



Thornden School Newsletter 19th July 2024

Head of School Welcome



Dear Families,

Well, the final newsletter of the year! A really fantastic year so far with lots of achievements and celebrations.

Firstly, I want to wish any staff who are leaving us the very best wishes for the future; Mr Horton and Mrs Gilroy in MFL, Mr Farag, Mrs Lilley and Miss Coles in the SEND department, Mrs Armstrong in Geography, Mr Smith in English and Mr Harker, our site manager. In September we will welcome Mr Bailey in MFL, Ms Stefanou in Maths, Mrs Bundy in Science, Mrs Duffy in English and Mrs Halifax and Mrs Hatt in Geography. Our new site manager, Mr Long, has already started with us.

One of the things that came up in both our staff and parent survey was uniform. We have a smart yet comfortable, accessible and affordable uniform that we are proud of. What has slipped is the correct way of wearing that uniform. We are going to tighten up on this from September but we want to start to broach this with students and parents before the Summer. This is the video that I have made for students.

What are the rules?
What can I wear?
How do I wear it?

Thornden Polo Shirt

Sensible warm waterproof coat

Thornden Sweatshirt
(No hoodies/
tracksuit top)

Thornden School

Please do take the time to watch it and discuss as a family. We will be sanctioning students who do not comply so your support is hugely appreciated. There will continue to be a very small group of students who have reasonable adjustments regarding uniform – this will be dealt with via the SEND department.

Last week Year 10 attended their college taster days. It is all beginning to dawn on them (and us) that they are rapidly approaching Year 11 and their final year with us! We want to support students with their next steps as much as possible so please get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

This week we had another cancelled Sports Day – it felt like the most miserable day, a rainy Monday after England were defeated by Spain in the Euros. We managed to pull together a reduced version of Sports Day, later in the week, so that all students got to contribute. We did bring a little sunshine in the afternoon by treating staff to some pizza for our annual staff social event. I would like to thank every one of them for their hard work this year – I am really fortunate to have such a dedicated team of people at Thornden.

On Tuesday we welcomed parents to the first ever Art Show for Year 11. Due to the rules around sharing examination pieces, many of the parents have not seen their child's work – this was a wonderful way to share it together. What incredible talent! I was also fortunate enough to be invited to speak at the Initial Teacher Training graduation. It is so important that we nurture the next generation of teachers so I was really pleased to celebrate with them.

My absolute highlight of the week has to be watching the school summer show, Annie. What an amazing show! So professional, such brilliant acting, singing, dancing, music and technical production. I am so proud of the students and our wonderful performing arts team ... and a gorgeous dog! What more could you want?

I am really looking forward to going to Chessington on Monday – I know that all year groups have fun activities planned. It is lovely to relax and enjoy a trip or experience together with the students at the end of a tiring year.



Thank you again for all of your support this year. I was presented this week with my new door plaque! It is completely sinking in now that I am Headteacher at this wonderful school and I am so excited for next year and the future. But, for now, we ALL need a rest and a break so I am wishing you a brilliant Summer.

Caroline

Dates for your diary

Event	Date	Information
Activities day/Enterprise Day	Monday 22 nd July	Please see email from HOY
Last day of term	Tuesday 23 rd July	Year 7, 8, 9 finish 11.50am, Year 10 finish 11.55am.

2024-2025 Dates for your Diary

Event	Date	Information
Inset Day	Monday 2 nd September	School Closed
Year 7's only	Tuesday 3 rd September	New Year 7's only
Year 8-11 return to school	Wednesday 4 th September	All students to return to school
Year 11 Work Experience	Monday 2 nd – Friday 6 th September	Work Experience Week
Year 9 Barcelona	Friday 6 th – Monday 9 th September	Run by MFL team
Individual Portrait Photographs	Tuesday 10 th September	Information to follow
Whole group photos	Tuesday 17 th September	Year 7 and 11
Iceland Parents Meeting	Tuesday 17 th September	
Year 7 Meet the Tutor	Thursday 19 th September	Year 7 Parent and Carer event
Year 10 Parent/Carer Information Evening	Thursday 26 th September	Held in Thornden Hall

Inset Days 2024-2025
Monday 2 nd September
Friday 11 th October
Wednesday 15 th January
Monday 10 th February
Monday 23 rd June

Last day of term arrangements
8.35 a.m. Registration
8.50 a.m. Period 1
9.15 a.m. Period 2
9.40 a.m. Period 3
10.05 a.m. Period 4
10.30-11.00 a.m. BREAK
11.00 a.m. Period 5
11.30 a.m. Period 6
11.50 a.m. Dismiss Years 7, 8 and 9
11.55 a.m. Dismiss Years 10 and 11



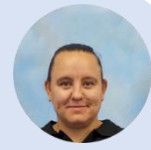
Calendar 2024-2025

A copy of the calendar can be found on the website via this [link](#). The live calendar page will be updated in due course. If you have any questions, please send an email to info@thornden.hants.sch.uk.

You can also find key dates on this [link](#). This page will be updated as and when dates are published.

Meet the team behind the scenes!

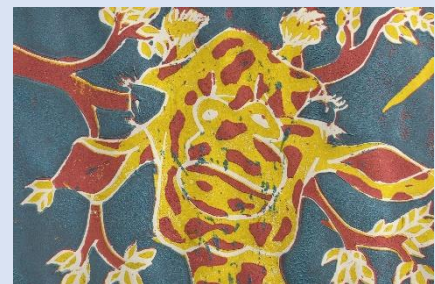
Emma has worked at Thornden for 2 years. She is part of the core site team, making sure the site is safe for all students, staff and visitors. Emma is always on hand to help with events and quick to react when something needs to be fixed across the site.



In Emma's spare time she enjoys selling crystals, reading history books and horse riding.

08/07/2024

This Week's Artist of the Week is Elena I from Year 8 for her wonderful 3 colour lino print of a giraffe. Elena used the reduction method of lino printing to create this lovely character. Well done Elena!



15/07/2024

This beautiful charcoal drawing by Thomas B is our Artist of the Week this week. Thomas used chalk and charcoal to produce this stunning drawing as part of his Year 9 Portraiture unit. Well done Thomas!



Extra-Curricular Clubs

Please follow this [link](#) for the current timetables for extra-curricular clubs.

We will be showcasing each of our clubs in the newsletter.



Funday Monday

Funday Monday is a lunchtime club open to Year 7 and Year 8 pupils. We have a wide selection of board games to test your logic, strategy and lateral thinking skills. It's a great opportunity to make new friends and have some fun. This year, we've had a lovely bunch of regulars taking part and we look forward to inviting the new year 7's in September.

Year 8 English Building a World- Miss Piddington (HOD English)



The English Department has been blown away by the fantastic effort that our Year 8 students have put into their English lessons during our final unit of work. In lessons, students have been learning about the conventions of different genres in literature, such as utopia and dystopia, and the choices writers make when building a vivid world for their reader. The unit has ended with students working collaboratively to plan and 'build' their own worlds and present their ideas and choices to their teacher and peers. We have had full scale Lego worlds, computer generated scenes, fantastic creative writing and even cakes! the buzz in English classrooms from students has been wonderful. We wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate our Year 8 students on making this end of year unit such a pleasure.



School Council Update-Written by our school council

Dear Parents,

We're excited to share what the School Council has accomplished this year!

The council is vital for ensuring students' voices are heard and making our school a better place.



Here are some highlights:

Recycling Scheme

We've successfully introduced a comprehensive recycling program, significantly reducing waste and promoting sustainability. Our initiative includes dedicated recycling bins for paper, plastic, and other recyclable materials in every classroom and common area. This has not only helped the environment but also raised awareness among students about the importance of recycling.

School Improvements

Collaborating with the site team, we've addressed several maintenance issues around the school. This includes fixing broken locks on classroom doors, replacing damaged mirrors in the restrooms, and ensuring that all facilities are safe and functional. These improvements have greatly enhanced our school environment, making it more secure and comfortable for everyone.

Healthier Menu

We worked closely with the canteen staff to introduce a healthier menu. This new menu includes a variety of nutritious food options, such as more fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins. Our goal is to promote better eating habits among students, and we're pleased to see positive feedback from both students and parents.

Governors' Meeting

We had a productive meeting with the school governors to discuss the role of the School Council. During this meeting, we shared our achievements, voiced student concerns, and discussed future projects. This interaction ensures that our voices are heard at the highest level of school governance and that our initiatives align with the school's overall goals.

Staff Interviews

The council had the unique opportunity to participate in the interview process for new staff members. Our involvement allowed us to provide student perspectives on the qualities and characteristics that are important in teachers and support staff. This experience has been invaluable in ensuring that new hires align with the needs and values of the student body.

Engagement with Staff

Throughout the year, members of the site team and canteen staff have attended our meetings to listen to our opinions and suggestions. Their willingness to engage with us directly has been instrumental in making quick and effective changes based on our feedback. This level of engagement has made us feel valued and heard, reinforcing the importance of student input in the decision-making processes.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to continuing our efforts!

Best regards, The School Council

FOTS Second Hand Uniform Sale

Second hand uniform is available through Friends of Thornden (FOTS).

£3 - new style logoed items

£2 - old style logoed items

£1 – non-logo items such as trousers

£5 - school skirt

£5 – coat

If you wish to contact FOTS, please email fots@thornden.hants.sch.uk and specify what items you would like, along with the size. Payment can be made by cash on collection, via the FOTS uniform tab in Arbor or online bank transfer. If any items are not available, FOTS will let you know.

If you are in receipt of Pupil Premium or are experiencing financial hardship, please let us know and we can help with the cost of the second-hand uniform.

Student Achievements

Lucia B in Year 10 has recently won the Inter girls 300m title at the English Schools Championships. She has won her first international selection to run for England in Carmarthen.



What's going on in your area...

- Please see attached flyer for Summer Tennis Camps information. This is run by Future Tennis.
- Barracudas are offering £20 discount when you book Summer Camps (minimum session applies). Please follow [link](#) for more information.
- YMCA Fairthorne Manor Summer Daycamps, various sessions and activities on offer, please follow [link](#) for more information.
- Eastleigh Mela-a vibrant celebration of the Boroughs cultures, Sunday 21st July, Eastleigh Town Centre. Please follow [link](#) for more details.

Student Leaders-Mr Jewell (HOY 10)



During this term students in Year 10 have been applying to be Thornden student leaders, which will formally start in Year 11. The process mirrored that of applying for a job, students were invited for interviews by subject departments and we have appointed 60 student leaders. Student leaders will have numerous responsibilities from working with individual departments to completing duties at break time. A smaller group of students applied to be senior student leaders, elevated roles which includes representing a year group or the school as a whole. This process included a presentation and an interview with the Head of School and Head of Year. A big well done to all those who applied and congratulations to those who were successful. The following students were successful and wanted to share why they applied to become Thornden student leaders.



Megan (Senior student leader): I am looking forward to having additional responsibility within the school and working with other year groups and more closely with teachers. I am so proud to have this responsibility.

Jemima (Student leader for year 9): I'm really looking forward to becoming the Year 9 student leader as of September and I hope to be able to support them through their options process as well as any other exciting challenges that the year brings!



Charlie (Senior student leader): This opportunity allows me to have a leading role among students in the school. I can work with teachers and students alike and is a brilliant chance for students to lead in improving the school. The school council is the gateway to the student voice across the school and I am excited to be a part of this as well.

Kirsty (Student leader for year 10): I am excited to be working with the new Year 10's and to help them settle into their first year of GCSEs. This is a great opportunity to share my experience and lend a hand in making the transition between KS3 and KS4 as seamless as possible.



Safeguarding- Mr Thomas (Assistant Headteacher)



Dear Parents/Carers

Please see attached document with various support services that are available to families over the summer break.

Training Opportunity

Hampshire CAMHS Eating Disorder Services are hosting a free event for parents who are interested in learning more about disordered eating and binge eating. Follow this [link](#) to book.

Wellbeing Den-Mrs Kingsley-Smith (Pastoral Manager)



BSG (Bereavement Support Group)

The weather was kind to us and we enjoyed a picnic on the field, with some tunes from Mr Burnham. The students have renamed the group BSG for next year. We will be planning to meet each Friday breaktime for refreshments.

Young Carers

Mrs Willson and Mrs Ash were not so fortunate with the weather for their picnic at Itchen Valley Country Park but this did not deter them from having fun nor having ice cream! Young Carers will be on a Tuesday breaktime from September.



We really appreciate the support from FOTS and staff who make all this support possible. We hope our students and families have a well-deserved rest over the summer, an opportunity to remember the 5 ways to wellbeing – connect with others, be active, take notice, give and keep learning.



EARA Conference-Mr Baldwin (2nd in Department Science)

On Wednesday 3rd July, 8 student represented Thornden at a conference for Hampshire schools, looking at how they can support and advocate for Equality and Rights within school. They came away with lots of ideas for how to get the group going again, and how they can support all sorts of communities within the school. Watch this space for more events coming your way soon...



Department Spotlight

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



Media Studies NEA Days-Ms Jeffries (HOD Media)

Last week, Year 10 Media Studies students had a day off timetable to begin work on their NEAs (Non-Exam Assessments). Their brief is to create a Music Magazine front cover and double page spread for a socially conscious audience.

To prepare, students had to take photos of their 'musician', often a helpful parent or sibling, in their chosen music genre. Students considered lighting, camera angles and subject positioning to achieve the desired representations in their photography. They also had to choose and research a social cause that their artist would champion. Notable choices include body positivity, racism, mental health and global warming.

On the day they began their first drafts on a design software of their choice. They worked to edit images, craft graphics and demonstrate their knowledge of magazines. Even after one day, students created incredibly high quality first drafts! They will continue to work on this project into Year 11.

Physics Competition-Written by Year 10



On Tuesday 9th July, twelve Year 10 students participated in an exciting physics competition hosted by the local sixth form, Barton Peveril. Competing against other local schools, the event was structured as an escape room-type challenge, filled with four physics puzzles that tested our knowledge, teamwork, and creative problem-solving skills in a competitive yet fun environment. This was followed by an informative talk from an engineer brought in by Barton Peveril to discuss his job, which

formerly involved working on Formula One-related projects for Aston Martin and building robots to go into Nuclear Power plants, including one at Fukushima!

I'm thrilled to share that our school performed really well, with the three Thornden teams securing 1st, 3rd, and 4th places. (I think Sayani is underselling just how well they did - first place smashed the other teams by 7 minutes! - Mr Baldwin)



The day was made even better by Barton Peveril's efforts and generosity. They provided everyone with a free lunch (what more could you ask for?) and awarded the winning team with LEGO Minifigures and a small glass trophy, on top of putting together the event itself. (The trophy will go on display in reception shortly - Mr. Baldwin)

A huge thank you to our physics teacher and everyone else involved in organising this trip and giving us the opportunity to participate. It was a memorable experience, and we look forward to more events like this in the future!



Careers-Miss Stickland (Head of Business and Enterprise) and Miss Quinn (Work Related Learning Coordinator)



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

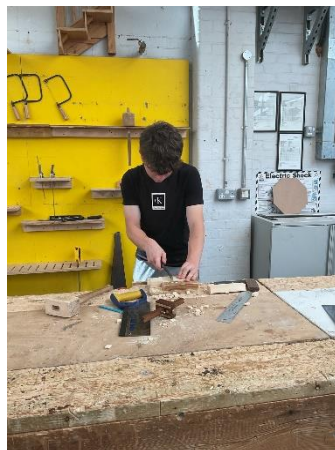


Year 10 Taster Days

The summer term is the season for Year 10 college taster days and open evenings. Students have visited Peter Symonds, Barton Peveril, and Eastleigh College.

These events are a fantastic opportunity for students to find out about all the possible options for them after Thorndon school. Thankfully, the weather held on each visit and students got to see the colleges in their full glory.

Each of the colleges welcomed our students with open arms, providing them with example lessons, tutor sessions and time for social interactions, giving them a real sense of each organisation. Our students are incredibly lucky that they have so many fantastic options in Hampshire, so it is important that they visit each potential destination to get a feel for which one is right for them. Students have fed back that they enjoyed the freedom they experienced in college, the varied subjects and of course the food!



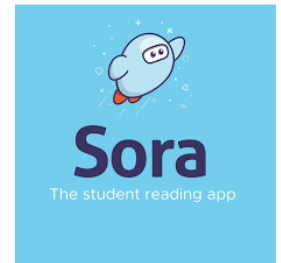
Reading over the summer-Mrs Peaston (Assistant Headteacher)



If you are not sure what to recommend to your child, maybe one of the reading lists on our school library page could help:

[Thornden School - Library](#)

We have been promoting reading in school this term, and to build on that, we have shared details of 2 reading challenges with Years 7-9. These would also be suitable for Year 10, especially if you have a lapsed reader at home! As a school, we are lucky to have access to an online platform with free books called Sora. Here are the student instructions for accessing it.



- On a computer, Google 'Sora reading app' and click onto the website.
- Select 'search for your school'.
- Type in 'Thornden' and it will be listed under 'Hampshire Schools Library Service'.
- Select this and type in 'Thornden' again.
- It will ask you to login and, when you hit the button, you will be redirected to the normal school login screen.
- Then it is just as though you are accessing the computers at school, email and password are just the same as if you were in school.

For the phone/tablet app, is it pretty much the same. Instead of Googling, just go into the app store, search for 'Sora reading app' and follow the same instructions as above.

In Sora, you can search for and borrow books instantly. If lots of people already have the book on their device, titles will need to be reserved. There are lots of suggestions around different collections/themes and there are magazines and audio books, too.

Sora's summer reading challenge is called **Sweet Reads**. There is no wait time, and all the books are available instantly. The site will keep track of how students are doing so they can share progress with us in September.

Via the HISP MAT, we also have access to the **National Read Aloud Challenge** which is novel and interesting approach to encouraging reading. The Fonetti app displays the books on a computer screen and students read the words aloud, with mispronounced words picked out for them – words read correctly turn green. Extra support is given to help children manage words with which they struggle. The books are free for the summer. To set up an account, students should follow the link below, or copy/paste it into a web browser:



<https://www.readaloudchallenge.co.uk/join/MJZ7-SX7U-QXR6>

- Enter your school email address to get started.
- A little registration form will appear, and you just put in a few details and it will generate a password.

The National Read Aloud Challenge is a fun competition where students work their way up the leaderboards by putting in reading minutes on different books included in the platform. It is not suitable for phones, but it works on all types of tablets and computers that have a microphone. Again, the site will keep track of progress, so in September they can share how they have done over the summer (for the all-important Achievement Points and recognition). It would great if some students could get onto the national leaderboard – or even be in contention for the prizes available. You can read more about the scheme here:

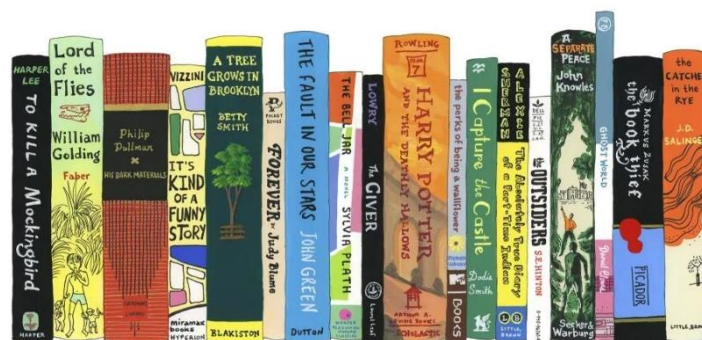
[National Read Aloud Challenge](#)

Of course, summer reading doesn't have to be via these challenges and all reading is good for students in such a range of ways, including supporting their mental health, skills of empathy and language acquisition. In their busy lives, it is wonderful when children take time for themselves, and reading is a lovely way to spend some precious minutes and hours. There are ways that you can help your children to tap into a previous love of reading, or to develop a new reading habit. There are no magic bullets (if only there were!) but these suggestions might be useful:

- Leave books lying around the house, open on pages that might pique the interest of your child
- Tell your child that they might like a certain book, but it will only be appropriate for them when they are older - they may suddenly become MUCH more interested!
- Introduce a range of reading materials – aim to key into an area of interest
- Talk about what you are reading/have read – let them know why you enjoyed it and what you found interesting or learned
- If they will let you, keep reading to and with them
- Get them to summarise what they have read – can they give you the key takeaways or messages? This is great for news articles and current affairs as well as longer stories
- Talk about words – let them see that we all continue to learn new and interesting words during our lives
- Show them how to read online (if you have Amazon Prime, you will have access to their books)
- If they want to look at the classics, there are free text versions online to try out ahead of buying the book
- Value non-fiction – young people often think of autobiographies, biographies, sports books, travel writing etc as less relevant; but these texts can be a great way of tapping into an area of interest
- Introduce them to podcasts – this source of information continues to grow, and the right podcast can challenge and engage young people
- Share the school booklists – encourage reading of more challenging texts within a familiar or much-loved genre
- Get them to read the book of the film, show or game – talk to them about their thoughts on the adaptation
- Encourage reading at bedtime – getting young people off of social media and into a good book is a healthy way to end the day (charging phones on the landing can be a real help with this aim!)
- Listen to an audio book in the car – see if you can spark an interest in this form of sharing texts
- Get your older child to read to a younger sibling – they can tap back into a love for reading by sharing something they have enjoyed

Have a lovely summer and we look forward to hearing about some exciting reads when the students return in September.

Mrs Peaston





Thornden Recruitment

Cover Supervisor Role

Are you or someone you know looking to get into teaching? Becoming a Cover Supervisor is a great way to gain experience within a school environment, supporting the teaching of various subjects, whilst gaining valuable experience. For more information, and to apply, [click here!](#)

Technology Technician Role

Are you a practical person who is looking for a new role working with a great team, and a chance to support students. Our Technology Department are looking for a Technology Technician. Part time hours can be negotiated and be flexible to suit the right candidate. Training and support will be provided. If this is something you are interested in or know someone else who might be, [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

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.

