



Thornden School Newsletter 31st January 2025



Dear Parents/Carers

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

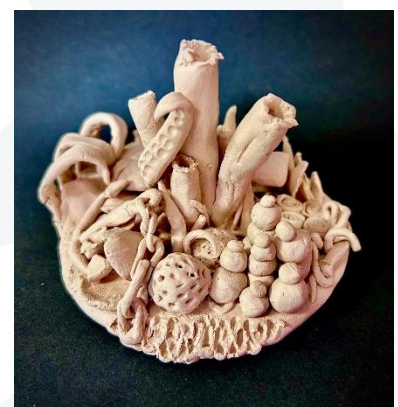


Artist of the week



This week's Artist of the Week is Binita N from Year 7 for her lovely model of coral. Binita worked with clay, forming it into different shapes and impressing different patterns for the detail. Well done Binita!

Another beautiful clay piece has been chosen for this week's Artist of Week, created by Emilia W in Year 7. We really loved her attention to detail! Well done Emilia!





2024-2025 Dates for your Diary

Event	Date	Information
Winter Production Show-Charlie and the Chocolate Factory	Thursday 6 th – Friday 7 th February	Book tickets here
Year 10 Reports to Parents	Friday 7 th February	
New York Trip	Friday 14 th 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 10 th February
Monday 23 rd June

Half term
Monday 17 th February – Friday 21 st February

Non-uniform days 2024-2025
Friday 14 th February
Friday 4 th April
Tuesday 22 nd July

Meet the team behind the scenes!

Edwin is proud to have been part of the Thornden community for the past three years. As the Assistant Network Manager, he brings over 19 years of experience in IT and network management, with a strong passion for creating seamless and secure digital environments that empower staff and students to thrive.

During his time at Thornden, he has focused on maintaining and enhancing the school's technology infrastructure, ensuring our systems are reliable, efficient, and future-ready. He is excited to continue contributing to the school's success by supporting innovative teaching and learning through robust IT solutions.

Outside of work, he enjoys going to the gym, exploring new technologies, watching movies, and spending quality time with his family. He is looking forward to continuing to connect with everyone here and assisting with any technology-related questions or ideas you may have.

If you ever need IT assistance, feel free to visit the IT office—we're here to help!



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.

Iftar Meal Invitation

On Wednesday 12th March 6-8pm, we invite you to join us for an Iftar meal. This event was very successful last year, with lots of the Thornden community coming together to break their fast during Ramadan.

If you would like to attend, please complete this [form](#) by Thursday 13th February. We will confirm attendance during the week of 24th February.



New Sewing Machines in Technology-Mrs Coles (Head of Design & Technology)



There was much excitement in Technology this week as our new Sewing Machines finally arrived in Textiles. After over 18 years of use, some of our old machines are being retired and replaced by new machines. It is with thanks to FOTs for funding us for some of the machines and we managed to fund some of the others with money raised by Year 7 in their Technology Christmas Fayre. We are looking forward to seeing what the students produce on the machines. Thank you all.



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.

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

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 events:

- **Warner Bros. Discovery-Championing Apprenticeships**
Tuesday 11th February 6pm Virtual-[Register here](#)
- **Winchester University-Parents and Supporters Webinar**
Wednesday 12th February 6pm Virtual-[Register here](#)
- **PETE Apprenticeship Open Evening**
Monday 24th March 4pm-[Register here](#)
This event offers a unique opportunity to explore our training facilities and learn more about our diverse apprenticeship programmes, all while having your questions answered by our friendly and knowledgeable team.
- **Steve Willis Training-Apprenticeship Open Evening**
Wednesday, 19th February 2025, from 4.00pm – 7.00pm at our Portchester Centre-During the event, potential candidates will have the opportunity to meet our team, ask any questions, and take a tour of our facilities. This is a great chance for those interested in our Electrical Installation or Gas Engineering Apprenticeships to see firsthand how we work and learn about the opportunities we offer. [Register here](#)

School based events:

- **Gas and Electrical Engineer Apprenticeships Webinar**
If your student would like to find out more about apprenticeships, what they are and how they work (with a particular focus on gas and electrics in this instance) please use the link below to sign up. It will be hosted by Steve Willis Training.
<https://stevewillis.com/>

The webinar will be on Tuesday 11th February at 8.35am in C4. Sign up ahead of time is essential so we have a list of names and can change the venue if we need more space!

All year groups welcome.

Please complete this [form](#) to attend.



Wellbeing Den-Mrs Kingsley Smith (Pastoral Manager)



Children's Mental Health Week

A reminder that next week is Children's Mental Health Week 2025, taking place from 3rd to 9th February with the theme of 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. We have been working hard on our activities for the week and looking forward to embracing this theme with our students.

"Join us for a coffee morning session to meet the Educational Mental Health Team and learn about our role at Thornden School. During the session, we'll also discuss anxiety, including the different types, how to recognise the signs and symptoms, and practical strategies to help support your child in managing it effectively. Caroline Courtney, Charlotte D'Arcy and Amie Lurcock-Pugh Trainee Educational Mental Health Practitioners for Romsey & District Team".

We have been working closely with the Mental Health Support Team and are pleased that they are joining us for a coffee morning on Thursday 7th February in the conference room between 9.00 and 10.00am. They have extended this invitation to our Year 7,8 & 9 parents. There will be limited space available, if you would like to attend please complete this short [form](#).

For students there will be many activities happening throughout the school. If anyone is interesting in fundraising for this event please do contact us.



Here are some upcoming sessions available via The Wellbeing Hub:

WEBINAR

The Wellbeing Hub
— From Teen Tips —

Coming up this week
Wednesday 12th February

WEBINAR: Healthy masculinity and relationships with Fredi Beard, Director of Operations at Voicebox, an organisation tackling unhealthy masculinity

[Sign up now club.teentips.co.uk](https://club.teentips.co.uk)

BLOG

The Wellbeing Hub
— From Teen Tips —

BONUS CONTENT

BLOG: Friendships at school by Dr Vanessa Mitchell, Assistant Head Pastoral, The Arbor School Dubai

[Read now: club.teentips.co.uk](https://club.teentips.co.uk)



Department Spotlight

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



Miss Willis-Head of Art Department

We have been very busy in the Art department since our last write up.

At the end of the summer term Southampton Arts Society generously supported our wonderful Year 11 Art students with their annual competition. The winners were awarded a voucher for art supplies and we are very proud to now be able to share their work with you.



Hannah B



Marge V



Phoebe T

In September we ran our annual trip to Kew Gardens for all of our Year 10 Art students. It's always a great day out but our main objective is to give students the opportunity of taking some amazing photographs of unusual plants for their Natural Forms project.



Mrs Wilmore's Year 7s have been busy learning new skills with clay recently and have created some lovely pieces inspired by coral.

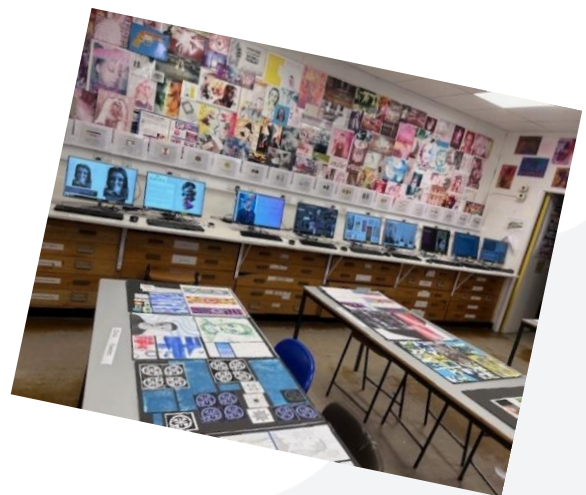


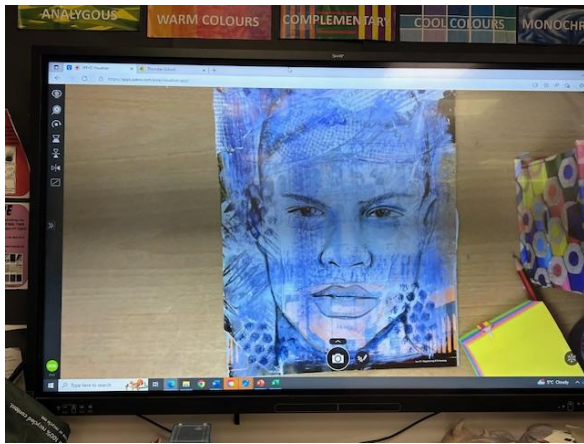
At the end of the summer term, 3 of our Year 11 students came back and completed a striking mural in the Art foyer. They designed and painted it without any assistance and it really makes a difference to the feel of the department.



Mrs Manning's Year 11s have spent many sessions in Glazing Club after school, glazing carefully the pieces they have made in class.

At the end of the summer term we held an exhibition for parents and carers to showcase the work of our Year 11 artists. We were so proud of our students' artwork and their amazing GCSE results (20% achieved a grade 9 out of a cohort of 50 students).





We now have 3 excellent quality visualisers, enabling students to see much more details and subtle colours during our demonstrations. A big thank you to FOTs for enabling us to purchase these.

Awesome Art club runs every Monday lunchtime and so far, our Year 7 artists have worked with oil pastels, watercolour pencils, charcoal and handwriting pens. They have created some lovely pieces, experimenting with lots of new media.

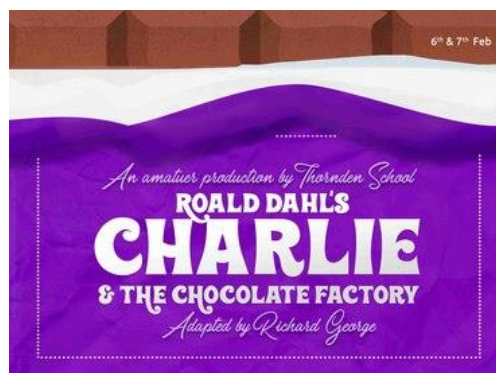


Look out for our clay activities during Children's Mental Health Week in February.

Winter Production-Charlie and the Chocolate factory

Thornden School presents this years annual Winter Production 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', a play by Roald Dahl, adapted by Richard George. The story follows Charlie Bucket, who miraculously wins the final golden ticket, to Willy Wonka's famous Chocolate Factory. Along the way, you will meet familiar characters who will take you on a journey of fun, fantasy which will be full of sugar! Join us this February for our creative take on a family favourite and a chance to use your pure imagination! Tickets available [here!](#)

Article and pictures to follow!





FOTS-Farewell from Polly Gleeson



Thornden School is hugely grateful to Polly Gleeson for all her hard work over the years as Chair of Friends of Thornden School (FOTS). Parent associations such as FOTS are often unsung heroes in the education world, and they do a terrific job, working quietly in the background to support our schools. We all know what it feels to be time poor, but Polly and her team have given so much of this over the years and continue to do so. In leading a team that has raised over £100,000 in a decade, it is clear that this work has been worthwhile. So many projects that enrich the school experience for our students have been partly or wholly funded by FOTS donations over the years. We want to take this opportunity to say a huge and heartfelt thank you from all the staff and students at Thornden to Polly for her outstanding contribution; she will be a hard act to follow, but we know that Nic (who has been a core part of the team for many years) will do great things here. Here are some of Polly's own reflections on her time chairing FOTS.

The end of an era...

On a rainy night in January 2015 I turned up at my second ever FOTS meeting (Friends of Thornden School, Thornden's PTA) and was asked to be Chair, otherwise FOTS would fold. There were just 4 people present, two of whom were stepping down from their roles, so the pressure was on... Little did I imagine then that I'd still be here a decade on - and over a thousand hours volunteering for FOTS later - with us having given almost £110,000 to Thornden during my time as FOTS Chair!

Early attempts at running events, uniform and car boot sales proved to be a lot of work for the tiny FOTS team for very little financial return; FOTS was able to give just £750 to the school in 2015. In contrast, for the last 3 years we have given around £20,000 annually, the 2000+% increase due to the donation scheme we set up in 2016, four Thornden Headteachers ago.

I realised fairly early on that our Friends would prefer to donate rather than give their time. This, coupled with the fact that a lot of Friends were exhausted after their primary PTA experience, made me devise the 'pay the PTA to go away' scheme which I had always dreamed of as a mum of four! The scheme has transformed what we are able to give to Thornden clubs, activities, departments and the school environment. We've funded outdoor benches, water coolers, the tortoise and ducklings as well as 3D printers, library displays and pastoral care resources. We've supported plays and workshops, visualisers, books, tutor games and year group events. The [list](#) is almost endless!



I would particularly like to thank the tiny but fantastic FOTS volunteer team over the years – far too many awesome people to name - and the staff who work so hard for our children, especially Rob Collar and Lou Peaston who have served as FOTS reps over the decade. And I am very grateful to the Thornden families who support us through standing orders to the donation scheme – you make an enormous difference to all Thornden students. Thank you.

So can I ask you to set up a standing order today via the [Gift Aid Donation Scheme](#)? If every Thornden family was to give even £5 a month this would transform the amount of support FOTS are able to provide to all students.

If you'd like to be more involved or have any questions please contact us at fots@thornden.hants.sch.uk or via our Friends of Thornden School Facebook page. We have friendly termly meetings you are welcome to attend to discuss bids from staff. Our next meeting will be on **Thursday February 13th at 7.30pm in the Conference Room.**

My youngest was in Y1 when she started helping with FOTS events. She's now in Y11 and is the last of my four to go through Thornden – so at our AGM I handed over the reins to the fabulous Nic Lansdowne to take FOTS forward. I can't think of anyone better to be Chair than her, so I hope you will join with me in supporting Nic in taking FOTS from strength to strength.

All the best-Polly Gleeson

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	Girls	Football	vs	Crestwood	District Cup	Lost 0-1	
U12	Girls	Netball	vs	Perins	Friendly	Won	
U13	Boys	Football	vs	Swanmore	District Cup	Won 5-0	
U13	Girls	Netball	vs	Perins	Friendly	Won	
U14	Girls	Badminton	vs	Petersfield	County	Won 5-0	
U14	Girls	Badminton	vs	Bishop Challenor	County	Won 5-0	
U14	Girls	Football	vs	Noadswood	County Cup	Won 5-0	Immy
U14	Girls	Badminton	vs	Petersfield	County	Won 5-0	
U15	Boys	Rugby	vs	Mountbatten	County Cup	Won 24-20	Will and Victor
U16	Girls	Football	vs	Toynbee	District Cup	Won 1-0	Polly
U16	Boys	Football	vs	Purbrook	County Cup	Drew 2-2 (Lost on Pens)	

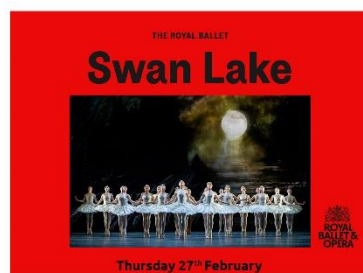
Cross Country Success

A huge well done to Year 11 student Casper who is the U16 Hampshire Cross Country champion. We wish him the best of luck at the next stage where he represents Hampshire!



Thornden Hall

th | THORNDEN HALL ARTS CENTRE FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS



MORE EVENTS ON THE WEBSITE
WWW.THORNDENHALL.CO.UK | BOX OFFICE 023 8024 6555

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!](#)

Site Assistant Role

This is a fantastic opportunity to play a vital role in ensuring our school remains a clean, secure, and well-maintained place where students can thrive. This full-time, permanent role would appeal to someone who is a practical, reliable, and motivated individual with a passion for creating a safe and welcoming environment for students, staff and visitors. If you have a proactive attitude, a keen eye for detail, and a commitment to excellence, we'd love to hear from you. For more information, and to apply, [click here!](#)

Exams Invigilator Role

Are you looking for a flexible role where you can make a real impact? Thornden School is seeking reliable and detail-oriented Exam Invigilators to support the smooth running of our internal and external exams. This is a fantastic opportunity for individuals who are committed to helping young people achieve their best in a calm and supportive environment. 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.

