



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

Headteacher - Caroline Lowing

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Personal Development (PD) curriculum is a central element of our Safeguarding Curriculum at Thornden School. This half term, students in Year 9 continue their learning through Living in the Wider World, exploring the skills, values and understanding they need to participate confidently in society as they move towards Key Stage 4.

Why This Matters in Year 9

Students in Year 9 are beginning to make important decisions about their futures, including GCSE pathways, aspirations, and their role within the wider community. This term's lessons help them to reflect on their developing identity, understand financial responsibility, and recognise how digital and media influences shape their worldview.

This Half-Term's Topics

(From the Living in the Wider World sequence for Year 9)

Your child will explore topics such as:

1. Digital literacy, online influence and managing online information
2. Financial choices, budgeting and avoiding financial risk
3. Careers, pathways and planning for the future
4. Challenging stereotypes and understanding equality in the workplace
5. The impact of social media on aspiration, motivation and self-esteem
6. Rights, responsibilities and participation in society

Lessons are taught in a safe, inclusive environment, encouraging students to think critically, ask questions and build confidence as they prepare for their future.

Intended Impact

By the end of the term, students will:

1. Understand how media and online content influence choices and thinking
2. Be more confident in planning their next steps and future aspirations
3. Recognise the importance of equality, inclusion and challenge of stereotypes

4. Build stronger financial awareness and informed decision-making
5. Develop a greater sense of responsibility as active members of society

We appreciate your ongoing support as we help students develop the maturity, confidence and independence needed for the next stage of their education.

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