



Thornden School Newsletter

15th May 2026



Welcome - Ms Lowing (Headteacher)



Dear Parents and Families,

Firstly - a huge welcome to our new Year 7 parents! We are really excited to welcome you to the Thornden family. I hope that your children had a positive SATs week and are now raring to start their secondary journey.

The big news is that Year 11 are right in the midst of their examinations with many whole cohort exams this week. They have been fantastic. We had their Leavers Assembly last Friday - brilliantly organised by Ms Georgiou - and it was just a wonderful celebration of their five years with us. The Prom has been arranged for July and we cannot wait to celebrate the end of exams with Year 11 then.

Thank you to the Year 10 parents who attended our first ever Student Leaders Presentation Evening. We are so proud of everyone who was successful in getting a role as a Student leader and a particular well done to the Head students.

I hope that you have a good fortnight,

Caroline

Welcome

Dates for you Diary

Event	Date	Information
Spanish Exchange	27/05/2026-02/06/2026	
Normandy Trip	29/05/2026-01/06/2026	
Year 8 Belong Event	12/06/2026	
St Catherines Hill trips	Wk. 15/06/2026	Year 7 only
Year 6 Parents Intake Evening	18/06/2026	Parents only

Inset Days 2025-2026

30/06/2026

08/07/2026

Non-uniform days 2025-2026

Friday 17th July



Extracurricular Timetables and Updates

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

Our extra-curricular programme runs throughout the week, before school, at break and lunchtime, and after school. It is designed to be accessible to all students, with a strong emphasis on participation, enjoyment and personal development.

Students can get involved in a wide variety of activities, including:

- Sport and physical activity, ranging from athletics, cricket, rounders and tennis through to competitive teams representing the school
- Performing arts, including choirs, bands, orchestras, dance companies and drama productions, supported by our purpose-built Performing Arts Centre
- Academic and creative clubs, such as STEM, coding, chess, languages and subject-specific enrichment
- Social and wellbeing opportunities, including library clubs, board games, creative activities and calm spaces to support wellbeing
- Inclusive and student-led groups, such as Pride Group and initiatives like *Operation Clean Up Thornden*, which promote community and responsibility

WANTED - YOUR SECOND HAND UNIFORM

Please donate any good quality new logo items - just drop it off at reception. It's better for the environment, it helps people struggling with the cost of uniforms and all funds raised go straight back into improving school for the students.

Artist of the week



This week's Artist of the week is Yousof, Year 8, for his striking lino print based on North American indigenous art.

Yousof has used the images and patterns commonly found in this art style to create a bold and effective print.

Well done Yousof!



Year 11 Update-Ms Georgiou (HOY 11)

Prom donations

A huge thank you to Rebecca Oldman for her kind donations of the signed Saints shirts. Both were successfully auctioned on the weekend to raise funds for the Year 11 prom.

Leavers assembly

On Tuesday 5th May, we celebrated Year 11s time at school at our Leavers' Assembly. It was impossible to truly summarise five years of growth, learning, and shared experience in a single one-hour assembly — but we certainly tried. During the afternoon, we shared subject awards, allowed tutors time to say their goodbyes, and reflected on some of the lighter and funnier moments that have shaped the year group.

They have now started their GCSE exams and have shown incredible maturity and focus. We are so proud of the Class of 2026 and we will continue to support them every step of the way over the coming weeks.





House Update-Mr Baldwin (2nd in Science)

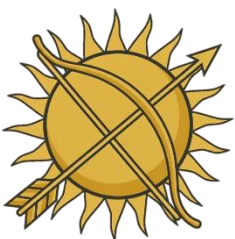
The night of the 30th April once again saw some of the wonderfully talented Thornden students putting on their glitz and Jazz Hands to take part in the annual tradition of Star for a Night, but this year with the added twist that they were representing their house in the great House-O-Vision Song (and talent) contest! Vienna calling anyone?

Some amazing performances ranging from street dance and rap through to ballet and close up magic, with a brief interlude into Pirate themed musical sketch, made the decision for the judges incredibly hard. But in the end Alex in Year 7 won through, representing Poseidon with an amazing piece of classical Piano.



The house competitions are hotting up too! The houses now have their wonderful logos, and the flags are flying. At the moment Poseidon has a commanding lead, but it is very much all to play for.

We have also selected Thornden's first House Captains from Year 10, a brand new role within the school which will help keep that school and house spirit high! Keep your eyes peeled for more events and fun, including a revamped sports day coming up....





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

GCSE Business -Miss Reid

Year 11

A second year where the GCSE Business papers have been really early. I don't know why the exam board made the decision to pull Business forward, but it makes a nice change from being one of the last exams.

At the time of writing, students have just had their paper 1 briefing and will be writing their paper 1. By the end of next week, they will have had their paper 2 briefing and have written their final paper.

The purpose of the briefing is to remind students of the key points in the specification and to give them a quick refresher on the all-important exam technique.

They were the best cohort so far for listening attentively and I even got a round of applause at the end!

Year 10

So now the focus turns to year 10.

Year 10 finished the work relating to Paper 1, about small business, around Easter. We will have completed the first topic relating to Paper 2, about big business, before May half term and will then concentrate on revision.

The year 10 exam will just be Paper 1. The revision materials are available electronically (on Student Hub) and hard copies will be issued before half term.

Our main focus of course is not on the year 10 exam or the trial exam but on the actual GCSE to be sat in the summer of 2027. This exam paper will be written by the autumn of this year using current events as the stimulus material. We are watching inflation increase as a result of the US attack on Iran. We are speculating about what is likely to happen to interest rates as a result. We discussed Claire's closing their standalone stores as consumer tastes changed and sales moved from the high street to online. Although we will keep talking about current affairs in year 11, it is the year 10 stories that are most important.

Year 9

For those in year 9 who have chosen to study Business, I hope that you are looking forward to following the news and relating the events that unfold to the theory on the syllabus. I suggest that you read the stories about the attack on Iran and the resulting blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. Although this is happening a long way away, everything that we buy has, at some point, been transported. When the price of oil goes up it pushes up the price of everything else. These price increases are called inflation, and this might be part of the stimulus material for your exam paper.



FOTS

A Big Idea, a New Chapter & a Chance to Get Involved!

At our AGM in November, our Chair Nic Lansdowne reflected on everything FOTS has made possible over the years — from tablets and sewing machines to wellbeing dens and bereavement support. It's a genuinely remarkable record for a small volunteer group. But we think the best is yet to come.

The Big Idea is taking shape

Earlier this year we asked every student and staff member: what would make Thornden even better? Over 60 ideas came in. The answer? An **outdoor canopy** — a covered space that will benefit students every single day, whatever the weather. This is exactly the kind of lasting change that FOTS exists to make happen.

We need you to help make it real

Nic has given more than a decade to this school and will be stepping back next year. That means we need fresh faces and fresh energy to carry this project — and FOTS — forward. You don't need to chair meetings or organise events. Skills in fundraising, communications, or simply enthusiasm to be part of something meaningful are all equally welcome.

Come and meet us

Nic will be personally hosting our **end of year bids meeting and social on Tuesday 9th July** — a relaxed evening with drinks and snacks, a chance to hear about the canopy project and meet the team.

To register, email fots@thornden.hants.sch.uk — we'd love to see you there.





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

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

Careers Provision Feedback

We are continually developing our careers provision at the school. We would be grateful if you could complete this short questionnaire letting us know what provision you are already aware of, if there is anything else you think we should be offering and if you are able to get involved at all yourselves.

Thank you in advance, your feedback will really help us with our future careers planning

[Parent Survey - Careers Provision – Fill in form](#)



South Hampshire College Group Survey - Your Opinion Matters - Quick Survey About Further Education Years 9-11

We've been asked to share a short survey from South Hampshire College Group (SHCG) about what matters to you when supporting your child/young person with choices about where to study after school. The survey takes approximately 8-10 minutes, and all responses are completely confidential and anonymous: [Survey](#)

University of Southampton Robotics Summer School 2026 - Year 11

Join us at the University of Southampton from 10th to 14th August 2026 to design, build and program a fully autonomous robot in the University's state-of-the-art lab facilities. You'll be supported by industry professionals and academics and will experience a taste of life as a university student, with lectures, lab tours and more. This is a non-residential summer school, and meals are not provided - though we provide drinks and snacks throughout each day. This event is free of charge. If you're interested, sign up at <https://rss.sro.bot>.

Embley Sixth Form Open Evening – Thurs 21st May (17:30-19:30)

We open our doors to give families a hands-on experience of life at Embley Sixth Form. They'll have the chance to speak with staff and students about every aspect of school life - from exploring subject interests and future pathways to discovering the breadth of opportunities beyond the classroom, including sport and over 180 co-curricular options including flying, motorsport engineering, trading on the London Stock Exchange, sailing and more. Further information about our Admissions events for prospective families and booking details, are available on our website – www.embley.org.uk/visiting-embley

King Edward VI Sixth Form Open Evening - Friday 26th June 6pm - 8pm

Discover a Sixth Form that challenges, supports and inspires!

Youth Impact Programme - Year 11

Eastleigh dates - Monday 13th - Friday 17th July or Monday 17th August - Friday 21st August.

The 5-day programme running Monday to Friday, 10am–4pm, packed with interactive activities and challenges.

Year 11 Ocean & Earth Science Residential Taster at University of Southampton - Year 11

This engaging residential course offers students the chance to explore the processes that drive the global Earth system. Combining elements of geology, geography, and oceanography, the programme also helps students develop a wide range of practical and transferable skills.

There are 30 places available so if interested apply ASAP.

Further information, including bursary criteria, can be found via this [link](#).

SETA Engineering Vacancies - Year 11

Please use link to view the weekly bulletin for Engineering Apprenticeship vacancies. As always all vacancies are advertised on SETA's [vacancy page on our website](#) with links out to the appropriate websites for students to apply.

Pop back regularly to [SETA's website](#) to look for any new adverts, as well as the [Government Apprenticeship Website](#).

SETA's Workshop Taster Day - Year 10 & 11

SETA's Workshop Taster Day will be taking place on Saturday 7 November 2026. Arrival timeslots of 10am / 11am / 12pm & 1pm all [bookable on our website](#).

National Oceanography Centre Open Day - Sunday 14th June 9.30am - 5pm - All years

Explore ocean science and innovation at the National Oceanography Centre (NOC)'s open day on 14th June 2026.

NOC will be opening the doors to its Southampton-based centre, offering a unique opportunity to go behind the scenes at the UK's leading organisation for ocean research. NOC's open day is an opportunity to celebrate the people, projects and communities engaged in oceanography, inviting visitors to gain a new appreciation for our planet's most mysterious and vital ecosystem.

Through interactive exhibits, hands-on demonstrations, family friendly activities and tours of our workshops, our team will share fascinating insights into how science is unlocking the ocean's secrets. Please use this link to book [Open Day | National Oceanography Centre](#).

Futures Skills Programme: Careers in STEM - Virtual course over May Half Term - Years 9 -10

This programme is designed to inspire students, broaden their understanding of STEM careers, and equip them with the skills and confidence needed to make informed choices and succeed in future applications and the workplace.

Please use this link to apply for a space - [Programmes - The Future Skills Programme: Careers in STEM](#)





Thornden Sport- Miss Hall (2nd in PE)

Sports Results

Date	Team	Gender	Sport		Opposition	Fixture Type	Result
30/05/2026	U15	Boys	Football	vs	Springfield	County Cup Final	Won 3 - 0
05/05/2026	U13	Boys B	Tennis	vs	Swanmore	League	Won 10-2
05/05/2026	U15	Girls	Track	vs	Various	Track KO Round 1	1st place – through to Semi Finals
05/05/2026	U15	Boys	Track	vs	Various	Track KO Round 1	3rd place – through to Semi Finals
06/05/2026	U15	Boys B	Tennis	vs	Ringwood	League	Lost
06/05/2026	U13	Girls B	Tennis	vs	Ringwood	League	Lost
07/05/2026	U13	Girls	Track	vs	Various	Track KO Round 1	2nd place – through to Semi Finals
07/05/2026	U13	Boys	Track	vs	Various	Track KO Round 1	3rd place – through to Semi Finals
12/05/2026	U15	Boys	Tennis	vs	Westgate	League	Lost
12/05/2026	U15	Boys	Cricket	vs	Hounslow	County Cup	Lost by 20 runs

Achievements

Gymnastics

Following on from English acrobatic championships in County Durham a few weeks' again, Rory, Year 7, has been selected for the GB team and selected to represent GB at the Rzeszów International World Cup in Poland in June with his team (Acrobatic Men's group).

For reference - Rory is the one in the air and doing the handstands on the stack!

Impressive achievements Rory, we look forward to hearing how you and your team get on in June!



Football

Well done to the following Year 10 boys, Charlie, Thomas, Rafferty, Bayley, Jamie and Spencer, who won the Tyro League Cup with AFC Totton a few weekends ago, beating Monksbrook 3-0 in the final.

Congratulations!



Showjumping

Eliza, Year 8, was selected as part of a senior English showjumping team to compete at the Jersey Liberation show, last week, with a horse named Suzie, in classes of 1m+ over several days. She was the youngest member of the team and they went on to come second! Individually she also did well coming second in the 90cm class out of a large field.

Well done Eliza!



Cheerleading

Eliza, Year 9, recently competed in two major international cheerleading competitions in the USA and achieved the following:

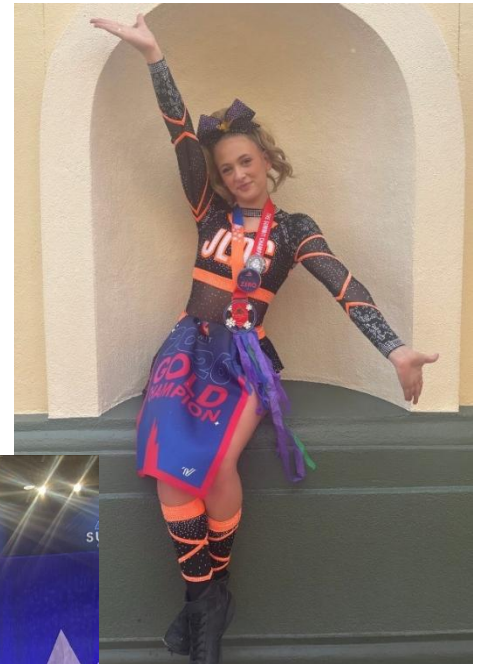
- 1st place in U18 Level 1 at the NCA All-Star National Championship
- 1st place in U16 Level 2 at The Summit

Eliza and her team were also the highest level 2 scoring team of the whole event bringing England to the forefront of British cheer beating teams from America, Canada and Germany also.

Both competitions are among the largest and most prestigious in the world. NCA is known for its huge number of competing teams, while The Summit is a qualification-only event, meaning teams must earn their place to compete. To win at both events in the same season is a fantastic achievement and reflects a huge amount of dedication, resilience, and teamwork.

A big well done to Eliza who trains for many hours each week alongside her school commitments.

Next, we wait to hear how she gets on at European Summit in Lisbon in June!



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](https://www.instagram.com/thornden_sport).



Job Vacancies

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

Learning Support Assistant - closing date Sunday 17/05/2026 - [HISP Multi Academy Trust - Vacancies](#)

Thornden Hall Casual Technician - closing date Sunday 17/05/2026 - [HISP Multi Academy Trust - Vacancies](#)

Teacher of History - closing date 18/05/2026 - [HISP Multi Academy Trust - Vacancies](#)

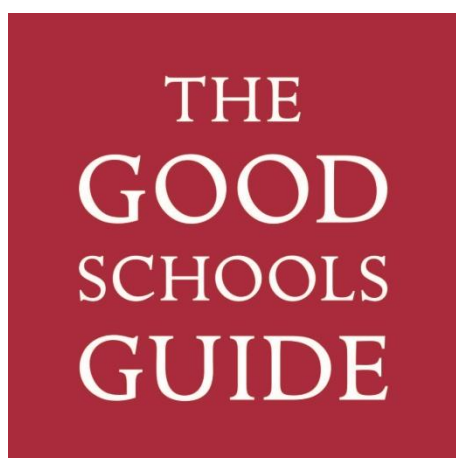
Teacher of English - closing date Sunday 17/05/2026 - [HISP Multi Academy Trust - Vacancies](#)

For all HISP Trust wide vacancies, please click on [HISP Multi Academy Trust - Vacancies](#)

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](#)