



Thornden School Newsletter 17th January 2025



Dear Parents/Carers

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



Assembly

Where can books take you?

National Science Fiction Day - 2nd January



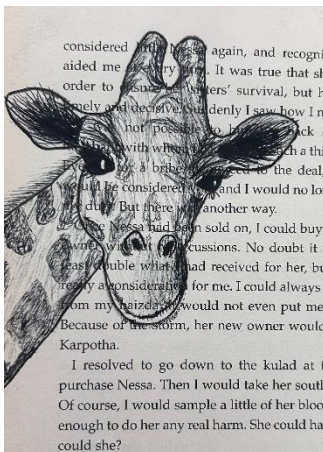
Happy New Year! I hope that you had a lovely break.

This week I am going to share the assembly that I put together for students. I hope that you enjoy it and look forward to seeing you soon.

Caroline

Artist of the week

Our Artist of the Week this week is Caitlyn J-H for her wonderful gargoyle! Caitlyn made her gargoyle from clay. We loved the way she created the contours and gave her gargoyle such a happy expression!



This week's Artist of the Week is Alessia B from Year 8 for her lovely drawing of this cheeky giraffe! Alessia used a handwriting pen along with a biro to produce her animal drawing, as part of a Lino printing project. Well done Alessia!

2024-2025 Dates for your Diary

Event	Date	Information
Year 11 Bournemouth Pavilion Trip	Monday 20 th January	
Year 11 Parent and Carer Evening	Wednesday 22 nd January	Online
Year 10 Reports to Parents	Friday 7 th February	
New York Trip	Friday 14 ^h February	
Ski Trip	Saturday 15 th February	
Year 9 Reports to Parents	Wednesday 26 th February	
Year 9 Parent and Carer Evening	Thursday 27 th February	Online

Inset Days 2024-2025

Monday 10th February

Monday 23rd June

Half term

Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February

Non-uniform days 2024-2025

Friday 14th February

Friday 4th April

Tuesday 22nd July

Meet the team behind the scenes!

George has recently joined the Design and Technology team as a technician. Most of her job involves preparing resources for the student's projects, maintaining and checking equipment and advising students, where she can, on the plans for their builds.

Her background includes prop making for TV, Film and Theatre and she has also worked in Stage Management, how exciting!

George enjoys spending her free time painting, trying to build some useful devices or perfecting her cake making.



Extracurricular Timetables



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

Arbor Update-Toilet

You may notice, on Arbor, that you are getting notifications when your child visits the toilet.

We are logging toilet visits in school via Arbor rather than on tracker cards. There are a number of reasons for this - firstly, it is quicker and easier. Secondly, whilst the vast majority of students visit the toilet when needed, there are some students who use it as an opportunity to avoid lessons, this will give both us and you a way of seeing how many times your child is out of lessons. Students with a medical/toilet pass can access the toilets at any time, as usual.

Most schools in the country lock their toilets during lesson times. At Thornden we DO NOT want to do this, this is why we are taking this step to address it.

If you have any questions or comments, then please let us know.

Christmas Activities

Over Christmas Miss Wilmore worked with some of her Year 8 students to create some lovely Christmas decorations from air drying clay.



Year 10 textiles

Take a look at the Year 10 textile student's hoodies they made, great work by all the students involved.



World Book Day-Mr Bridgeman (Teacher of RS)



With such a strong correlation between literacy, GCSE attainment and socio-economic success, encouraging our students to read has never been more important.

With this in mind, on Thursday 6th March, which is World Book Day, we will be encouraging students to come to school dressed as a literary character.

We very much enjoyed the excellent costumes on display last year; there were some imaginative outfits put together by both students and staff. Outfits for World Book Day should be a specific character that is obvious or easily explained, and students should be able to identify their chosen character, and which book they originate from. This is a fun way to raise awareness of literary figures and for students to engage with books. The character choices might be from a modern book or a classic, from something they read as a young child or something they read last week. In the spirit of the day, we would love to see a range of different costumes representing lots of different authors and genres (but not a generic footballer or 'teenager'). As this is not one of our dedicated non-uniform days, for students who would prefer not to dress up, normal school uniform will be required.

Thank you in advance for your support with this. We reintroduced this event last year and it was a tremendous success, so once again we look forward to seeing an impressive array of Lysanders, Dr Watsons and Victor Frankensteins on World Book Day!

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



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

Upcoming Deadline

Barton Peveril applications must be completed and submitted by Friday 14th February. Other colleges have an "earlier the better" policy to ensure students get onto courses they want so its advisable to aim for February for those too.

Dates for your Diary:

These are the upcoming local open events that have been released so far:

- Sparsholt College: 1st February, 1st March & 30th April
- SHCG*, CEMAST/CTEC: 11th February
- Totton College: 3rd March
- SHCG*, Fareham College: 19th March
- Brockenhurst College (Construction and Marine Tech): 19th March
- SHCG*, Southampton College: 20th March
- SHCG*, Eastleigh College: 30th April
- Barton Peveril: 1st May

*SHCG is the South Hampshire College Group, it was created when these colleges merged

Further information and the booking links are all available via our Thornden School careers [website](#).

Upcoming Events:

- **InvestIN Weekend Opportunities**-We're excited to offer students a great opportunity to explore their future careers this spring! With 15 different industries to choose from, our weekend programmes are designed to provide students with the perfect introduction to a potential career pathway. Available in person in London or online, our programmes enable students to connect with industry professionals, participate in hands-on simulations and gain a meaningful glimpse into the world of work. Here is the [link](#) to the website. There is a charge for these courses.
- **School/College Pupil Virtual Insight Day**-18th February 2025, 10am-4pm. Designed for school leavers, Rathbones Virtual Insight Days are a great way to explore different career paths and gain a deeper understanding of the wealth management industry. Attendees have the chance to meet members of our team, ranging from apprentices and graduate trainees to senior leadership, participate in employability skills sessions and meet other like-minded students. Here is the [link](#).
- **Steve Willis Training Parent, Carer & Learner Apprenticeship Webinar**-If you're interested in pursuing a career in the gas, plumbing or electrical industry then Steve Willis Training's Apprenticeship Webinar is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the apprenticeship program and the industry as a whole. The apprenticeship webinar will help give you an overview of the course content and what you can expect if you choose to start an apprenticeship with us in 2025! Please fill in this [form](#) to attend. Dates available-Tuesday 11th February 7:00pm-8:00pm & Thursday 13th February 7:00pm-8:00pm.
- **FutureDent**-are offering weekend courses to give students the opportunity to explore a career in the dentistry industry. Please follow this [link](#) for more information.
- **South Hampshire College Group T Level Parents Information Evenings**-Please follow this [link](#) for dates and times.
- **SETA Engineering Apprenticeship Jobs Fair**-11th February 2025, 5-6.30pm. Please follow [link](#) for more information and to book.
- **NHS England Virtual Insight Event**-Join to hear all about roles within Allied Health. Monday 10th February, please follow [link](#) to access QR code to book.
- **NHS England Virtual Midwifery Insight Event**-Join to hear all about how to become a midwife and the different routes into midwifery. Thursday 6th February, please follow [link](#) to access QR code to book.



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Year 10 Criminology Talk-Miss Stickland (BTEC Enterprise and Careers Lead)



Year 10 Criminology Talk

On Thursday 9th January, the Head of Criminology from Peter Symonds College, Luke Maddock, came to talk to our Year 10 students about his course and the social sciences available at the college. Approximately 40 students signed up and came to school nice and early at 8.15 to start the session and find out what they could be studying in just over 18 months' time.

Criminology is an Applied Diploma and is a study of the criminal justice system, criminal behaviour and the criminal investigations. The entry requirements are 5 GCSEs at 4 and above, including English and Maths.

The session provided an interesting summary of the range of the social science courses available at Peter Symonds (Law, Sociology and Psychology), along with some of the possible combinations of courses in that field. When talking about Criminology, Luke talked about roles such as a Criminal Psychologist and then delved into the topic of lying and deceit. Students were asked to think about how they think they can tell if someone is lying. Ideas included fidgeting, sweating, looking away and blushing – all of which are debunked by research! The real methods are below, in case you are interested!

DETECTING DECEIT ITS ALL ABOUT WHAT IS BEING SAID

1. Increased delays before answering a question
2. Increased or decreased use of hand gestures with speech
3. Lacking contextual embedding
4. More frequent and longer pauses in speech
5. Repetition of details
6. Mirroring speech and questions
7. Rote or sequence recall
8. Slowing down rate of speech
9. Vagueness of descriptions given
10. Verbal 'slips' such as tense changes

As a final task, students were asked to use what they had learnt and strategise how they could deceive Luke when talking to him about what they did the day before, think TV show 'Would I lie to You'. Would he be able to tell if they were lying or not? He practised what he preaches and knew when the student was telling the truth and when they were lying!

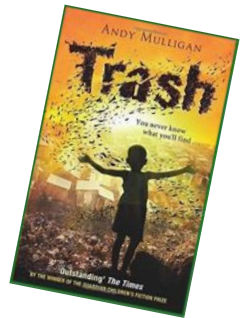
The college will have 2 more open evenings in the Summer term and it is recommended you go along if your student is considering studying there. Our students are lucky to have so many good options in our area so often the decision comes down to which option 'feels' right for them. Open evening dates and booking will be available via our careers website, once they are made available: <https://sites.google.com/view/thorndenschoolcareers/career-events-opportunities>



At Thornden, we read-Mrs Peaston (Assistant Headteacher)



You may have heard from your son/daughter that we have introduced a new approach to Tutor Time; it is a substantial change and one that we have been planning for some time (hence tutor time being extended to 25 minutes each day of the week). For Years 7-10, instead of reading one non-fiction source a week, we are now reading whole novels. I thought you might like to hear about our rationale for this.



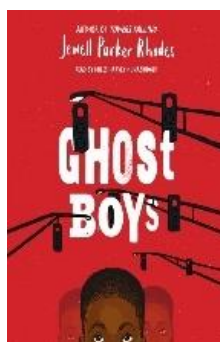
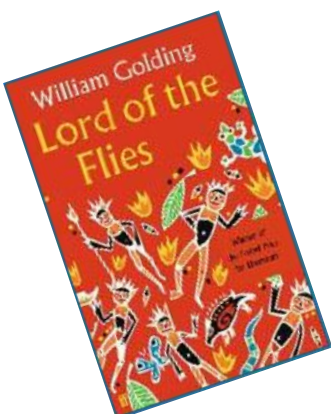
Why we read at tutor time

Reading is important for many different reasons, not just for academic success (although it helps with that!) But we know that the national picture is that the number of young people reading for pleasure has dropped alarmingly year-on-year since 2016; secondary students are moving away from spending time with a good book even more quickly than other age groups. There has been a 10% drop in reported enjoyment of reading amongst secondary age students (National Literacy Trust research) in the last year alone.

So, this activity that we consider vital for students is not necessarily something happening regularly in their lives – in fact, it may only happen at school. We know that, when a teacher reads aloud, students benefit from hearing a fluent reader modelling rich language and advanced sentence structures. This consistent exposure to quality stories helps students to build a strong vocabulary and understand how language works; this is true for those who are avid readers themselves, and for those who may only read in school. In the past, it was felt that reading aloud was only crucial for younger children, but over time, research has shown just how beneficial story reading is for older students, too. And it has the added advantages of boosting skills of comprehension and highlighting the simple pleasure of reading a good book! With this knowledge in mind, we decided to respond proactively to ensure Thornden students experience reading as a core part of their school lives.

How the Tutor Time Reading (TTR) programme works

Tutors read aloud to their groups 3 times per week. Groups will hear one book per term in two blocks of 5 weeks before and after half term (except in Year 7 where there are 4 books in the year). Students will follow along with their own copy of the text, using a bookmark or ruler. We are very grateful to Friends of Thornden School (FOTS) for their £4000 donation towards the cost of buying the texts – this has been a huge help. There will be 2-4 key words with definitions on the board for each reading session, and thinking questions are included for use at the end to prompt discussion. The books contain a wide range of themes and language, and some will be challenging. This is partly why it is the adult in the room who does the reading and guides the talk to ensure difficult (but important) topics are discussed in a careful, thoughtful way. The books have been chosen because they are well-regarded and offer the opportunity to broaden the students' horizons; they will be taking a walk in the shoes of characters whose lives are very different to their own. There will be themes and topics that feel familiar, and those that feel entirely novel. This calm, purposeful start to the school day is being consistently delivered across the school, and we hope that the benefits, academic and pastoral, will be felt over time. Certainly, this has been the experience of other schools who have adopted similar schemes.



The books we are reading are as follows:

Year 7

Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
October, October by Katya Balen
The Wee Free Men by Terry Pratchett

Year 8

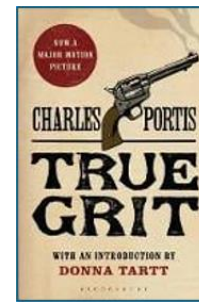
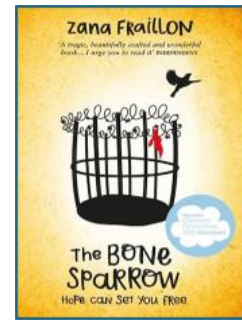
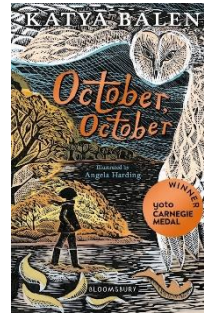
No Fixed Address by Susin Nielsen
The Giver by Lois Lowry
The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillon

Year 9

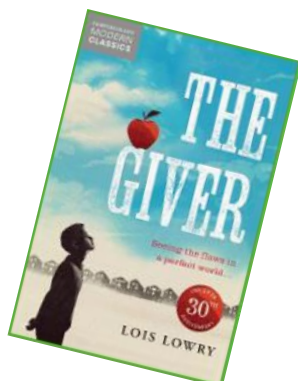
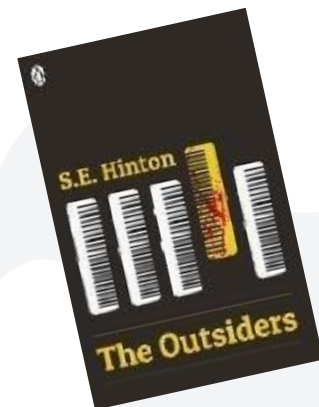
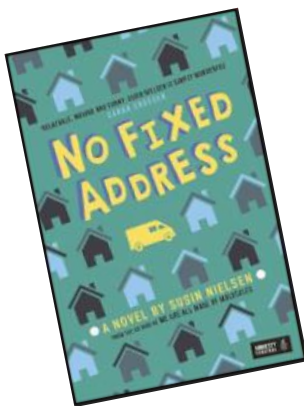
Trash by Andy Mulligan
The Outsiders by S E Hinton
Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Year 10

The Dark Lady by Akala
True Grit by Charles Portis
Finding Violet Park by Jenny Valentine



Year 11 are also having an increase in their reading diet via tutor time. We are tweaking the Current Affairs Reading Programme (CARP) which students have been following. Reading will now be delivered twice a week (instead of once) to enable some elements of comparison to occur. This regular, low stakes sharing of non-fiction texts will help to give Year 11 a diet of reading that will benefit them in the English Language exam. It will also help to develop their vocabulary and get them thinking about important issues. Each week, there will be a more modern text, and one will be older - but both will have a similar theme or topic. Students will be supported to understand the contexts of the texts, then there will be an article to read with associated discussion questions. The focus will be on the viewpoint/attitude of the writer with students unpicking the impact of the vocabulary chosen and the important messages conveyed. Please do look out for the new Reading section which will soon appear on the school website. This will contain more information on how we deliver reading and literacy across the curriculum and as enrichment.



History Competition-Ms Bramwell (Head of History)



Please find details here of a local history competition run by Hampshire Archives Trust. This is a purely optional task, but the History teachers will be happy to support and mentor any students that want to participate.

We very much hope that some students will be taking part in this year's competition. As well as being an opportunity to win a significant prize, the feedback from previous years' competitions is that students find the experience of working on a history project like this both very interesting and satisfying, and it is an excellent way of enhancing their skills.

The competition is open to both groups and individual students, with the winners winning significant cash prizes - either for their school or for themselves. Information about the competition is available in the Education section our [website](#), together with downloadable information sheets for the three age groups that can enter: groups and individuals in Years 7, 8 and 9; groups and individuals in Years 10 & 11, and groups and individuals at Sixth Form level. The information [sheets](#) explain the categories and prizes.

Entries can be made from the start of next term. **The deadline for entries is Friday 14th March 2025.** Entries to the competition are free.

How to enter:

- Provided the files are not too large, **entries can simply be [emailed](#)**
- Larger files can be sent to schoolscompetition@hampshirearchivestrust.co.uk using one of the following: **WeTransfer** (wetransfer.com). If you haven't used WeTransfer before, you can set up a free account (even the free account enables you to send very large files, it is easy to use and I can highly recommend it); **Microsoft OneDrive**; or **Google Drive**
- Paper copies or memory sticks can be posted to: Dr Alistair Dougall, Schools History Competition, Hampshire Archives Trust, c/o Hampshire Record Office, Sussex Street SO23 8TH. (If you are posting an entry, please also email me to let me know so that I can arrange to collect the entries from the Hampshire Record Office).

Please make it clear in your entry/entries which school you are from and for which category the entry is being made:

- Years 7,8 & 9: Group
- Years 7, 8 & 9: Individual
- Years 10 & 11: Group
- Years 10 & 11: Individual
- Sixth Form: Group
- Sixth Form: Individual



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ARCHIVES TRUST**



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Safeguarding-Mr Thomas (Deputy Headteacher)



Events

- **Low Mood/Depression-Understanding and Supporting your child.**
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.

Date	Time	Zoom link
Friday 24/01/2025	11:30am- 1pm	https://eu01web.zoom.us/j/68735612073?pwd=EsRtTOismewqyhbptblxb3vxTtCheG.I
Wednesday 05/03/2025	1pm- 2:30pm	https://eu01web.zoom.us/j/65483889716?pwd=PshZWoflmbfb8lakVT5SuIhTe4goY.I

- **NHS-Hampshire Camhs-Psychological Perspectives in Education and Primary Care (PPEPCare) for Parents and Carers Spring/Summer 2025.** Please follow [link](#) for upcoming education sessions available to parents/carers.
- **P.A.C.E Parent and Carer Events-** Free mental health and wellbeing event for all parents and carers who support or work with young people. Please follow [link](#) for more information.

Wellbeing Den-Mrs Kingsley Smith (Pastoral Manager)



Children's Mental Health Week

We are excited for Children's Mental Health Week 2025, taking place from 3rd to 9th February with the theme of 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. We are looking forward to hosting a variety of activities this week across the school including Art, Science, PE, tutor time and assemblies. There will be activities each day in the Wellbeing Den including mindfulness colouring, music madness, wellie walk and meeting Bumble, my miniature schnauzer! You may also want to take this opportunity to take part at home, their website has lots of tips, resources and activities, please [visit](#).

On Thursday 6th January we are planning on hosting another coffee morning for parents & carers, with our Mental Health Support team, further details to follow.

We are also grateful to Solent Minds who will be delivering assemblies during this week. Please do visit their [website](#) further details of the valuable support they can provide.

This years theme is supported by Disney's Inside Out 2, so if you have not already seen it it's a recommendation for your next movie night!





Department Spotlight

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



Mr Jones-Head of Extra Curricular Music Christmas Concert 2024

On Tuesday 17th December we had our Christmas Concert which involved over 200 students performing in our range of Music Dept

Ensembles. The Concert was a sell out and Thornden hall was full, with nearly 400 audience members. The hall was alive and buzzing as we entertained the audience putting them in the festive mood with a programme of Christmas themed Music. The newly formed 'Show Singers' group with over 60 members opened the second half with real energy singing 'Seasons of Love' and 'This is Me', the concert came to a 'swinging' close as all the singers came back onto stage and sang 'White Christmas' with the school Wind Band accompanying and the audience also singing along. By the end all performers and audience members were all thoroughly in the Christmas spirit and feeling 'Santamental'... hehe.



Theory Lessons

We have space for pupils to start Music Theory lessons. The pupils will work their way through grade 1-5 theory books in the lessons and then sit the actual Grade 5 theory exam with ABRSM, gaining an extra qualification; if you are interested [email us](#). The lessons run once a week on a Wednesday 4-5pm Music Room 2.

Extra-Curricular Music Groups

We have a broad range of Music groups that run each week either at lunchtime or after school. We are always looking for new members, especially at the beginning of a new term when we are starting new music for our next concert.

If your child plays a Woodwind or Brass instrument, they could join the School Wind Band that has been running since 1974! Sax Mad and friends are also looking for new members who play saxophone or clarinet. If your child plays a string instrument, then we have the String orchestra which rehearses every Wednesday lunchtime.

We have our newly formed 'Show Singers' open to all years, so if your child enjoys singing songs from Shows/Musicals please encourage them to come along to this on Tuesday lunchtime.

We also have The Thornden Singers that rehearse on a Wednesday after school ran by Mrs Bekker, who are happy to accept new members.

Please [email us](#) if you require any more info on any groups or would like your child to join one of our groups if they aren't already involved.

Please follow this [link](#) to a copy of our Extra-Curricular activities that run weekly.

Reminder of our Concert dates



Please see below a list of our concert dates for this coming academic year. If your child is involved in any Extra-Curricular Music Ensemble then they will be performing in the Spring Concert. Tickets are available on the door of the concert or [online](#).

Tuesday 25th March 7pm-Spring Concert

(All Music Dept. Groups/Ensembles performing)

Tuesday 24th June-Rising Stars Concert

(Year 7,8 & 9 solos/duets)

School Kit-Mrs Fuller (Assistant Headteacher)



This is just a reminder that all students should have a wipeable whiteboard pen as part of their basic kit. We use mini whiteboards in the majority of lessons to help check the understanding of all students and, therefore, this is an important piece of equipment. We supplied pens to all students in September but, as we start a new term, we are at the point where these are beginning to run out. We appreciate that this is a relatively new addition to their

equipment list and so we would be very grateful if you could give them a reminder and check that they have everything they need for their learning.

Thank you for your support.



Are you interested in becoming a teacher?

Come and spend a day in a school to find out what teaching life is like. You will have the opportunity to tour the school, speak to experts about teaching, the application process and financing your training as well as observing lessons. Sign information is via our website [Inspiring Future Teachers - School Experience Days](#)



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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

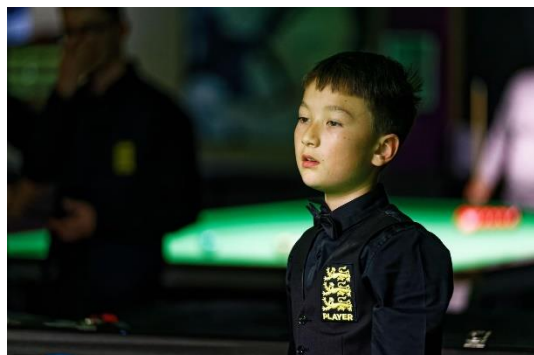
We are always keen to hear about success stories from our students outside of school, so please do get in touch if there is news we can share.

For any sporting successes, please email Mr Hall, Head of PE: b.hall@thornden.hants.sch.uk

Recent Results

Team	Gender	Sport	VS	Opposition	Fixture Type	Result	Player of The Match
U12	Boys	Rugby	vs	Toynbee	Friendly	Won 30-20	Kyran
U13	Boys	Rugby	vs	Kings	Hampshire Plate	Won 35-10	Rupert
U14	Girls	Netball	vs	Kings	League	Lost 7-15	Georgia and Mia
U16	Girls	Rugby	vs	The Petersfield School	Friendly	Lost 15-40	Jess, Isabelle and Bella
U16	Girls	Netball	vs	Kings	League	Won	Jess A and Ruby

Snooker Sensation!



We're absolutely thrilled to announce that William T from Year 8 has achieved something truly extraordinary—he's been called up to represent England in the 2025 European Under 16 Snooker Championships, set to take place this March in Turkey.

Yes, you read that right, at just 12 years old, William will be competing against the very best in the Under 16 category, a testament to his incredible talent and hard work. Even more impressive, he's currently ranked #1 in the English Junior Under 16 rankings!

This is a monumental achievement, and we couldn't be prouder of William. Let's all cheer him on as he takes his next big step on the international stage!

Thornden Sports Sponsorship Opportunities

We are still in search for local businesses or companies to sponsor our teams!

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. 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.

Student Achievement

We wanted to share this amazing piece of Home Learning from one of our Year 7 student, Eleanor.

Eleanor bought her own air-drying clay and re-created her model at home so she could make this little presentation, showing her step-by-step guide. This is the second home learning Eleanor's created where she has put in an amazing amount of effort.

Check out her work [here!](#)

Junior Chef Award-Mrs Coles (Head of Design and Technology)



Students in Year 10 successfully completed the Junior Chef course at Eastleigh college on the 11th December. The students had undertaken a 6-week programme within the Hospitality and Catering department at Eastleigh College. The Junior Chef Programme is designed for years 9, 10 and 11 to give them an insight into the professional cookery experience within the Hospitality and Catering industry.

Over the course the students have developed confidence, communication and cookery skills, as well as encouraging them to use their creative flair.

For their graduation evening they produced a 3-course festive meal for their families and teachers and were presented with a certificate at the East Avenue Restaurant at Eastleigh College. Well done to them all.

Calvin U, Lizzy B, Paris D, Samuel D, Noah G and Olly S



Thornden Hall

Friday 24th January
Movies @ the Hall - *Twisters*
12A

As storm season intensifies, the paths of former storm chaser Kate Carter, lured back to the open plains after a devastating encounter years prior, and reckless social-media superstar Tyler Owens collide when terrifying phenomena never seen before are unleashed. The pair and their competing teams find themselves squarely in the paths of multiple storm systems converging over central Oklahoma in the fight of their lives.

Runtime 2hrs 2min
All tickets £5
Bar open, plenty of parking.



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!](#)

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.



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