

Personal Development – Living in the Wider World Spring 1: The Wider World

Headteacher - Caroline Lowing

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Thornden, our Personal Development programme remains a key part of our Safeguarding Curriculum. Each half term focuses on a theme that helps students understand themselves, others and their role within society. In Spring 1, the focus is Living in the Wider World — supporting students to develop aspirations, independence and the practical skills needed for future success.

Why This Matters in Year 8

During Year 8, students begin to think more seriously about their future pathways, their goals and their growing independence. Lessons this half term help them understand the value of good attendance, teamwork, employability, ambition and financial literacy — all of which contribute to long-term wellbeing and opportunity.

This Half-Term's Topics

Your child will explore:

1. Why are attendance and punctuality so important?
2. Ambition, aspiration and setting realistic career goals
3. What are employability and work skills?
4. What does it mean to be an entrepreneur?
5. Saving and managing money well for life
6. Why is teamwork an essential life skill?

Lessons are structured, interactive and age-appropriate, using high-quality resources designed to build confidence and prepare students for future choices.

Intended Impact

By the end of the term, students will:

1. Understand how attendance affects progress, opportunity and wellbeing
2. Be able to set meaningful, realistic goals for their future

3. Know the key skills employers value and how to develop them
4. Understand the basics of financial literacy and responsible money management
5. Recognise the importance of teamwork, communication and problem-solving

Thank you for supporting this important aspect of our curriculum, which helps students build the foundations for their future success.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AT', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Adam Thomas
Deputy Headteacher – Designated Safeguarding Lead