



Thornden School Newsletter 6th June 2025



Dear Parents,

Hello to all of you and a big welcome to new Year 7 parents. Please click on this [short video](#) for a welcome and update from me, Caroline Lowing Headteacher.

I hope that it is helpful - just to be clear, we have a Never Seen, Never Heard policy in school so phones are not allowed at all but we would like to do a week-long detox to students who are interested!

Thank you - I look forward to seeing you soon.

Caroline

Inset Days 2025/2026

From the 2025–2026 academic year, all schools across our Trust will move from five to six INSET (In-Service Training) days. This collective decision reflects our shared commitment to the values of ambition, excellence, sustainability, courage, and equity for all. The additional day will be dedicated to high-quality professional development for our staff, ensuring we continue to provide the very best education for every child in every school. We thank you for your continued support as we invest in our teams and work together to realise our vision for every learner.

3 rd September 2025
10 th October 2025
3 rd November 2025
16 th January 2026
30 th June 2026
8 th July 2026



2024-2025 Dates for your Diary

Event	Date	Information
District Athletics Championships	Friday 13 th June	Years 7-10
Year 7 St. Cathrine Hill Trips	Start from Monday 16 th June	
Rising Stars Concert	Tuesday 24 th June	
Peter Symonds Taster Day	Tuesday 24 th June	For specific students
Year 9 Belong Event	Thursday 26 th June	
Year 11 Prom	Friday 27 th June	
Year 10 Belong Event	Friday 27 th June	
Welcome to Thornden Day	Tuesday 1 st July	New year 7's for 2025 intake
Year 7 Reports to Parents	Friday 4 th July	
Year 9 Reports to Parents	Friday 4 th July	
Year 8 Sikh Gurdwara trip	Thursday 10 th July	

Summer Holidays

23rd July-4th September (Year 7 only) 5th September (Year 8,9,10,11 return)

Inset Days 2024-2025

Monday 23rd June

Non-Uniform

Tuesday 22nd July

Meet the team behind the scenes!

Sarah has been working as a Cover Supervisor since September 2024, having previously been an exam invigilator in the school. She enjoys the variety of working in cover and the chance to meet so many of our students across all the year groups and subjects - no lesson is the same, every day is different! Sarah still helps with some exams when required.



In her spare time Sarah enjoys walking her dog, reading and spending time with her husband and three teenage children.



Check out our Instagram page!

Extracurricular Timetables

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



Timetables for the 25/26 will be established early September 2025 and shared with parents/carers.

Year 10 Enterprise Day-2 1st July 2025 Miss Stickland (BTEC Enterprise and Careers Lead)



Each year we run an event for the Year 10s helping to build their entrepreneurial skills. The day is based around a business and a theme. Last year it was Marwell Zoo who set the students the challenge of designing a new attraction that would promote the zoo as a conservation charity. The ideas were so great the judge from Marwell was going to take some back to discuss with her managers.

Students are in teams and have around 25 tasks to complete towards the challenge. The next day there is an assembly revealing the results and showing some of the work completed. There will be prizes!

Students are required to come to school at the normal time, dressed in business appropriate clothing. It does not need to be anything 'fancy' just something they could wear to a workplace.

We look forward to revealing this year's theme and seeing the amazing work the Year 10s create.



Safeguarding-Mr Thomas (Deputy Headteacher)



The Wellbeing Hub

Don't forget that every parent has access to The Wellbeing Hub. This website contains useful resources, articles, monthly webinars and more.

Upcoming Webinars and resources-click on the image for more information.

June - Self-harm and suicide

W/c 02/06 Blog: Self-harm explained by Alicia Drummond, Therapist and Founder of The Wellbeing Hub

Weds 11/06 Webinar: Self-harm awareness with Satveer Nijjar, Author, Speaker and Founder of Attention Seekers? Training

W/c 16/06 Podcast: Care plans and support for families impacted by suicide with Fiona Yassin, MSc. Neuroscience and Mental Health (King's College London), International Clinical Director of The Wave Clinic

W/c 23/06 Podcast: Parenting for prevention - self-harm and eating disorders with Dr Tara Porter, Clinical Psychologist and International Bestselling Author

July - Digital parenting

W/c 30.06 Podcast: Cyberbullying and online harm prevention with Dr Calli Tzani, Senior Lecturer at the University of Huddersfield and Cyber-bullying Prevention Researcher

W/c 07/07 Podcast: Helping your child to navigate misinformation online, deep fakes and AI with Karl Hopwood, International E-Safety Expert

Weds 16/07 Webinar: Helping your child thrive in a digital world with Dr Elizabeth Milovidov, Author, Lawyer, E-safety Consultant and Digital Parenting Expert

Weds 23/07 Webinar: How to help your child prepare for school this summer with Dr Amanda Gummer, Neuropsychologist, author, and CEO of Fundamentally Children

W/c 28/07 Blog: A working parents / carers guide to digital parenting by Dr Elizabeth Milovidov

Student Achievement



Genevieve completed a 3km swim over half term and has raised £1095 for her Chandlers Ford 1st Group's scout hut rebuild. 'Getting into a great rhythm, she managed to do it in an amazing 49 minutes and 30 seconds!'

Here pictured at the end with her sister, Elena, who was training in the next lane.

www.1stchandlerfordscouts.co.uk/brickfields-big-build/



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

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

Apprenticeships and Technical Education

If you are interested in finding out the latest information regarding Apprenticeships and technical education, please see the attached trailers for talks from the Hampshire Careers Hub, along with the date and time of the talks. Register for the talk at <https://careersliveuk.com/partner/hampshire-careers-hub/>



1st July 2025 at 6pm: Apprenticeship & Technical Education – for parents & carers: <https://vimeo.com/1075588993>



Undergraduate open days

Visit us at an open day to find out more about your subject of interest and to see whether Southampton is the right place for you.

[Register your interest →](#)



2025 undergraduate open days:

In person Open Days:

- Saturday 21 June
- Sunday 22 June
- Sunday 14 September
- Sunday 5 October
- Saturday 18 October

Subject talks, tours & drop-ins for:

- **Geology & Environmental Geoscience Programmes**
- **Marine Biology & Oceanography Programmes**

School of Ocean and Earth Science

We research, teach and carry out impact activities to improve understanding and stewardship of our changing planetary life-support system. Our community of staff and students are tackling key societal challenges from forecasting impacts of future climate variability to the sustainable exploitation of Earth's resources.



- Top 40 in the world for Ocean and Earth Science (QS World Rankings 2023)
- Study at NOCS, one of the world's largest ocean and earth science research and training centres
- 98% of Ocean and Earth Science graduates were in employment or further study 15 months after graduation (Graduate Outcomes 2022/23)

Take the first step towards a career in childcare

Early Years Apprenticeships now open!



Please contact us for more information

Gain hands-on experience, earn while you learn, and work towards a nationally recognised qualification.

T: 01908 211699
E: Recruitment@childbase.com

www.childbasecareers.com



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Department Spotlight

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



Mrs Smith-Head of performing Arts

Thornden's Performing Arts department now has an Instagram page! Find us by using the QR code below. We hope that as the page grows it will become a useful way for us to keep students and parents updated with forthcoming events and important information. We also love celebrating students' extra-curricular successes, so please keep us posted if you are a student and are performing in an event outside of school. Better still, why not send us a photo to share on our page?!



@THORNDEN_PERFORMING_ARTS

The department is currently having a great time collaborating on our forthcoming production of *Our House*, the Madness musical. Tickets for 17th, 18th & 19th July are likely to sell out, so get yours while they are still available! Tickets can be purchased via our [website here](#). This production is highly complex and technically demanding, but the cast have a great work ethic and are loving the high energy of the show - we are so proud of their efforts so far! Costume lists will be emailed to parents/carers shortly.

The Performing Arts department will soon hold their Student Leader interviews for Year 10 students in Drama, Dance and Music. We have been thrilled to receive such a strong selection of applications this year and can't wait to get started.

Drama

The GCSE Drama exam was one of the first in the series, so the department waved goodbye to their Year 11s a few weeks ago. This was a notably hard-working and lovely cohort who will be missed by their teachers! Meanwhile, the fun never stops in Drama – in the second week after the half term holiday our fantastic Year 10 GCSE cohort are about to embark on their first set of (real!) practical exams. Students have been solidly working on these devising pieces over the past couple of months – actors and technicians collaborate to create an original piece of theatre based on the stimuli of 'control'. Exam week will be a treat for Mrs Smith & Mrs McGreal, who are looking forward to watching a wide range of thematic concepts ranging from ideas about the pressures faced by workers in the emergency services to a piece that begs the question: do the subjects of our statues still deserve to stand? Good luck, Year 10!

Dance

Year 11 GCSE Dance students sat their written exam this week. The students have worked so hard over the past two years and have been a pleasure to teach. Year 10 students are now focusing on their first practical exam piece; *Infra* by Wayne McGregor and have also completed their first solo pieces inspired by either a haiku poem or a recipe. This creative part of their coursework has given the students a taste of choreography; we have been so impressed with their creative approach to the work! Extra-curricular participation in Dance remains high this term with the Senior Dance Company preparing for a performance at Chichester University and



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Pulse preparing for our New Intake Evening for Year 6 parents. Wishing the very best of luck to all our students who are performing over the next few weeks!

Music

With GCSE Music being one of the last exams in the series, the Music department are still currently teaching their Year 11 cohort. We know that this hard-working, creative group of students will do well, and we'd like to take this opportunity to wish them the best of luck with their final written Music exam! KS3 students are now busily working towards the *Rising Stars* concert on 24th June. This is always a highlight in our Performing Arts calendar and an opportunity for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 to showcase their musical talents in Thornden Hall. Tickets for this event can be purchased via our Thornden Hall [website](#). Year 10 students are currently working towards their first Year 10 written exam and have all performed a solo piece on an instrument of their choice. We have been so impressed by the musicality of the performances; well done, Year 10! Year 8 are currently enjoying a creative task to compose their own catchy TV theme tune. If you are the proud owner of a student in Year 8 please ask them to play or sing this to you – they have been wonderful!



PE Kit Reminder-Change Effective from September 2025-Mr Hall (Head of PE)



We would like to remind you that from **September 2025**, the previous **red PE kit** will no longer be part of our school uniform.

This change was first shared when we introduced the new **blue PE kit** in **September 2022**, and we've provided a generous transition period to allow families time to prepare.

From September 2025 onwards, **all students will be expected to wear the full blue PE kit** as outlined below.

Items that will no longer be permitted:

- Red polo shirts
- Black shorts
- Black skorts
- Black rugby/hockey/football socks

Approved PE kit from September 2025 (which can be purchased from Skoolkit, www.skoolkit.co.uk):

- Royal blue and black panelled polo shirt with school logo
- Black and royal blue panelled shorts (with or without school logo)
- Plain black jogging bottoms (no visible logos)
- Black leggings with school logo (if worn instead of shorts) – **no other branded leggings allowed.**
- Royal blue and black rugby/hockey/football socks



We kindly ask that all future purchases reflect these updated uniform requirements. Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain high standards and a smart, consistent appearance for all students during PE lessons.

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

Sports Quote of the week

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

Sports Results

13/5/2025	U13	Girls	Tennis B	vs	St. Swithuns	League	Won 8-4
14/5/2025	U15	Boys	Tennis B	vs	Mountbatten	League	Lost 2-10
14/5/2025	U14	Girls	Athletics	vs	Various	Track KO Rd 1	Won
14/5/2025	U14	Boys	Athletics	vs	Various	Track KO Rd 1	Won
15/5/2025	U12	Girls	Athletics	vs	Various	Track KO Rd 1	
15/5/2025	U12	Boys	Athletics	vs	Various	Track KO Rd 1	
15/5/2025	U13	Boys	Tennis	vs	PGS	League	Won 8-4
15/5/2025	U15	Boys	Tennis	vs	PGS	League	Lost 6-7
20/5/2025	U15	Girls	Cricket	vs	KES	County Cup	Lost

Cricket - Under 15 Girls Cricket – County Cup vs King Edward School

The Under 15 Girls team put in an excellent performance in their County Cup match against King Edward School. In what was a tightly contested encounter, the girls demonstrated great skill, determination, and sportsmanship. Despite their best efforts, they narrowly missed out on a win. A commendable performance from the whole team!



Under 13 Girls Tennis Match vs St Swithin's

The Under 13 Girls displayed incredible determination and resilience in their recent match against St Swithin's. Not only did they battle fiercely on the court, but they also contended with challenging weather conditions, including torrential rain. Despite the elements, the team remained focused and emerged victorious with an impressive 8–4 win. Well done to all the players for their grit and teamwork!

Under 15 Boys B Tennis – Match vs Mountbatten A (Hampshire Division 2)

The Thornden Under 15 Boys B team faced a strong Mountbatten A side in their recent Hampshire Division 2 match. Despite the challenging heat, the team played some excellent rallies and showed great effort and resilience throughout. Although the match ended in a loss, the boys can be proud of their performance against tough opposition.



Congratulations to Year 8 & 9 Athletics Teams

A huge congratulations to our Year 8 and 9 Athletics teams for winning the first round of the Knockout Track Event and successfully progressing to the next stage!

A special thank you goes to the students who stepped in at the last minute to compete – your grit, determination, and team spirit were truly commendable. Well done to all involved!

Well done to Year 8&9 Athletics team, who won the semifinals, great all round team performance at Perins schools and now into the finals in the coming weeks, it was an excellent team effort with some brilliant events.

As we move into the Summer term, please remember to bring:

- Your water bottles
- Appropriate kit
- Sunscreen

Stay prepared and enjoy your PE lessons!

Thornden Hall



FOOTLIGHTS
YOUTH THEATRE

ROALD DAHL'S
Matilda
THE MUSICAL JR.



BOOK
DENNIS KELLY

MUSIC & LYRICS
TIM MINCHIN


Saturday 14th June 6pm | Sunday 15th June 3pm & 6pm

Thornden Hall, Chandlers Ford Tickets: from £10

www.thorndenhall.co.uk

 Footlights Youth Theatre  Footlightsyouththeatre

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI
www.mtishows.co.uk



Registered Charity number 1095271

Vacancies

Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA)

We are seeking a dedicated Emotional Learning Support Assistant (ELSA) to join our vibrant Pastoral Team. The successful candidate will be dynamic, able to think on their feet, proactive, skilled at multi-tasking and a confident communicator. You will support the emotional and social development of students through targeted interventions and one-to-one or small group support. Please click on [HISP Multi Academy Trust - Vacancies](#) for further details.

Closing Date: Closing Date: Sunday 08/06/2025.

Exam Invigilators

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. Are you looking for a flexible role where you can make a real impact? Please click on [HISP Multi Academy Trust - Vacancies](#) for further details.

BARRACUDAS
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The UK's favourite school holiday activity camp!!!

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WIN A FREE WEEK AT CAMP!**

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KIDS COMPETITION
Task: Design a new activity for summer 2025! ☆

ACTIVITY COULD BE:

- ⊖ Based on existing activity with a twist
- ⊖ Repurposing equipment to play in another way
- ⊖ Add your theme to an activity
- ⊖ An activity you love already which you'd like to see at camp

WE WILL REPLICATE YOUR ACTIVITY IDEA AT CAMP!

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!
ENTRIES SUBMITTED TO FUN@BARRACUDAS.CO.UK BY 16TH JUNE
INCLUDE YOUR NAME, AGE & NAME & LOCATION OF SCHOOL WITH YOUR ENTRY!

WIN A MINI BILLY!

SCAN ME!

Let's go

OFSTED REGISTERED

barracudas.co.uk
01480 467 567

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, LinkedIn, Trustpilot

Winner announced 16th June
Camp open dates 21st July - 26th August 2025

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.

INSPIRING FUTURE TEACHERS
HISP TEACHER TRAINING

TRAIN TO TEACH IN HAMPSHIRE

QR Code

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