



Thornden School Newsletter

25th September 2026



Welcome - Ms Lowing (Headteacher)



Dear Families,

A big well done to Year 11 who had a successful Work Experience week and have now completed two whole weeks back, at the top of the school. We are so proud of the way that they have buckled down to their studies at the start of their final year.

Thank you for the MFL department for a wonderful Barcelona trip - a really brilliant time was had by all, and we tried not to be too jealous about the weather that they enjoyed!

I am currently working my way through our examination meetings. Each September I meet with every Head of Department to go through what worked well last year and what things they want to implement this academic year to support students in their exams. I feel so privileged to have these meetings. Our Heads of Department are passionate subject experts and hearing them talk about pedagogy and the subject disciplines that they are responsible for is a delight.

I also had the privilege of going on inspection last week. As many of you know, I am an Ofsted inspector. Even though we have had our inspection I still find it hugely beneficial to continue this work to support wider sector development (as well as to steal some ideas!) This inspection was much closer to home, for some reason I seem to keep being sent to Slough.

We are down to the very last few parents who have not signed up for the LOQT app. We will be inviting those parents into school for a meeting so that we can ensure that we are compliant with the law and have fairness for all.

A reminder of how to sign up:

1. Download the LOQT app from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#)
2. Create a parent account using your email address
3. Add your child's device by following the in-app instructions
4. When prompted to join a school, enter your child's year group code
5. Full setup guides are available at [loqt.app](#) under the parents section

I hope that you have a brilliant rest of September,

Caroline

Dates for you Diary

Event	Date	Information
Year 7 Team Building Day	29/09/2026-30/09/2026	Year 7 only
Iceland Trip Meeting	29/09/2026	7pm Thornden Hall
Year 7 Meet the tutor event	30/09/2026	3.30-4.30pm
ADHD Refresher for Parents	30/09/2026	Bookable only 6.30pm
Early Closure-Open Evening	08/10/2026	Students finish 1.10pm
Inset Day	09/10/2026	Closed to all students

Inset Days 2026-2027-full list
09/10/2026
02/11/2026
15/01/2027
29/06/2027
09/07/2027

09/10/2026	
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02/11/2026

15/01/2027

29/06/2027

09/07/2027

Non-uniform days 2026-2027
TBC

TBC



Extracurricular Timetables and Updates

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

Please follow this [link](#) to access the PE timetable to Autumn 1. This will start from Monday 14th September.

Other clubs for the new year are announced next week We will attach the new timetable to the newsletter and add it to our website.

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



Important School Reminders

Drop off/Pick up

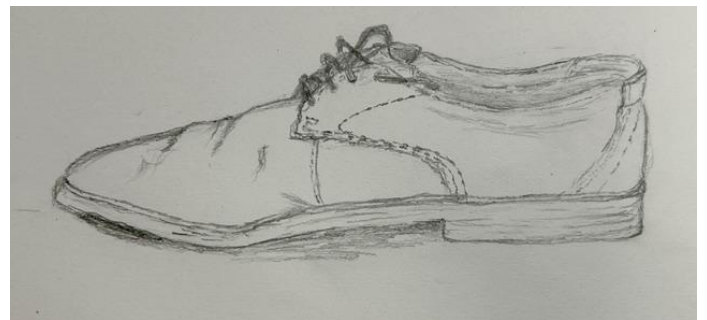
- Parents are unable to pick up and drop off on the school site before and after school without a special pass. Passes are reserved for our students with disabilities or serious injuries. The vast majority of parents have been hugely supportive in keeping the school site safe for our young people (thank you) but a couple of parents have approached the barriers and/ or tailgated staff to get through. This is dangerous.

Open evening early closure

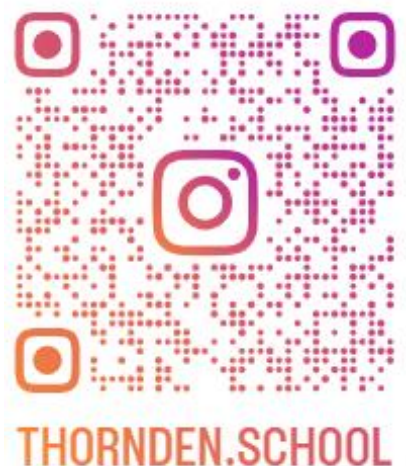
- The school will close to students at 1.10pm on Thursday 8th October for our opening evening.

Artist of the week

Our first Artist of the Week for this Year is Murtaza R from Year 7 for his amazing pencil drawing of a shoe. He has used careful observation skills to achieve the correct shape and proportions and then used light pencil shading techniques to give his sketch dimension and texture. An excellent observational piece - well done Murtaza!



This week's Artist of the Week is Rufus S from Year 8, for his lovely pen and watercolour painting of a Jammy Dodger. He has created a very effective piece using a loose sketchy style of painting on top of an accurately drawn biscuit. A really engaging artwork - Well done Rufus!



Come and see us at the Open Evening — Wednesday 8 October, 4–7pm!

We'll be there selling refreshments and running our second-hand uniform stall — a great way to grab a bargain while supporting FOTS. Before then, we'd love your help stocking up: please donate any new-logo or non-logoed uniform items you no longer need. [Email our uniform team](#) or bring items along on the night.

Introducing our brand-new FOTS gazebo!

We've just ordered this branded gazebo, funded by FOTS, for any team, club or group needing shade and shelter at school events. It's a lovely reminder of everything FOTS has helped fund over the years — keep an eye out for it around school!



Getting involved is easier than you think

Nic Lansdowne is stepping down as Chair after 12 wonderful years with FOTS, and we're looking for new trustees to join our small, easy-going team. Think one meeting a term, a couple of uniform sales, and helping out at a couple of school events — that's it!

Curious what's really involved? Come along to our bids review meeting, Thursday 15th October — open to everyone, no pressure, just a chance to meet the team.

Our AGM has moved to Tuesday 10th November, where we'll be electing a new Chair and welcoming new trustees.

Want to find out more, get involved, or nominate someone? [Contact FOTS here](#) or email us: fots@thornden.hants.sch.uk



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 HSMC (Hampshire Specialist Music Course) Open Evening - 28th September 6pm - 8pm - Year 10 & 11

We warmly invite students and families to our HSMC Open Evening. The programme starts at 6pm with chamber music performances from current students, followed by a staff presentation. There will be plenty of time to speak to staff and students over refreshments and explore the Russell Music Centre. To book your place email music@psc.ac.uk.

You can read more about the HSMC course [here](#),

Barton Peveril College Applications - Year 11

College applications are now open and close Friday 12th February. Applications can be made via this link [Apply to Barton Peveril – Home](#)

Peter Symonds College Open Evenings – 30th September and 1st October 5:30 - 8:30pm

Please use this link to book [Open Evening: Peter Symonds College](#)

College applications are now open and close on Monday 7th December 2026 Applications can be made via this link [Apply](#)

Richard Taunton Sixth Form College Open Evenings 30th September, 13th October, 21st April 6:00-8:00pm

Students and parents can book in advance via our [website](#) or this link: [Richard Taunton Sixth Form College](#). It's a great opportunity for students to take a look around the college, find out more about the courses we offer and to meet staff and students.

College applications are now open and we recommend applying by February. Applications can be made via this link [Apply Now - Richard Taunton Sixth Form College](#)

Sparsholt Open Event - Saturday 3rd October 9.30am - 2pm - Year 11

Please use this link to website [Sparsholt College Open Events](#) to book a place.

College applications are now open and we recommend applying by Christmas. Applications can be made via this link [How to Apply - Sparsholt College and University Centre Sparsholt](#)

SHCG Open Events - October 2026

13th October Eastleigh College

15th October Fareham College

21st October Southampton College

Please book using this link [Events Archive - SHCG | South Hampshire College Group](#)
College applications open on 1st October.

Futures for All - Discover Creative Careers webinar - Tuesday 6th October 6pm - 7pm

Join us for this free online event designed to challenge some of the biggest myths about working in the creative industries.

Hear directly from professionals working across sub sectors which include film, visual effects (VFX), music, craft and more, as they share their career journeys, the realities of working in the industry, and the wide range of opportunities available today. [Register – Discover Creative Careers: Parent & Carer Information Event – Futures For All, Broadcast](#)

Marine Careers Evening, Lymington - 26th November - Year 9, 10, 11

This is a chance to explore the diverse career opportunities in the marine industry. Please see attached poster for details and how to book.

PETA Apprenticeship Open Evening - Thursday 18th March 2027

Please use this link to register for a place -

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=tTXhJKhQSEaNDysBqvUtDj_sjJvq-EFPkVDwXwsdGHZUMVhENFdORU5JSjQzQ1BTRzBFTjMwVkdLNS4u&route=shorturl

Steve Willis Training Centres Apprenticeships Open Days 2026/2027

Please see link for full details [Apprenticeship Open Days | Steve Willis Training](#)

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 7th November 2026**. Arrival timeslots of 10am / 11am / 12pm & 1pm all [bookable on our website](#).

Diwali Celebration

We invite families to join us on Tuesday 10th November 6pm for our annual Diwali Celebration.

If your family would like to attend, please complete the link below by Friday 3rd October 2026.

[Diwali Meal- Tuesday 10th November 2026 – Fill in form](#)

If any family would like to help to organise and run the evening, please email info@thornden.hants.sch.uk.





A Little Shop of Horrors to remember-Mrs Smith (Head of Performing Arts)

What a fantastic way to round off the summer term! Our July production of *Little Shop of Horrors* was a huge success, and I could not be prouder of the incredible team of students and staff who brought this wonderfully wacky show to life.

From the very first rehearsal to the final curtain call, our cast and crew demonstrated an outstanding level of commitment, professionalism and enthusiasm. They worked together brilliantly, supporting one another both on and off stage and creating a real sense of teamwork throughout the production. The result was a show that was energetic, hilarious, entertaining and, above all, enormous fun! It was a real joy to watch the students grow in confidence and see their hard work come together in such a vibrant performance.

A particular shout-out must also go to our backstage team. Their professionalism, organisation and calm approach helped everything run smoothly, even when the pressure was on. There is so much work that happens behind the scenes that an audience never gets to see, and our students handled it with maturity, focus and a fantastic team spirit.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to the parents and families of our cast. Your support made such a difference, from helping students source costumes and all the little details that brought their characters to life, to sending in lovely messages of encouragement and treats for the team. Your kindness and enthusiasm were very much appreciated by all of us. We regularly post Performing Arts news (including photos and video clips) on our Performing Arts Instagram page.

A Shimmery Shout-Out!

We have to give a very special thank you and shout-out to Raz from Trenza Braidbar, who generously gave up her time and shared her expertise to add tinsel to the hair of around 40 cast members! The finished looks were absolutely fabulous, and the tinsel shimmered beautifully under the stage lights. It was a fantastic finishing touch that really helped to complete the look of the production. Thank you, Raz.

We were also incredibly proud to use the production as an opportunity to raise both money and awareness for local charity Abby's Heroes. Supporting a local cause that does such important work made the experience even more meaningful for our students. We are still waiting to hear the final amount raised, but we will be sure to keep everyone posted once we have the confirmed figure.

Looking Ahead...

As we look towards another exciting year in Performing Arts, we are delighted to welcome Miss Jones to the department as Mrs McGreal's maternity cover and as our new Drama teacher. We cannot wait to work with her, particularly as we begin preparations for our next production.

Our winter production will be revealed very soon. This year, we will be taking on another play for our winter show, before returning to another musical in July 2027. Winter show audition dates for students in Years 8–11 will be released shortly, so keep your eyes peeled for more information! Year 7 (and existing) students can look forward to joining our Performing arts clubs

this year – Junior Dance, Lunchbox Theatre Drama club (Year 7 only) and Show Singers all can't wait to welcome you back.

Thank you once again to every student, parent, member of staff and supporter who helped make *Little Shop of Horrors* such a memorable production. It was a brilliant celebration of creativity, collaboration and the sheer joy of performing — and we are already looking forward to what comes next!



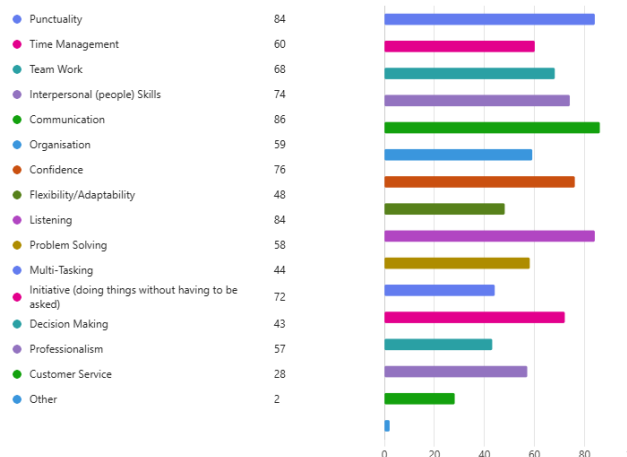


Year 10 Enterprise Day– Miss Stickland (BTEC Enterprise and Careers Lead)

Year 11 Work Experience

In the first full week back after the summer holidays the Year 11 students enjoyed their work experience placements. We had students in a hugely varied range of industries from schools to vets, to banks and everything in between.

5. What skills did you demonstrate/develop during your placement?



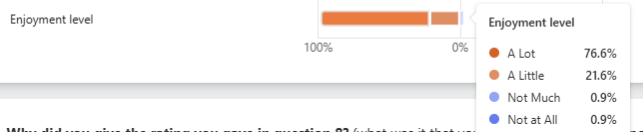
On their return we have asked the students to reflect on their experience and the skills they gained. To date these are what the results tell us.

These are fantastic skills that can be included in college or apprenticeship applications.

We also asked Year 11 for an overall summary of their time in the workplace and these were the results:

8. How much did you enjoy your work experience placement?

● A Lot ● A Little ● Not Much ● Not at All



How fantastic that such a large proportion really enjoyed their week and got so much out of it.

Students told us some really positive and useful feedback:

"I can learn from it and become better at interpersonal skills and help have a better idea of where to work"

"It gives me an idea about having to be on time and using my initiative to do things without being told as you won't get told when older you have to just do it".

"Helps me think about what I wanna do in the future"



"My placement helped me improve my interpersonal skills and boosted my confidence by working with others, sharing ideas and presenting our final project." "They offered me a job when i am old enough"
"it has helped me see opportunities in areas I would have never thought of before and see careers possible in my future I have never considered."

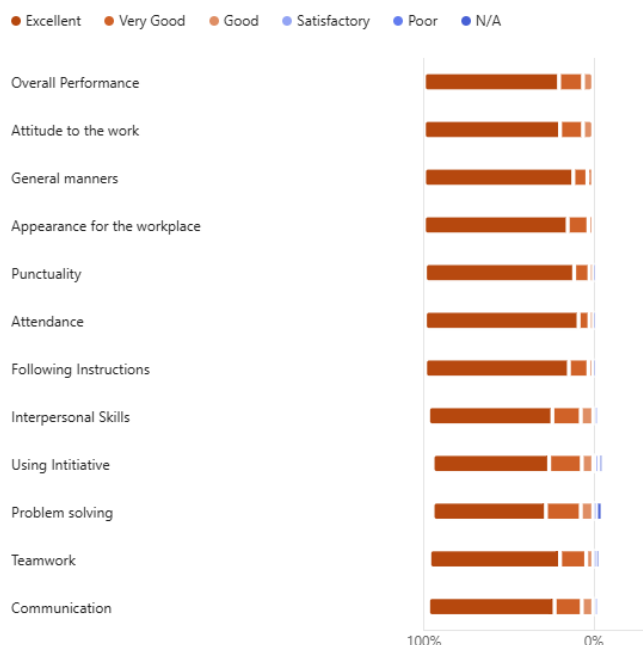
And a couple that we really enjoyed...

"I don't like working in general but this job was quite nice and simple so I didn't mind it"

“I liked teaching the kids but if i had to teach more than 3 at a time it will be too stressful for me.”

We also asked employers for feedback. They were overwhelmingly positive about our students:

6. Please rate the student's performance in the following categories:



Their comments talked about what a pleasure they were to have on the team, how impressive they are as young people and how they got stuck in with the tasks and were a real asset.

What we learn each year is that the more effort a student puts into finding their placement they more likely they are to enjoy it and get the most out of it.

The placements can be useful in 2 ways, confirming that this is the area the student wants to work in or highlighting what they really do not want to do. This is really useful in its own way by helping students to narrow down their wants and needs from their career.

We will be launching work experience with Year 10 students in October. The sooner they can start thinking about what they would like to do the better. If they are unsure of their career goals at the moment then they can think about something they would enjoy doing for a week – they will still get the skills of attendance, punctuality, following instructions etc. They can always come and talk to me or Miss Quinn for help. We will be sending resources to students and parent/carers that should help with the process.

In the meantime, well done to Year 11, you did us proud and we hope the experience helps you with your upcoming (and future) decisions





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

Mr Burnham Head of Dance

Dance at Thornden School: Building Confidence, Creativity and Character

Dance is a subject that speaks to something deeply human — the need to move, to express ourselves and to be creative. In our Dance Department, every child is supported to grow in confidence, develop physical skill and discover their own creative voice, whatever their previous experience.

We pride ourselves on offering high-quality dance education for all abilities. Inclusion is central to our ethos: every student has equal access to lessons, workshops and extra-curricular opportunities. Our three dance companies give students clear pathways to develop their passion further:

- Junior Dance Company (Years 7–9)
- Senior Dance Company (Years 9–11)
- Pulse, our boys-only company open to all year groups

From Year 7 to Year 11, students follow a structured journey through **Performance**, **Composition** and **Appreciation**. They learn the physical skills needed to perform safely and confidently, the building blocks of choreography, and how to reflect on their own work and the work of others — an invaluable skill in any subject.

“We teach creativity as something every child can learn. It isn’t a mysterious talent reserved for a few; it’s a practical, powerful problem-solving skill that helps students think flexibly and approach challenges with confidence.”

In Years 7 and 8, students explore a wide range of styles including abstract contemporary, Lindy Hop, Bollywood and Street Dance. Alongside technique, they learn about the cultural and historical context of each style. Cross-curricular links deepen this understanding — from Martin Luther King and civil rights in Year 7, to Bollywood culture in Year 8, to the social impact of Hip Hop in 1970s New York.

Students who choose Dance at GCSE build on this foundation with greater depth and sophistication. They refine their technical ability, develop complex choreographic ideas and engage thoughtfully with professional works.

Above all, Dance at Thornden School is a place where young people grow — physically, creatively and personally. It is a subject that builds resilience, teamwork, confidence and joy, and we are proud to offer a space where every student can thrive.

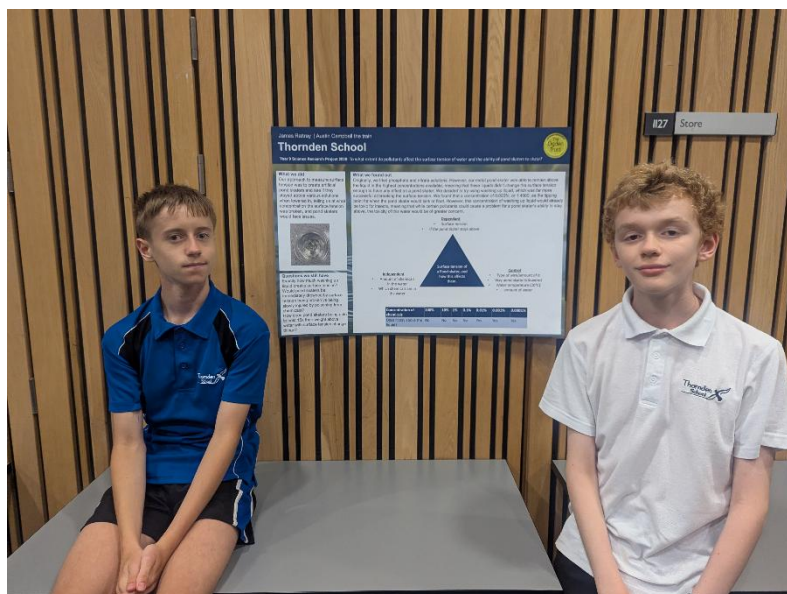




Year 9 Science Problem Solving Project- Dr Baker (Science Technician)

Throughout the summer term, a group of Year 9 students took part in a Science Problem-Solving Project, working alongside several schools from across the region. Their research focused on the growing problem of water pollution caused by nitrates and phosphates from fertiliser run-off, as well as detergents from household and industrial use. They investigated how these pollutants affect the surface tension of water and, in turn, pond skaters' ability to move across its surface.

On the 9th of July, the students visited the University of Southampton to present their findings to professors and postdoctoral researchers from the university, as well as students from the other participating schools. They were also given an exciting tour of the Boldrewood Innovation Campus, which is home to the University's engineering and maritime engineering courses. It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to develop their scientific, problem-solving and presentation skills while also experiencing university life.





Thornden Sport- Miss Hall (2nd in PE)

Sports Results

Date	Team	Gender	Sport		Opposition	Fixture Type	Result	Player(s) of the match
15/09/2026	U16	Female	Football	vs	Toynbee	League	Won 3-0	
16/09/2026	U13	Male	Football	vs	Wyvern	League	Won	
17/09/2026	U12	Male	Football	vs	Toynbee	League	Won 1-0	
18/09/2026	U16	Female	Football	vs	St Georges	National Cup	Drew 2-2, won on penalties	Laila, Ailsa & Maya
21/09/2026	U14A	Female	Netball	vs	Westgate	League	Won	Timmia & Alanna

Sporting Success/Achievement Golf

Some incredible news regarding Georgia, Year 11. Georgia represented England, in the summer, at the European Young Masters in Valencia, Spain and was also selected to play for England in the Home internationals in Scotland.

She secured her first World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) in September and has recently been selected for the Girls (U18) National Squad and England U16 V Ireland U16 match on 3rd & 4th October 2026.

Her handicap is now +2.5.

Incredible achievements Georgia, well done!



Hockey

After a successful tournament representing South Saxons at Nottingham Hockey Centre in July, Jess, Year 8, has been selected for the U14 Girls UK Lions Squad 2026/27.

She has also recently been selected for the South Coast England Hockey Talent Academy Squad 2026/27.

Congratulations Jess, well done!

We are always very 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 Miss Hall, Second in PE: s.hall@thornden.hants.sch.uk



Social Media

At Thornden we have an 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).



@THORNDEN_SPORT

Languages Week -Year 7 Dress up Day



Thornden Hall



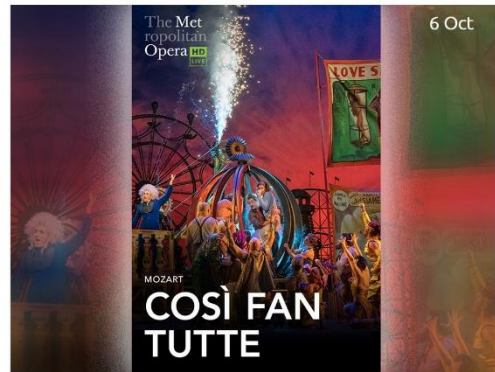
Third times a charm!



Romsey Male Voice Choir with Allegra Ladies



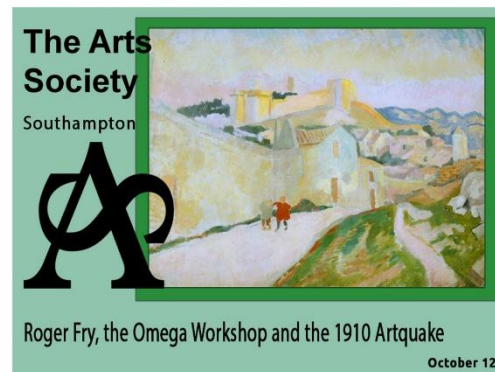
Experience the power and precision of one of the world's most celebrated brass ensembles



Mozart's satirical comedy of fickle young love



One of the most energetic, enduring, and thoroughly entertaining rock 'n' roll tribute shows touring today



Arts Society Southampton are back with their latest programme of lectures



Thornden Hall is a high quality performing arts centre, located at the back of Thornden School
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

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

Please click on the image to access our Ofsted Report and Good School review.



THE
GOOD
SCHOOLS
GUIDE

Highlights from our Ofsted report:

"Pupil's achievement is exceptional ...Lesson are purposeful and highly effective. Pupils recognise the rapid progress they make. This motivates them to participate fully and benefit from the expert teaching they receive."

"Pupils recognise that they know and remember more over time. This success breeds a culture of excitement and pride around learning and achievement."

"Inclusion is at the heart of the school"

"Pupils describe the school as a friendly community and as a place where they belong"

"... it is now a place where individuals are nurtured, and ambition and kindness go hand in hand"



**PHONE-FREE
SCHOOL**



**£15 ticket
£35 family**
(2 adults & up to 3 children)

HARVEST HOEDOWN

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 26
6PM - 9.30PM, OTTERBOURNE VILLAGE HALL

- ◆ **LIVE MUSIC / CALLER**
- ◆ **SUPPER INCLUDED**
- ◆ **DRINKS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE**

PUDDING COMPETITION
If you would like to take part please let us know and bring a pudding to the event!

To order tickets, email:
fundraising@chobenefice.co.uk

 **St Matthew's Otterbourne**



SILVERCUBS JEWELLERY
METAL & SILVERSMITHING
Thornden School
Fridays Starting 18th September
EXTERNAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR PUPILS OF THORNDEN SCHOOL
10 WEEKS LEARNING

YOU WILL CREATE A SET OF JEWELLERY OR A SCULPTURE IN COPPER, BRASS AND STERLING SILVER
DESIGN / SAW / FILE / MELT / SOLDER / SETTING CABOCHON STONES / SAND, POLISH AND MORE

- 📧 Silvercubcreatives@outlook.com
- 📍 Thornden School, Chanders Ford

£120 for the term
payment plan available website for details
🌐 <https://www.cubzclubs.co.uk>

 **Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services**

HOW TO COPE WHEN YOUR CHILD CANT

A one-day event focused on parents/carers understanding their own needs, and learning strategies to look after themselves as they support a young person with their own mental health needs.

The sessions will include looking at emotional regulation. When distress and emotional responses make situations challenging, how can we think clearly and avoid becoming overwhelmed.

The afternoon will focus on
How to Feel Better as a Parent in Burnout
Exploring what burnout is, what contributes to it, the signs and avoiding repeating cycle. An immersive workshop including self-care & nervous system regulation practices you can try. Led by Courtney Freedman-Thompson - coach and wellbeing practitioner with lived experience.

For more information and to book a place go to:
<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/>



Some events have a small charge to allow us to cover costs, some discretionary free tickets are available

Tickets £25
Tea, coffee and lunch included

Wed, 30 September 2026 9.30am - 3.15pm
The Irish Centre, Council Road, Basingstoke, RG21 3DH







YOUR FUTURE STARTS HERE! MAKE A DIFFERENCE. BECOME A TEACHER.

ARE YOU CONSIDERING A CAREER IN TEACHING?

We are hosting in-person information events at various locations on 15th October.

inspiringfutureteachers.org/hispteachertraining



 **HSP Multi Academy Trust**