



Thornden School Newsletter

3rd July 2026



Welcome - Ms Lowing (Headteacher)



Dear Families,

Loads of events in this fortnight - more Belong events for our year groups and lots of college Taster days for Year 10 after their Year 10 exams.

Our joint trip to Japan with students and staff from the Danebury School took off this week. The initial photos that we have received look incredible - more to come on this.

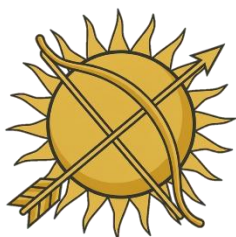
This week we held two major events. Firstly, the Prom for the Class of 2026. Ms Georgiou and the tutor team put on an event to remember for all time! The year group danced the night away at the Utilita Bowl. To be honest, the song requests from the students reminded me of my Prom! Who knew that young people like Belinda Carlisle and Dexy's Midnight Runners?!?

Secondly, we had Sports Day on Friday. This is the first time we have had Sports Day with our new House system and what a colourful day it was! House Poseidon, Artemis, Athena, Ares and Apollo battled it out for the House Cup. Winners will be announced shortly.

We have received the draft report for our Ofsted inspection. As soon as this is published, I will send you a letter to share the outcome. Thank you again for your support during the inspection and during the heatwave week. Your supportive comments and communication have been hugely valuable to us.

We hope that you have a good couple of weeks,

Caroline



Dates for you Diary

Event	Date	Information
Year 10 Belong Event	06/07/2026	Lesson 4
Barton Peverill Taster Day	09/07/2026	Year 10 only
Non-Uniform Day	16/07/2026	Cultural Celebration-see below
Activities Day	20/07/2026	All years
Last Day-all years	22/07/2026	Timetable for day to be sent
Inset Day	01/09/2026	
Year 7 first day	02/09/2026	
Year 8-11 return from summer	03/09/2026	

Inset Days 2025-2026

08/07/2026

Inset Days 2026-2027-more will be added

01/09/2026

02/11/2026

05/07/2027



Non-uniform days 2025-2026

Thursday 16th July – Dress to Express-can be cultural clothing, colourful clothing or just own clothes that you feel comfortable in and reflect your identity. No hair dye please and no clothing that could cause offence.

Extracurricular Timetables and Updates

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

Clubs for the new year are announced early in September. We will attach the new timetable to the newsletter and add it to our website. Please keep an eye out for this when we return.

Just a reminder that you do not need to book onto any of our clubs, and they are all free to attend.

Water bottles

Please make sure your child comes to school each day with a water bottle. They should fill this up before school, break and at lunch, if required.

We no longer supply cups, so water bottles are essential.

Artist of the week



This week's Artist of the Week is Hondi, Year 8 for this superb lino print. It is very accurately cut and printed in two colours. The pigeon has such character - Well done Hondi!

This week's Artist of the Week is Lyra, Year 7, for this lovely coral tile. Lyra learnt how to model, attach using scoring and slip and add textures to the clay. The star fish is particularly well made - Well Done Lyra!



Lost Property

Over the next week, students will be asked to check the lost property area. If your child has lost something, please encourage them to come and check to see if their item has been handed in.

Any unclaimed items will be disposed of or donated to charity on Monday 20th July.

We also have various items of jewellery, watches/smartwatches, glasses and keys. These items can be collected from the admin office, by E1.



Careers Trip: Sparsholt College – Miss Stickland (BTEC Enterprise and Careers Lead)

On Friday 19th June we took 12 students from Years 8 and 9 to have a look around Sparsholt College and all the fantastic facilities they have there.

We saw the land-based areas with demonstrations of horse riding and equine anatomy, quad bikes, chainsaws, woodchippers and even a replica cow used to help students understand and practice the birthing process.



The quad bike was driven by a former Thornden student who was described as one of their top performing students.



We also got to visit the fisheries, the sporting area with amazing football pitches, a fully equipped gym and a huge climbing wall and we got to take in some of the most amazing landscape across their 450 acres.

A highlight for all of us was getting to see some of the 600 animals the college has on site for the animal management course. Even the meerkat was feeling the heat on his feet!

A fantastic, if sweaty, afternoon getting to see some of the amazing possible pathways post Thornden School.





Inspiring Start to GCSE Engineering NEA with Industry Guest Speaker-Mrs Coles (Head of Design and Technology)

GCSE Engineering students were given an exciting and inspiring start to their Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) with a visit from Nick Chivers, Consulting Partner at CoralPoint, a company specialising in renewable energy.

Nick delivered an engaging presentation that helped students develop a clear understanding of the importance of renewable energy in today's society. He explored how alternative energy sources are being used in real-world situations and highlighted innovative ways these technologies could be applied to the students' own design projects, particularly for products aimed at people living off-grid.

The session also provided valuable insight into careers within the renewable energy industry. Students showed great enthusiasm, asking thoughtful and relevant questions about both the technology and the pathways into this rapidly growing sector.

Overall, the talk was a fantastic way to launch the NEA, sparking curiosity and motivating students. It has given them a strong foundation for their research and inspired them as they begin developing their own engineering solutions.



Changes to catchment for Kings School

Hampshire County Council is holding a consultation on changes to the catchment area of Kings' School in September 2028.

This consultation will run from **Wednesday 24 June** and **Wednesday 22 July 2026** during which time comments on the proposal may be submitted.

Details regarding the proposal can be found on the following website from today: www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/kings-school-winchester



Year 7's St Catherines Hill Trip - Mr Shepherd (Head of Geography)

In Geography earlier this half term we had a series of wonderful half day field trip excursions with our Year 7 cohort. We visited a local Site of Special Scientific Interest and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, St Catherine's Hill near Winchester. St Catherine's Hill is also part of the South Downs National park.

The purpose of the trip was to enable the students to collect data as part of a Geographical Enquiry. The focus of which is to assess the impact of the M3 on St Catherines' Hill.

On the trip the students completed a pedestrian count as well as two Geographical field sketches and two environmental impact assessments that assesses the noise and aesthetic impact of the motorway.

Now that we are back in the classroom, the students are using their data to build graphs, analyse and explain their findings and conclude their opinions as to the impact of the motorway. The students will also evaluate the enquiry process to see how we could gain more robust data and increase the confidence of the conclusions in the future.

The skills that the students gain from this experience helps prepare them for future Geographical enquiry. It also expands their understanding as to the role of Geographical thinking in the wider world.

We thoroughly enjoyed the trips. The students engaged in the data collection with enthusiasm. They represented themselves and Thornden School immaculately. They also scaled the 309 steps up the hill with gusto. We are very proud of them.





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

This year, Year 7-9 students have used stop motion software to create fantastic short films with Lego bricks - we have seen rivalries, romances, and even a to scale chess set built and filmed. In our showcase today, we have a 'A Bus Tale' created by Austin, Penny, and Eleanor. They expertly used their stop motion, green screen and voice over skills to share the story of a bus who must work hard to avoid losing their route! Press the image to access the video!



Water Safety

With the hot weather staying with us this week, many families and young people may be choosing to cool off in the water. While rivers, lakes and the sea can seem tempting in the heat, open water can be dangerous – even for strong swimmers. For parents and carers with teens and young people who might be heading for a dip with friends, please remind them to:

- Stick to **lifeguarded areas**
- **Don't swim alone** or **under the influence of alcohol**
- **Take it slow** when entering cold water to avoid shock
- Remember the [RNLI's guidance on how to 'float to live'](#) if they get into difficulty

For those of you with younger children and babies, you might be using a swimming or paddling pool at home. Here are some top tips to stay safe:

- Choose **bright, contrasting swimwear** so your child is easy to see in the water. Avoid colours that blend in with water or pool floors, such as blue, grey, pastel green or white.
- **Empty paddling pools after use** and turn them over, so they can't unexpectedly fill up with water if it rains.
- **Lock doors and gates** to outdoor areas so children can't sneak out unsupervised and be aware that children can wander into neighbouring gardens.
- **Avoid other distractions** while children are playing in water.
- Keep young children **within an arm's reach**.

For more information and advice including the Float to Live campaign please use the link below.

Please visit: [Water Safety - Hampshire SCP](#)



Year 11 Prom- Ms Georgiou (Head of Year 7/11)

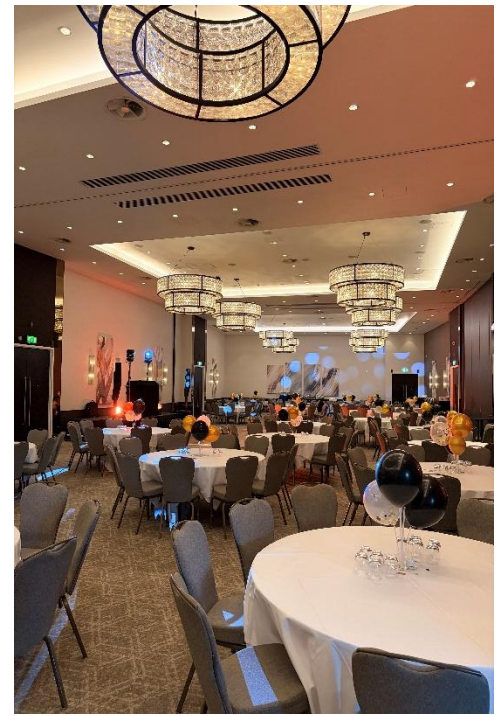
Year 11 had an exceptional prom. The arrivals were sensational, with students arriving on horseback, in large trucks, and even in an ice cream van, to name just a few. For me, the highlight was seeing each student individualise their prom outfit. They all looked incredible and, more importantly, were able to express who they are.

They thoroughly enjoyed the photo booth, sweet cart, casino tables, and the surprise magician. But most of all, they danced – and danced and danced. The dance floor was transformed into what I can only describe as a mosh pit for most of the evening, with students singing at the top of their voices and making memories that will last a lifetime.



I will be posting a few photos and videos on the Thornden Instagram page over the coming days.

It was the most wonderful send-off for a truly special group of young people. I am incredibly proud of every one of them, and I wish them all the very best for the future. They will always hold a special place in my heart, and I have no doubt that they will go on to achieve great things.



FOTS

Make the Most of Summer — and Help FOTS Do More!

Two heatwaves in and it's only July — outdoor shade is no longer a luxury at Thornden, it's a necessity. Our landmark **Big Idea canopy project** is gathering pace, but in the meantime FOTS is also looking at practical summer wins, like funding robust, long-lasting gazebos for use at sporting events both on and off site. If you've ever stood in the blazing sun watching sports day or an away fixture, you'll know exactly why this matters.

Get involved — our end of year meeting is coming up

We're holding our **final FOTS meeting of the year on Monday 7th July**, with a social included — and it's offsite this year, so a little more relaxed! If you'd like to join us, please email fots@thornden.hants.sch.uk for details of the time and location. New faces are always very welcome.

Uniform — donate now, help families in September

Uniform is always in high demand at this time of year. If you have good-quality items to donate ahead of our next sale in September, please email uniform@thornden.hants.sch.uk. Full details of the sale will follow nearer the time.

Support FOTS year-round

Everything FOTS does is funded by you. Two easy ways to help:

- **Regular donations** — even the price of a coffee a month makes a real difference: [regular donation \(with Gift Aid\)](#)
- **easyfundraising** — shop online as normal and raise funds at no extra cost: [install the app for automatic, no cost donations](#)



AI generated visualisation of gazebos that we are considering.



Year 8 Taskmaster Challenge: Belong Event – Mr Jewell (Head of Year 8)

Our Year 8 students recently took part in an exciting **Taskmaster Challenge**, with tutor groups competing against one another in a series of creative, hilarious, and sometimes downright bizarre tasks.

Throughout the event, students demonstrated fantastic teamwork, problem-solving skills, and enthusiasm as they tackled a variety of challenges. Activities included searching for **300 mini ducks hidden around the school**, taking on a **penalty shootout while wearing psychedelic goggles**, creating a **doppelganger out of bread**, acting out **movie trailers**, designing a **teacher out of a coconut**, and even **wrapping a fellow student as an animal**!



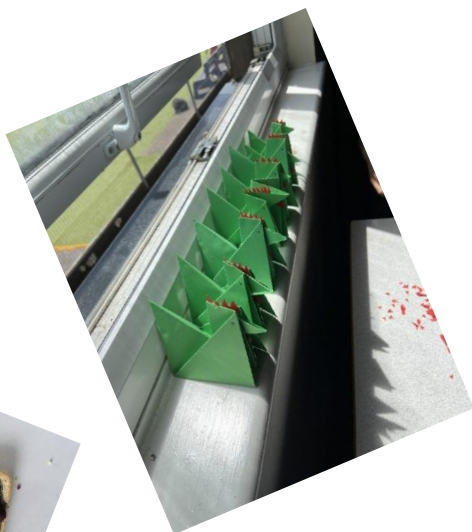
The competition was fierce, with tutor groups earning points throughout the challenge. After all the scores were counted, the **top five tutor groups** progressed to a spectacular live final in **Thornden Hall**.

The finalists competed in front of their peers in a series of entertaining challenges, including a **doughnut-eating contest**, a demanding **teamwork challenge**, and in a final face off- **Human Hungry Hippos**. The atmosphere was fantastic, with students encouraging one another and fully embracing the spirit of the event.

We were incredibly proud of all Year 8 students, who competed with great energy, creativity, and sportsmanship throughout the day. Their behaviour and engagement were excellent and made the event a huge success.

A special congratulations goes to **8SDTU**, who emerged as the overall winners! As their reward, they will enjoy a well-deserved **Domino's Pizza Lunch**, as well as the all-important **bragging rights** as this year's Year 8 Taskmaster Champions.

Well done to everyone involved and thank you to the staff who helped make the event such a memorable occasion for our students.





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

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

Peter Symonds A Level Photography

For any students keen to see what happens in A Level Photography at PSC, here is a [link](#) to the online exhibition of their Year 13s work from this year, which is live for the next 10 days.

Barton Peveril Open Events - Wednesday 23rd September or Thursday 24th September 4.30 - 8.15pm

- Explore our facilities
- Research all courses on offer and QXTRAs!
- Speak to our current students and teachers
- Enjoy the College's vibrant and energetic atmosphere

To Secure Your Ticket: www.ticketsource.co.uk/barton-peveril-college-events.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students and parents to explore an outstanding sixth form college.

- *We encourage you to arrive at the start time on your ticket. Your time slot is limited to 45 minutes.*
- *Parking will be provided on the field. Please be wary of the type and size of vehicle you bring. Accessible vehicles must display their blue badge at all times. Please email marketing@barton.ac.uk if you need support with accessible parking.*

Sparsholt Open Events 2026/2027

Link to website - [Sparsholt College Open Events](#)

Steve Willis Training Centres Apprenticeships Open Days 2026/2027-[Information here](#)

BAE Systems Maritime and Land Defence Solutions: Headway Programme: for Year 11 and 13s

We understand that some young women feel uncertain about the potential transition from education into STEAM (science, technology, engineering, engineering arts and maths) industry training and employment.

Our annual Headway Programme gives young women entering academic years 11 and 13 in September 2026 the opportunity to:

- Learn about BAE Systems
- Meet and shadow our female staff
- Explore engineering and business services apprenticeship programmes, starting September 2027

Taking place over six sessions from September to November 2026, students will be matched with a BAE Systems mentor and visit Portsmouth Naval Base. There will be opportunities to meet current BAE Systems apprentices, who will provide insights into their role and share their experience.

We'll offer some guidance on how to apply for our apprenticeship programmes, open for application from January to February 2027, starting in September 2027.

Places are limited, so you must commit to attending all dates/times listed above to complete the programme. Access to Portsmouth Naval Base is subject to MOD security checks and permissions. You will need valid photo ID (e.g. passport or provisional driver's license) to gain access to Portsmouth Naval Base. To register, please complete the online form via this link: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/F1ATMI/> Online registration will close 09:00 on Monday 6 July 2026.

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>

Youth Impact Programme - Year 11

Eastleigh dates - Monday 13th - Friday 17th July or Monday 17th August - Friday 21st August. Link to book [Sign Up | Youth Impact](#)

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.

The course will take place at the National Oceanography Centre Southampton (NOCS), one of the world's leading centres for ocean and earth science research. Meals are provided on-site, and accommodation is within walking distance.

Who is the course for?

- Year 11 and Year 12 students
- Students with a strong interest in Ocean and Earth Sciences
- Students studying (or planning to study) at least two of the following A levels (or equivalent): Maths, Biology, Physics, Geography, Chemistry, Environmental Science, or Geology
- Capacity: 30 students
- Cost: £270 (bursaries are available)
- Find out more and apply [here](#)

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](#).



Thornden Sport- Miss Hall (2nd in PE)

Sports Results

Date	Team	Gender	Sport		Opposition	Fixture Type	Result
16/06/2026	U13	Boys B	Tennis	vs	Hayling College	League	Won 7-6
17/06/2026	U13	Girls B	Tennis	vs	Walhampton School	League	Won
17/06/2026	U13	Girls	Cricket	vs	Various	Festival	Lost 3, won 1
18/06/2026	U15	Girls	Cricket	vs	Various	Festival	3rd place
19/06/2026	U13	Boys	Cricket	vs	Kings	Hampshire Cup Semi Final	Lost
29/06/2026	U13B	Boys	Tennis	vs	Bedales	League	Lost

Achievements

Billiards

Well done to William, Year 9, who clinched the English Under 16's title recently in Kings Lynn to make it five consecutive titles with it being a record since these championships began in 1922. William has also been mentioned in the British Junior English Billiards Championship Wikipedia too!

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Junior_English_Billiards_Championship

William has now been called up to represent England in the Under 21 snooker home international which will be played in Leeds this August. Congratulations William!



Basketball

Well done to Rocco, Year 8, who has recently been accepted a place on the Suns U14s National Basketball League team to compete in the Southern Conference 1 league. Congratulations Rocco!

Netball

Well done to Kitty, Year 8, who recently had trials for Bath Netball club and was successful! A brilliant step forward achieved in a strong club! Congratulations 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](#).





Rising Stars Concert- Mrs Gale (Head of Music)

A wonderful evening of entertainment was provided by students at the Rising Stars Concert last week. This is the music department's showcase concert for lower school students where they have the opportunity to perform solos and small group items in Thornden Hall. The standard this year was exceptionally high and all the students are to be congratulated on their performances. The repertoire was varied, ranging from classical to jazz, musical theatre to pop. It was fantastic to hear so many talented young pianists performing on our Steinway grand piano. We were also treated to a beautiful performance on traditional Chinese instruments which was a particular highlight.

A very big well done to all those who performed in this concert. We look forward to many more years of working with these talented young musicians.



Thornden Hall



Thornden School Productions present this fresh, imaginative production bringing the beloved cult classic to life with a playful twist, bursting with colour, energy, and unforgettable music. Follow Seymour, a shy florist, as he discovers a mysterious plant with a very unusual appetite - and a knack for changing his life in the most unexpected ways.



Thornden Hall is a high quality performing arts centre, located at the back of Thornden Hall
Serving both the school and the wider community 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

Job Vacancies

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

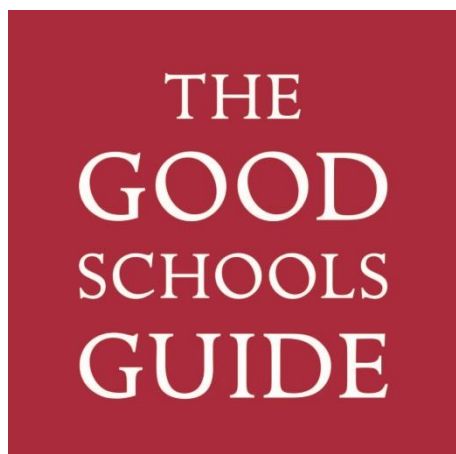
Learning Support Assistant - closing date 09/07/2026 (deadline midday) - [HISP Multi Academy Trust - Vacancies](#)

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](#)

