



Thornden School Newsletter

14th November 2025



Welcome - Ms Lowing (Headteacher)



Dear Families,

I hope that you are well. We have had a really good start to Autumn term 2. We have also had some further positive news that I would like to share with you – over 300 students have made Thornden their first choice for **next** academic year with over 600 applications in total! We are delighted that so many families have chosen Thornden School for the next part of their child's journey.

Unusually, we have a **very small number** of spaces in our **current Year 7**. Please speak to friends and family if they are interested in joining us, regardless of where they live. We do not think that there will be spaces in the foreseeable future, so this is a unique opportunity.

Last week the **Head students** – Fikumni, Georgie, Ruby and Chahat – joined me to present assemblies to the school on leadership. They shared the reasons why they became student leaders and how they want to support the whole community to improve. I am so proud of all of them.

Speaking of opportunities – Mr Baldwin communicated with students this week about the launch our **new House System**. We want students to suggest a theme and some House names to kick us off. We are so excited about this new development – we know that it will really help students to belong more to the school and gives them more enrichment and leadership opportunities. Definitely more details to follow.

You may have read in the media about the Curriculum and Assessment Review that has just been completed. There are a number of proposed changes but also a lot of speculation on what this will mean. The best short version of the **200 page** report is [here](#)– it has been written in 'Easy Read' for children. I am not trying to patronise you! We are all busy people and I found this summary really helpful. Please rest assured that we will implement this with the students' best interests at heart – which we believe is centred on **academic excellence**. It is not due to be taught until 2028 – 9 so we have time with work with the Trust and other colleagues to get it right.

Have a wonderful fortnight – thank you again for all of the supportive messages that we receive. We really value them.

Regards,
Caroline

Dates for you Diary

Event	Date	Information
GCSE Certificate Evening	Tuesday 18 th November	
Year 10 Reports	Friday 21 st November	Shared with parents/carers
Year 7 Christmas Fayre	Tuesday 25 th November	Year 7 event
Year 10 Parent and Carer Evening	Wednesday 26 th November	
Flu Vaccines	Thursday 4 th December	Information to follow
German Christmas Market Trip	5 th -8 th December	
Flu Vaccines	Monday 8 th December	Information to follow

Inset Days 2025-2026

16/01/2026

30/06/2026

08/07/2026

Non-uniform days 2025-2026

Friday 19th December (FOTS)

Friday 13th February (TBA)

Friday 27th March (Teenage Cancer Trust)

Friday 17th July (PROM)



Extracurricular Timetables

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

The PE timetable changes each half term. The Autumn Term 2 timetable is now available on the website.

Thornden Needs You!

Are you or is someone in your family a Thornden Alumni? Did they leave Thornden at least 3 years ago?

We would love to build a database of contacts that we can invite to events or to talk to our students. Please fill in this [form](#).

Thank you in advance.



Introducing Kate Locke-Complex Behaviour Lead

Kate Locke is one of our longest serving members of staff and has been teaching at Thornden for 26 years. She was also a student here from 1988 so has spent a large part of her life at Thornden! Kate is a History Teacher but also our Complex Behaviour Lead. After her daughter, Daisy was diagnosed with a rare brain condition, Kate became a special needs parent. This has led to a passion to help other children whose brains are 'wired differently.' She mentors students who have ADHD, ASC or both, helping them to understand their neurodiversity, navigate the difficulties they face as well as embracing their wonderful strengths. Kate also supports teaching staff and parents and will be running a series of workshops for the Thornden community starting in December (details below). Her proudest achievement is establishing, managing, and refurbishing our Reset Room; a space that helps some of our most complex students to regulate. She is supported by amazing volunteer teaching staff otherwise known as 'Team Reset.' Kate has recently qualified as an ADHD coach and in her spare time likes to read up on all things ADHD. She also loves listening to 90s music, putting together fabulous outfits from charity shops and Vinted, continuing to be in denial that she is approaching 50!

Team reset includes: Mrs Stefanou, Mrs Coles, Miss Buffoni, Miss Beard, Mr Balmond Mr Burnham, Mr Yau, Miss Hall, Mrs Clarke, Miss Jones.

Please see below for the workshops Kate will be running for parents this academic year.

ADHD information evenings for parents with Kate Locke (History Teacher, Complex Behaviour Lead and ADHD Coach)

When: Session 1 Wednesday 10th December. Starting at 6.30pm, arrival from 6.15pm for refreshments and a chance to chat. The presentation will finish around 7.30pm and there will be an opportunity to ask questions and chat until 8pm, should you wish to do so.

Where: Thornden School Conference Room. Please arrive via reception and you will be directed to the venue.

What: This will be the first of 5 sessions that are designed to inform you about all things ADHD. This first event will be the foundation session. This will help to understand the complexities of an ADHD brain's neurology and focus on areas such as symptoms (obvious and more importantly, the lesser known), diagnosis pathways, treatments and further support.

Subsequent sessions will look at areas such as issues with sleep, emotional dysregulation and conflict, understanding and supporting executive function problems, time blindness and punctuality, exam revision. You will get to hear from some of the students she works with about their experiences of ADHD to get a real feel for what it is like to be a teenager with an ADHD brain. It will also be an opportunity to meet other parents who perhaps are in the same position as you, if this is something you feel comfortable with. There is no pressure to participate or chat, just turn up, have a cuppa and take away from the evening what you wish.

These sessions are free, but we have limited capacity in the Conference Room so can offer 60 spaces. Please use this [form](#) to register interest and we will confirm via email final details. Subsequent sessions will be advertised via the newsletter in the first instance.



Year 7 Technology Fayre-Mrs Coles (Head of Design and Technology)

On the 25th November 2025, our Year 7 Elves will be sharing their goodies with the Thornden community in their annual Technology Christmas Fayre.

On the 24th November the students will be working hard in Technology Christmas workshops to produce the games, cakes, biscuits, mugs, decorations and much more for the event.

Parents, family & friends are welcome to come and celebrate the work of the students from 3.30 - 5pm in the school canteen. We are a cashless school, but tokens can be pre purchased via Arbor and there will be some opportunity to purchase these via card machine on the evening.

If you have any old jam jars (they do not need to have lids) we would gratefully take them off your hands for the students to make our Jam Jar Tombola. These can be brought straight to Technology by your child or please leave at reception.

We look forward to seeing you on the evening.

The Technology Team





MFL Onatti Plays-Mr Tully (2nd in MFL)

Thanks to the ongoing generosity of FOTS and their supporters, we have been able to invite Onatti Productions back to Thornden Hall this academic year to perform plays in French, Spanish and German. All students studying a language in Year 8 or Year 9 will have the opportunity to watch a short performance, allowing them to test and improve their language skills and engage with professional live theatre at the same time. This year's French production, which was entitled *RSVP*, visited Thornden on 6th November and student feedback was really positive. We look forward to welcoming Onatti back for this year's Spanish and German plays in the Spring term.



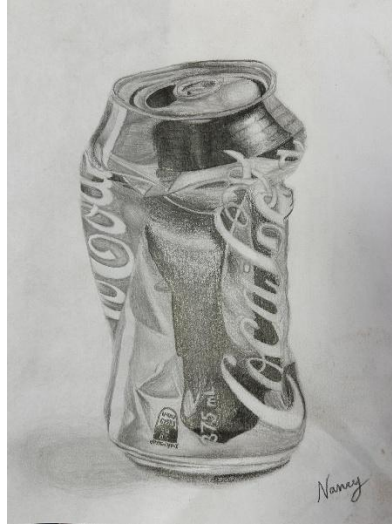
Job Vacancies - Thornden School Learning Support Assistant (Fixed Term)

We are looking for a Learning Support Assistant (LSA) to support our students in a variety of capacities across the school, on a fixed term basis, starting 05/01/2026. If you are interested, or know someone else who might be, please click on [HISP Multi Academy Trust - Vacancies](#) for further information. Closing Date: Sunday 23/11/2025.

Artist of the week

This week's artist of the week is Nancy Z 8 FJST.

This lovely pencil drawing was completed by Nancy as a home learning. Well done Nancy!



Student Achievements



A huge congratulations to Chloe in Year 7 who has recently taken part in the World Championships in Assen for Ballroom Dancing. Chloe and Leo (her partner) made semi-finals in 5/6 events, made the finals of World Juvenile U12 Ballroom RS competition and placed 3rd. Keep an eye out on the BBC as they will be featuring Chloe and Leo in an upcoming documentary!

Alba attended a local dance festival during half term where she has qualified with her solo dances to a standard where she has been selected and qualified to dance her Ballet, Modern and Tap solos representing Hampshire next May half term 2026 at the All England Regional Finals. Alba spent last week dancing with children from all over the south coast in her age group, all competing for a qualifying place. With over 30 children in each section, she was the only one selected to be a finalist in each of her sections. Alba was also selected to attend a special ISTD Tap event and perform at the Marjorie Davies star Tap Awards at the weekend and in a few weeks' time has also been selected to take part in an English National Ballet event at the Mayflower theatre in Southampton with the cast of *Sleeping Beauty* which she is very much looking forward to. A massive congratulations to Alba for all of her achievements





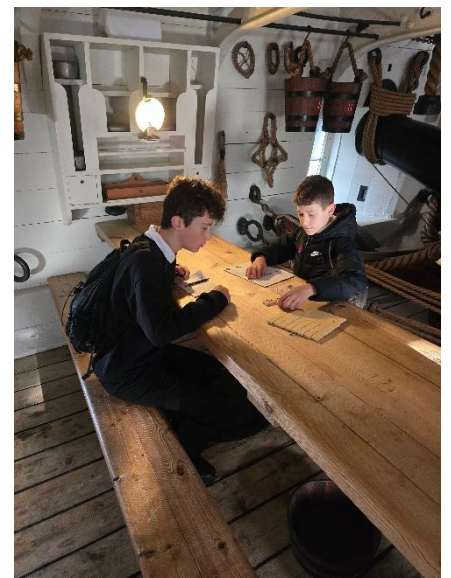
Year 8 Trip to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard-Mr Jewell (HOY 8)

Last week, our Year 8 students set off on an exciting trip to the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, where they spent the day exploring Britain's rich naval heritage. The visit began with tours of some of the Dockyard's most famous ships, including HMS Warrior, the Navy's first iron-hulled warship, and HMS Victory, Admiral Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar. Students were fascinated to step aboard these historic vessels and imagine what life would have been like for sailors hundreds of years ago.

A particular highlight was the Mary Rose Museum, where pupils were captivated by the story of Henry VIII's flagship and the incredible collection of artefacts recovered from the seabed.

Throughout the day, students completed a workbook, encouraging them to engage closely with the exhibitions and apply what they learned in a fun and interactive way.

To celebrate their enthusiasm and hard work, several students received prizes for their excellent effort and thoughtful answers. It was a fantastic day filled with discovery, hard work, and hands-on learning — one that brought history to life in an unforgettable way!





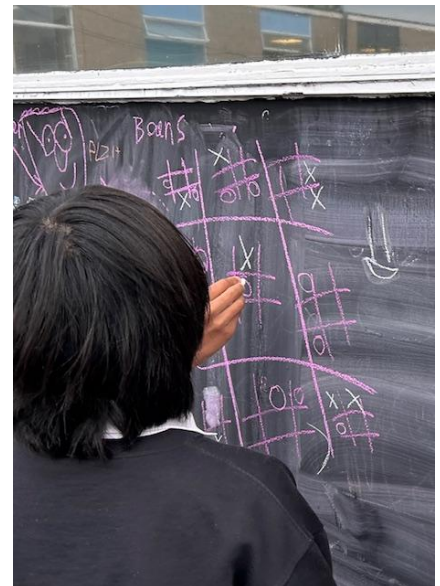
The Introduction of the Chalkboards-Miss Willis

We've introduced chalk "doodle boards" after seeing how much fun Year 7s had with chalk games created by our Child Development group. The response has been amazing—students rush in at break times asking for chalk, and one even told us it was "an excellent idea"!

From noughts & crosses to doodles and names, the courtyard is buzzing with creativity and laughter. Over the coming weeks, we'll be adding themed drawing prompts to keep the inspiration flowing.

Our students have been using the outdoor chalkboard to create beautiful poppy artwork as a tribute to those who served and sacrificed. It's inspiring to see their creativity and respect shine through in every design.

It's wonderful to see our young artists expressing themselves and making the space their own.



Thornden's Parent
Teacher Association



Supporting: Sustainability



A New Shed! 🙌 Thanks to a team of helpers! 🙌

Our old shed was disintegrating. Thanks to a team of volunteers (especially those who took trailer-loads to recycle), the old one has been cut up and recycled and a new one stands in its place! Great work, and such fun too. **Please [email our uniform team](#) if you require items or to donate some.**

Thanks and ❤️ to Ian, Kathy, Leslie, Annekie, Steve, Liz, William, Anthony, Bob, Jess, Paul, Rich & Nic
Your school, your PTA, your AGM!

FOTS- your PTA supports the school keeping after-school clubs free while providing water fountains and books, benches, sports kits, trampolines & 3D printers... plus many pastoral and support groups for young carers, bereaved students and others.

Please come to our AGM, 7:30pm November 27th in the conference room.

We'd love to know if you can make it and/or nominate someone [here](#).

Don't forget, without our donation scheme, none of this would be possible! **[SIGN UP TO DONATE](#)** - it only takes a few minutes. Even the mere price of a coffee, once a month, makes a real difference!

Please [contact FOTS here](#) with any questions, ideas or feedback or, if you prefer to email us: fots@thornden.hants.sch.uk





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

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

Year 11 Apprenticeship Opportunities

BP – Applications Open 5th November!

BP are looking for apprentices across a range of business areas:

- Business & Digital
- Science
- Engineering
- Supply, Trading & Shipping

[Apprenticeships at bp | Learn, earn, grow](#)

Applications now open for Barclays 2026 Apprenticeships!

Foundation and higher apprenticeships available in Operations, Tech and Retail Banking. Explore via the link below and find your perfect role!

[Search our Job Opportunities at Barclays](#)

E.ON – Create a Sustainable Future

E.ON are looking for apprentices who want to combine university study with practical workplace skills. If you're motivated to learn, register your interest [here](#) for the September 2026 intake.

Airbus

Applications are now open for our Level 3 Craft Apprenticeship programmes at Airbus Broughton. [Engineering, Digital & Manufacturing Apprentices | Airbus](#)

Upcoming college open events for Year 10/11

Please use the link for all upcoming college open events and the links to book. [College open evenings poster 2025/26](#).

Military Academy Online Briefing - Year 11

Please follow this [link](#) for more information for students supporting careers into the Armed Forces with a free weekly virtual brief, Thursdays 7pm.


Virtual Work Experience opportunity - Ages 14-19

Mission Innovation: Explore the STEM World of Defence and Technology. Remote work experience on 16th-18th February 2026, 9.30am-3pm for ages 14-19. Apply [here](#) by 19 January.

Barton Peveril Open Event Thursday 30th April 2026 - Year 10

We are excited to announce that our Year 10 Open Event will be taking place on Thursday 30th April 2026. This is a fantastic opportunity for students and their parents to explore our campus and discover all that Barton Peveril has to offer.

We have launched a simple Register Your Interest [form](#).



Department Spotlight- Each newsletter we will shine a spotlight on the work of one of our fantastic departments.

RS (Religious Studies) – Ms Heron

We have had a great first half term in RS. The **Year 7** students are settling into their RS journey at Thornden. They begin with our introductory unit entitled, 'The Search for Truth'. The students look at the concept of truth and what it means, before considering the different types of truth there are; scientific, historical, moral and for theists, religious truth. We then go on to enquire into a key religious truth from the six main world religions. These are the religions they will go on to enquire into, in more detail, during their RS journey at Thornden.

Year 8 have been building on the unit they studied about Christian beliefs in the Summer Term of Year 7. While this is still fresh in their minds, we spend the Autumn Term of Year 8 enquiring into how Christians apply their beliefs in their lives, studying a unit entitled Christian Practices.

Year 9 is an important year for our Year 9 students as they make their option choices, so in RS we support them with this by doing a taster of the 2 RS papers that make up the RS GCSE course. This term they are doing a taster of paper 2 of the RS GCSE course. This paper is entitled 'Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies'. This involves studying religious and secular views about a range of different world issues so, in Year 9, we are currently studying a unit about the different perspectives and ethics surrounding issues, such as, the death penalty, animal experimentation and euthanasia. This will be followed, in the Spring Term, by a taster of paper 1 in the RS GCSE course, 'The Study of Religions'.

Year 10 have been embarking on their RS GCSE journey and have made a great start to The Study of Religions Paper. They have already completed their unit on Islam Beliefs and are currently studying Islam Practices. To enrich their studies the students had the opportunity to visit the London Central Mosque and Islamic Centre, near Regents Park, just after half term. This was a great opportunity to see and experience firsthand what they have been learning about. Once we have completed our study of the practices in Islam, we will move on to study the second religion the students are required to study for Paper 1, Christianity.

Year 11 are currently working hard as they prepare for their trial exams. They have now completed three quarters of the RS GCSE course, having already completed all of Paper 1 - The Study of Religions, they have also completed the first two of four themes for Paper 2. These are entitled, Relationships and Families, and Religion and Life, both encompassing a range of issues. The students have started the third theme, Religion, Peace and Conflict however, since half term, we have paused to focus on structured revision, both in our RS lessons and for home learning. We aim to finish the course by the end of February which will give us a couple of months for structured revision before the final exams in early May.

Earlier this term Thornden had its annual Open Evening, where we open our doors to the public and prospective junior school students. One of the highlights for the RS department is the henna hand painting and this is also a great opportunity to display the range of beautiful artefacts we have in the department. These are some of our artefacts and when we study each religion in our RS curriculum.



Judaism -Y7 Spring Term



Christianity -Y7 Summer Term



Hinduism – Y8 Spring Term

Y8 Autumn Term & GCSE



Sikhism - Y8 Summer Term



Islam – Y9 Autumn Term

Artefacts help to bring our study of the main world religions to life in the classroom. In addition, we also offer a range of enrichment opportunities for each year group. These include:
Year 7, visit to a Jewish Synagogue – Spring Term
Year 8, visit to a Hindu Mandir – Spring Term
Year 9, visit to Christ Church in Winchester and the Cathedral – Autumn Term
Year 10, visit to the London Central Mosque and Islamic Cultural Centre – Autumn Term
Year 11, RS GCSE Conference with a range of guest speakers from the religions and issues studied – Spring Term.

Nut and aerosol free zone!

- Please be reminded that we aim to keep the school **nut free**. Therefore students must not bring nuts of any kind into school including in foods such as cereal bars, chocolate, biscuits and cakes. We have a high number of students that have a life-threatening allergy to nuts, including peanuts.
- Please can students bring an alternative to **aerosol** deodorants into school, as their use, particularly on mass in the PE changing rooms can trigger an asthma attack in some students.

Thank you for your support.
Medical Team



Thornden Sport- Miss Hall (2nd in PE)

Sports Results

Date	Team	Gender	Sport		Opposition	Fixture Type	Result	Player(s) of the match
05/11/2025	U14B	Girls	Netball	vs	Henry Beaufort	League	Won 14-5	Tamsin
06/11/2025	U12B	Girls	Netball	vs	Henry Beaufort	League	Won 11-5	Emily & Petra
06/11/2025	U13B	Girls	Netball	vs	Henry Beaufort	League	Won	Jess & Olivia
06/11/2025	U16	Boys	Football	vs	Romsey	League	Won 6-2	
07/11/2025	U12B	Boys	Football	vs	Various	Tournament (5 aside)	Won 1, Drew 1, Lost 2	
07/11/2025	U14	Girls	Football	vs	Glenmoor	National Cup	Lost 0-3	
11/11/2025	U13A	Girls	Netball	vs	Various	Tournament	1st place	Kitty, Emily, Ella & Amelie
11/11/2025	U15	Boys	Rugby	vs	Embley	National Bowl	Lost	George & Will H

Extra-curricular timetable for Autumn 2

Extra-Curricular PE Timetable Half Term 2

(*Each half term there will be a new timetable that may have slight changes)



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime					
Sports Hall	All Years Basketball Mr Hall	All Years Badminton Miss Hall	All Years Basketball Mr Hall	All Years Basketball Mr Hall	
Gym		All Years Table Tennis Mr Lax			GCSE PE Table Tennis Mr Hall
After School (3:00pm – 4:00pm)					
Field	Year 7/8 Boys Rugby Mr Hall	Year 9/10/11 Boys Rugby Mr Hall	All Years Girls Rugby Mr Hall		Staff Sport
Astro	9 Football Mr Osben	All Years Girls Football Miss Jones, Ms Beard, Mr Lax	Year 7 & 8 Boys Football Mr Osben	All years Boys & Girls Hockey Miss Jones & Mr Lax	
Gym		GCSE PE Table Tennis Mr Osben			
Courts	Year 7 Girls Netball Miss Hall		Year 10/11 Girls Netball Miss Hall	Year 8/9 Girls Netball Miss Hall	

Sporting 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

Social Media

We are now up and running with our 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](https://www.instagram.com/thornden_sport).



@THORNDEN_SPORT

Thornden Hall



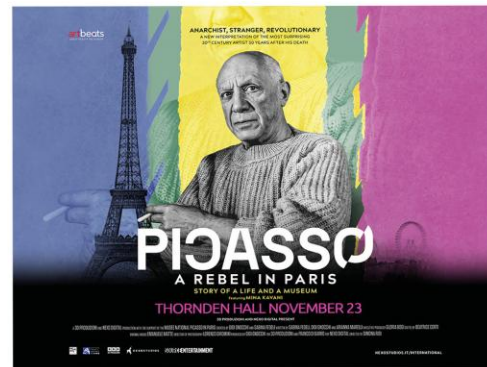
A documentary about legacy, laughter, and the dignity of bowing out... however reluctantly.



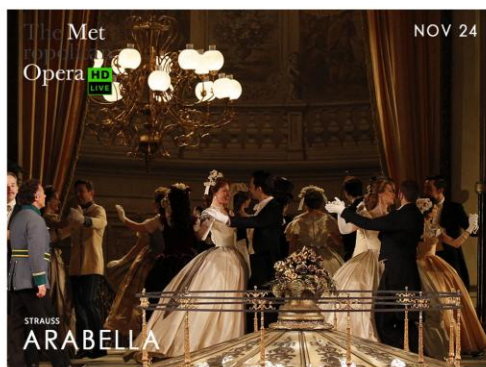
The Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines Collingwood



British sea-themed music Concert



The story of a young immigrant destined to become one of the most important icons of 20th Century



A sumptuous production 'is as beautiful as one could hope' (*The New York Times*)



This enchanting ballet is a theatrical experience for all the family - with a sprinkle of fairy dust!



Thornden Hall is a high quality performing arts centre, located at the back of Thornden Hall Serving both the school and the wider community hosting a variety of events including:

- Live theatre performances
- Concerts
- Cinema screenings
- Community and professional productions

The venue is well-equipped and designed to support a wide range of artistic and cultural activities. More information can be found at www.thorndenhall.co.uk

Free Courses

Free Courses Available – funded by the Government and free for adults 19+ who are living in Hampshire.

Visit [Learning in Libraries – Hampshire County Council Shop](#) to book a free place.

Managing Your Household Budget

Learn how to:

- Create a practical budget plan
- Calculate income and outgoings
- Explore benefits and incentives to reduce household bills
- Access local and national support

Digital Skills Workshop

Gain confidence in:

- Using apps and websites
- Saving money through online shopping and selling
- Navigating the digital world safely and effectively

Healthy Cooking on a Budget

Discover how to:

- Use a slow cooker to save on energy bills
- Store and reheat batch-cooked meals safely
- Enjoy a home-cooked meal and take home a free slow cooker and food voucher

Warm and Welcome Events



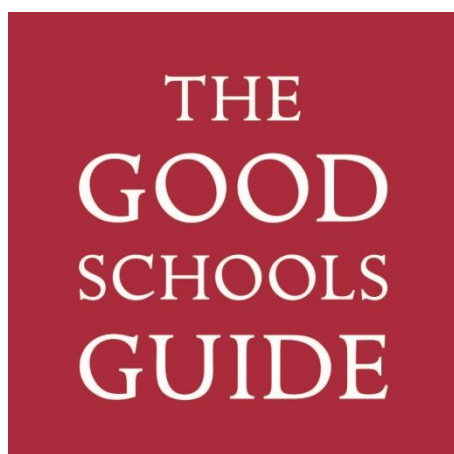
Drop-in sessions at libraries across Hampshire offering:

- Advice and support on energy bills and the cost of living
- No booking required
- More info: [Warm and Welcome events](#)

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



"A big school with a big heart, exceptional leadership and a culture where it's cool to want to do well. Delivers academic excellence without compromising on wellbeing or personal development. Families feel very lucky to have this school on their doorstep." [Good Schools Guide 2025](#)



TRAIN TO TEACH

WE NEED
YOU!

inspiringfutureteachers.org/hisp

“

HISP work closely with you to make sure you are on track to succeed!”

“

Everyone has been so wonderfully supportive, and I will be teaching four lessons weekly, by the time university-led course students even come into the school!!!”

Locally Rooted. Nationally Connected.

HISP Teacher Training Hub offers a school-centred teacher training programme that places you in the classroom from day one. You'll train alongside experienced educators in schools across Hampshire, Dorset, and the Isle of Wight.

About Us

Based at Thornden School, with a sub-hub in Dorset, we deliver initial teacher training across Southampton, Portsmouth, Eastleigh, Gosport, Fareham, the New Forest, Christchurch, Andover, Winchester, and surrounding areas.

Our programme is delivered in partnership with Teaching School Hubs, Research Schools, and the University of Brighton. It combines national expertise with locally tailored, school-based training.

Why Choose HISP?

- Classroom-Based Training: Join a school team from the start, working with mentors and subject specialists.
- Ongoing Support: Our Hub and Sub-hub Leads guide you throughout your training.
- Career Pathways: Many trainees secure roles in their placement schools.
- Well-being Focus: We support your professional and personal development.
- Academic Qualification: Gain QTS and a PGCE with Brighton University, with credits towards a Master's level award.
- You'll train in two contrasting schools, explore different Key Stages, and visit a specialist SEND provision school.

Funding Available

Tax-free bursaries and scholarships of up to £29,000 are available for eligible subjects. Visit: www.gov.uk/apply-for-teacher-training.

Who Can Apply?

We welcome applications from:

- Final-year university students
- Graduates with a 2:2 degree or above
- Career changers

Make a difference. Train with HISP.

Visit www.inspiringfutureteachers.org/hisp to learn more and apply.