time this week and next week. We are really pleased with how the first few days have gone. As expected, the number of phones/AirPods taken on the first day was high but this continues to reduce each day.

A reminder of our new rules:

Never seen
Never heard



1. Your mobile phone must not be seen or heard when on school site.
(you can use your phone when you have exited the buildings at the end of the day).
2. If your mobile phone is seen or heard by a member of staff, they will ask you to hand your phone over.
3. We have clear guidelines about how to use your phone for learning in lessons.
4. If you need to use your phone to communicate with someone at home, please go to a member of staff/reception/HOY.

Thornden
School 

I want to share some feedback with you, that I have received from staff this week:

"The school just felt different today, it definitely felt better"

"I loved it, my tutor group actually spoke to each other"

"I've just seen two students reading a book and they're usually glued to their phones!"

Whilst we may have had a few moans from a small number of students this week (unsurprisingly!), we are absolutely convinced that this was the right thing to do for our students, the staff and the school. I shared a video poem by Richards Williams with students last week, 'Can We Auto-Correct Humanity?', which certainly rang true to many of us watching it. This is a small extract from it:
I'm so tired of performing in the pageantry of vanity

And confirming to this accepted form of Digital insanity

Call me crazy but I imagine a world where we smile when we have low battery

Because that will mean we'll be one bar closer to humanity

Thank you for your continued support!



Department Spotlight

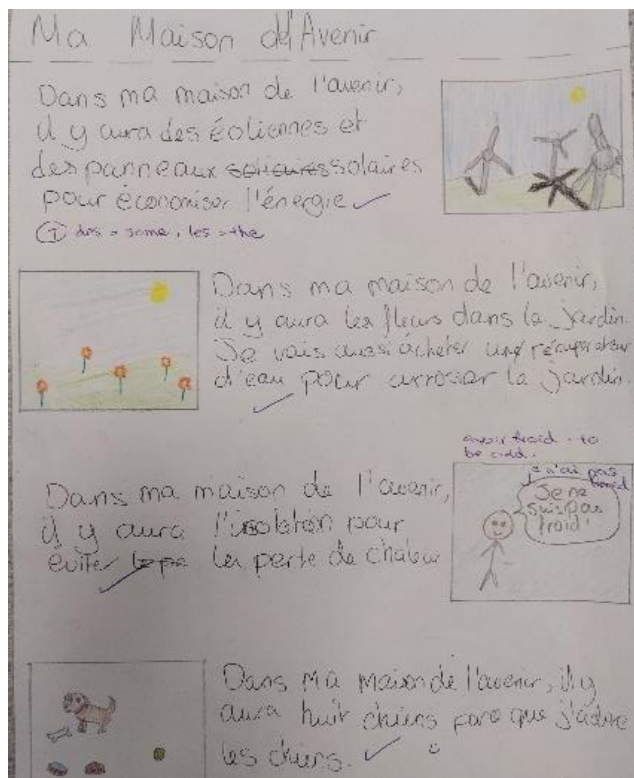
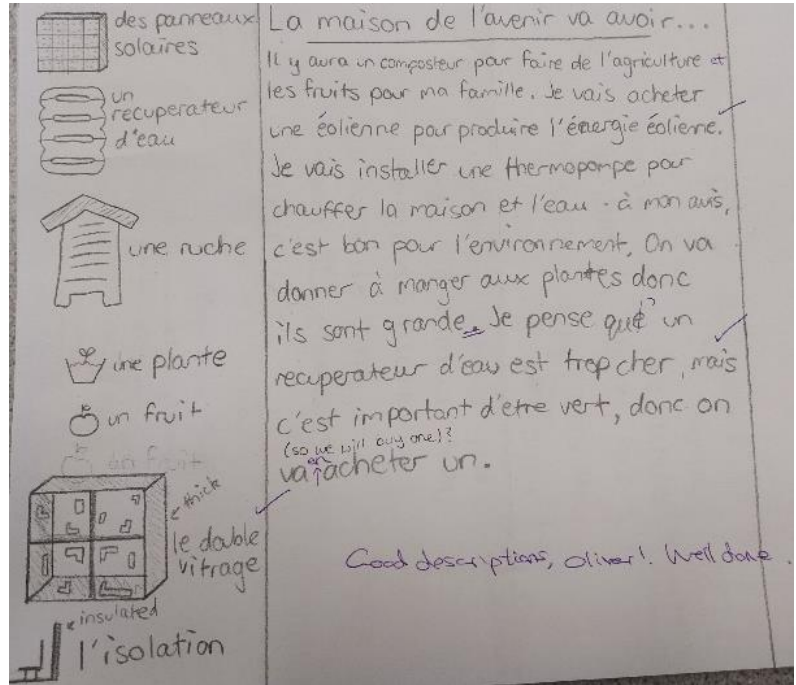
New feature! Each newsletter we will shine a spotlight on the work of one of our fantastic departments.

A flavour of a week in MFL-Mrs T Bevan (Head of MFL Department)

Year 7 have been building up their knowledge of grammar and vocabulary in lots of ways. This week there have been games of 'Splat', racing games and lots of speaking to reinforce phonics.

Year 8 German have been talking about the weather. Whilst this is a great conversation topic in English, the grammar is a bit tricky in German but our students have coped well with the rules on word order.

Students in Year 8 French have been designing the house of the future. This enabled them to revise the future tense alongside building their vocabulary for rooms and eco-friendly items.



Year 9 Spanish have been working on the topic of illness and healthy living. Along with fun pretending to have hurt ourselves and describing it, some classes have done a grammar auction. This is a great way to practise numbers and analyse / check the grammar in some sentences. The aim is to 'buy' the ones without any mistakes. Elsewhere in year 9, French classes have been looking at the French speaking world. This is a super opportunity to enhance cultural capital whilst building up language and grammar to describe the geography, languages spoken and flags, amongst other things. Students have even found out where Timbuktu is!

Year 9 German have been looking at environmental issues and what we can do to help save the planet. This helps us recycle modal verbs in a different context!

Year 10 Spanish have been learning about festivals in the Spanish speaking world. Do you remember the advert showing the running of the bulls? This takes place in Pamplona and is

called Sanfermines. They have also looked at the Day of the Dead, as depicted in Coco and Spectre as well as la Tomatina when people throw tomatoes at each other.

Year 10 groups are working to prepare their speaking cards. We prepare each set well and try out different ways to practise them. This is an essential part of MFL GCSE and traditionally students at Thornden score higher for this skill than the national average.

Meanwhile Year 11 are very much focussed on their speaking exams. For many, including the teachers, this is a really stressful time. However, when our students successfully speak in French, German or Spanish for around 10 minutes to the best of their ability, it is an absolute joy and moment of pride. Viel Glück! Mucha suerte! Bonne chance!

Meanwhile the amazing MFL team continue to prepare for the changes to GCSE, plan trips and exchanges, as well as prepare enjoyable lessons for our students. Busy times as usual!

Time off for appointments

Time off for appointments can be requested via the Thornden homepage under absence reporting. Should you not have the pin code, please email attendance@thornden.hants.sch.uk with the request and to ask for the pin code.

HISP Multi Academy Trust



We are a proud member of HISP multi-academy trust. With a clear vision of sustainable school improvement, our partnership with HISP gives us access to a network of support and resources.

HISP currently supports six schools across the south coast, including Thornden School. Its main goal is to improve educational outcomes and provide the best opportunities and experiences for all of its pupils.

Follow HISP's page on Facebook to stay up-to-date with the latest news, projects and activities across the trust's family of schools! [Click here](#)

Safeguarding and Wellbeing -Mr A Thomas (Assistant Headteacher)



Don't forget to access the Wellbeing Hub for lots of useful resources. Please follow the links below for the Summer term Webinar Programme and Content Line-up. This is a free resource for all parents and carers!

[Webinar Programme](#)

[Content Line-up](#)



10 ways to stay safe online!

Do

- ✓ Think before you post: only say online what you'd be happy to say in real life
- ✓ Set your profiles to private
- ✓ Block and report any content that concerns you
- ✓ Share what you do online with adults you trust
- ✓ Tell an adult if anything upsets you

Don't

- ✗ Believe everything you see
- ✗ Trust everyone is who they say they are
- ✗ Give out any personal information (like your name, age or address)
- ✗ Meet up with anyone you've met online
- ✗ Post anything online that you want to keep private

County Cup Final-Miss C Jones (Head of Year 7)



On Tuesday 30th April the U16 girls football played in the County Cup final vs Calthorpe School. It was a strong display by the Thornden team and they came away as winners of the County Cup after a 4-0 win. Big Congratulations to the team, an impressive accomplishment! Thank you and best of luck to our year 11s, for whom this was their last fixture at Thornden. You've left a legacy to be proud of.

Thornden Hall

th | **THORNDEN HALL ARTS CENTRE**

A small selection of what's on in May, check out the website for more information - thorndenhall.co.uk



Box office 023 8024 6555 | www.thorndenhall.co.uk

Sports Update-Mr B Hall (Head of PE Department)

U13	Girls	Football	vs	Kings'	County Cup Final	Lost 0 - 2	
U13	Boys	Football	vs	Wildern	County Cup Final	Lost 0 - 3	Bayley
U14	Girls	Football	vs	Wyvern	League	Won 4 - 1	Millie R
U14	Boys	Hockey	vs	Forest B (Berks)	South Central State School Festival	Won 5 - 0	
U14	Boys	Hockey	vs	Island Free	South Central State School Festival	Lost 0 - 1	
U14	Boys	Hockey	vs	Windsor Boys	South Central State School Festival	Drew 1 - 1	
U14	Boys	Hockey	vs	Greyfriars (Oxon)	South Central State School Festival	Won 3 - 0	
U14	Boys	Hockey	vs	RGS High Wycombe (Bucks)	South Central State School Festival	Won 2 - 0	
U14	Boys	Hockey	vs	Wallingford (Oxon)	South Central State School Festival	Won 2 - 0	
U14	Boys	Hockey	vs	Petersfield (Plate Semi)	South Central State School Festival	Won 2 - 0	
U14	Boys	Hockey	vs	Forest A (Berks) (Plate Final)	South Central State School Festival	Won 4 - 1	
U15	Girls	Cricket	vs	Priestlands	County Cup	Lost by 17 runs	Katie B
U15	Boys	Cricket	vs	Brookfields	County Cup	Lost by 40 runs	Chris B
U16	Girls	Football	vs	Bohunt	County Cup	Won 6 - 5	

Badminton Success

We are incredibly proud to share that Yixiang in year 8 has got double silver medals for boys single and boys double in U15 international badminton tournament in Belgium during the Easter weekend. This is an amazing achievement as he is now the top Badminton player in Europe for his age group.

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

We look forward to letting you know how he gets on soon.



Swimming Success

The 2024 South East Regional Swimming Competition took place in Crawley and Winchester over the last 2 weekends, with Olivia A (Yr 8), Aariana B (Yr 8) and Amelia W (Yr 7) competing in multiple races. They all achieved amazing personal bests, with Amelia taking silver in her 200m Breaststroke.

Such a great achievement for them.



Judo Success

Well done to Year 8 student, Orion who is now the U16 Hampshire Closed (u46kgs). He won all 6 of his fights and as County Champion, will represent Hampshire in the Inter-Counties on 12th May. We wish him the best of luck.



Football Success

Well done to the Thornden Students who not only won their JPL warriors league but went on to beat the winners of the other JPL league, to become the JPL warriors under 13 national champions today.

They have had an amazing couple of weeks, as they also won the under 13 Hampshire cup last Saturday and qualified for the under 14 National Futsal final next month. Well done girls.



Gymnastics Success

Well done to Emi who 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 in June and also the Inter Regional Challenge Cup at the Birmingham Utilita Arena in July.

Well done Emi and best of luck for later in the year.

Please see attached Sports Award Winners 2024!

Intermediate Maths Challenge-Follow on Round Results

Before Easter, following on from their individual successes in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, 25 of our high scoring students were selected for the follow-on rounds, the Grey Kangaroo for Year 9 and Pink Kangaroo for Year 10/11 in which the highest-scoring participants each receive Certificates of Distinction or Merit.

In addition to this, two more of our highest performing students, Thomas B and Mila actually qualified for the Hamilton and Maclaurin Olympiads, which are reserved for only the ELITE performances – Well done, what an achievement in itself!

The results are in...



Olympiad Results:

Well done to Mila for qualifying for Maclaurin Olympiad, placing her in the top 1500 in the country – Well done!

Outstanding Individual Success!!

For Thomas B (Year 10), I am very pleased to share that with an amazing score of 46/60, he has not only achieved a Distinction in the Hamilton Olympiad, but has also achieved an Olympiad Silver Medal which are only awarded to students that fall in the TOP 21-50 Nationally! What an Outstanding result Thomas – Well done, we are very proud of you!

Olympiad Thresholds

This year's certificate thresholds are as follows: Distinction: 29+, Merit: 14+

This year's medal thresholds are as follows: Bronze: 33+, Silver: 40+, Gold: 50+

Kangaroo Certificate Thresholds

This year's certificate thresholds are as follows: Grey Kangaroo: Merit: 89+/Pink Kangaroo: Merit: 74+

Pink Kangaroo Results!

Special Congratulations go to Daniel & Hugh for being joint best scores in Year 10 & the only Year 10 students to achieve the award of a Merit in the Pink Kangaroo challenge.

Further Congratulations go to Jonathan, Marguerite & Ryan for also achieving the award of a Merit from Year 11 in the Pink Kangaroo challenge, with Jonathan scoring the Best in school! Wonderful results.

This was a difficult challenge, so well done to all who qualified for it too, that is a great achievement in itself!!

Year	Name	Certificate
Year 10	Daniel H	Merit - Best in Year
Year 10	Hugh W	Merit - Best in Year
Year 10	Karam D	Qualification
Year 10	Thomas R-C	Qualification
Year 10	Angus R	Qualification
Year 10	Eve C W	Qualification

Year	Name	Certificate
Year 11	Jonathan W	Merit - Best in School
Year 11	Marguerite VZS	Merit
Year 11	Ryan M	Merit
Year 11	Nathan S	Qualification
Year 11	Andrew M	Qualification
Year 11	Matthew F	Qualification
Year 11	Isabel T	Qualification

Grey Kangaroo Results

Special Congratulations go to Julian & Lucas for achieving the impressive award of a Merit in the challenge, and a special Well Done to Julian for scoring highest in the Grey Kangaroo overall, but also well done to all who qualified for it too!!

Year	Name	Certificate
Year 9	Julian L	Merit - Best in School
Year 9	Lucas C	Merit
Year 9	Alessandro B	Qualification
Year 9	Yixiang H	Qualification
Year 9	Charlie H	Qualification
Year 9	Joey C	Qualification
Year 9	Laurence M	Qualification
Year 9	Duncan C	Qualification
Year 9	Aasim M	Qualification
Year 9	Alya N	Qualification

Next – Watch this space for the results of the Junior Maths Challenge when they are available.

Our school caterers are award-winning caterers, managed by Hampshire County Council Education Catering, formerly known as HC3S. Visit the dedicated pages on their website for their price list and other information. [Middle Schools, Secondary Schools and Colleges | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#) You can also keep up-to-date, by following them on social media.

Facebook: @hantseducationcatering Twitter: @hantsedcatering



Hampshire
County Council

Education Catering

FOLLOW OUR CONVERSATION

 @hantseducationcatering

 @hantsedcatering

Useful Information

- Annual Fryern Funtasia event in Chandlers Ford. Please see poster attached for more details.
- Cocktails and Comedy event at Thornden Hall. Special discount code for parents: Thornden I56. To book [click here](#).

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



Part of the HISP Multi
Academy Trust

Thornfest Year 8 Belong Event- Miss C Jones (Head of Year 8)

On Monday 29th April Year 8 had their Belong event - Thornfest.

Each tutor group was tasked with coming up with, and running an activity or snack stall for the rest of the year group to enjoy. Some tutor groups did multiple stalls - some were free, others had a small price for a go, to raise some money for good causes. Stalls included hook a duck, sponge a teacher, glitter tattoo, crockery smash, pick n mix, bake sale, obstacle course - and much more!

We also got the speakers on the field with a playlist created by the year group, (sadly the staff request for Spice Girls did not make the final cut....). Entrance to the festival was a donation to Eastleigh Basics Bank; I was overwhelmed by the generosity of the year group, we collected a serious amount to donate!

The atmosphere was brilliant; really positive and fun - and hopefully an event the students will remember! Their conduct throughout the afternoon was outstanding, all staff were overwhelmed and proud. We also had feedback from the Ice Cream truck and burger van staff commenting on how polite our students were!

A handful of Year 8's helped to drop off the significant amount of donations to the basics bank; and over £500 has been raised for good causes. The Year 8 students are currently voting on how the money should be split between Abby's Heroes, UNICEF Gaza Appeal, Year 11 Prom Fund and Young Minds.

A huge thank you to all staff and students who worked so hard organising, setting up, and clearing away after the festival - team Year 8 are the best!



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.

