



Thornden School Newsletter

28th November 2025



Welcome - Ms Lowing (Headteacher)



Dear Families,

We are really getting into the swing of the festive season! Year 7 and the D&T team did a brilliant job at the Christmas Fayre and we are busy organising Christmas Dinner in school for any student that wants to take part.

Year 11 have started their trial exams - we are so impressed with the diligence that they have shown so far. Well done, Year 11.

Last week we welcomed the Class of 2025 back to collect their certificates and present some well-deserved rewards. A packed Sports Hall clapped and cheered their efforts and achievements. The best of luck to these students and the best of wishes to their families.

Thank you for those of you who attended our recent parents' evenings. We did have a spot of technical bother which affected a small number of appointments - these teachers should get back to you at a later date.

Thank you, again, for your messages of support and feedback. So many of you have been in touch about some of our positive news stories in the press, we really do appreciate it.

Regards,

Caroline

Dates for you Diary

Event	Date	Information
Flu Vaccines	Thursday 4 th December	See attached timetable
German Christmas Market Trip	5 th -8 th December	
Flu Vaccines	Monday 8 th December	See attached timetable
Year 8 reports	Monday 8 th December	Year 8 only
Media Studies Trip	Wednesday 10 th December	Year 10 and 11
Winchester Churches Trip	Thursday 11 th December	Year 9
Thornden Christmas Concert	Tuesday 16 th December	Buy tickets online here
Year 11 Belong Event	Thursday 18 th December	Year 11 lesson 4
Last day of term	Friday 19 th December	Half day for all students

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.



Behaviour Update - Mrs Kehoe (Assistant Headteacher)

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Thornden, we are committed to creating a calm and purposeful environment where every student can thrive. Our goal is simple: **disruption-free learning in every lesson, every day**. I am delighted to share the positive progress we have made in behaviour across the school, thanks to the hard work of staff and students in maintaining high expectations.

What's Going Well? (2023-2024 compared to 2024-2025)

- **Reflection Room use** fell by **33%** and far fewer students are being sent there repeatedly.
- **Suspensions** show a big improvement: repeat suspensions dropped from **42% to 24%**.
- **A strong start to the year:**
 - In **September 2025**, Reflection Room use fell by **55%**, and the number of students placed dropped by **80%**.
 - In **October 2025**, usage of the Reflection Room fell by **71%**, and student numbers dropped by **68%**.
 - Behaviour incidents logged on Arbor were almost **halved in September** compared to the previous year.
- **Specific improvements:**
 - Physical contact incidents reduced by **61%**, thanks to the success of the 'One Punch' initiative.
 - Mobile phone misuse reduced by **33%**, showing the impact of our 'Never Seen, Never Heard', phone policy.

Listening to Students

We want our behaviour systems to be fair and effective. This week, I launched a **student survey** to gather feedback on the **Warn-Move-Remove** process. Their views will help us refine and improve how we manage behaviour.

Support That Makes a Difference

We continue to invest in programmes that help students succeed. These include restorative approaches, including Thornden's Restorative Behaviour Day, mentoring through Elevate, and additional provision through Personal Best Education. Each initiative is designed to help students re-engage with learning, develop positive habits, and build the skills they need for success.

We are proud of the progress made and grateful for your continued support. Together, we are building a school culture rooted in our values: **Aspire, Succeed, Belong, Care**.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's experience, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



The Drama Department Needs Your Help! - Miss McGreal

We are looking for props and bits of set for our upcoming winter production - A Midsummer Night's Dream!

We would really appreciate any support our parents, carers or local community could offer. If you or anyone you know has any or has access to any of the following, please email l.mcgreal@thornden.hants.sch.uk and n.daykin@thornden.hants.sch.uk.

- Quality camo net (preferably a large quantity). This can be returned after the show but ideally with the possibility of being cut.
- Old furniture (e.g. a chest of drawers, arms chairs etc). Again, this can be returned but would be great if we could paint/change for the show.
- Plastic trees/shrubbery/large plant. Can be returned.
- Traditional lampshades.
- Working, standard lamp.

If there are also any tree surgeons who would be willing to donate tree stumps, large off cuts of wood or large silver birch style tree cuttings, we would also be very grateful!

We would like to take anything you can offer as soon as possible (but must have it by the end of January). The show takes place on 5th and 6th February so any returns would be after this date.

Job Vacancies - Thornden School

Here are the latest job vacancies. Please click on the links for further details.

Head of Finance Business Partnering & Internal Reporting (HISP Multi Academy Trust)

We are now seeking an exceptional Head of Finance Business Partnering & Internal Reporting to join our high-performing finance leadership team. This is a rare and exciting opportunity to influence strategic planning, build financial capability across our schools, and help shape a resilient future for the Trust.

Please click on [HISP Multi Academy Trust - Vacancies](#) for further details.

Closing Date: Friday 05/12/2025.

Site Assistant (Thornden)

We are seeking a dedicated Site 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: Thursday 04/12/2025.



Wellbeing Den - Mrs Kingsley Smith (Safeguarding and Pastoral Manager)

BSG Bereavement Support Group

A reminder that our next team building trip for students that have suffered bereavement of a parent please could you complete your consent form if you have not already. We are looking forward to a fun morning of ice skating.

We are also keen to stay in touch with Alumni of our BSG and include them wherever possible for our events. If you know of a student who has left Thornden that was part of the BSG (previously known as Breakfast Club) that would like to be added to our mailing list please ask them to email s.kingsley-smith@thornden.hants.sch.uk.

Wellbeing Ambassador training

Reminder for students in all year groups who would like to attend Wellbeing Ambassador training this will now be starting in January 2026. Sessions will be with myself and Solent Mind after school on a Monday from 15.00-15.45. Spaces will be limited so if your son or daughter are interested, please email me.

Year 7 Group Wellbeing sessions

Mrs Byrne and Mrs Sellars have made a fantastic start to our group sessions for Year 7 this year. The group's focus is on wellbeing and also gives students the opportunity to meet other students in different tutor groups. Sessions are each Thursday and include anxiety, emotions, friendships and worries. Over the academic year all Year 7 students will have been invited to attend one of these sessions.

Artist of the week

Artist of the week - 17/11/25

Harry S - 7SML

For an amazing collage based on the artist Van Gogh completed for home learning, well done Harry!





Christmas came early to Thornden - Mrs Coles (Head of Design and Technology)

Our Year 7 “Technology Elves” were hard at work on Monday, designing and crafting a wonderful range of quality products — from festive gifts and decorations to creative Christmas-themed games for the annual Christmas Fayre.

On Tuesday evening, the canteen was bursting with energy as students proudly ran their stalls with impressive maturity and enthusiasm. The atmosphere was lively and fun, with families exploring the stalls, taking part in activities, and showing fantastic support throughout the event.

A huge congratulations to all our Year 7 students for their enterprising spirit, teamwork, and creativity. The Christmas Fayre was a great success thanks to their hard work — and the brilliant support of our parents and carers.



Thornden's Parent
Teacher Association



An incredible year for FOTS!

Thanks to our small team!

As we prepared the Chair's report for this week's AGM of FOTS, we went through the list of things that we had supported this past 12 months.

Could you be part of this? [Contact FOTS here.](#)

Take a look at the direct benefits for *all our students*...

- Visualisers for languages
- Whole class sets of novels for group reading
- Dance T-shirts
- Dance Workshops
- Ducklings
- Stress workshops
- Tablets (lots of tablets!)
- Bereavement team-building event
- Foreign language meetups
- Poppy seeds for remembrance
- VEO camera for sports analysis
- Computers for pastoral support
- Belong events for everyone in the school
- Games and equipment for belong events
- Language events & plays with external providers
- Equipment for Lego stop-motion films
- Young carers respite event
- ELSA room equipment and support for vulnerable students
- Cameras, light boxes, reflectors etc for photography
- Equipment for the wellbeing den
- Furniture for the wellbeing den
- Décor for the counselling room
- Student leader team building event
- Microphones for English
- Wellbeing Wednesday's equipment
- Equipment to make artwork around the school
- More visualisers, printer supplies
- Bedding and equipment for the tortoise
- Sewing machines



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 - Peter Symonds College deadline

The deadline for college applications to be submitted to Peter Symonds is Monday 8th December.

Please ensure applications are submitted on time as the colleges do not offer flexibility on deadline dates. Colleges are often oversubscribed so if students miss the deadline, they risk being unable to apply to their college/s of choice. We recommend students apply to more than one college to give more options once exam results are known. It is not necessary to include predicated grades as the school will send results to the colleges in January. Please leave this section blank or just list the subjects if required.

John Hansard Gallery - Age 14-16 years

The gallery is offering 6 afterschool sessions between March and May 2026 to gain practical experience working in a contemporary art gallery.

Please see link for full details [Future Finder - Futures For All](#).

Your child's annual Nasal Flu Vaccination is now due. The vaccine helps protect against flu, which can be a serious or life-threatening illness.

Click the link below for the electronic form and information about the vaccine. You will need to input the School Code below to complete the form. Access to the form will close Monday 1st December to allow time for the Nurses to triage the list; late consents by phone or email will not be accepted.

School Code: SH136715

Session date: Thursday 4th and Monday 8th December 2025

Year Group: Year 7 – 11

Link to website: [Annual Nasal Flu Vaccination Programme - Hampshire - Parents: Health for Kids](#)

The nasal flu vaccine contains products derived from pigs (porcine gelatine). To opt for the porcine gelatine free inactive flu injection, select NO to the nasal flu immunisation and you will be given further options. More information for parents is available from www.nhs.uk/child-flu.

Alternatively, if you decide you do not wish your child to receive the vaccine against flu, please complete the form to record your decision. This will enable us to update your child's immunisation record.

From the NHS School Age Immunisation Service



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

Mrs Drabble-Head of Science

The Science department has had a busy year since our last spotlight in the newsletter. Dr Buckley, Miss Greatorex and Dr Baker have been busy with our weekly KS3 STEM club; Mrs Weeks organised our first ever Science fair which saw lots of prizes being won across the year groups and set up a new KS4 STEM club with some of the Y11 student leaders and Mr Baldwin organised our first trip to Geneva to Cern.

This year's Year 11 student leaders (Evelyn, Kea, Olivia, Sargun and Vicky) have also been busy supporting the Department and have set up a **KS3 homework club on Fridays at break in S2** and a **KS4 study club after school on Fridays in S2**. So, if your child is struggling with any aspect of Science we have some lovely Year 11s on hand to help them at break every Friday.

We were very proud of the class of 2025 who left the school in the summer. They achieved some amazing Science GCSE results and it was lovely to celebrate those successes in the recent Certificate Evening. You can see from the tables below that our Triple students achieved nearly double that nationally for Grades 7 plus whilst our Combined students achieved over double that nationally for Grades 7 plus and nearly double the number nationally getting Grade 5s.

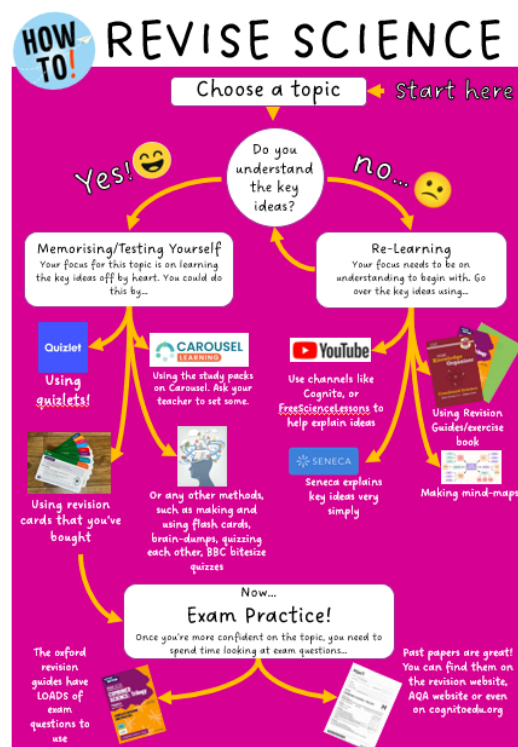
Thornden School Summary Science grades - 2025

Subject	Number Grade 7+	% Grades 7+	Number Grade 5+	% Grades 5+	Number Grade 4+	% Grades 4+	Total who sat exam
Biology	64	82.1	76	97.4	77	98.7	78
Chemistry	59	76.6	77	100	77	100	77
Physics	61	80.5	77	100	77	100	77
Combined	58	27.5	154	77.5	192	91.9	209

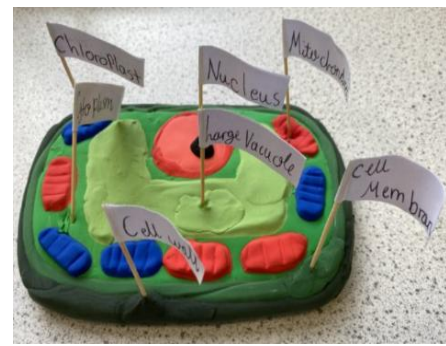
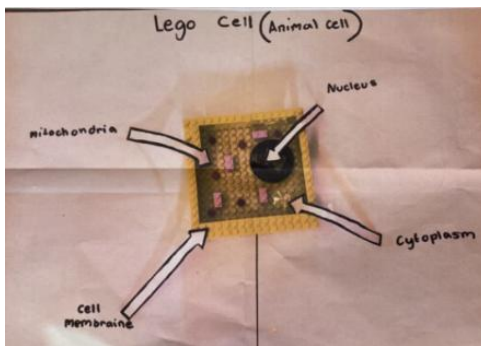
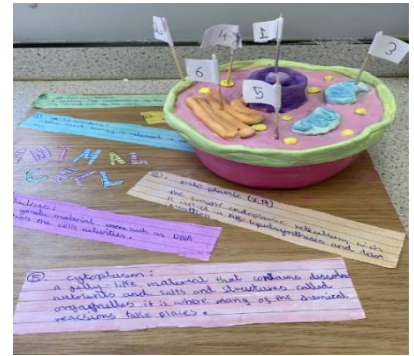
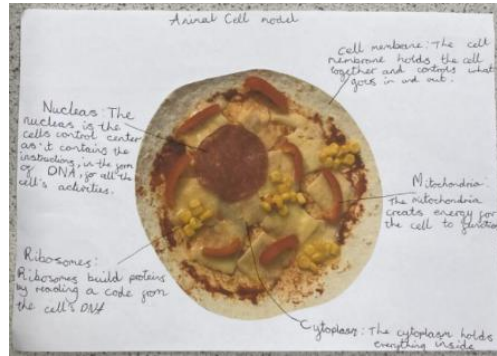
National statistics – 2025 (from AQA)

Subject	% Grades 7+	% Grades 5+	% Grades 4+
Biology	43.6	79.8	89.5
Chemistry	46.1	81.5	91.8
Physics	45.5	82.3	90.9
Combined Science	11.7	42.3	63.8

Mr Baldwin has designed a Revision poster about How to Revise Science which I have included. There are so many different resources out there to help revise Science. This flow chart pulls together how to use them. We have started to share this with our Year 11s who have been busy with their trial exams this week. Over 150 of the Year 11s stayed for a revision session after school before half term to prepare them for the Trial exams.



In KS3 the Year 7 have wowed their teachers with lots of super models of cells. Mrs Bulpit is always amazed by the models the students make - she even had ones this year that she has never seen before. We have seen the full range from posters to plasticine, knitting, Lego, pizza and cake models!



Events for 2026

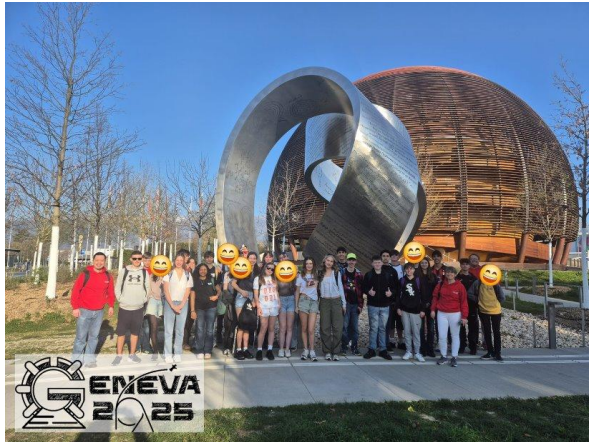
Colleagues from Barton Peveril college will be running Masterclasses afterschool with our Year 11 students on Biology (Wed 28th Jan), Chemistry (Wed 14th Jan) and Physics (Wed 4th Feb). They are also offering a practical Masterclass on Synthesising Aspirin at Barton Peveril on Saturday 24th Jan from 9-1pm. Students have already signed up for these events but if anyone is interested in pursuing A-level Sciences and hasn't signed up, please fill in this form to register your interest: [Science workshops in January – Fill in form](#)

Science week will run from Friday 8th to Sunday 17th March - we will run a range of events and build on last year's successful Science fair.

Southampton University Science and Engineering Day will take place on **Saturday 16th March**, from **10:30 to 16:30**, at the Highfield Campus and Boldrewood innovation Campus. The event is free to attend but registration online is required and usually opens in January/February. I can't recommend it enough! I have gone for the last 2 years and not seen everything! There is fun for all the family from small children to teenagers to adults. Book early to then book free places at the fun shows, workshops and lectures. Even if you miss out on those there are lots of other stalls and events to attend. For some students just seeing a University campus is in itself interesting but talking to very excited scientists about projects ranging from stem cells to coral reefs to X-ray machines to seeing how radioactive a banana is can be very inspiring!

Geneva & CERN

In April this year, the Science department completed our first ever trip to CERN in Geneva, Switzerland. It was an amazing trip with some great Science. There are a few pictures below. Keep your eyes open towards the end of this academic year as we launch the trip for 2027, aiming to take Year 10 and 11 (current year 9 and 10).



Some thank yous:

We are, as ever, very appreciative of the money FOTS gives the Science department. We have bought a number of visualisers for the different labs which benefit a lot of students in a variety of lessons; tortoise supplies as well as filaments for our very busy 3D printer and watched the ducklings hatch during Science week all courtesy of FOTS.

We are also very grateful to Alpha Laboratories for their wonderful donation of a high-powered Leica microscope and other molecular biology equipment, which will significantly enhance practical work in Biology and we look forward to using it with our KS4 STEM club students soon. We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Jonathan and Liz Eastbrook for their generous donation of high-quality chemistry equipment that will greatly enrich our lessons. In addition, we would like to thank Primer Design for their kind donation of lab coats, goggles and various laboratory glassware and plasticware. These contributions are hugely appreciated and will be put to excellent use across our Science Department.

Lastly we are truly thankful for our lovely IT department who have organised new Tablets for students in Science lessons for research, modelling or practical purposes.





Thornden Sport - Miss Hall (2nd in PE)

Sports Results

Date	Team	Gender	Sport		Opposition	Fixture Type	Result	Player(s) of the Match
13/11/2025	U14	Girls	Hockey	vs	Romsey	Friendly	Won	Gabby
13/11/2025	U16	Girls	Rugby	vs	TPS	Friendly	Lost 5-29	Chloe G
14/11/2025	U12	Girls	Rugby	vs	Various	Festival	Won 4/4	
14/11/2025	U14	Girls	Rugby	vs	Various	Festival	Won 3, drew 1	
17/11/2025	U16	Boys	Football	vs	Henry Beaufort	District Cup	Lost 2-3	
18/11/2025	U14A	Girls	Netball	vs	Various	Tournament	1st place	Laycie, Tuula, Mia, Chloe
18/11/2025	U13	Boys	Rugby	vs	Swanmore	Hampshire Plate	Won 50-25	Ethan
18/11/2025	U14	Boys	Hockey	vs	Perins	Friendly	Won 4-3	
19/11/2025	U14A	Girls	Netball	vs	Westgate	League	Won 9-3	Laycie & Tamsin
19/11/2025	U16A	Girls	Netball	vs	Westgate	League	Lost	Cerys
20/11/2025	U15	Boys	Football	vs	John Hanson	District Cup	Won 2-0	
20/11/2025	U16	Girls	Hockey	vs	Ballard	County Trophy	Won 1-0	Jess R
20/11/2025	U16	Girls	Hockey	vs	KES	County Trophy	Drew 0-0	Jess R
20/11/2025	U16	Girls	Hockey	vs	Island Free School	County Trophy	Lost 0-4	Jess R
20/11/2025	U16	Girls	Hockey	vs	St Nicholas	County Trophy	Won 3-0	Jess R
20/11/2025	U16	Girls	Hockey	vs	Ladies College	County Trophy	Drew 0-0	Jess R
24/11/2025	U14	Boys	Football	vs	Priestlands	County Cup	1-1 (Lost on Penalties)	
24/11/2025	U15	Boys	Football	vs	Swanmore	County Cup	Won 2-1	
25/11/2025	U14B	Girls	Netball	vs	Romsey	League	Won	Elise
25/11/2025	U16B	Girls	Netball	vs	Romsey	League	Lost	Holly & Elena
26/11/2025	U14B	Girls	Netball	vs	Wyvern	League	Won	Tamsin
26/11/2025	U16B	Girls	Netball	vs	Wyvern	League	Won	Nastya & Elena

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](#).



@THORNDEN_SPORT

Courses for Parents/Carers

NHS Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services is offering courses available to all parents and carers.

- PACE (major refresh for 2026)
- SASI (stopping avoidable suicides initiative)
- Understanding Trauma days – New for 2026
- Understanding Anxiety days – New for 2026
- Understanding ADHD days
- How 2 cope when your child can't
- Info and advice sessions (Winchester drop ins)
- Embracing Autism days – new speakers & topics

Please follow this [link](#) for full details and to book.

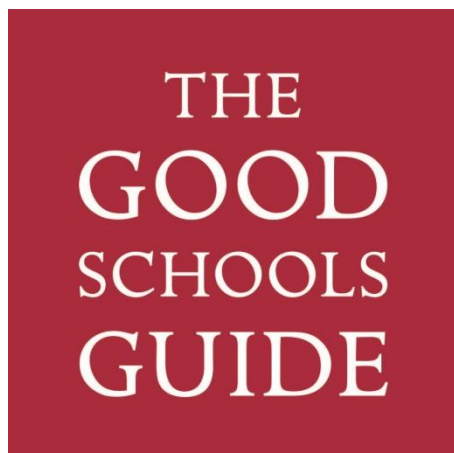


Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

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](#)



JUNIOR PICKLEBALL CLUB

at Thornden Sportshall

Join In The Fun!



**Junior Pickleball Coaching
at Thornden Sportshall
Saturday Afternoons
from 16:00-17:00
Cost £7.50 per player
Suitable for beginner and
improver players**

**For more information or to book a place
contact Tim Cook M. 07957286115
E. admin@transformsportscoaching.co.uk**



ONLINE

SECONDARY TEACHING INFORMATION EVENT

BOOK VIA OUR WEBSITE

inspiringfutureteachers.org/hisp

