



Thornden School Newsletter 20th June 2025



A sunny couple of weeks at Thornden!

Year 11 have completely finished their examinations now. What a marathon they have run and I know that all of the parents will be happy that the exams are over as well as the students. A huge thank you to our Year 11 parents – you have made sure that your children revised, had a good nights' sleep and enough to eat as well as all of that emotional support needed. They have been absolutely exemplary in the way that they have conducted themselves and we cannot wait to celebrate with them at St Marys Stadium for the Prom. If you are a Year 11 parent and have reached the end of the road with us at Thornden then we want to wish you all the very best for the future – please do keep in touch and let us know how your children are getting on, we love hearing about their adventures.

We are gearing up for our Phone Free detox next week. Thank you to the staff and students who are involved and to parents for supporting. I still haven't quite worked out how I am going to do my banking, book an Uber for Prom or keep tabs on my children but I am sure that I can iron that all out! It will be really interesting to see what our action research project finds and I am looking forward to a week without digital interruptions.

I have tried to keep my OFSTED activities to a minimum this half term whilst we prepare for the year ahead. You may have heard in the news that OFSTED have delayed releasing the findings from their consultation and the new inspection framework. All that I know is that I am booked in for further inspector training in October. The school is due to inspection in June 2026 but I am sure that the timeline will be shifted, possibly into the 2026/7 academic year. I will keep you posted as I find out more.

Thank you, again, for all of your support. I look forward to seeing many of you at our evening events – Parent Transition Evening, our Smartphones, Smart Choices Conference, the Prom, Rising Stars Music concert, our Awards evening and the school production of Our House. A really packed schedule in the run up to the Summer holidays.

Caroline



2024-2025 Dates for your Diary

Event	Date	Information
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	Year 10
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	
Sports Day	Friday 4 th July	
Barton Peverill Taster Day	Wednesday 9 th July	Year 10
Year 8 Sikh Gurdwara trip	Thursday 10 th July	
Eastleigh College Taste Day	Thursday 10 th July	Year 10
Year 7 Belong Event	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

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.

3rd September 2025

10th October 2025

3rd November 2025

16th January 2026

30th June 2026

8th July 2026



Check out our Instagram page!

Meet the team behind the scenes!

Sumitha has been working at the school as a Cover Supervisor since September 2024. Before moving to the UK she worked as a teacher in India, teaching Science. She has always loved working with children and young people, and she really enjoys the variety that the role brings—no two days are ever the same!



She enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter. She has a deep interest in spirituality and personal growth, and loves listening to spiritual podcasts, reading uplifting books, and practising yoga and meditation. These activities help her stay focused and positive throughout the day.

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.

Nut and Aerosol free zone

Please be reminded that students must not bring nuts of any kind into school including for example, foods such as cereal bars, chocolate, biscuits, snacks and cakes that contain nuts. We have a high number of students that have a life-threatening allergy to nuts, including peanuts.

Please also ensure that students do not bring aerosol sprays to school as they can trigger some student's asthma. Roll on/solid deodorants and non-aerosol sprays should be used instead.

Thank you for your support with these extremely important issues.

French Exchange- Miss Sloan (Teacher of MFL)



On Wednesday before half term we embarked to France with 26 pupils from Year 9 and 10 for the return leg of our French Exchange trip. After a long day of travelling, pupils were treated to a jam-packed itinerary full of cultural experiences throughout the week.

Our partner school is in Bayonne in the Basque region of France, therefore they had a PE lesson to learn the Basque game 'pelote' on our first morning, followed by a tour of the school. We had excursions to the local towns of Saint-Jean-de-Luz, Bayonne and Biarritz as well as a visit to a woodland adventure park, a surf lesson, a cake making workshop and a trip up to the top of 'La Rhune' on a train! It was a joy to share our love of France with our pupils. They were great company and it was lovely to see them embracing a whole range of new, cultural experiences. We plan to run our next French Exchange programme in 2027 for Year 9 and 10.



Spanish Exchange- Mrs Bevan (Head of MFL)



We have just returned from the beautiful city of San Sebastián after an amazing return leg of the exchange. Students visited the famous Guggenheim in Bilbao, tried the local pintxos (tapas in the rest of Spain), went up a funicular, had a go on giant hamster wheels, attended lessons in school to name just some of the interesting and fun activities that we did. They also practiced lots of Spanish, ordering ice-creams, shopping and communicating with their host families.

It was an absolute pleasure to spend a week with the group of Year 10 students. The impact of the exchange has already shown in class. Thank you to all families who took part, hosting when they came to England and encouraging their children to take the plunge and come to Spain. It was an absolute pleasure.



Part of the HISP Multi
Academy Trust

Friends of Thornden (FOTS)

Give Uniform a Second Life and Help FOTS- our PTA!

With the end of the school year fast approaching, it's the perfect time to clear out those wardrobes and help FOTS (Friends of Thornden School) raise vital funds! We're putting out a special call for donations of used school uniform that your children have outgrown.

Reusing school uniform is a fantastic way to be sustainable and provides an affordable option for other families in our school community. *We're particularly in need of items featuring the new school logo, as these are currently in high demand.*

To ensure all donations can be resold, we kindly ask that items are in good condition and clean. Stains or rips can make items unsuitable for resale, so please check them before donating. Your help in providing good quality uniform makes a real difference!



Over the past decade, FOTS has been instrumental in funding a wide array of resources and experiences that enrich our children's school lives. From supplying over 20 outdoor benches and picnic tables, to essential sports kits and equipment like trampolines that boost physical activity, your contributions have directly impacted the school environment. FOTS has also proudly funded wellbeing events for every pupil in the school, highlighting our commitment to the holistic development of all students.

Donating your used uniform is a simple yet impactful way to contribute to these ongoing efforts. Every item sold helps FOTS continue its valuable work in supporting Thornden School. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Don't forget you can [click here](#) to donate to FOTS in a matter of seconds

Also [add us to Easy Fundraising](#) to donate for free while you shop online.



Safeguarding-Mr Thomas (Deputy Headteacher)



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you well.

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding and student well-being, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the success of our *Report a Concern* tool, which is available via our school website. Since its launch last year—following consultation with our current Year 8 students—we've received an incredible **1,138 individual submissions**.

These reports have ranged from students reaching out for help or advice, to thoughtful messages simply letting us know that they are doing okay. We've been especially encouraged to see the tool used not just to raise concerns, but also to celebrate positives—reminding us of the strength and honesty within our school community.

We'd also like to remind all parents and carers that **you can also use the *Report a Concern* link** to let us know if there is anything you feel we should be aware of. It's checked daily by our pastoral and safeguarding team and provides a discreet, accessible way to raise both urgent and non-urgent concerns.

You can find the *Report a Concern* link on our homepage here:

 <https://www.thornden.hants.sch.uk>

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep every student safe, seen, and supported.



P.A.C.E. 2025
PARENT & CARER EVENTS

NHS
Hampshire Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Services

**A free mental health & wellbeing event
for all parents and carers who support
or work with young people**

THURSDAY, 26TH JUNE 2025
WINTON COMMUNITY ACADEMY, LONDON RD,
ANDOVER, HAMPSHIRE SP10 2PS

WHAT CAN I EXPECT?
PACE events consist of two main components:

1. A number of introductory sessions on young people's emotional health and wellbeing.
2. Information stands from local organisations.

Attendees can choose which sessions they would like to attend; select as many or as few as you would like to attend.

SESSIONS:
NEW Connecting with your child, Tics and Tourette's, Understanding ADHD - an extended session

To find out more and booking scan this QR code



BOOK YOUR SESSION SPACE AT:
hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events

Click image for more information

Student Achievement

Congratulations to Erin in Year 10 who has successfully been selected for the next round of the Young Fashion Designer UK competition. She will now go through to the South Central Regional Final at the end of June in Canterbury.

Erin undertook the Eco Thread Challenge whereby she completed a design task to research how to be innovative with textiles, making it more sustainable, functional and high performing, creating her own sustainable fabric and designing her own fashion items using her fabric.

Well done Erin and we wish you luck in the next round.



Established in 2010 Young Fashion Designer UK is an exciting national competition which focuses on enhancing the talent of students to showcase and promote the exceptional work achieved at GCSE, A-Level and by students aged 11-14 studying textiles design, product design and fashion throughout the United Kingdom. The competition is run by centres in the South and Midlands who are each committed to providing a platform for young fashion designers.

Congratulations to Philippos in Year 9 who was awarded his black belt in Wado-Ryu, a form of martial arts. He has been training since age 6 and the grading included completing 9 Katas as well as "Piggy in the middle", where he was circled by four different opponents and had to fight them randomly, twice each.



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

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



seta
TRAINING FOR INDUSTRY

WORKSHOP TASTER DAY

at Southampton Engineering Training Association



Saturday
18th October '25

Register to attend

10am - 2.30pm

Arrival time slots of:
10am, 11am,
12pm & 1pm

For Year 10
& above

Come and have a go at
engineering activities
in the workshop!

info@seta-training.co.uk 023 8077 1908 www.setatraining.co.uk

WORKSHOP TASTER DAY

seta
TRAINING FOR INDUSTRY

SATURDAY 18th OCTOBER 2025

10am to 2.30pm Bookable arrival times: 10am, 11am, 12pm & 1pm

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

If you're thinking of a career in Engineering then don't miss our Workshop Taster Day! This event is for Year 10 & above.

You will be able to:

- find out what being an engineering apprentice actually involves
- chat to staff & current apprentices
- hear about current apprenticeship vacancies
- see what it's really like studying at SETA
- and the best bit - have a go at engineering activities yourself in the workshop overseen by experienced instructors

Stay for the whole duration, or for as long as you want!

*Under 18's must be accompanied by a parent or guardian
Sturdy shoes must be worn by everyone in the workshop (i.e no flips flops or sandals)
and no bare arms or legs*

ACTIVITIES*

- Find out about "Life as an Apprentice"
- Information on applying for an apprenticeship
- Metrology
- Sheet Metal
- Electrical Wiring
- Electronics
- Fluid Power
- Mechanical Fitting
- Computer Aided Design (CAD)
- STEM Challenge

**Activities may be subject to change*

“My son came along, and although he knew, that he wanted to do something in engineering, he was unsure in what area. This inspired him to apply for an engineering apprenticeship! It was a great day of discovery.”

WHERE'S IT TAKING PLACE?

Southampton Engineering Training Association
First Avenue, Millbrook, Southampton, SO15 0LJ

BOOK ONLINE



www.setatraining.co.uk/seta/events-workshop-taster-day.html

info@seta-training.co.uk 023 8077 1908 www.setatraining.co.uk

Registered in England No: 971293 Charity Commission Registration No: 307299 VAT Registration No: 330 0339 13



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Department Spotlight

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



Head of History- Ms Bramwell

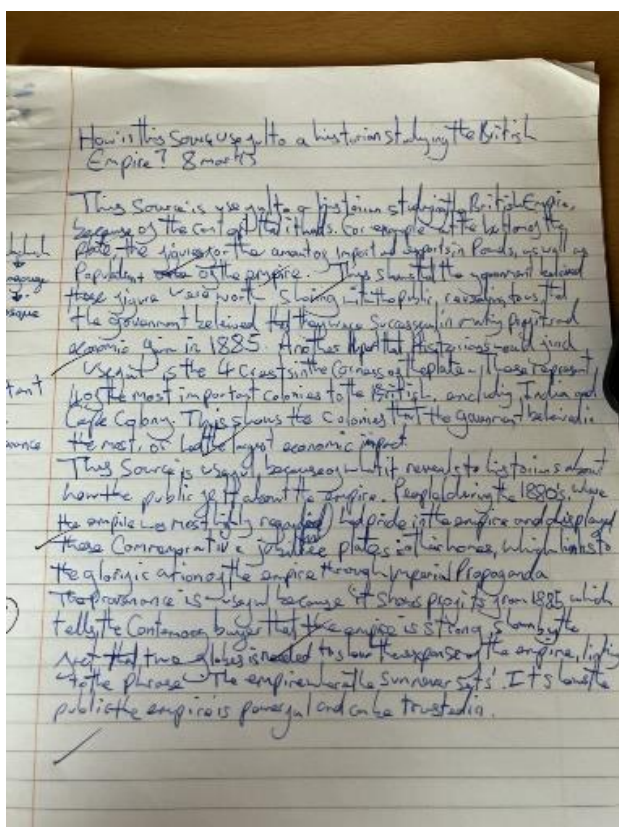
We are drawing to the end of a very successful year for our History students at Thornden. Thank you to our fantastic outgoing student leaders Jemima, Emma and Maisie. Good luck with your History studies in the future!

- We are moving towards the end of our summer topics:
- Year 7 – What have the Tudors and Stuarts done for us?
- Year 8 – How and why do we remember WWI?
- Year 9 – When was the Cold War at its hottest?
- Year 10 – Migration and the British Empire c1790-present day

Student Work

A key component of our History curriculum is using sources to understand the past. We look at sources for their usefulness based on their content and also their provenance (origin, author and purpose). Here are two excellent examples from our current curriculum work.

Example 1 from Owen H, Year 10
 Source: A plate sold to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee



Example 2: Indy F, Year 7



Source: The Rainbow Portrait

'The content of the source is useful because it shows that Elizabeth wants to be known as a strong important leader in history. In this portrait she is shown wearing a serpent eating a ruby on her sleeve. This represents that her passions are controlled by her wisdom. Another part of this portrait is her cloak which has eyes and ears running down it. This represents that she sees and hears everything going on in England. The provenance is also useful because it was ordered to be made after a rebellion, so I think that she wanted to show that she is more powerful than the rebellion suggested. Elizabeth I used propaganda to ensure that people stayed in line and used hidden meanings in her portraits to give the impression that she had total control.'



In the Spring term, Year 9 students completed a home learning task based around an aspect of WWII. This photo shows a fantastic model Spitfire made by Loki R. We received many other fantastic projects, some about the story of a family member, and some very interesting WWII recipes for us to sample in lesson. There are just too many examples to include, but we hope that it was an enjoyable project to undertake.

For your information, our Autumn 1 topics are:

- Year 7 – How did the Anglo Saxons lose control of England?
- Year 8 – How similar were the revolutions in the Early Modern world?
- Year 9 – To what extent was Stalin a 'Red Tsar'?
- Year 10 – GCSE Germany 1890-1945
- Year 11 – GCSE The Korean and Vietnam Wars

If you find yourself in Winchester over the summer holidays, we recommend one of these free self-guided walking tours:

- Royal Blood Trail-[link](#)
- Medieval Jewish Trail-[link](#)

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.

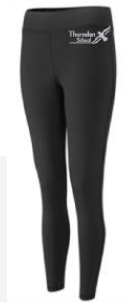
From September 2025 onwards, **all students will be expected to wear the full blue PE kit** as outlined below.

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- "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard." – Tim Notke

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

Thornden U14 Girls Shine at Hampshire Cricket Tournament

The Thornden Under 14 Girls Cricket Team took part in the Hampshire Schools Tournament, showcasing determination, skill, and great team spirit throughout a day of competitive cricket.

In their opening match, the girls battled to a hard-fought draw against a strong Farnham side, demonstrating excellent fielding and teamwork. Their second match saw them come up against a well-drilled Westgate team, where despite a loss, the girls continued to play with energy and enthusiasm.

The day also included a series of friendly matches, including spirited games against St George's School. While results didn't go their way, the girls played some of their best cricket, displaying significant progress and teamwork throughout.

It was a fantastic day of cricket, full of learning, resilience, and sportsmanship. Well done to all involved.



Thornden U13 Boys Cricket Team Triumph in Cup Clash Against John Hanson

In a spirited and sun-drenched cup encounter, the Thornden U13 Boys Cricket Team faced off against John Hanson School. The opposition won the toss and chose to bat first, but Thornden's tight and disciplined fielding effort kept them in check, restricting the total to a modest 100 runs.

With confidence and composure, Thornden took to the crease. The batting lineup rose to the occasion, steadily chasing down the target. A mix of smart shot selection and determined running between the wickets saw the team over the line with wickets to spare.

It was a fantastic all-round performance, and the boys now progress to the next round of the competition. Well done, Thornden!

Hampshire U13 Boys Cricket Tournament – Runners-Up Finish for Thornden

On Tuesday, our U13 boys cricket team competed in the Hampshire Schools County Finals. The event was superbly run, and we'd like to thank the organisers for putting on such a high-quality tournament. The standard of cricket throughout the day was excellent, and our team rose to the challenge.

Results:

- Thornden beat Hounslow by 6 runs
- Thornden beat Deer Park A by 1 run
- Thornden beat Deer Park B by 36 runs
- Quarter Final: Thornden beat Mountbatten by 42 runs
- Semi Final: Thornden beat Eggars by 31 runs
- Final: Thornden lost to Hounslow by 10 runs

After a strong unbeaten run through the group stage and knockout rounds, we faced a very good Hounslow side again in the final. Despite a determined performance, we fell just short and finished as runners-up in the county.

A huge well done to all the players for their efforts, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the day. They represented Thornden brilliantly.



Thornden U15 Boys Compete in First-Ever Tennis Fixture Against Lord Wandsworth College

The Thornden U15 Boys Tennis Team made history as they took to the courts for their first-ever competitive fixture, facing a well-established side from Lord Wandsworth College.

Despite being new to the competitive scene, the Thornden players showed excellent determination, team spirit, and sportsmanship throughout the match. There were some great rallies and individual moments of skill on display, but ultimately, Lord Wandsworth's consistency and match experience saw them emerge as the overall winners.

It was a fantastic first step for the team, with plenty of positives to take forward as they build on this experience. A proud moment for Thornden tennis!



Student Achievements

Huge congratulations to Kitty and the whole Poole Netball Club team on being crowned U12 Champions at the Elite Sisters in Sport Tournament. Undefeated is seriously impressive.

Heather in Year 9 completed the 15K tough Mudder at Henly on Thames May 11th and proved herself to be a valuable team member.



Thornden Hall



Vacancies

Site Assistant

We are seeking a dedicated Facilities Assistant to join our team. 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. Please click on [HISP Multi Academy Trust - Vacancies](#) for further details.

Closing Date: Sunday 22/06/2025

Teacher of IT/Computer Science

We are seeking an outstanding individual to join our successful Computer Science department as a Teacher of IT/Computer Science. Thornden School offers outstanding induction, training, and development opportunities through the HISP Multi Academy Trust. For informal enquiries, please contact hr@thornden.hants.sch.uk. Please click on [HISP Multi Academy Trust - Vacancies](#) for further details.

Closing date: 08/07/2025

Exam Invigilators

We are seeking reliable and detail-oriented Exam Invigilators to support the smooth running of our internal and external exams for the new academic year 2025-2026. 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.

SEN Administrator

We are seeking an outstanding individual to join our successful Special Educational Needs department as SEN Administrator. Please click on [HISP Multi Academy Trust - Vacancies](#) for further details.

Closing date: Wednesday 25/06/2025.

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.



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