



# Thornden School Newsletter 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024



Dear Parents/Carers

Please click on the image to watch the latest video update for Thornden School.

Caroline Lowing



## Assembly

What does it mean to be RESILIENT?

Can you think of a time when you showed resilience?



During the Summer term parents completed a questionnaire and we have been working on your feedback. One thing that many of you highlighted was the fact that you do not have the details of the areas that your children are studying. As a parent of a teenager myself, I know how hard it can be to get this information out of your child!

We are really pleased to launch [a new page on our website](#) that has all of this information. Everything that you need is here, alongside some helpful tips on how you can support your child at home. Any feedback on this would be very welcome.

We will have another parent survey in January 2025.

## 2024-2025 Dates for your Diary

Event	Date	Information
Year 10 Parent and Carer Evening	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	
Year 10 Reports to Parents	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	
Year 11 Trial Exams start	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	
Year 7 Christmas Fayre in the Canteen, 4-5pm	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	
Year 8 Reports to Parents	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	
Young Carers Trip	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Invitation only
Year 9 Reports to Parents	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	
Year 9 Trip to Churches	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 9 only RS
Year 11 Belong Event	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Prom fundraiser

Inset Days 2024-2025
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June

Half term
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2024

Non-uniform days 2024-2025
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July

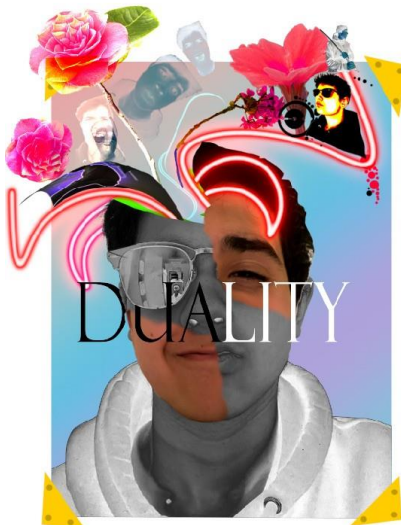
### Meet the team behind the scenes!



Harriett works as one of our pastoral support workers, in the wellbeing den. She runs the Year 7 Wellbeing group as part of her role, working on friendships and emotions. Harriett completes home visits for students who are struggling to attend.

Harriett has two daughters and a dog. They all love going on trips to the park to walk the dog. Harriett enjoys going to the gym and swimming.

## Showcase-GCSE Artwork



We are continuing to showcase our GCSE Graphic Communication work this week and wanted to share this lovely piece, completed using Photoshop, by Ibrahim A. We loved the different techniques Ibrahim used to include so much detail.

Our final Graphic Communication artwork comes from Alex H with a great piece on Disguise. Alex has used Photography and Photoshop to create this dramatic final piece. Well done Alex!



## Thornden Hall

Annabel Croft

### From Tennis Balls to Glitter Balls

Annabel Croft is a national treasure. After announcing herself by winning the Wimbledon and Australian Girls' Tournaments in 1984, she went onto represent Great Britain in the Fed Cup while enjoying a glittering career. Moving into broadcasting, she replaced Anneka Rice on Channel 4 Treasure Hunt before moving into the commentary box and working as a presenter and pundit for Eurosport, Sky Sports, and the BBC.

More recently, she enjoyed a thrilling run to the final four on Strictly Come Dancing, with dance partner Johannes Radebe. Her intimate new show will share tales of famous friends and faces, from Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal to the stars of Strictly. It's a genuine must-see show.

VIP and Meet & Greet packages available.



## Careers- Miss Stickland (BTEC Enterprise and Careers Lead) & Miss Quinn (Careers Coordinator)



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

**NHS**  
University Hospital Southampton  
NHS Foundation Trust

# NHS CAREERS DAY

FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2025

Are you in Year 10?  
Interested in finding out more  
about careers in the NHS?

Why not apply to take part in our  
NHS Careers day?

On the day you will:  
Take part in a clinical skills session  
Find out about NHS Careers and Apprenticeships  
Take part in activities with staff working in Allied Health &  
Healthcare Science professions

Apply for a place by  
scanning the QR code

careereperience@uhs.nhs.uk

## Extracurricular Timetables

Please follow this [link](#) to our current timetables.

Timetables for Autumn 1 are now available to see on the website using the link above. Please keep an eye out for changes for Autumn 2, starting after half term.



## Thornden's approach to bullying – Mrs Kehoe (Assistant Headteacher)



### Restorative Behaviour Day Mrs Kehoe (Assistant Headteacher)

I wanted to share with you a new programme set up at Thornden, which is now running once a week. In addition to the traditional sanctions and consequences that a school is able to issue to a student following poor behaviour, we now run a Restorative Behaviour Day (RBD), every Friday. Students participate in this day, at the request of their Head of Year or a member of the Senior Team. The RBD may be done in isolation, following an individual incident or a build-up of incidents but it may also be used in conjunction with other consequences, such as internal or external suspension.

The purpose of the day is to work with students around the intention, purpose and impact of their behaviours. There are 5 key strands that are woven into the day:

- Acknowledgement
- Restorative
- Community
- Strategies
- Positive Life Choices

The day does not just focus on behaviour but deeper rooted issues around self-esteem; their ability to access the curriculum; the life choices that they are making and any other barriers preventing them from being successful at Thornden. The day is broken down into 3 sessions:

**Session 1 (Lesson 1):** Fitness Session with a Personal Trainer from StudioTwenty3 in Chandler's Ford.

**Session 2 (Lesson 2):** Interacting and assisting with dementia residents, at Brendoncare home, Chandler's Ford.

**Session 3 (Lesson 3):** Session with Mrs Locke (Complex Behaviour Lead).

**Lesson 4:** Students return to their normal lesson.



Whilst the programme is relatively new, and we will obviously need to do some analysis to evidence its impact, the initial response from students who have participated in the day has been really positive. I have been particularly impressed with how students have conducted themselves when working with the residents at Brendoncare. An environment well outside their comfort zone but one in which they have all showed patience and compassion.

Thornden will continue to set high expectations for students regarding their behaviour and conduct. However, we recognise that some students need additional support to meet these expectations and we believe the RBD will go some way to doing this.

With very best wishes

Laura Kehoe



### Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor to sit on our Academy Committee. We meet once a half term, in the evenings at the school. The Committee is a small and friendly group of people who care about young people and act as a critical friend to the school. If you are interested and want to know more than please do get in touch via [info@thornden.hants.sch.uk](mailto:info@thornden.hants.sch.uk) - if we have a number of people who want to stand we will have to hold a vote.

In addition, we have a number of vacancies for co-opted governors - these are people who are **not** parents but want to do something community-minded. If you have any friends or colleagues that might be interested then please ask them to get in touch.

Thank you,  
Caroline



## Princess Diana Anti-Bullying Trip

Written by Megan.C

It was an honour to be involved in the anti-bullying trip where we earned our Diana award a few weeks ago. We travelled up to London for the day to learn new skills in how to deal with bullying when it occurs at our school, it was very informative. We learned things such as what to say to a bully or a victim and to understand why a child would cause harm to another child.

We left the trip feeling educated and confident in ourselves about how to deal with all different types of bullying and effective ways that preventing it from happening again. We also left extremely inspired and full of ideas to make the community at our school feel even more inclusive and a more supportive environment for everybody.



Part of the HISP Multi  
Academy Trust

## Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) scheme

Hampshire County Council is now inviting eligible families to sign up to free school holiday activities over the upcoming winter holidays, as part of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) scheme.

For this winter, all children who have applied for, and are in receipt of, benefit related free school meals (FSM) need to register with the council. By registering you will receive a unique HAF booking code that can be used to book places with any of our activity providers.

To register use the following link:

[Registration Form: 2024 Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Scheme](#)

If you have already received a HAF booking code, you do not need to re-register. Simply use your existing unique code to book directly with a provider. Please click here [Find an Activity](#) to view the HAF schemes in your local area over the winter holiday period.

## Safeguarding-Mr Thomas (Deputy Headteacher)



**PACE free health and wellbeing event for all parents and carers**  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November-A free event to help families better understand the needs and difficulties that young people can face and how to manage potential issues/concerns they have about their young person. Please follow [link](#) for information on how to book.



**Parent or staff caring for young people with a long-term health condition?**

**We need your help!**

- Take part in a one-to-one conversation with a researcher or group discussion
- Help us develop a tool to improve well-being for young people with a health condition
- Young people taking part will receive a £10 voucher!

**Interested? Go to:**  
<https://bit.ly/ROVER-project>  
[rover@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rover@soton.ac.uk)

ROVER FLYER PARENTS AND STAFF V2.0 03.08.24 ERGO ID: 84079



**ARE YOU 11-18?**

**DO YOU HAVE A LONG-TERM HEALTH CONDITION?**

**We need your help!**

- Take part in a one-to-one conversation with a researcher or group discussion
- Help us develop a tool to improve well-being for young people with a health condition
- £10 voucher as a thank you!

**Interested? Go to:**  
<https://bit.ly/ROVER-project>  
[rover@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rover@soton.ac.uk)

ROVER FLYER CYP LONG-TERM CONDITION HOSPITAL V1.0 28.05.24 ERGO ID: 84079



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## Department Spotlight

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



### RS (Religious Studies) – Gill Heron

We have had a fantastic start to the new school year in RS. At Key Stage 3 Year 7 students have embarked on their RS learning journey at Thornden with our introductory unit. This starts with a murder mystery for the students to solve and, in doing so, introduces some of the skills that RS helps to develop. These skills include, looking at the smaller details, using prior knowledge, thinking creatively, listening to one another and collaborating to try and understand the bigger picture. Year 7 then went on to consider what religion is, acknowledging key terms, such as belief, faith, theist, atheist and agnostic. We are currently working on the final focus of this introductory unit which involves investigating and enquiring into a religious truth from each of the 6 main world religions. The students will go on to study the key concepts behind each of these religions in more depth, as they progress through KS3 and KS4. Later in Year 7, the students will have the opportunity to visit a Synagogue, as part of their in-depth study of Judaism in the Spring Term. There are further opportunities to visit a Hindu Mandir, a Sikh Gurdwara, Christ Church in Winchester, Winchester Cathedral and a Mosque, as they study the other main world religions in more depth at KS3 and into KS4.



In Year 8, students are currently studying a Christian Practices unit. This builds on what they studied about Christianity in Year 7, through both the introductory unit when they looked at Christian truths about the creation story and also, the more in-depth study of Christian Beliefs studied in the Summer Term of Year 7. The Christian Practices unit gives the Year 8 students the chance to study how Christian Beliefs have an influence and impact on the lives of those who choose to live in this way. As an introduction to Baptism, the students researched an initiation ceremony of their choice from a range of different cultures and traditions, including an American Indian Vision Quest and a Latin American Quinceñera.

As Year 9 involves students making their option choices, the unit they are studying this term is intended to support them by giving them a taster of Paper 2 in the RS GCSE exam. This paper looks at religious and secular views regarding a range of different world issues so, in Year 9, we are currently studying a unit about the different perspectives and ethics surrounding issues, such as, the death penalty, animal experimentation and euthanasia. This will be followed, in the Spring Term, by a taster of paper 1 in the RS GCSE exam.

Those Year 10 students who have taken RS GCSE have made a great start to their KS4 journey in RS. Their studies have started with Paper 1 content, 'The Study of Religions'. This requires them to know about the beliefs and practices of two world religions and at Thornden, we study Christianity and Islam. Already this term, students have completed their study of Islam Beliefs and are currently studying Islam Practices. This term will also include a visit to Southampton Medina Mosque to give the students the opportunity to experience, first hand, some of the things they have been learning about. The visit will include a tour of the Mosque, the opportunity to watch Salah (Muslim prayers) and to ask our guide questions to further support their understanding of the religion.

Finally, our Year 11 RS GCSE students have settled well into this final year of their RS GCSE course. Having already completed all of Paper 1 (The Study of Religions), they have also completed the first two of four themes for Paper 2. These are entitled, Relationships and Families, and Religion and Life, both encompassing a range of issues. Students have been working hard on the third theme, Religion, Peace and Conflict however, since half term, we have paused to focus on structured revision, both in RS lessons and for home learning, for the Year 11 trial exams at the end of November.

## Wellbeing Den-Mrs Kingsley-Smith (Pastoral Manager)



### Year 7 Wellbeing Group

Our Year 7 wellbeing groups are off to a flying start. Students have enjoyed getting to know more about themselves and how unique they are. It was lovely to see the group visit our Wellbeing Den this week.

### BSG Bereavement Support Group

A reminder for any students that have suffered a bereavement we meet weekly each Friday, during first break in HI. This is an opportunity to chat and share some refreshments together.

We had our first whole group activity this week, whereby students decorated plant pots which they filled with their special reminder notes. We will be planting bulbs in these pots as a next step. The students did a beautiful job of decorating them.



### Young carers

We have been enjoying our weekly chocolate and biscuits breaks. The hot chocolate is especially welcome now that the weather has got colder.

We are taking 14 of the Young Carers to Rock Up in Whiteley in December - it should be a lot of fun!

## Senior Maths Challenge-Maths Department

For the first time at Thornden, we offered some of our Year 11 students the opportunity to take part in the UK Maths Trust Senior Maths Challenge. This primarily aimed at college students but is open to anyone in Year 13 or below and following great successes by these students in previous Maths challenges we decided to set the bar high and give it a go – and what amazing results we've had!!! It was a 90 minute, 25 question problem solving challenge, designed to utilise students' critical thinking skills, mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency to solve unique and interesting questions on the paper.

Almost all students participating achieved an award, with one Bronze, six Silver and SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS go to the two GOLD awards winners, Thomas B and Daniel H, who not only achieved a gold, but also qualified for one of the follow-on rounds.

Daniel has qualified for the Andrew Jobbins Senior Kangaroo and Thomas after achieving nearly full marks, has qualified for the British Mathematical Olympiad which is reserved for only the highest scoring participants! These will take place later this month and we wish Thomas and Daniel the best of luck in their respective challenges.

Well done to all our students who took part in the Senior Maths Challenge for the first time for us, you have done brilliantly, and we will definitely have to try it again next year!

Gold	Thomas B & Daniel H
Silver	Bethan W, Angus R, Thuzar L, Karam D, Dominic H & Hugh W
Bronze	Eve CW

## Sports Update-Mr Hall (Head of PE)



### Social Media

We are gradually familiarising ourselves with our new Instagram page, which serves as a platform to enhance communication and celebrate achievements. This page highlights the dedication, success, and spirit of our students. We warmly invite parents to follow us: [Thornden Sport Instagram](#)



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

### Recent Results

Team	Gender	Sport	VS	Opposition	Fixture Type	Result	Player of The Match
U14	Girls	Football	vs	Blue Coat School	County Cup	Won 4-0	Caitlin
U12	Boys	Rugby	vs	Oaklands	Friendly	Lost	
U12	Boys	Rugby	vs	Oaklands	Friendly	Won	
U12	Girls	Football	vs	Swanmore	League	Lost 0-1	Genevieve
U12	Girls	Football	vs	Henry Beaufort	League	Lost 0-1	Genevieve
U14	Boys	Rugby	vs	Oaklands	Friendly	Lost	
U15	Boys	Rugby	vs	Ryde	County Cup	Won 42 - 24	Orion
U16	Girls	Hockey	vs	Perins	Friendly	Lost 1-3	Kea
U12	Girls	Netball	vs	Priestlands	Friendly	Won 16-5	Bethany D
U13	Girls	Netball	vs	Priestlands	Friendly	Won 10-5	Mia L
U16	Mixed	Hockey	vs	Romsey	Friendly	Won 7-2	
U12	Boys	Football	vs	Romsey	League	Drew 0-0	
U12	Boys	Football	vs	Crestwood	League	Won 3-0	
U14	Boys	Rugby	vs	Mountbatten	Festival	Won 25-0	Bayley
U14	Boys	Rugby	vs	Oaklands	Festival	Lost 5-10	Jackson
U14	Boys	Rugby	vs	Westgate	Festival	Won 20-10	Bayley
U14	Boys	Rugby	vs	Bay House	Festival	Lost 0-10	Woody
U14	Boys	Rugby	vs	Toynbee	Festival	Lost 5-10	Jackson
U12	Girls	Netball	vs	Romsey	League	Won 13-4	Rita & Alanna
U14	Girls	Netball	vs	Romsey	League	Won 13-1	Katie & Madi
U16	Girls	Netball	vs	Romsey	League	Won 20-10	Ruby & Grace

## Thornden Sports Sponsorship Opportunities

I hope this message finds you and your families well. I'm reaching out to share an exciting opportunity to support Thornden School and its students in a meaningful way.

As many of you know, Thornden is committed to offering a variety of sporting experiences to our students, participating in local, regional, and even national events, often with impressive success! However, you may not be aware that our sports team kits are frequently outdated, sometimes damaged, and are shared across multiple teams. For instance, our current rugby kit is shared among eight teams, including both boys' and girls' squads.

Outfitting our teams with new, high-quality kits is essential, but the costs can add up quickly. To enhance our students' experience and pride, we are seeking sponsorships to help us update our team uniforms, staff attire, and protective covers for equipment like rugby and netball posts. These enhancements would foster unity among students and make a positive impression of our dedicated staff as well.

We are inviting members of our valued school community to help us connect with businesses or companies that might be interested in sponsoring our teams. Sponsors would gain visibility within the Thornden community and the satisfaction of knowing they are making a real difference in our students' educational and sporting experiences.

If you or someone you know would like to discuss potential sponsorship opportunities, please feel free to reach out to me at [b.hall@thornden.hants.sch.uk](mailto:b.hall@thornden.hants.sch.uk). I would be happy to explore how a sponsorship could benefit both Thornden and our generous supporters.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the success of our school and students.

## Extraordinary Taekwondo News!



On October 26th, Radu and Diana competed at the Dracula Open Taekwondo Championship in Bucharest, Romania. This massive EI tournament drew over 1000 participants from 50+ countries, including powerhouses like Spain, Turkey, USA, and Mexico. Radu delivered another powerful performance, fighting his way to the finals and claiming the **Silver** medal, while Diana showed incredible grit and determination, battling to the semifinals and earning a well-deserved **Bronze** medal!



Their success in this prestigious tournament is a testament to their dedication and a fantastic way to cap off an amazing year. And now, they're taking their Taekwondo journey to the next level: both Radu and Diana have been selected for the British Taekwondo Sport Performance Squad for 2025! This means they'll be training with the nation's top athletes in Manchester, learning from Olympic-level coaches, and having the opportunity to represent Great Britain in international events. This is an incredible achievement and honour, and we can't wait to see what they accomplish next!



*Year 7*  
**Technology**  
**Christmas Fayre**  
*Thornden School*

*Wednesday 27th November*

*RAFFEL*

*DECORATIONS*

*Free entry*

*3:30–5pm*

*CHRISTMAS CAKES & BISCUITS*

*GAMES*

*CHRISTMAS CARDS*

*CASHLESS*

*(please purchase a payment Card)*

*All games & items are produced by*

*Year 7 Thornden School Students*

## Student Christmas Lunches-Mrs Kehoe (Assistant Head)



We are introducing Christmas lunches this year, for all year groups. We hope this will become a lovely Thornden tradition! Please see details below.

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 7
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 8
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 9
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 10
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 11



**Venue:** School canteen (x5 classes at a time)

**Ticket only:** £4.20 unless FSM (must be purchased by **Friday 29th November**). To purchase the ticket, please log into the Arbor shop and click on the Christmas dinner link.

**Timings:** Due to the capacity of our canteen, each year group will be split into two halves. Students will be notified which group they are in.

Christmas Lunch 1 – 12.30am – 1.10pm  
Christmas Lunch 2 – 1.20pm – 2pm

**Christmas Jumper:** Students may wear a Christmas Jumper on the day they are having their Christmas dinner. All other uniform must remain as usual.

**Additional details:** The canteen will be open as normal at break times during this week (no hot meals will be available, but they will still provide hot and cold snacks).

Best wishes

Laura Kehoe

# Think Pharmacy First!



Did you know that you can take your child to your local pharmacy and get treatment for five medical conditions?

These are:

- Ear ache (children aged 1-17)
- Sore throat (over 5s)
- Infected insect bites (over 1s)
- Impetigo (over 1s)
- Sinusitis (aged 12 and over)

If your child is poorly with any of the above conditions, by going straight to your local pharmacy you can have a consultation with a trained pharmacist and receive advice and even medication (if appropriate) ..... and your child can get back to school sooner.



Visit our Pharmacy First website to find out more.



## General Contact

If you need to contact the school, please use either of the email addresses below. In an emergency, please contact the school during office hours on 023 8026 9722.

[info@thornden.hants.sch.uk](mailto:info@thornden.hants.sch.uk)/[reception@thornden.hants.sch.uk](mailto:reception@thornden.hants.sch.uk)

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

**INSPIRING FUTURE TEACHERS**  
ASPIRE. LEARN. GROW.  
TEACH.

**TRAIN TO TEACH IN HAMPSHIRE**

Part of the HISP Multi Academy Trust