



Thornden School Newsletter

9th October 2026



Welcome - Ms Lowing (Headteacher)



Dear Families,

Lots to celebrate this fortnight! We have finally finished meeting with departments to discuss their results as well as how we can support current Year 11 groups. If you are a Year 11 parent and you have any questions or comments, then please get in touch. We are holding a Year 11 Parent Information evening very soon so it will be good to see you there. My eldest son is in Year 11 this year, so I have bumped into many of you at some of the Open Evening events at the Sixth Form colleges. We know that this transition can also be challenging for many students and we work really closely with all of the providers to ensure that it goes as smoothly as possible.

Last Friday Thornden hosted the first session of HISP (our multi-academy trust) Aspiring SLT programme. I am privileged to be leading this across the Trust. We welcomed colleagues and had some really rich discussions about school improvement and school leadership. I have always said that I have the best job in the world so being even a small part in other leaders' journeys is fantastic for me!

Year 7 have been really busy this week. We had two successful team building events with lasers, running around and lots of different skills. We also welcomed Year 7 parents to meet their tutors and discuss how their children have settled in. Thank you to everyone involved - we are very proud of Year 7 and how they have handled this transition.

Have a great couple of weeks,

Caroline



Dates for you Diary

Event	Date	Information
Mudeford Trip	13/10/2026	Year 11
Open Mornings	15/10/2026-16/10/2026	Bookings only for new families
Year 10 Information Evening	15/10/2026	6pm Thornden Hall
Mudeford Trip	16/10/2026	Year 11
KS3 Rewards Afternoon	16/10/2026	Reward for last year's achievements
Year 7 Halloween Disco	22/10/2026	6-7.30pm
Paris Trip	23/10/2026-26/10/2026	
Year 11 Iceland Trip	23/10/2026-27/10/2026	
Half Term	26/10/2026-30/10/2026	

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

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

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09/07/2027

Non-uniform days 2026-2027
TBC

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TBC



Extracurricular Timetables and Updates

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

All timetables are now available.

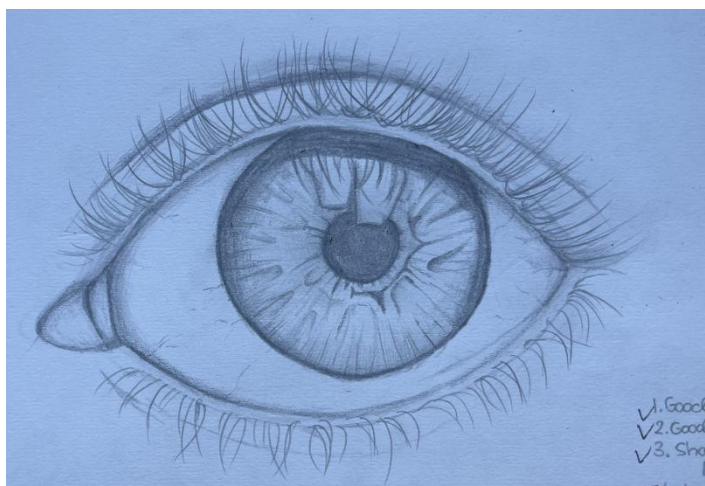
Just a reminder that you do not need to book onto any of our clubs, and they are all free to attend.



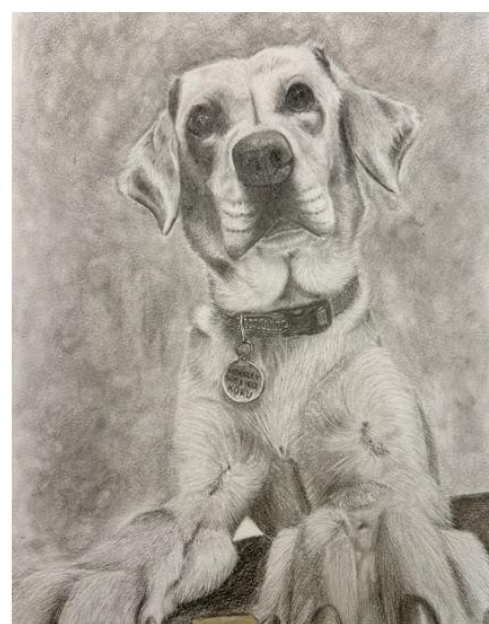
Artist of the week

This week's Artist of the Week is Matilda in Year 8 for her beautiful pencil drawing of an eye.

Matilda has carefully observed the features and shapes of the eye and used shading and highlights to good effect. A stunning drawing - Well done Matilda!



GCSE FINE ART
LEAVERS 2026



Over the next few weeks, we are showcasing some of our wonderful GCSE artwork from our 2026 leavers.

Here we have some lovely pencil pieces from Alice H, Mae M and Kea H.



Art Competition- Miss Willis (Head of Art)

Last June our students were lucky enough to be sponsored again by the Southampton Arts Society in the form of their, now annual, Art competition.

We would now like to share the winners' wonderful work with you all.





Barcelona- Mr Tully (Head of Year 10)



Barcelona Trip – Mr Tully (Head of Year 10)

Staff recently had the absolute pleasure of taking forty-eight students from Year 9 to Barcelona for a long weekend in the sun.

After a tiring day of travel, students started their time in Spain with a visit to Camp Nou, the home of Barcelona football club. Students had the opportunity to explore the immersive museum, shop for souvenirs and some even took on the robot goalkeeper (with varying levels of success!). We then arrived in Calella, where we checked into our hotel, went snack shopping and made a quick first visit to the beach.

On the second day, we visited the Dalí museum at Figueres. In the words of one student, 'everywhere you look, there's something to see'. Students loved exploring the art and optical illusions before having a little bit of free time in Figueres to explore with friends. In

the afternoon, we visited Girona, where students were supported to order an ice cream or a slushie in Spanish. This is always one of the best parts of the trip for us as language teachers – it is so lovely to see students using Spanish in a real-life context! In many cases, we find that once students have managed this successfully once, it makes them a little bit braver to speak more Spanish for the remainder of the trip. Some of the students really did push themselves with this during their time abroad, which made us very proud. In the evening we headed back to the beach, before finishing the evening with a fun quiz.

Sunday's visit to PortAventura is always the highlight of the trip for a large number of students. We did our annual group photo on the Tutuki Splash water ride and we were really fortunate with queue times throughout the day, meaning that students got on a good number of rides. After our day at the park, DJ Mayayo made her annual special guest appearance, which, as always, brought the house down!

For our last day, we headed into central Barcelona, visiting Gaudí's Sagrada Familia and Parc Güell. The weather was absolutely scorching by this point, which did make it tricky for some students to fully explore Parc Güell, but thankfully there was plenty of shelter for those who needed a cooler spot. It was like travelling back in time to the heat wave in July!



Staff had such a fantastic time with the students and are already getting excited to launch next year's edition of the Barcelona trip to our current Year 8 students. Watch this space for updates as this opportunity will be advertised later this term!



FOTS

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, 7.30pm in the conference room — open to everyone, no pressure, just a chance to meet the team.

Our AGM has moved to Monday 9th November, 7.30pm in the conference room, 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



Canteen menu

Please follow this [link](#) to access the Autumn/Winter Aspens canteen menu.





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

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

Barton Peveril College Applications - Year 11

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

Peter Symonds College Applications - Year 11

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

Richard Taunton Sixth Form College Open Evenings - 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.

Sparsholt College Applications - Year 11

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 are now open, and we recommend applying by Christmas. Applications can be made via this link [Apply Now - SHCG | South Hampshire College Group](#).

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 details on next page to book.

BAE Systems virtual work experience 9th- 13th November - Age 14 - 18yrs

BAE Systems are pleased to offer a Virtual Work Experience programme. The programme is suitable for students aged between 14 -18. It will be facilitated by BAE Systems, and delivered via our online learning platform. Please note that this programme is delivered on live sessions and attendance for the duration of the week is required.

During this 5-day programme, students will complete an engineering project, developing knowledge and skills to design a solution to a project brief. It is an interactive programme, with opportunities to collaborate with peers and learn from employees at BAE Systems.

Applications to close approximately 4 weeks before the programme begins. However, they may close earlier if high volumes of applications are received – we recommend applying as soon as

possible to avoid missing out. Please use this link to apply [Work Experience Job | Virtual | BAE Systems](#).

PETA Apprenticeship Open Evening - Thursday 18th March 2027

Please use this [link](#) to register for a place.

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



Join us for an exciting evening at the Lymington Town Sailing Club exploring the diverse career opportunities in the marine industry!

Aimed at Year 9 students upwards, parents and carers, this event is perfect for anyone looking to dive into the world of marine professions.

Come and explore exhibitors and connect with industry professionals in the marine sector, including presentations, practical work and goodie bags to take away.

Don't miss this opportunity!

Scan the QR code to register your place.



For more information, please email lisa.fox2@hants.gov.uk

Lymington Town Sailing Club, Bath House, Bath Road, Lymington, SO41 3SE



Achievement Point Update- Mrs Kehoe (Assistant Headteacher)

As part of our ongoing commitment to recognising and celebrating student success, we have reviewed and updated our Achievement Points system.

The changes have been made for two key reasons:

- To ensure Achievement Points are closely aligned with our school values.
- To simplify and streamline the categories used, making them more meaningful and reflective of both our values and the Thornden Teaching and Learning DNA.

The new Achievement Points system will go live on **Monday 19th October**, and staff will begin awarding points using the updated categories from this date.

All Achievement Points your child has received so far will remain on their record. However, due to the system changes, the reasons attached to historic Achievement Points will no longer be visible on the Arbor Parent App. Unfortunately, Arbor is unable to retain these previous descriptions once the new categories are introduced.

If you would like a record of your child's existing Achievement Points and the reasons they were awarded, please contact the school and we will be happy to provide this information.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we further develop our systems for recognising student achievement.

Uniform update

After consulting with students and with staff we have decided to change our uniform rule around wearing socks over tights.

Students are now able to wear ankle socks over tights - they felt that this helps with new shoes in September and the colder weather into the Winter. Please note that socks must be black or white and cannot be branded (e.g. not Nike, New Balance, Adidas)



Art Student Leaders- Miss Willis (Head of Art)

Our Art Student Leaders, Amy, Laila, Ferraga and Neshen are all kitted-out in their personalised aprons and ready to go! As well as supporting the Art Department with Open Evenings, they will also be helping to run our KS3 Art Club on Tuesdays after school.





Year 7 Team Building- Miss Parker (Head of Year 7)



Last week Year 7 had the opportunity to take part in our annual Team Building Days. The French side of the year group had their day on Tuesday, and the Spanish had theirs on Wednesday. Each tutor group was split into four teams and they had to work through 21 different activities in their group. A firm favourite across was the laser tag with everyone taking part having great fun running, hiding from and dodging their opponents. The teams had to work together to complete all of the given tasks within a time limit to try and earn points as many points as possible. Their nominated Team Leaders were tasked with recording scores and directing and supporting their teams throughout the day.

It was wonderful to see students who perhaps have not spoken to each other since the start of the school year come together to embrace the challenges and work collaboratively to collect points for their teams.

The staff from Personal Best Education who led the days were very impressed with the excellent behaviour from students and also said how well they supported and encouraged each other. It was also a pleasure to work with 20 Year 9 student leaders who gave up their time to work with the Year 7s and help out during the days.

We look forward to welcoming Danny from Personal Best back into Thornden next week to reveal the winners and award the trophy to the team with the most points!





Thornden Sport- Miss Hall (2nd in PE)

Sports Results

Date	Team	Gender	Sport		Opposition	Fixture Type	Result	Player(s) of the match
22/09/2026	U15	Male	Football	vs	Admiral Lord Nelson	County Cup	Lost 2-1	
24/09/2026	Junior	Female	Swimming	vs	Various	County Championships	Bronze - Freestyle relay	
24/09/2026	Senior	Female	Swimming	vs	Various	County Championships	Bronze - Medley relay	
24/09/2026	U16	Male	Football	vs	Bitterne Park	County Cup	Won 3-1	
24/09/2026	U16A	Female	Netball	vs	Brookfield	League	Lost	Laycie & Mia
25/09/2026	U16	Female	Football	vs	Calthorpe	County Cup	Drew 1-1, lost on penalties	
28/09/2026	U16	Female	Football	vs	Romsey	Friendly	Won	
29/09/2026	U12b	Female	Netball	vs	Mountbatten	League	Won 7-2	Imogen R
29/09/2026	U13b	Female	Netball	vs	Mountbatten	League	Won 15-6	OPOM: Petra & Charlie
29/09/2026	U15	Male	Football	vs	Kings	League	Won 2-1	
30/09/2026	U16a	Female	Netball	vs	St Swithuns B	Friendly	Won 17-8	Mia & Ava B
30/09/2026	U16a	Female	Netball	vs	St Swithuns C	Friendly	Won	Laycie & Mia
30/09/2026	U13	Male	Football	vs	Mountbatten	League	Lost 2-5	
01/10/2026	U14b	Female	Netball	vs	Mountbatten	League	Won	Ella & Danielle
01/10/2026	U16b	Female	Netball	vs	Mountbatten	League	Lost	Elena & Ava S
01/10/2026	U12	Male	Football	vs	Romsey	League	Drew 1-1	
03/10/2026	U14a	Female	Netball	vs	Various	County round of National schools	1 st place. Through to South Regionals in February.	All of them!

Achievement

Netball

On Saturday, the U14 netball team competed in the County round of National Schools. An event Thornden annually compete in. The team played KES, St Swithuns, Perins, Portsmouth High and Farnborough Hill.

A high level of netball was displayed by all members of the team. There were some excellent interceptions and strong defensive pressure from Isla and Alanna, accurate shooting from Emily, Eva and Timmia but excellent decision-making to maintain possession and progress the ball successfully down the court from all members of the team.

The team won all 5 of their games and now progress to South Regionals in February!



A well-deserved result and a massive congratulations to the following Year 9 students: Eva, Emily, Timmia, Alanna, Isla, Bethany, Amelie and Rita.

Taekwondo

Diana, Year 9, had an outstanding weekend at the British National Taekwondo Championships recently. Competing against the country's elite athletes, Diana fought brilliantly to take home the Silver medal, delivering a masterclass in the semi-finals by winning both rounds via points gap. Her individual success was also a vital contribution toward her club, LMC Taekwondo, securing a fantastic 3rd place overall out of 90 teams.

Adding to the celebration, British Taekwondo has confirmed that Diana has successfully retained her place in the Sport Performance Squad for the 2027 season for the third consecutive year, recognising her remarkable commitment, growth, and athletic potential within the Pathway Programme.

Well done, Diana!



American Football

Well done to Orion, Year 11, who recently represented Great Britain at the U15 Mixed - European Flag American Football Championships in Italy. After some close loses, GB finished with 3 consecutive wins to end the tournament 3-3.

Orion led the team in touchdowns and now will work towards selection for the U17 Boys in the new year.

Congratulations, Orion!



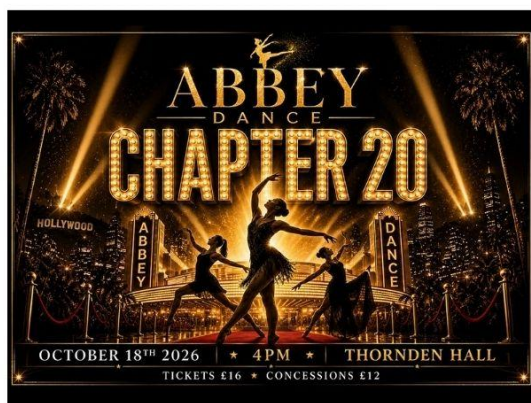
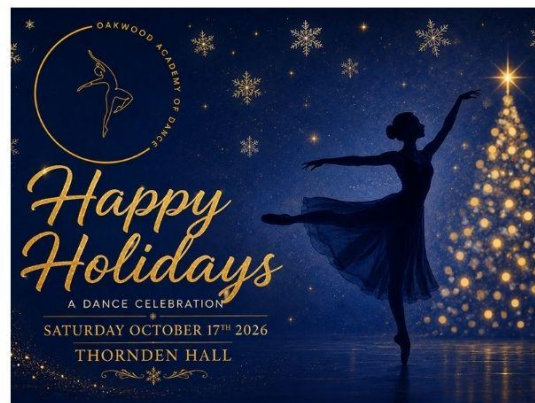
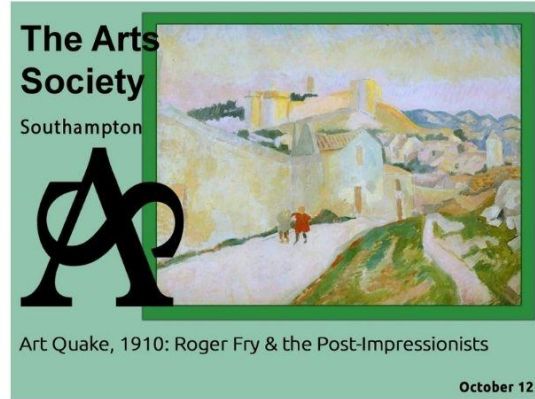
We are always very keen to hear about success stories from our students outside of school, so please do get in touch if there is news we can share. For any sporting successes, please email Miss Hall, Second in PE: s.hall@thornden.hants.sch.uk

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 Hall



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**

Fryern Acorns PTA presents

A professional display by Pains Fireworks

FRYERN FEDERATION FIREWORKS

2026

FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

GATES OPEN 5:30PM - DISPLAY STARTS 7PM

FULL PRICE £8 ADULT / £6 CHILD

UNDER 2'S FREE

TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE GATE

**EARLY BIRD
£6 ADULT
£5 CHILD
UNTIL 18/10/2026**



Fryern School Field,
Oakmount Rd,
Chandler's Ford, SO53 2LN

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/ACORNS**



**NO SMOKING / VAPING
NO SPARKLERS
NO DOGS**

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*Thornden School***

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OF THORNDEN SCHOOL

10 WEEKS LEARNING

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

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

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payment plan available website for details

- 🌐 <https://www.cubzclubs.co.uk>


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TEACHER.**

ARE YOU CONSIDERING A CAREER IN
TEACHING?

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

inspiringfutureteachers.org/hisp
teachertraining@hispmat.org

