



## Thornden School Newsletter 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025



Dear Families,

Thank you to those of you who have completed our annual questionnaire. We are just pulling together results - we will see which themes were common and outline our process for addressing them. Some people mentioned that they would prefer a mixture of written comments from me, some said that they like the videos so I am going to try and mix this up over the next few weeks. My OFSTED training and sign off inspection is complete now so I am enjoying being in school every day for the foreseeable future. We do not run schools for OFSTED, we run them for our young people but the experience has given me a huge amount in terms of how to improve the school and make it the best that it possibly can be.



We have had a busy start to the new half term. Last week I did assemblies and my topic was LGBTQ+ History Week. I was inspired by a visit to the National Portrait Gallery and some interesting individuals from the past; Hester Lynch Piozzi, Jem Wharton and Chevalier d'Eon. Please do look them up if you are interested! Last week we also had a visit from the Trust to look at our progress against the School Development Plan. This was really positive and shows that we are moving in the right direction in terms of the areas that we want to address. On Thursday our Director of Education visited to see the Reading programme in action. As you may know, students now read three times a week during morning registration. She was hugely impressed by the way that all students were engaging in this and what a positive start to the day it was - students sharing a gripping story with their tutors. A big thank you to Year 9 parents for engaging with Parents Evening - we really appreciate your support.

This week has also been busy. The exam period is in full swing for Year 11 now with Dance and Food holding practical examinations. The best of luck to all of our Year 11s - they have worked really hard, and we are very proud of all of them. I attended a cluster meeting at Toynbee School with the primaries to talk about a whole range of issues including smart phones, the curriculum, attendance and admissions. It is so important for us to link with other schools in the area,

including our feeder schools. Probably the most exciting day of the fortnight has been World Book Day on Thursday. After dressing up as Ms Trunchbull last year I had set myself a challenge but being Cruella Deville for the day was a lot of fun (even when I had an online meeting in the afternoon - that was quite tricky to explain!). Staff and students made a fantastic effort to dress up and celebrate the wonder of books and literature. A big thank you to Mr Bridgeman for all of his work leading on this.

This week has been National Careers Week. Students have had a range of encounters with the world of work in assemblies and through their lessons. We have been so impressed with their questions and ideas. A big thank you to Ms Stickland and Mrs Quinn for their hard work on this.

Thank you again for your help and support. I look forward to seeing a number of you on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March for our iftar meal.

Regards,

Caroline



### 2024-2025 Dates for your Diary

Event	Date	Information
Box Clever Theatre visit Year 10	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	In school event
Spanish Exchange Visitors	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Students arrive
Last Dance Performance	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	
Year 11 Reports to Parents	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	
Year 7 trip to the Synagogue	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	
Thornden Spring Concert	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	
Year 8 Hindu Mandir Visit	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	
Year 7 Shakespeare Festival	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	In school event
Year 8 Reports to Parents	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	

Inset Days 2024-2025
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June

Half term
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April – Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April (Bank Holiday)

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

## Artist of the week



This week's Artist of the Week is Neshen M from Year 9. Neshen has created this lovely portrait using mixed-media. After drawing out his portrait, he transferred it onto a collaged background which he had created, and then used watercolour pencils to add the colour. Well done Neshen!

### Meet the team behind the scenes!

Sheree started with us recently as the schools Exams Officer. She plans, organises and completes all work for exams across Year 10 and 11, making sure everything is in place. Sheree also supports with the organisation of school trips.



Sheree grew up in Australia and moved here with her husband and son in 2011. She now has two boys! In her spare time she is a Scout Leader and loves cooking, travelling and being outdoors with the family. She loves to have a BBQ, but don't touch her BBQ!

## Extracurricular Timetables



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

## News from Science

Watch our ducklings hatch and grow live on our YouTube stream! Live from Tuesday 4th March until Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Click [HERE](#) to watch or click on the QR code below:



Keep an eye out for more exciting updates about Science Week coming soon!

## National Careers Week 2025 (3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> March)-Miss Stickland (BTEC Enterprise and Careers Lead)

National Careers Week aims to “empower young people to make informed choices about their next steps by making sure they are getting the best careers advice and information possible”. In order to support this we have had numerous activities happening around the school. Each day has started with an assembly from different organisations talking to the students about their industry and careers within it. We have specifically chosen organisations that have a broad range of careers available.



- **Monday** - Year 8 Kier Construction
- **Tuesday** - Year 10 ASK apprenticeships
- **Wednesday** - Year 11 - Aviva insurance
- **Thursday** - Year 9 Kier Construction (The Army were unable to attend in the end, thank you to Kier for coming twice!)
- **Friday** - Year 7 - Hampshire Constabulary

Alongside this, individual subject have been discussing careers available in the field. Modern Foreign Language had an assembly all about studying languages and where they can take you, Science have Science Week coming up so have had a focus on careers in the STEM industries.

If you would like to get involved, some of the things you could consider are:

- Talk to your student about your career journey - jobs you have had, what you have enjoyed, what you wish you had done differently
- Discuss interviews you have experienced and common questions
- Share your CV, what you have included and why

We also have the [Thornden School Careers website](#) that contains information, advice and guidance on all career paths. It also has all of the upcoming events and opportunities that may be of interest to your student, so it is worth looking at regularly.

If you have any feedback on our careers programme or would like to get involved with our students and their career planning, please contact Miss Quinn, Careers Co-ordinator at [k.quinn@thornden.hants.sch.uk](mailto:k.quinn@thornden.hants.sch.uk).

## World Book Day-Mr Bridgeman (Teacher of RS)



Thornden School recently celebrated its second annual World Book Day, and it was a resounding success! The day presented many opportunities to foster a love of reading, from library activities to engaging discussions about favourite authors and genres. Many students took advantage of the £1 book token scheme, ensuring they could add to their personal collections. It was fantastic to see so many students embracing the joy of reading, reinforcing the importance of literacy in both academic success and personal enjoyment.

Encouraging reading has never been more crucial, as recent studies show that reading for pleasure among young people has declined, with only **1 in 3 children aged 8-18** reading daily for enjoyment. Limited reading habits can have a significant impact on literacy skills, which in turn affect overall academic achievement and future opportunities. Events like World Book Day help to inspire students and remind them of the benefits of reading, from improving vocabulary and critical thinking to fostering creativity and empathy. We look forward to building on this year's success and making next year's event even bigger!





## Safeguarding-Mr Thomas (Deputy Headteacher and DSL)



Dear Parents and Carers,

At Thornden School, the **mental health and well-being of our students is a key contextual focus**, and we are committed to providing the right support for every young person. We recognise that students may face a range of emotional challenges, and we want to ensure they have access to the help they need.

To further strengthen our approach, our staff have recently undertaken training on "**Understanding Pupil Mental Health and Wellbeing**", helping us to better recognise and respond to student needs.

In addition, we are working closely with the **CAMHS Mental Health Support Team** to provide further training for staff on:

- ✓ **Having Difficult Conversations with Students** – equipping staff with the skills to offer support when students share concerns.
- ✓ **The Five Ways to Well-being** – promoting positive mental health strategies for students.
- ✓ **Understanding Pupil Anxiety and Depression** – recognising the signs and providing early interventions.

These training sessions are part of our ongoing efforts to provide a **safe, supportive, and understanding environment** for all students. If you have any concerns about your child's well-being or mental health, please do not hesitate to reach out to the relevant Head of Year, our Well Being Den, led by Mrs Kingsley-Smith or other members of the safeguarding team.

Students can reach out during the school day to any member of staff, and / or visit the Well Being Den to talk about anything that may be worrying them. They can also report any concerns about their well-being through **Satchel**, the **student bulletin**, or **via our school website**, and we encourage them to reach out if they need support.

**NHS**  
Hampshire Child and Adolescent  
Mental Health Services

# HOW TO COPE WHEN YOUR CHILD CAN'T

A one-day event focused on parents/carers understanding their own needs, and learning strategies to look after themselves as they support a young person with their own mental health needs.

The sessions will include looking at emotional regulation. When distress and emotional responses make situations challenging, how can we think clearly & avoid becoming overwhelmed.

The afternoon will focus on  
**How to Feel Better as a Parent in Burnout**  
Exploring what burnout is, what contributes to it, the signs and avoiding repeating cycle. An immersive workshop including self-care and nervous system regulation practices you can try. Led by Courtney Freedman-Thompson - coach and wellbeing practitioner with lived experience.

For more information and to book a place go to:  
<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/>

Some events have a small charge to allow us to cover costs, some discretionary free tickets are available

**Tickets £25**  
Tea, coffee and lunch included

Thursday, 8 May 2025 9.30am - 3.15pm  
St Peter's Catholic Church Conference Centre,  
Jewry St, Winchester SO23 8RY

## Science Week-Mrs Drabble (Head of Science)



### Science week 7<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> March

Parents and students are invited to come to the Science labs (S8 to S10) from 3.30 to 4.30pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March to view projects that over 50 Y7-11 students have been working on. The projects cover a range of science topics including a guinea pig powered light bulb; a crocheted display of internal organs; various experiments, demonstrations, robots and games; research about stars, animals, codes and lots, lots more!



### Science encounters



During Science week the students will have the opportunity to meet the newly hatched ducklings in lessons and at lunchtimes. Vernon the tortoise will also be at the hugely popular lunchtime encounters along with some stick insects! All these things are possible thanks to the funding we have received from FOTS – thank you!

We will also look at different scientists and careers linked to science and what skills the students need to follow in their footsteps.

### Southampton university Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March 10.30-4.30pm

**Science and Engineering Day**, a free family-friendly event taking place across Highfield Campus and Boldrewood Innovation Campus, packed with more than a hundred interactive hands-on activities, workshops, live shows, talks, art performances and laboratory tours from across all our Faculties and local community groups, schools and cultural venues. A few of the Science department went with their families last year and had a great time. There is plenty for all the family and it is completely free! Click on this [link](#) for more details and to sign up for your free tickets.

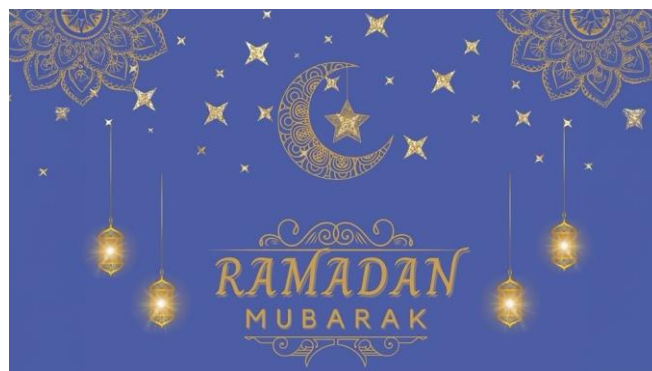
## Iftar Meal Reminder

### Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March-6pm-8pm in the Canteen

Food and drink will be provided.

A place to pray will be made available in the school.

If you signed up for this via the link, we look forward to seeing you there. If you are unsure if you registered for this event, please email [info@thornden.hants.sch.uk](mailto:info@thornden.hants.sch.uk) who can advise.



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## Department Spotlight

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



It is one of the busiest times of year for the Technology department. Year 11 are in the final furlong of their GCSE NEA (Non-Examined-Assessments) and are busy finishing practical work and design folders. The Design & Technology students had to choose between 3 set themes of Sporting Achievements, Pre-School Children development and Local Landmarks and the Engineering students had to solve the problem of recycling and reducing our use of Polymers. Some exciting and creative ideas are in the final stages of being produced.

Our Food Preparation and Nutrition students have also been busy this week with their 3 hour long practical exam. They had to research International cuisine suitable for a canteen. The tempting smells coming down the corridor from the Food room have been amazing, the students have approached the '3 dishes in 3 hours' exam in a mature manner and produced some fantastic outcomes. Well done to all our Year 11 students who are in the process of finishing their NEA's.

Year 7 and Year 8 have one more week of their third rotation in Technology and they are producing some creative outcomes. I am sure they are all looking forward to their penultimate rotation the week after next.

Our new sewing machines have arrived and are up and running – they arrived just in time for the Year 11 NEA practical work, and we are very excited to see what fabulous outcomes students will be producing on them over the coming months.

Finally, Mrs Brown will be leaving us for a while shortly to take her maternity leave and we wish her well with the birth of her twin babies.



## Sports Update-Mrs Tucker-Blackford (Second in 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](#)



### 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)

### Sports Quote of the week:

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, sacrifice, and most of all, love of what you are doing." – Pelé

### Results

24/02/2025	U16	Boys	Football	vs	Mountbatten	District Cup	Won 1-0	
25/02/2025	U14	Boys	Football	vs	Toynbee	League	Won 4-1	Jamie
27/02/2025	U13	Girls	Football	vs	Henry Beaufort	District Comp	Lost 0-3	
27/02/2025	U13	Girls	Football	vs	Crestwood	District Comp	Lost 0-1	
27/02/2025	U13	Girls	Football	vs	Westgate	District Comp	Lost 0-1	
28/02/2025	U14	Girls	Football	vs	Kings	County Cup (Semi-Final)	Lost 1-3	
28/02/2025	U14	Boys	Football	vs	Testbourne	Hampshire Vase	Won 38-22	
03/3/2025	U15	Boys	Rugby	vs	Oaklands	Hampshire Cup	Lost 7-29	Jack

### Badminton-Exciting News!

The Badminton team has qualified for the **Schools National Championships** in London! We are incredibly proud of their achievement and wish them the best of luck in the upcoming competition. Go smash it, team!

### Rugby

Huge congratulations to Mr. Hall and the Under-14 Boys Rugby team for their incredible victory in the Hampshire Vase! They triumphed over Testbourne School with a fantastic 38-22 win, with Woody earning the well-deserved title of Player of the Match! Keep up the amazing work, team well done, Thornden Boys!

Tough match for the Under-15 Boys Rugby team as they faced a formidable opponent in Oaklands School in the Hampshire Cup, falling 7-29. Despite the result, there's so much to learn from the game, and the boys played with heart and pride! A huge shoutout to Jack for earning Player of the Match! Keep your heads up, team—on to the next challenge!

## Football

A big well done to the Under-13 Girls for their effort in the Hampshire Schools District Football Tournament at Henry Beaufort School! The team faced tough competition, starting with a 3-0 loss against a well-organized Henry Beaufort side. In their second match against Westgate, the girls showed great improvement, working hard as a team but narrowly lost 1-0. The final game against Crestwood was a tough one, with our girl's dominating possession, but a late deflection saw the opposition take the win.



Despite the results, there were so many positives to take away! The team showed determination, growth, and teamwork—keep pushing forward, girls!

The Under-12 Girls competed in a tournament at Mountbatten School, playing in a round-robin format.

They started strong with an 8–0 victory against Romsey School, with Lily scoring five goals, Timmia adding one, Bea one, and Cara one.

In their second game against Mountbatten, the team conceded a goal but made a strong comeback to win 3–1, with all three goals scored by Cara.

Matilda displayed excellent teamwork and leadership skills, while Player of the Tournament was awarded to Bella for her commitment to excellence and her continuous positive contribution to the team.



## Success



Amelie was recently named Player of the Year for the Under-14s at Winchester Water Polo, an incredible achievement, especially since she only started playing midway through last year!

Additionally, her coach has recommended her for monthly training sessions with other regional clubs, where scouts look for potential players for the regional team, congratulations Amelie.

## GCSE PE Revision Sessions – Every Tuesday After School!

These sessions are crucial for your exam success, so make sure you attend! Stay focused, stay prepared, and give yourself the best chance to excel!

## Ski Trip 2025-Mr Hall (Head of PE)



### Thornden Ski Trip to Pal Arinsal: An Unforgettable Adventure!

What an incredible week it's been for our Thornden team at Pal Arinsal in Andorra! With the slopes covered in snow and the excitement in the air, our students made memories that will last a lifetime. From beginners to experienced skiers, every student made amazing progress, and the staff couldn't be more impressed with their efforts and enthusiasm.

The journey started with a long travel day, getting ski gear sorted, and finally settling in for some well-earned rest before hitting the slopes. The anticipation was intense as everyone geared up for the week ahead. The first day saw students building confidence and getting to grips with the basics of skiing—some even carving up the slopes like pros!



### The Tradition Continues: Slope Awards!

As always, we continued our beloved tradition of awarding the "Plank of the Piste" and "King/Queen of the Hill" titles each day. These awards are the highlight of our trip, celebrating both the triumphs and the hilarious moments on the slopes.

Day 1 saw Philippos take home the "Plank of the Piste" after a memorable moment with his ski getting caught in the netting. Meanwhile, Casper earned the "King of the Hill" award for his impressive resilience after battling broken skis and only a few dry slope lessons. By Day 2, there were more epic moments, with Grace C winning the "Plank of the Piste" for taking out her entire group in a domino-style fall. Jess A earned the "King of the Hill" for her combination of patience, technique, and steady progress. And by Day 3, Woody's positivity earned him the "King of the Hill" award, while Will S claimed the "Plank of the Piste" for his consistently spectacular falls. On Day 4 the competitive spirit continued, with some unforgettable moments, like **Miss Jones** making ski trip history by winning the "Plank of the Piste" award after a slight mishap with a student on the slopes—whoops! Meanwhile, Daniel S earned the "King of the Slopes" award for his kindness and helpfulness, proving that skiing is not just about technique, but about lifting others up along the way.



### An Epic Final Day and a Special Guest!

As the trip drew to a close, we had one last day to make the most of the slopes. Everyone was determined to finish strong—whether that meant perfecting their turns or having one final "fall" for the road. In a special twist, **Eddie the Teddy**, our Thornden mascot, took over the social media account for the day and documented his skiing adventures on the slopes. His day was filled with spills, laughs, and of course, plenty of fun!



### Check Out the Fun on Our Instagram!

We've captured so many incredible moments throughout the trip, and you can relive them all by heading over to our Instagram page: [@thornden\\_sport](https://www.instagram.com/thornden_sport). From the ski fails to the breathtaking views, it's all there, ready for you to enjoy.

This trip to Pal Arinsal has been an unforgettable experience. We've seen incredible progress, built lasting memories, and discovered a new sport for many of our beginners. Thank you to all the students and staff for making it a trip to remember.





**Look who's coming to Thornden Hall this Autumn - more details and more events on the website**

**Adventures in Modern Recording - with Trevor Horn - October 3**



From Seal to Frankie Goes to Hollywood, from ABC to Yes, from Grace Jones to Belle and Sebastian, and from Robbie Williams to Pet Shop Boys, one man has been at the heart of some of Britain's most important pop music of the past 50 years: **Trevor Horn**.

Following the publication of his best-selling memoir, *Adventures In Modern Recording: From ABC to ZTT*, Horn is visiting a select handful of theatres to talk about his exploits as a bona fide legend of pop.

**An Intimate Evening with Sydnie Christmas - November 7**



**Sydnie Christmas**, the sensational winner of UK's Britain's Got Talent 2024, has swiftly become one of the most talked-about vocal talents in the world. Her breathtaking performances during the show captured the hearts of millions, including the notoriously tough judge, Simon Cowell, who declared; "That was brilliant, absolutely brilliant. 11 out of 10."

Fans can experience the powerful voice and captivating presence live of the first female vocalist to win Britain's Got Talent.

**Tickets from the box office on 023 8024 6555 or [www.thorndenhall.co.uk](http://www.thorndenhall.co.uk)**

## 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](mailto: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.

