



Thornden School Newsletter 14th February 2025



Dear Parents/Carers

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

[Link to parent survey](#)



Artist of the week



A little change to our Artist of the Week this week as we wanted to showcase some of the lovely clay decorations that are being made with Mrs Grove, during the lunchtime Art workshops as part of Children's Mental Health Week.

This week's Artist of the Week is Dougie F from Year 9 for his stunning portrait! Dougie has worked in mixed media to create his portrait on a collaged background. Well done Dougie!





2024-2025 Dates for your Diary

Event	Date	Information
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
Box Clever Theatre visit Year 10	Monday 10 th March	In school event
Year 11 Reports to Parents	Friday 21 st March	
Year 7 trip to Synagogue	Friday 21 st March	

Inset Days 2024-2025
Monday 23 rd June

Half term
Monday 17 th February- Friday 21 st February
Monday 7 th April – Monday 21 st April (Bank Holiday)
Non-uniform days 2024-2025
Friday 4 th April
Tuesday 22 nd July

Meet the team behind the scenes!

Tom works within our IT team as an Apprentice. His day-to-day responsibilities involve supporting staff, students and the Trust with any IT issues. Tom helps to install new equipment. He manages and sets up new devices including laptops, tablets and desktops. He enjoys creating, managing and deploying application packages.

Outside of work Tom enjoys a variety of outdoor activities which includes tennis, running and walking his dog. He likes gaming and building computers, when he has spare time.



Extracurricular Timetables



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

Changes to Mobile Phone Use in Lessons – Effective from 24th February

Dear Parents/Carers,



Changes to Mobile Phone Use in Lessons – Effective from 24th February

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inform you of an update to our approach regarding mobile phone use in lessons, which will take effect from 24th February.

After careful consideration and in line with best practices for supporting students' focus and learning, we have decided that from this date, students in **Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8, and 9)** will not be asked to use their mobile phones in lessons to support their learning.

For Key Stage 4 students (Years 10 and 11), there may still be occasions where mobile phones are used in lessons; however, this will be strictly controlled and only permitted when explicitly instructed by the teacher. Examples of phone use may include guided research or to photograph work. Clear guidelines will be in place to ensure that phones are used purposefully and do not disrupt learning.

Reasons for This Change:

- **Parental feedback:** An increasing number of parents/carers have contacted the school to inform us that they have not provided their child with a smart phone. This is as a result of the increasing evidence around the negative impact on mental health, educational progress and social skills/development.
- **Supporting Well-being:** Research suggests that limiting phone use can contribute to better concentration, reduced anxiety, and improved social interaction.

We kindly ask for your support in reinforcing these expectations at home and ensuring that your child understands the importance of these changes. Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide the best possible learning environment for all students.

[A Stolen Childhood \(Main film\)](#)

Yours sincerely,

Laura Kehoe

Chinese New Year Celebration

Thank you to the families who joined us for our Chinese New Year Celebration. The event was enjoyed by all who attended. Please click on the video to see some of the lion dance.



Wellbeing Den-Mrs Kingsley Smith (Pastoral Manager)



There was certainly a buzz around the Wellbeing Den last week to celebrate Children's Mental Health Week. It was great to see so many visitors to our room for the activities we ran and Bumble the miniature schnauzer certainly had the most visitors, which he enjoyed and was shattered afterwards.



Solent Minds were able to deliver some fantastic assemblies to years 7, 9, 10 & 11 and shared their own inspiring stories to our students. We will be scheduling a future date for our year 8 students. We will also be completing some Wellbeing Ambassador training so if this is something your young person might be interested in, please ask them to drop in and see me.



It was great to see parents and carers attending the coffee morning and having the opportunity to talk to members of the MHST. They provided an excellent Parent Anxiety workshop and you can review the slides [here](#). We will be looking to hold future events for our parents, if you have any ideas or topics you would like covered, please do let me know.



Solihull Approach – Free Online Courses

Welcome to Hampshire County Council's partnership with the Solihull Approach. These free online courses offer advice and practical tips to boost your confidence as a parent, help you navigate family life and strengthen your relationships. Whether you are a mum, dad, foster parent or grandparent, there is a course for you.

Developed by psychologists and professionals, they have been designed to help you understand your child's feelings, development and behaviour, as well as focus on your own feelings as you grow as a family.

There are courses available from bump to 19+ years, and include:

- Understanding your child (0-19 years)
- Understanding your child with additional needs (0-19 years)
- Understanding your child's feelings
- Understanding your child's mental health and wellbeing
- Understanding your relationships
- Understanding the impact of the pandemic on your child/teenager

All courses can be translated using Google Translate and some professional translations are available, including Arabic, Urdu, Bulgarian, simplified Chinese, Spanish, Welsh, Polish and Somali.

All the information needed to sign up for these free courses can be found at:

[The Solihull Approach - Health and Social Care - Hampshire County Council](#)

Please also see the [Solihull January Parent Wellbeing Newsletter](#)



Part of the HISP Multi
Academy Trust


Safeguarding-Mr Thomas (Deputy Headteacher and DSL)



This week we have sent emails to parents and students listing the support services you have access to in the holidays, should you need it.

Please click on the image below for more information on the Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service.

NEW
FOR 2025


Hampshire Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Services

HAMPSHIRE CAMHS INFORMATION & ADVICE SESSION

10am - 2pm

Wednesday, 5 March 2025 and then every
first Wednesday of the month

The Arc, Jewry Street
Winchester
SO23 8SB

This is an opportunity
to come and chat to
our CAMHS clinicians,
ask questions, get
advice and resources.



hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk

Intermediate Maths Challenge 2025



In the next newsletter we will be celebrating student's achievements in this year's Intermediate Maths Challenge. This involved students in Year 9, 10 and 11. Many have qualified for the next rounds or awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze certificates.



Department Spotlight

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



Jenny Lewis – Second in Department (Maths)

The Importance of Problem Solving: A Key Mathematical Skill for Life

Problem solving is at the heart of all mathematical learning. It's not just about learning formulas and equations—it's about developing the ability to approach challenges, think critically, and find solutions. In a rapidly changing world, these skills are more important than ever. By fostering problem-solving abilities in our students, we are helping them build skills that are highly transferable to any field or career.

At Thornden, we regularly expose pupils to problem-solving style questions during Maths lessons. In Year 7 and 8, these come in the form of problem-solving starter activities like these:

Problem solving

Problem Solving Strategies:
 What do I know?
 What can I work out?
 Can I draw a diagram to help?

6

1 George has a box of counters.

- For every 2 red counters there are 5 blue ones.
- George removes 36 blue counters from the box.
- There are now the same amount of red and blue counters.

How many red counters were in the box at the start?

2 Given that

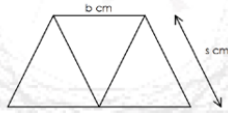
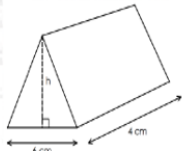

$$\triangle + \triangle + \star + \star = 100$$

$$\heartsuit + \heartsuit + \triangle + \star = 78$$

Work out the value of the heart

What are the missing numbers?

In Years 9-11, pupils are given a problem-solving booklet which they spend half a lesson a week completing. Each week offers a new set of problems to solve (usually 6 at a time), and these enable students to get themselves prepared for the style and vocabulary used in GCSE questions. An example can be seen below:

WEEK 7										
<p>1.</p> <p>a. Find the value of the reciprocal of 1.25 Give your answer as a decimal.</p> <p>Amanda rounds a number, x, to two decimal places. The result is 9.75</p> <p>b. Write down the error interval for x.</p>	<p>2.</p> <p>Three identical isosceles triangles are joined to make this trapezium. Each triangle has base b cm and the other sides are s cm.</p>  <p>$b : s = 4 : 5$</p> <p>Work out an expression, in terms of b, for the perimeter of the trapezium.</p>	<p>3.</p> <p>The diagram shows a prism with volume 36 cm^3 The height of the triangular cross section is h.</p>  <p>Work out the height, h.</p>								
<p>4.</p> <p>A large rectangle is made by joining four identical small rectangles</p>  <p>The perimeter of one small rectangle is 21 cm. Work out the perimeter of the large rectangle.</p>	<p>5.</p> <p>The range of a set of numbers is $17\frac{1}{2}$.</p> <p>The largest number is $4\frac{5}{12}$.</p> <p>Work out the smallest number.</p>	<p>6.</p> <p>The table shows the relative frequency of the results for a football team after a number of games.</p> <table border="1" style="margin: 5px auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Result of game</th> <th>won</th> <th>lost</th> <th>drew</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Relative frequency</td> <td>0.4</td> <td></td> <td>0.15</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>a. Complete the table.</p> <p>b. The team won 6 more games than they drew. How many games did the team play altogether?</p>	Result of game	won	lost	drew	Relative frequency	0.4		0.15
Result of game	won	lost	drew							
Relative frequency	0.4		0.15							

Problem Solving in Everyday Life

In our daily lives, we face all sorts of problems that require us to think critically and solve them efficiently. Maths, especially problem solving, helps us approach these situations with confidence. Here are a few examples:

- **Budgeting and Planning:** When managing household finances, we often need to figure out how to save for a future goal, pay off debt, or allocate resources wisely. Solving these financial problems involves working with numbers, analysing options, and making decisions—skills that are rooted in problem solving.
- **Time Management:** From coordinating schedules to prioritising tasks, effective time management is an everyday problem that requires logical thinking and the ability to weigh options. Maths teaches us how to break down larger tasks into manageable steps, a valuable skill in daily life.
- **Home Repairs and DIY Projects:** Whether you're fixing a leaky pipe, assembling furniture, or redesigning a room, problem solving is essential. Estimating measurements, assessing how materials will fit together, and determining the best solutions for a project are all rooted in mathematical thinking.



Encouraging Problem Solving Skills

It's important to help students develop strong problem-solving skills, as these abilities will serve them throughout their lives. Here are a few ways you can support your child's growth in this area:

1. **Promote Critical Thinking:** Encourage your child to approach problems from different angles. Ask questions like, "How could we solve this in another way?" or "What other options might work?" This helps develop their ability to think creatively and critically.
2. **Make Problem Solving Fun:** Solve everyday challenges together—whether it's cooking, planning a trip, or completing a DIY project. By working through real-world problems, students can see how math and problem solving apply outside the classroom.
3. **Encourage Persistence:** Sometimes the best solutions come after trying and failing. Help your child understand that persistence is key. When they face a challenge, remind them that it's okay to make mistakes—it's all part of the learning process.
4. **Support Mathematical Practice:** Encourage regular practice of maths, especially in problem-solving contexts. Use puzzles, games, or exercises that challenge your child to think critically and apply various strategies to find solutions.



As you can see, problem solving is much more than just a skill for acing maths exams. It is an invaluable tool that will help students navigate challenges in everyday life, thrive in a wide range of careers, and develop into confident, resourceful individuals. By supporting the development of problem-solving skills, we can help our students prepare for the future—whatever challenges it may bring.

A message from FOTS

Hello, My name is Nic Lansdowne, mum of 6 , 5 who have completed their journey through Thornden while the youngest is in year 9. Many of you may have seen me on Facebook over the years, as I have been sorting and selling the second-hand uniform.



Thornden school has served our family extremely well and, from the early days, I wanted to show my personal support to the school by becoming part of the PTA, otherwise known as FOTS. My involvement started, some ten years ago when I began attending the meetings run by our amazing previous Chair Polly, and started to help with the uniform. We also made and served refreshments at parents evenings and other events.

As we now have Parents Evenings online there is less opportunity to engage with parents face to face, and it is challenging to maintain our income. I'd like to mention our MONTHLY DONATION SCHEME which, for the past 10 years has become our main source of income. Many parents don't know about the scheme, so only 10% of families are currently donating. My hope is to raise awareness, donations and, increase the work that we can do. There is an extremely long list in [this presentation](#) of all the amazing things we have achieved over the years!

The departments bid for help to provide facilities or for supplies that fall outside their budgets. With cuts apparent everywhere, and more on the way, whatever we can do to help and enhance our childrens' experience is vital!

The donation scheme is easy to join [here](#)....

Even the price of a coffee each month makes a huge difference....WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER!



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	Rugby	vs	Kings	League	Drew 3 - 3	
U12	Girls	Rugby	vs	Toynbee	League	Lost 6 - 2	
U14	Girls	Rugby	vs	Petersfield	League		
U12	Girls	Netball	vs	Toynbee	League	Won 11 - 2	Emily S Isa R
U13	Girls	Netball	vs	Toynbee	League	Won 13 - 3	Mia L Laycie K
U14	Girls	Hockey	vs	Perin	Friendly	Won 9 - 2	
U13	Boys	Rugby	vs	John Hanson	Hampshire Plate	Lost 30 - 35	Rupert
U16	Boys	Badminton	vs	Petersfield School	County Championships	Winners	
U14	Boys	Football	vs	Toynbee	District Cup	Won 7 - 0	Charlie Rafferty
U14	Girls	Badminton	vs	Westgate	District	Winners	
U15	Boys	Football	vs	Mountbatten	League	Won 5 - 0	Jay & Jamie
U15	Boys	Football	vs	Kings	District Cup	Lost 3 - 1	

Netball

Huge congratulations to Kitty G for earning a spot on the Pakistan National Netball Team! We couldn't be prouder of her incredible achievement and can't wait to see her shine on this amazing journey. Wishing her continued success and greatness on the court!

Hockey

Thank you to Charlotte J for volunteering to umpire the hockey game against Perin's School! Her outstanding leadership skills and deep knowledge of the game truly shone through. Well, done, Charlotte!

Badminton



Huge congratulations to both the Boys' and Girls' Badminton teams for their fantastic victories at the district competitions! With both teams advancing to the county finals, we couldn't be prouder. Best of luck in the next stage—we're cheering you on all the way!

Fixtures

11th February U16 & 14 Netball Thornden vs Toyndbee hosted at Thornden School

12th February U16 & 14 Netball Thornden vs Westgate hosted at Thornden School

13th February U16 & 14 Netball Thornden vs The Henry Beaufort School

Upcoming Events Ski Trip to Andora

Wishing all the students heading off on the half-term ski trip, along with the amazing supporting staff, a safe and unforgettable adventure! Enjoy the slopes, soak in the stunning views, and make the most of everything Andorra has to offer!




**Hampshire
HAF Schemes**

Good news: funding for the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme has been announced for 2025!

Children from Reception to Year 11 receiving benefits-related free school meals can access schemes across Hampshire during the Easter school holidays at no cost.

Schemes will be open for bookings in early March - visit the connect4communities website via the link below for guidance on how to register your child(ren) for their unique HAF booking code:

HAF Programme Registration Guidance
(connect4communities)

 **connect4communities**  **Funded by UK Government**  **Hampshire County Council**

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory-Mrs McGreal (Head of Year 8)



Last week saw 130 students from Years 8-11, get involved with our latest production, 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. We had a busy week of final rehearsals, technical rehearsals, dress rehearsals, prop making and set painting, all of which was certainly worth it!

The cast were exceptional – from the iconic characters to a host of Oompa Loompas in colourful costumes, to our wonderful Chocolate Factory ensemble; everyone on stage ensured their part was performed to perfection.



Backstage, they conducted themselves beautifully and were true professionals. Behind the scenes, a fantastic group of over 30 Year 10 and 11 Drama tech students worked busily to ensure everything ran smoothly. Throughout the process the cast and crew were wonderful to work with and their creative input and imaginative ideas were certainly appreciated to make sure our version of this classic story, was one to remember.

A huge thank you to all staff who also got involved; the art department for painting our giant chocolate bars and to all the teachers and support staff who helped get the students ready and supported them throughout the performances. We hope everyone involved had a fantastic time and enjoyed the experience. The whole performing arts department are now very much looking forward to the next production, our summer musical 'Our House'!

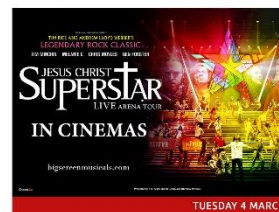
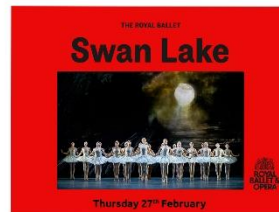


Thornden Hall

Welcome to Thornden Hall.

Plenty of events coming up, visit www.thorndenhall.co.uk or call the box office on 023 8024 6555.

Screenings from National Theatre, Royal Ballet and the live recording of Jesus Christ Superstar. The monthly Movie @ the Hall is Firebrand and we are delighted to welcome Steinway pianist GKO with his Color Studies Tour.



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.

The Inspiring Future Teachers logo, featuring a stylized sunburst and the text 'INSPIRING FUTURE TEACHERS'. Below it is the text 'TRAIN TO TEACH IN HAMPSHIRE' with an upward-pointing arrow. A QR code is also present.A photograph of two people, a woman and a man, looking at a tablet together. The woman is smiling and pointing at the screen. The man is looking at the screen. There are social media icons for X and Instagram in the bottom right corner.

