



**Headteacher - Caroline Lowing**

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Thornden School, our Personal Development (PD) curriculum forms a core part of our safeguarding and wellbeing provision, supporting students to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to stay safe, healthy and prepared for life beyond secondary school.

Each half term, students explore a different theme. Following the Easter break, the Year 11 Summer 1 focus is Living in the Wider World. As students approach their GCSE examinations and begin preparing for their next steps, this unit focuses on practical skills that support success in further education, employment and adult life.

### **Why This Matters in Year 11**

Year 11 is a significant transition point. Students are preparing for examinations while also beginning to think about college, apprenticeships, employment and the wider opportunities available to them after school.

These lessons provide practical guidance on revision, career preparation and employability, helping students build confidence and develop the skills needed for the next stage of their education or training.

### **This Half-Term's Topics**

During Summer 1, Year 11 students will explore the following topics:

- 1) **Revision and Study Skills**  
Students will revisit effective revision techniques and explore evidence-based strategies that help information move into long-term memory. Lessons focus on how to structure revision, avoid common revision pitfalls, and manage time effectively during exam preparation.
- 2) **Preparing for Job Interviews**  
Students will learn how recruitment processes work and how employers assess candidates. Lessons will explore interview preparation, communication skills and how to present themselves positively to potential employers.
- 3) **Writing CVs and Job Applications**  
Students will explore how to structure a CV and cover letter effectively, identifying the skills and experiences employers look for when reviewing applications. They will begin developing their own CVs to support future applications.
- 4) **Understanding Different Forms of Employment**  
Students will explore the changing labour market and different types of employment, such as part-time work, self-employment, temporary contracts and international opportunities. This helps students understand the range of pathways available to them in the future.

**By the end of the Summer 1 unit, Year 11 students will:**

1. Develop effective strategies for preparing for GCSE examinations
2. Understand how recruitment processes work and how to perform well in interviews
3. Gain experience writing CVs and preparing job applications

4. Develop an understanding of the modern labour market and employment pathways
5. Build confidence as they prepare for the transition to college, apprenticeships or employment

All lessons are delivered in a supportive and practical environment, helping students develop the knowledge and confidence needed as they move towards the next stage of their education and careers.

Thank you for your continued support in helping students prepare for their exams and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead after Thornden.

Warm regards,

Adam Thomas  
Deputy Headteacher  
Thornden School