



Thornden School Newsletter

12th December 2025



Welcome - Ms Lowing (Headteacher)



Dear Families,

At the end of a super successful term - we are all tired but thankful at Thornden School! Christmas lunches have been fantastic, we had more than ever join the festivities in their Christmas jumpers. A huge thank you to Mrs Kehoe and our wonderful canteen staff for all of their hard work on this.

As a school, we have been working behind the scenes on the House system. We have the names in place, the Heads of House appointed and the other elements are all coming together. We cannot wait to announce all in 2026.

As ever, our students are not just thinking about themselves this festive season but about others. There have been lots of fundraising activities for Eastleigh Food bank, Scratch and for Abby's Heroes. We are so proud of our community and how thoughtful and kind they are.

Please do have a wonderful winter break and we look forward to seeing all of you in January.

Best wishes,

Caroline



Dates for you Diary

Event	Date	Information
Thornden Christmas Concert	Tuesday 16 th December	7pm, tickets via Thornden Hall
Year 11 Belong Event	Thursday 18 th December	Lesson 4
Non-uniform day	Friday 19 th December	Pay via Arbor
Last day of Autumn term	Friday 19 th December	11.50-11.55 finish
First day of Spring term	Monday 5 th January	
Year 9 options evening	Tuesday 13 th January	

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)



Last day of term timetable

8.35 am Registration

9am - 9.50am Lesson 1

9:50 - 10:40 Lesson 2

10.40 am - 11.10am BREAK

11.10am -11.50am Lesson 3

11.50am Dismiss Years 7, 8 and 9

11.55 a.m. Dismiss Years 10 and 11



Extracurricular Timetables and Updates

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

Update from Operation Clean Up

Operation clean up continues with collecting and sorting bottles ready to turn it into pieces of art in the new year.



Update from KS4 STEM

A few of our Year 11 girls have started an exciting project with the Institute for Research in Schools (IRIS). They are working on a project to reduce the carbon emissions produced by aviation by powering planes through hydrogen. The girls will be trying to solve the challenge of how hydrogen can be stored on a Boeing 737 while maintaining all the requirements needed for flight. They will be introduced to the technology of Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) fuel cells and the physics of flight, including lift, drag and balance. The girls have only just started the project and the recent trial exams have slowed progress but we are looking forward to getting stuck in after Christmas and using the engineering software we have access to help test their solutions. If any parents have any experience of any the above, then please do get in touch as the girls (and I) would love to hear stories of real-life applications.



The Institute *for*
Research in Schools



Year 10 University-(ish) Challenge-Miss Jones (HOY 10)

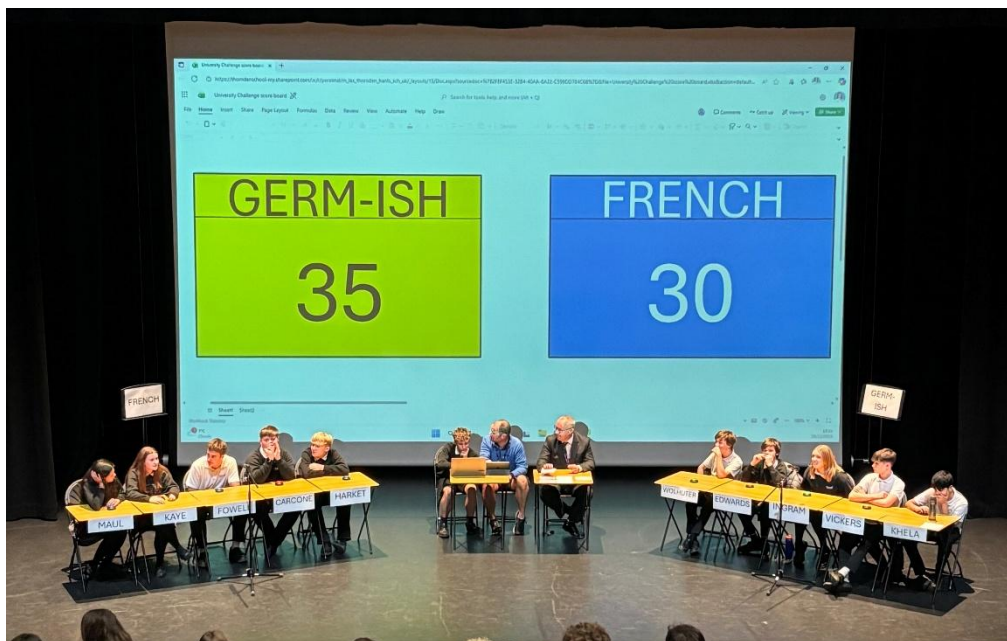
The Year 10s took part in a University-ish Challenge Quiz. One member of each tutor group was nominated to make up part of a team representing each half of the year group.

French took on Germ-ish (German and Spanish) in a very close, and genuinely nail biting and exciting match - complete with buzzers which was very exciting! Mr Collar did a wonderful job hosting the show in true Paxman style, with the help of his valuable Side Kick Mr Lax.

The level of general knowledge from the players was really impressive, the questions left many staff scratching their heads! As mentioned, it was a tight match, but in the last two rounds French pulled ahead to take the win.

A huge well done to Luisa, George, Amy, Archie, Tor, Sachin, Elena, Sam, Bastian and Oliver for putting themselves forwards, getting involved and showing off some impressive quizzing skills!

Some money was also raised for Abby's Heroes - an organisation Year 10 are very keen to support this year as the charity has done a lot to aid a member of our Year 10 community, and her family, in recent months.



Bus Service

From January Bluestar will be operating our full bus service for students. Please see recent email sent with an updated timetable . See below information on the costs for this service.

From January:

Single - £2.50

Return - £4.00

7 Day - £19.00 (or £18.50 if purchased on our app)

Artist of the week

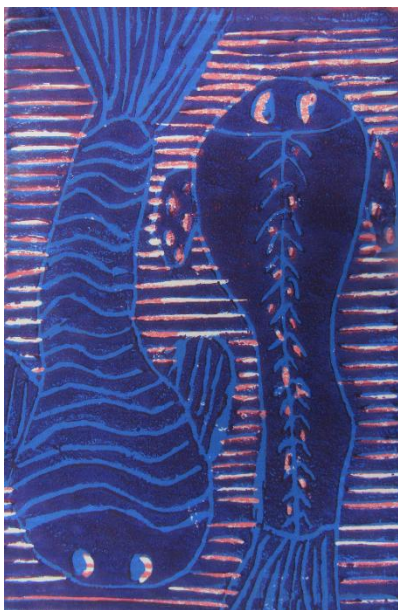


Artist of the week for 26/11/25

This amazing mixed media portrait was produced by Anaya in Year 9 in Fine Art, using collage, point and watercolour pencils. A stunning piece- Well done Anaya.

Artist of the week for 3/12/25

An amazing mixed media portrait was produced by Jenny in Year 9 in Fine Art, using collage, paints and watercolour pencils. A carefully constructed and effective piece- Well done Jenny.



Artist of the week for 10/12/25

Cyrine in Year 8 has produced an accurate and detailed lino print using three colours. Excellent work Cyrine!

Brendoncare Musical Visit-Music Department

On Tuesday 9th December we took Sax Mad and friends, and our lovely Year 10's from Show Singers up to Brendoncare in Otterbourne to spread some musical festive cheer to members of the care home.

It was such a lovely event, and we were so proud of our students who performed so wonderfully. The members of the care home thoroughly enjoyed it, and it was lovely to see everyone join in with the Christmas carols. What a wonderful way to start the festive season and to spread some joy in our local community.

Don't forget to get your tickets from the box office for our upcoming Christmas concert on Tuesday 16th December to see all of our extra-curricular groups in action and to put you in the festive mood!



Job Vacancies - Thornden School

Cover Supervisor

We are seeking an outstanding individual to join our successful support staff department as a Cover Supervisor. To work with the cover manager to ensure that classes are covered and students are on task during this time. This is a supervisory post rather than a teaching post and is open to applicants without a teaching qualification.

Please click on [HISP Multi Academy Trust - Vacancies](#) for further details. Closing Date: Sunday 04/01/2026.



GCHQ National Language Competition-Mr Tully (2nd in MFL)

GCHQ, one of the three UK intelligence and security agencies alongside MI5 and MI6, runs an annual problem-solving competition for Year 9 MFL students across the country. Students compete against teams from other schools to solve as many complex language puzzles as possible over the course of 5 days using logic and reasoning.

This was Thornden's second year in the competition and we had an impressive 8 teams, which was a significant increase on our first year. All of the work on the challenge took place in students' own time, requiring dedication and perseverance.

While all of our teams did very well, our top-placing team made up of Valerie, Poppy, Izzy and Isla came in the top 2% nationally and in 13th place for our region. They also managed to complete every single puzzle, which is the first time a Thornden team has managed this. Huge congratulations to these phenomenal puzzle solvers, as well as to all other students that took part – we are very proud of them!



Pulse trip to Chichester

This week the boys pulse dance group visited the University of Chichester to perform and showcase their talents to a range of other male dance groups from across the South of England.





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

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

Futures for All - Remote work placements opportunities

Half term placements are a fantastic opportunity for students to benefit from even more work experience– and to demonstrate that they’re pro-actively looking for ways to develop themselves professionally to impress future employers, colleges and universities!

Below you will find details of the six placements currently open for applications and the links to apply.

- **TATA Consultancy Services and Jaguar Land Rover | Remote 3 day placement | 16-18 February | 10am-3pm | Ages 14-19 | Students apply here by 30**

January: <https://finder.futuresforall.org/opportunity-detail/D98446AA-671A-4184-9A89-08DE268D3318>

Ever wondered how cutting-edge technology meets world-class automotive manufacturing and design? Join us to learn how these two leading organisations work closely together to combine innovative digital solutions with world-class manufacturing to shape the future of automotives. Hear from professionals across both organisations about their roles, career paths and the exciting projects they’re working on, and part in an innovation challenge.

- **Mission: Innovation – Explore the STEM World of Defence & Technology with QinetiQ | Remote 3 day placement | 16-18 February | 10am-3pm | Ages 14-19 | Students apply here by 19 January:** <https://finder.futuresforall.org/opportunity-detail/F73A28CC-5D3A-4726-DB56-08DDE6CF4E3C>

Are You into STEM, Tech, Science, or Engineering? Fascinated by cutting-edge technology and innovation? Join QinetiQ for a behind-the-scenes look at how we lead in defence, security and aerospace through career insights, interactive sessions and participating in a project paralleling real-world challenges.

- **Create an awesome Campaign with Crustacean Compassion | Remote 2 day placement | 17-18 February | 10am-2.30pm | Ages 14-19 | Students apply here by 27 January:** <https://finder.futuresforall.org/opportunity-detail/C61B748A-C4A8-4AF8-8340-08DE04A598DF>

Join the Crustacean Compassion team to explore how science, ethics, and advocacy come together to influence public policy and protect animal welfare. You will hear directly from professionals who are making real change for marine animals and will take part in a real-world project challenge to learn how evidence and empathy can drive better treatment for all living beings, even those beneath the waves.

- **TATA Consultancy Services: Retail Reimagined with TCS | Remote insight day | 19 February | 10am-12.30pm | Ages 14-19 | Students apply here by 21 January:** <https://finder.futuresforall.org/opportunity-detail/99E903DF-4857-435B-512F-08DE1D1CDCC6>

As one of the world’s leading technology and consulting companies, TCS partners with top UK grocery retailers such as Asda, Sainsbury’s and The Co-op, using technology to solve real world challenges across the food and goods supply chain. Join us for sessions including a technology in retail masterclass, career insights and tips on how to break into the industry.

- **Oracle Women in Leadership and Technology | Remote 3 day placement | 16-18 February | 10am-3pm | Ages 16-19 | Students apply here by 19 January:** <https://finder.futuresforall.org/opportunity-detail/B0C8C587-5361-4F78-3836-08DE0A46119F>

Oracle is the third largest software company in the world with over 160,000 employees across 75 different countries. This unique experience is tailored to help you explore your future career options in a Global Tech Corporation. Whether you've thought about it before, or are just curious about a career in STEM, join us for an insightful 3-day workshop for female sixth form students to explore your future career options in a Global Tech Corporation.

- **Behind the Clubhouse Doors: Exploring Careers in Golf with Knock Golf Club | Remote 2 day placement | 18-19 February | 9.30am-3pm | Ages 16-19 | Students apply here by 21 January:** <https://finder.futuresforall.org/opportunity-detail/96DE9493-314C-4E58-C58A-08DE25CEDB9E>

Join us to discover what really goes into creating an unforgettable leisure and sports venue. Over two immersive online days, you'll explore everything from customer service and events to greenkeeping, marketing and sustainability - all through interactive workshops, live Q&As, creative challenges, and real staff insights.



Junior Chef Graduation-Mrs Coles (Head of D&T)

Congratulations to Alfie in Year 10 for successfully completing the Junior chef course at Eastleigh college. The course was celebrated with the Junior chefs cooking a festive three course meal for their families at the East Avenue restaurant, Eastleigh College.

The course ran every week after school for 5 weeks and students learnt how to bake bread, fillet fish, create deserts and much more. The program is set up to give young people an opportunity to work in professional kitchens.

It is a great opportunity for students in Years 9-11, please click the link if you are interested in taking part in the next course.

<https://shcg.ac.uk/courses/junior-chefs-programme-for-year-9-to-11-students/>





Year 9 Christmas Craft Club-Mrs Coles (Head of D&T)



Our Year 9 students have been getting into the festive spirit with two weeks of after-school Christmas crafting in the Technology Department. The aroma of creativity (and cake!) has certainly been in the air.

In Food Technology, students decorated their own Christmas cupcakes, experimenting with a whole range of festive designs. From snowmen to Santa hats, and even the occasional “unique interpretation of a reindeer,” the results were as impressive as they were delicious.

Meanwhile, over in Graphics, students had the chance to personalise their own mugs — though this may or may not have spoiled a few surprise Christmas gifts (act surprised if you receive one!). Their designs were wonderfully creative and looked positively professional.

As if that wasn't enough, students also tried their hand at making acrylic Christmas tree decorations. There was plenty of fun, a bit of concentration, and only a small amount of “how do I get this backing paper off?” chaos.

All in all, it's been a hugely successful and very merry Craft Club season. Well done, Year 9!





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

Mr Woods Head of Computing

Digital Deep Dive: Exciting Adventures in Computer Science!

This term, our students across Key Stage 3 and 4 have been embarking on fascinating journeys into the world of Computer Science, developing essential skills and unleashing their creativity! Here's a glimpse of the digital action happening in our classrooms:

Year 7: Gaming and Programming with Kodu

Our Year 7 students have made a fantastic start to their programming education using **Kodu Game Lab**. This visual programming tool allows students to create their own 3D games and worlds by building code with simple, graphical tiles.

- **Learning the Fundamentals:** While building imaginative games, students are learning core programming concepts such as **sequencing, loops, conditionals** (if/then/else), and **variables**.
- **Creative Game Design:** They are mastering game mechanics, designing characters, and solving problems—a perfect blend of logic and creativity!

[Download Kodu here! It's free!](#)

Year 8: Exploring the World of 3D with Blender

Year 8 students have taken a leap into the exciting realm of **3D Modelling and Animation** using the powerful, professional, and **FREE** software, **Blender**.

- **Digital Sculpture:** Students are learning to manipulate vertices, edges, and faces to digitally sculpt objects, environments, and characters.
- **Bringing Models to Life:** They are exploring the principles of animation, learning how to rig characters, and create short, dynamic animated sequences.

Why not join the fun? Blender is completely free and open-source! Encourage your child to download it at home and continue their 3D modelling journey: [\[Download Blender Here\]](#)

Year 10: Unpacking the Computer Science GCSE

Our Year 10 GCSE Computer Science students have hit the ground running, diving into the core architecture of modern computing.

- **How the Brain Works:** They have been investigating the inner workings of the **Central Processing Unit (CPU)**, understanding the **Fetch-Execute Cycle** and how instructions are processed to make a computer function.
- **Memory Matters:** A key focus has been on understanding the difference between **Primary Storage** (like RAM, which is fast and volatile) and **Secondary Storage** (like Hard Disk Drives or SSDs, which are slower but non-volatile and used for long-term data storage).

Storage Type	Characteristics	Example
Primary	Very Fast, Volatile (data lost when power off)	RAM, Cache
Secondary	Slower, Non-Volatile (data remains when power off)	Hard Drive (HDD/SSD)

We are incredibly proud of the hard work and logical thinking demonstrated by all our Computer Science students this term.



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

BSG Bereavement Support Group

We had a fabulous time at Southampton ice skating rink, luckily we had the place to ourselves. Despite some never having skated before, they all got involved. Followed up with a lovely lunch, this gave the students the opportunity to chat and get to know each other better. We were lucky to be joined by some of our Alumni, it was great to hear their news. Thank you FOTS!



Wellbeing Ambassador training with Solent Mind

Sign up now for our Wellbeing Ambassador training starting on Monday 12th January from 15.00 to 15.45 for 5 weeks in our Wellbeing Den. Sessions will include 5 ways to wellbeing, active listening, team building, supporting yourself whilst supporting others. Email s.kingsley-smith@thornden.hants.sch.uk.





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 & Ava S
26/11/2025	U14b	Girls	Netball	vs	Wyvern	League	Won	Tamsin
26/11/2025	U16b	Girls	Netball	vs	Wyvern	League	Won	Ava S & Nastya
08/12/2025	U15	Boys	Rugby	vs	Salesian	County Cup	Lost 7-12	George F
09/12/2025	U12a	Girls	Netball	vs	Kings	League	Lost 3-7	Bella & Edie
09/12/2025	U13a	Girls	Netball	vs	Kings	League	Won	Emily & Danielle
10/12/2025	U12a	Girls	Netball	vs	Westgate	League	Won	Freya & Ella
10/12/2025	U13a	Girls	Netball	vs	Westgate	League	Won	Timmia & Kitty

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

Achievements

Brazilian Jiu-jitsu

A big well done to Isabella, in Year 10, who got her first gold medal in her Brazilian Jiu-jitsu (BJJ) regional inter club competition a few weekends ago. She won both fights against a tough opponent. Brilliant achievement Isabella, well done!



Rowing

Every year, Thornden attend the Perins legacy event, where students compete in various sporting events. At this event, George, in Year 10, competed in the rowing and did incredibly well. Off the back of this, George started to compete in rowing! On Saturday, George competed in the British Rowing Indoor Championships held in Birmingham. After only taking up rowing this year, he came third in the Year 10 boys race against a field of 46 competitors from across the UK. He also came 4th in the sprint event. A fantastic achievement in such a short period of time! Well done George!





Stuttgart Christmas Market Trip-Ms Sanders (Teacher in MFL)

Year 10 and 11 German students have had a wonderful weekend on the Stuttgart Christmas Markets trip. After meeting bright and early on Friday, we travelled to Germany and started with some shopping time and a trip up the TV tower. We saw some beautiful views (before the clouds descended), then spent the evening at the Christmas markets practising our German skills. Saturday saw us head to Ludwigsburg, a small town on the outskirts of Stuttgart, visiting their smaller Christmas markets, before travelling on to the Ritter Sport factory (where some bought three kilos of chocolate)! The following day, we visited the Mercedes Benz museum and had a tour of the Stuttgart football stadium, pausing to try Currywurst, before a final excursion to the zoo on the Monday. Danke to the brilliant students and staff on the trip!





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.

Student Christmas Lunches





Thornden Hall



Celebrating some of the greatest works by Bach and Handel



Come and enjoy a great afternoon of music for all the family!



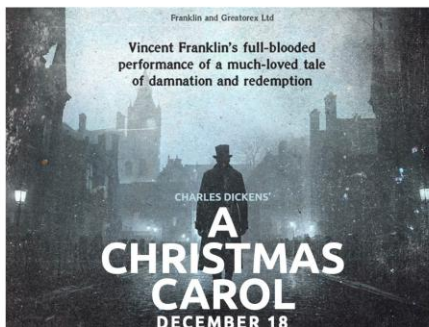
The magic begins with André Rieu's brand new concert - MERRY CHRISTMAS



Giordano's passionate tragedy around the French Revolution



Ensembles performing a variety of Christmas themed music to get you in the festive mood.



Live on stage, Vincent Franklin takes on Dickens' four ghosts and 20 more extraordinary characters



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

Live theatre performances

Concerts

Cinema screenings

Community and professional productions

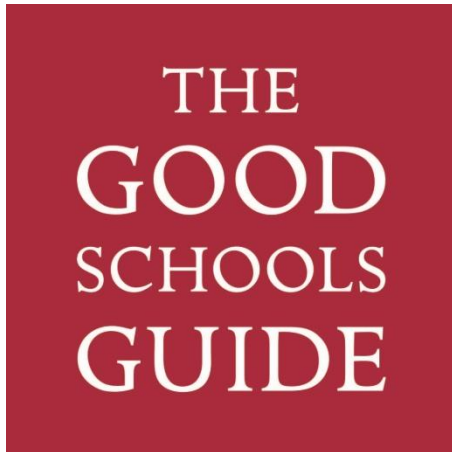
The venue is well-equipped and designed to support a wide range of artistic and cultural activities.

More information can be found at www.thorndenhall.co.uk

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](#)

SCHOOL EXPERIENCE DAYS

Join an in-person school experience day to observe real classroom learning, meet pupils and staff, and explore what modern teaching looks like. It's a great way to discover if teaching is right for you - and boost your application.

To attend a school experience day at one of our partnership schools, scan the QR code below and visit our website.



>> inspiringfutureteachers.org/hisp <<

