



Thornden School Newsletter

23rd October 2026



Welcome - Ms Lowing (Headteacher)



Dear Families,

The best wishes to all of you at the end of a very busy half term. A big thank you to all of the Year 10 parents who made it to Year 10 Parents Information Evening. Hopefully you found it useful.

Year 11 have had their fieldwork trips to Mudeford in the last fortnight. They seemed to be very lucky with the weather, by and large, and came back with some compelling data to work with. This week we had the Year 9 Speaking Competition. It was wonderful to hear the range of speeches shared - students were really passionate about their choices and they employed a range of persuasive devices to argue their points to the year group and the judges.

I hope that you have a lovely half term break. Just a reminder that we have INSET day on Monday 2nd November so we will welcome all students back on Tuesday 3rd November.

Can I also remind parents that you are unable to drive on to our school site for drop off or pick up unless you have a special pass? Now that the weather is getting a bit more variable, we have seen more people try to access the site and turn in the junction. This is unsafe for pedestrians and causes traffic issues for us and for students at Lakeside school. Thank you for your support with this.

Caroline

Student Christmas Lunch

Please make sure to book your child's Christmas lunch via Arbor. There are two options, meat or vegetarian.

If your child receives free school meals please email info@thornden.hants.sch.uk and state your child's name, year and option.

If your child has any dietary requirements, please email info@thornden.hants.sch.uk with your child's name, year and requirement.

Please see email sent on Monday 19th October for full details.

Please complete the above by Friday 13th November. We are unable to take any bookings after this date.

Dates for you Diary

Event	Date	Information
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 Day	02/11/2026	Closed to all students
Year 7 reports to parents	05/11/2026	Received via email
Diwali event	10/11/2026	
Year 7 Parent and Carer Evening	11/11/2026	Online
Year 10 RS GCSE Mosque Trip	12/11/2026	
Year 12 Certificate Evening	18/11/2026	
Year 10 Reports to Parents	20/11/2026	Received via email

Inset Days 2026-2027

02/11/2026

15/01/2027

29/06/2027

09/07/2027

Non-uniform days 2026-2027

Friday 18th December

Friday 12th February

Thursday 25th March

Friday 16th July



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.





GCSE Geography Field Trip to Mudeford and Lyndhurst-Mr Shepherd (Head of Geography)

Over the past few weeks, we have enjoyed some amazing days out with our Year 11 Geography students. Part of their Geography GCSE examination is focused on the geographical enquiry process that incorporates field work. We undertook a physical and human geography field trip day. The physical element of the day asked the students to investigate the how groynes manage longshore drift at Mudeford spit. The students conducted surveying tasks such as measuring the beach width and angle to identify if the groynes are being effective. The human element of the day required to students to assess how important tourism is to the economy of Lyndhurst, where land use surveys and questionnaires were completed.

The students were a joy to take out. Their approach to the work was exemplary, which puts them in good stead for their exams. They represented themselves and Thornden School in a way that made me beyond proud. We even had the weather on our side this year which was the cherry on the cake. We will now be using the data that they gathered to analyse their findings, reach conclusions and evaluate the overall process. Critical skills and memories that I hope they will take with them through Year 11 and beyond. Well done Year 11 geographers, you were brilliant. I hope you have a superb half term break and/or Icelandic adventures.





Department Spotlight

Mrs Gale, Head of Music

This half term has been busy in the Music Department as we prepare for another year of music making and concerts.

We started this academic year by celebrating the class of 2026's GCSE Music results. 78% of last year's cohort achieved a grade 7 or higher for GCSE Music which is a fantastic achievement and well deserved as they worked very hard to achieve this. Our current Year 10 started their GCSE Music course with great enthusiasm this half term and I am looking forward to working with them over the next two years. We are delighted again with how many students opted to take GCSE Music in Year 10 this year as our numbers continue to sit well above the national average.

All our extra-curricular groups and instrumental and vocal lessons are up and running. We currently have over 200 students receiving instrumental lessons from our visiting music teachers and 12 different music ensembles are rehearsing weekly. These groups will all be performing in our Christmas concert at the end of term. Please see the schedule below to see which days each group rehearses on. We are always happy to welcome new members to these groups and so please do get in touch if you would like your child to get involved. Thornden Singers and Show Singers are particularly keen to welcome more students.

Extracurricular Music Department Timetable



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Breaktime				
MU3	Double Reed Ensemble Mrs Williams				
	Lunchtime				
MU2	Flute Cocktail Mrs Dodd	Advanced String Group Mrs Gale	Brass Ensemble Mr Garrod		
MU3	Sax Mad Mr Jones	Show Singers Mrs Rowcliffe	Percussion Ensemble Mr Streather	Jazz Band Mr Jones	
Drama 2			String Orchestra Mrs Gale		
C3				Vocal Ensemble Mrs Bekker	
	After School (3:00pm – 4:00pm)				
Hall			Thornden Singers Mrs Bekker	Wind Band Mr Jones	

We are also pleased to continue our Year 7 Instrumental Project which we are delivering in partnership with Hampshire Music Service. 12 students in Year 7 have taken up the opportunity to learn an instrument for the first time – 7 clarinet students and 5 brass students. They have been given an instrument to learn on for free and are receiving weekly tuition in a small group from a specialist teacher from Hampshire Music Service. We look forward to hearing them perform in the Rising Stars Concert later in the year.

Music Tech Club is also running again this year on Tuesdays after school. We are currently offering a more advanced class for Year 9 and 10 students who have done the club before, but

we will be offering beginner classes for Year 9 students after Christmas. Year 8 students will be offered places in the summer term.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions about music lessons or ensembles at m.gale@thornden.hants.sch.uk

Please also make a note of our concert dates for the upcoming year.

Tuesday 15 th December 2026	Christmas Concert (All ensembles performing)
Tuesday 23 rd March 2027	Spring Concert (All ensembles performing)
Tuesday 22 nd June 2027	Rising Stars Concert (Yrs 7,8 & 9 solos/duets).

All performances will start at 7.00 pm in Thornden Hall. Tickets for each concert will be available from Thornden Hall Box Office.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our events soon.



The Performing Arts Department is looking to borrow a number of items for our upcoming school production. All borrowed items will be returned in February once the production has finished.

We are currently looking for:

- A Santa sleigh
- Suitcases in a 1930s/1940s style
- A small armchair and footstool (they do not need to match)
- Faux fur coats

We are also looking for a large wardrobe. However, to adapt it for use on stage, we will need to remove the back panel, so unfortunately we cannot guarantee that it will be returned in its original condition.

In addition, if you have any lengths of dried bamboo that you no longer need, we would be very grateful to receive them.

If you are able to help with any of the above items, please contact the school.



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

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

NHS Speech and Language Therapy Careers afternoon - Wednesday 28th October - Age 13-16 years

For any students interested in a career in Speech and Language Therapy, Southampton General Hospital are offering a careers afternoon to enable students to learn more about a career in this field. Please see poster for details.

Sparsholt College Open Training Football Session - Year 11 - Wednesday 28th October 09.00 - 12.00pm - Year 11

The event would include an academic presentation, discuss educational courses, followed by a training opportunity & small sided games. Coaches from both Chelsea football club and Sparsholt will be there on the day. This is a year 11 opportunity for players wishing to consider Sparsholt Sport & Football Academy as an option for September 2027. Please see poster for details.

Barton Peveril College Applications - Year 11

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

Sparsholt College Applications and Open Event - Year 11

Registrations are now open for Sparsholt College's next open event on **Saturday 7 November 2026, 9.30am – 2pm (depending on tour times booked)**. To attend, students will need to register for the event and book tours of the subject areas that they wish to see **as soon as possible** by visiting [Experience Sparsholt - Sparsholt College Hampshire](#).

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 - November 2026

10th November CEMAST & CETC

11th November Eastleigh College

17th November Fareham College

19th November 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](#)

[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](#).

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](#)

Applying to Medicine Conference on Saturday 14th November - All years

Please see poster regarding an upcoming virtual conference for students interested in a career in medicine. You can register here: [Applying to Medicine Conference Registration](#)

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

This is a chance to explore the diverse career opportunities in the marine industry. Scan QR to book.



PETA Apprenticeship Open Evening - Thursday 18th March 2027

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

Richard Taunton Sixth Form College Open Evenings - 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.

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](#).

Futures For All - Virtual work experience opportunities - Age 14+

Futures For All offer a wide range on virtual work experience for students. This is not intended to be carried out instead of the official one week work experience that students take part in but to be done in addition if students wish. Please see the attached letter and link [Futures For All](#)

INTERESTED IN... A CAREER IN SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY?

Join us for the afternoon to learn more about speech and language therapy with talks, Q&A and opportunity to meet some of the team.

SIGN UP NOW



INFORMATION

UHS Well Being Hub Function Room, Southampton General Hospital, SO16 6YD

Wednesday 28th October 13:30PM-15:45PM

SLTworkexperience@uhs.nhs.uk

DIETETICS & SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY
Working together to optimise nutrition, hydration and communication



POST 16 OPEN TRAINING SESSION

Our Chelsea Football Club Post-16 College Programme offers both male and female players the opportunity to broaden their educational learning, while participating in a fully comprehensive training programme.

Date: Wednesday 28th October 2026
Location: Sparsholt College, Westley Lane SO21 2NF
Time: 09:00 - 12:00
Age group: U16 +

Scan QR Code



FUTURES FOR ALL



Together we can fuel their future.

Welcome to Futures For All.

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

We are very pleased to announce that your child's school/college will be working closely with Futures For All for the academic year 2026-27.

Futures For All is a **UK-wide youth charity** dedicated to helping students who attend state schools and colleges find their footing in life. Since our launch in 2010, we have supported more than 1.85 million young people to learn about careers and feel more empowered about their future.

From eye-opening **Work Experience** with leading employers to inspirational talks with high-profile **Speakers for Schools**, we offer highly effective ways for 11-19-year-olds to expand their networks and develop the necessary confidence, skills, and knowledge to become better prepared for the world of work.

Research shared by The Sutton Trust revealed that, despite accounting for just 7% of the pupil population, privately educated people occupy around 36% of 'top jobs' in the UK. Yet research has also shown that they do so with the same academic grades as their state-educated peers. At Futures For All, we believe that a young person's future should not be limited by where they live, the sort of school they attend, or who their parents know. We're all about giving young people from state schools and colleges fairer access to the opportunities they deserve at no cost to their school/college or to you.

That's why this year, we will work closely with your child's school or college to provide fully funded career-related activities for students.

Your Consent

To ensure we can support your child's application for work experience, we must obtain your consent. Please be prepared to support your young person at the stage in their application which asks for parent/guardian/carer consent.

We can't wait to help your child feel more confident about their future.

Warm regards, Futures For All

T: +44 (0) 300 365 5888 E: info@futuresforall.org W: [futuresforall.org](https://www.futuresforall.org)
A: Futures For All, Unit 109, 30 Great Guildford St, London SE1 0HS

Visit [futuresforall.org](https://www.futuresforall.org)
or scan to discover



ProEd

FREE **ZOOM ONLINE CONFERENCE**

FROM ASPIRATION TO APPLICATION

LET'S TALK MEDICINE!

OPEN TO ALL



DR KONAIN EHSAN
A practising doctor and former CEO of MedicMentor, who has helped thousands of students pursue Medicine.

WHAT TO EXPECT

This session will help you navigate the medical school application process with greater clarity and direction.



Medical School
Admissions Insights



UCAT
Strategy & Tips



Clinical Experience
Advice



Personal Statement
Masterclass



MMI Interview
Techniques



Live Q&A with
Dr. Ehsan

SESSIONS AVAILABLE

17 OCT 2026 | **14 NOV 2026** | **5 DEC 2026**

ALL SESSIONS RUN ON A SATURDAY, 9AM - 12PM (LONDON)

REGISTER NOW

Secure your
spot today!

Fancy getting involved? Come along to the FOTS AGM on Monday 9 November

It's been a busy start to the year for FOTS. This term we've agreed to fund eight bids from staff, including:

- 🪑 Picnic benches for the new SEND area
- 🌱 A sensory garden that students are planning and planting themselves
- 🚲 A new after-school bike-repair club
- 🪴 Planters and seating to brighten up the Wellbeing Den

None of these would have happened through the school budget alone.

FOTS is organised by just four trustees and a handful of other volunteers. None of it would happen without parents giving their time and their donations, and it's only by new people stepping in that we can keep saying yes to bids like these.

As our children leave Thornden, we move on from FOTS too, so the team naturally changes from year to year. This year our Chair, Nic Lansdowne will be stepping down at the AGM after 12 years with FOTS. We'd like to say a huge thank you to her for everything she's done. Since others will move on as their children finish at the school, we'd really love to welcome some new faces.

👤 Could you lend a hand?

There are lots of ways to help, depending on your time and what you enjoy. Clearly, we need to replace Nic, so we're looking for a new Chair and other trustees, someone to help with communications and social media, people to keep our second-hand uniform service running, and anyone with project management or building experience who could help bring the Big Idea canopy to life.

Come along to our AGM

- 📅 Monday 9 November
- 🕒 7.30pm
- 📍 Thornden Conference Room (behind Thornden Hall/dance studio)

There's no obligation at all, so come along, meet the team and see what we're about. If you can't make it but would like to know more, drop us a line at fots@thornden.hants.sch.uk.

Support FOTS with a small regular donation – [sign up here](#)



Thornden Sport- Miss Hall (2nd in PE)

Sports Results

Date	Team	Gender	Sport		Opposition	Fixture Type	Result	Player(s) of the match
05/10/2026	U16	Male	Football	vs	Wyvern	National Cup	Won 7-5	
06/10/2026	U16a	Female	Netball	vs	Priestlands	Friendly	Won	Molly-May & Mia
06/10/2026	U16b	Female	Netball	vs	Priestlands	Friendly	Won 16-4	Chloe & Elouise
06/10/2026	U12	Male	Football	vs	Costello	County Cup	Won 5-1	
06/10/2026	U13	Male	Football	vs	Springfield School	County Cup	Lost 5-2	
07/10/2026	U14	Male	Rugby	vs	Perins	Hampshire Cup	Lost	Ethan S
07/10/2026	U14a	Female	Netball	vs	Mountbatten	League	Won 22-9	Isla & Bethany
07/10/2026	U16a	Female	Netball	vs	Mountbatten	League	Lost 12-26	Mia L & Laycie
07/10/2026	U13	Female	Hockey	vs	Romsey	Friendly	Won	Iz R
12/10/2026	U13	Female	Hockey	vs	Various	Tournament	1-0 loss to Farleigh, 1-0 loss to Boundary Oak, 3-0 loss to Ryde, 2-2 draw with Island Free School, 2-1 loss to Portsmouth High School	
14/10/2026	U13	Male	Hockey	vs	Perins	Training Game	No scores	
14/10/2026	U16	Male	Rugby	vs	Perins	Hampshire Cup	Lost	Matty
15/10/2026	U14b	Female	Netball	vs	Kings	League	Won 17-14	Genna & Danielle
15/10/2026	U16b	Female	Netball	vs	Kings	League	Won 15-4	Ava S & Aksana
15/10/2026	U14	Female	Football	vs	Mountbatten	League	Won 2-1	Lily
19/10/2026	U14a	Female	Netball	vs	Priestlands	Friendly	Won 28-13	Emily & Isla
19/10/2026	U14b	Female	Netball	vs	Priestlands	Friendly	Won 23-9	Bella & Ella
20/10/2026	U13	Male	Football	vs	Swanmore	League	Won	
20/10/2026	U13	Male	Rugby	vs	John Hanson	Friendly	Lost	Alex P

Achievement

Cricket

Well done to Oliver and Nathan, both in Year 8, who have both been selected for the U13's Hampshire County Squad. A fantastic achievement, well done to both of you!

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

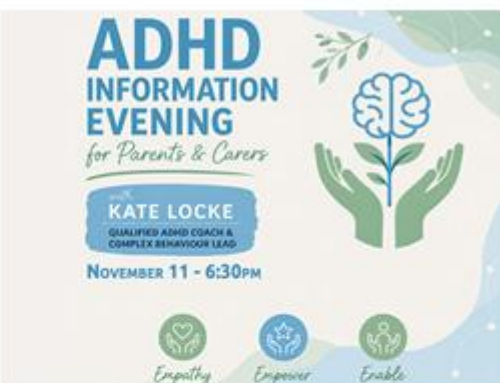
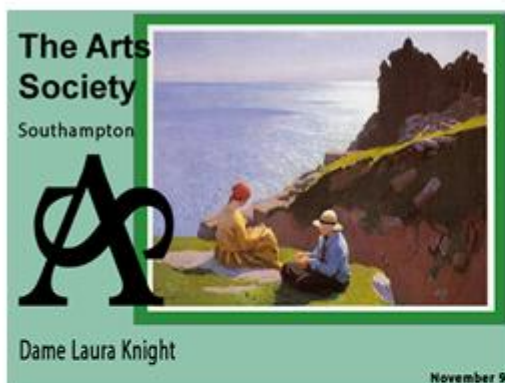
Social Media

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](#).



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

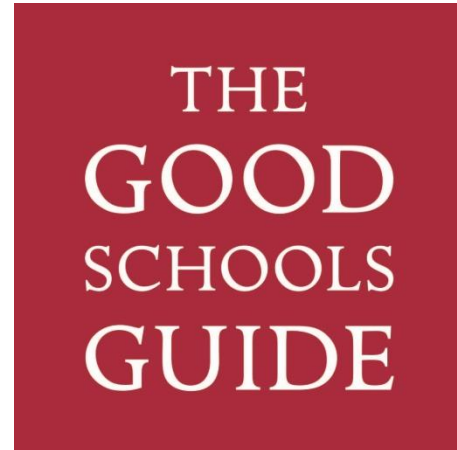


General Contact

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.



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"



PERFORMING ARTS HOUSE COMPETITION



DESIGN AN EMBLEM FOR THE LION, THE WITCH & THE WARDROBE



Your poster MUST be:

- timeless, elegant, bold
- solid red background
- scalable, can be made bigger
- feature either; N, Narnia or Narnian

CLOSING DATE 12:00 18/12/2026
PLEASE PUT IN THE BOX IN
PERFORMING ARTS

ENSURE IT HAS YOUR NAME
AND FORM ON IT

WINNER WILL HAVE THEIR DESIGN DISPLAYED ON STAGE DURING THE WINTER PRODUCTION AND RECEIVE HOUSE POINTS

ADHD INFORMATION EVENING

For Parents & Carers

with
KATE LOCKE

QUALIFIED ADHD COACH &
COMPLEX BEHAVIOUR LEAD

Kate Locke has been teaching for 26 years and is the Complex Behaviour Lead working between two schools. After her daughter was diagnosed with a rare brain condition, Kate became a special needs parent. This has led to a passion to help other children whose brains are 'wired differently.'



“ Kate is engaging, relatable, humorous and informative. Honestly, I found the evening brilliant and Kate's honesty on her own family life was extremely humbling. Where she finds the genuine enthusiasm for trying to help others is infectious. ”

KATE LOCKE
PARENT FEEDBACK

Join Kate on

Wednesday 11th November
6.30pm

in Thornden Hall, Chandlers Ford.



There is plenty of onsite parking
and the bar will be open too!



Booking details below:

ADHD evening Nov 11th

Scan here
for booking
link



Knowing and then growing together

SUPPORTING NEURODIVERSITY • EMPOWERING FAMILIES • TOGETHER FOR BRIGHTER FUTURES

Osborne & Shepherds Down School Outreach Services Parent Workshop:



Wednesday 25th November 2026

10.00am – 2.30pm

Venue: Oliver's Battery School, Austen Avenue,
Winchester SO22 4HP

This workshop will provide you with an insight into autism and how it affects your child. Our aim is to provide you with a range of practical strategies to support your child in the home environment.

The course will cover:

- ❖ An introduction to autism and the areas of difference
- ❖ Positive behaviour management
- ❖ Communication

Led By:

Carson Elday

(Osborne School Outreach Service)

Laura Watts (Shepherds Down Outreach Service)



Free of charge

To book a place please contact **Osborne School Office**

Please **do not** contact Shepherds Down or Oliver's Battery to book.

N.B. Places are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Refreshments will be provided, please bring a packed lunch.

Email admin@osborne.hants.sch.uk

Phone 01962 854537

Parking – On site.