

Thornden School



Prospectus 2018/19



Thornden is an oversubscribed, outstanding school serving the Chandler's Ford and surrounding area with just over 1400 students on roll.

We have an ambitious ethos based on high expectations for all, students are proud of their academic and wider achievements. The belief in their own success and ability to succeed continues beyond our school with a high percentage of Thornden students excelling at local colleges and then at further and higher education.



Releasing potential



Thornden is a busy and dynamic school with a strong focus on developing the whole child. We have a vibrant performing arts department that encourages students to embrace a rich cultural education beyond the more traditional subjects. Alongside our formal curriculum provision, we offer a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities including sporting clubs and teams, author visits, Duke of Edinburgh Award and trips within the UK and abroad. We firmly believe that by engaging students and encouraging enjoyment we inspire them to learn and achieve therefore helping them to develop into fully contributing and happy members of our community.



Welcome

Thank you for considering Thornden as the secondary school for your son or daughter; this will be a significant decision and I hope this prospectus begins to give you a flavour of the school, our community and our commitment to supporting students.

The Thornden ethos is based on treating young people as individuals and supporting them through their school career.

The academic achievement of students and the progress they make consistently places the school as one of the best performing schools in the county and amongst the top schools in the country. This level of aspiration and success is only achievable when young people feel safe, confident and have a sense of belonging and these are things we work constantly to nurture and encourage.



To help you make a considered decision regarding schooling for your child, we run several Autumn Open Mornings for prospective parents and hold an Open Evening in July. For further information about visiting the school or more details on specific provisions that we provide, please see the website or contact us at: info@thornden.hants.sch.uk

Su Whelan
Headteacher

Enjoy



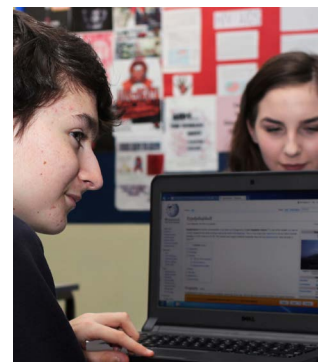
Respect



Participate



Aspire





Inspiring potential

In order to thrive and be successful, we believe that you must first feel safe, secure and happy. We provide an environment that promotes self-worth, nurtures positive relationships and encourages all to believe in their individual abilities and aspirations. We actively seek to develop a friendly atmosphere where students feel confident to ask questions, broaden their knowledge and challenge stereotypes.

Upon entry, all students are engaged in a broad curriculum that enables them to explore new areas of study whilst building on their talents, skills and interests.

As they progress through the school, they are able to choose their own pathway from a wide range of subjects whilst maintaining a core of English, mathematics, science, religious studies and physical education.



‘Be yourself. Don’t let others define you. Thank you, Thornden, I will miss you!’ Tom Atkins,
Year 11 student





Enjoy

‘People rarely succeed unless they have fun in what they are doing’

Dale Carnegie





Respect

‘Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much’ **Helen Keller**





Valuing potential

Thornden school is a learning community that works together to help everyone achieve to the best of their ability. All members of this community are equally important and valued; we embrace and celebrate diversity.

Our pastoral system is based around mixed ability tutor groups. Students are supported by tutors who stay with their group as they progress through the school, building relationships with individuals as well as families.

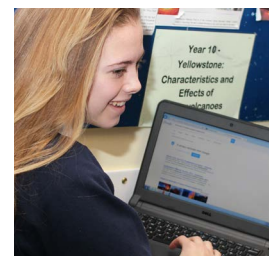
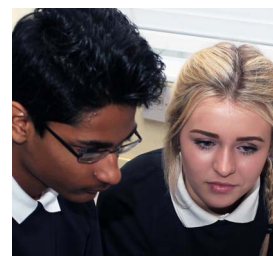
All students are further supported by a Head of Year. Each Head of Year will ensure that the transition from primary to secondary is smooth, help them to make informed choices when they decide on their option subjects in year 9 and help them navigate education and career pathways as they enter their final years with us.

Both the tutor and Head of Year support individual students academically, socially and emotionally. They are a first point of contact for parents.

A member of the Senior Leadership Team has overall responsibility for the pastoral support and guidance provided for the whole year group.

Students are strongly represented in all aspects of school life. A thriving School Council has a highly significant role in making a range of decisions that influence and improve the experience of students. They are actively involved in fundraising for charity and they have a fundamental role in selecting the charities to support and driving the fundraising process. Students regularly form panels for staffing appointments. We believe that being involved in the decision making process helps to promote the values of independence and mutual respect.

We foster a unique environment where we can nurture, support and inspire our students. Located on a large site with attractive grounds we work hard to ensure that the school provides a warm and friendly environment. Students are all allocated a tutor base and are welcome to use these areas at break or lunch time. We have a number of other areas, such as The Hub and The Shed, where students can go to meet and make new friends.





Participate



‘Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something’





Nurturing potential

We encourage all members of our community to be actively engaged in their learning both within and beyond the classroom. We ensure that we offer a wide range of experiences and opportunities that support the development of each individual including Library clubs, the Green Club, nurture groups, curriculum based activities and many other opportunities.

Thornden is proud to have a large, purpose built Performing Arts Centre on site which provides excellent facilities to promote the benefits of the arts. We encourage participation in a variety of activities ranging from musical and dance performances to drama and theatrical productions.

Developing the individual through wide participation across a number of activities is an important aspect of Thornden life. Our programmes range from clubs that take place both during and beyond the school day to sporting teams that compete at a national level. We are very proud of our well supported Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme programme which runs annually.





Aspire

‘Dreams don’t work unless
you do’ John C Maxwell





Unlocking potential

We believe that all students are entitled to high quality teaching that enables them to learn effectively. We are proud of the attainment and progress that our students make. Our academic success is clear evidence that we work with all students to provide them with opportunities for learning which meet their needs.

At Thornden we believe that by guiding students to develop their core skills whilst exploring their talents and interests, we will enable them to succeed. In order to do this, we ensure that our curriculum provision is broad and varied for all year groups.

All students are taught in tutor groups upon entry. This mixed ability ethos is a common thread throughout the school with only a few subjects using loose groupings to support the academic progression of students.

We set high standards and believe that every student can achieve and progress. We provide opportunities to extend all our students and offer additional support for those in need.





Inspired to be your best

‘Don’t take things for granted,
if you work alongside the school
you’ll achieve great things’

James Boote, Year 11 student

‘Trust your teachers as they
know what they’re talking about.
Never be afraid to ask for help’

Year 11 student





Transition

Making a big school feel small is a key challenge we face when students first make the move from year 6 to year 7. Our work to support transition begins whilst they are still in their primary or junior schools.

Collecting information from schools, parents and teachers helps us to gain an idea of each individual before they start. A Deputy Headteacher, Head of Year and current students of Thornden visit our linked primary schools to start working with the students to prepare them for life at Thornden.

Regardless of whether your child goes to a linked primary or not, all future Thornden students are welcomed at our New Intake Day. Here they will meet their peers, their Tutor, Head of Year and other key staff who will become important to them over their five year journey at Thornden. They will enjoy activities designed to build confidence, develop relationships and excite them about the next chapter of their education.

We know that parents also need support through this process. To start developing relationships with parents, we hold a New Intake Parents' Evening. During this evening we showcase life at Thornden, introduce key



personnel, provide information about routines and essential contact details and elaborate on the school's provision.

Some students will find the transition from year 6 to 7 more difficult than others. For these children, we offer a package which is tailored to meet their needs. Our SENCo and Learning Support Coordinator make visits to the schools and they also arrange and oversee additional transition visits.





Thornden School Admission Policy for 2019 - 2020

For the full Admission Policy, please visit our school website: www.thornden.hants.sch.uk

This policy will apply to all admissions from 1 September 2019, including in-year admissions. It will be used during 2018-19 for allocating places for September 2019 as part of the main admission round for Year 7.

Outside the normal admissions round, the authority's Fair Access protocol may be applied alongside the policy to secure the admission of vulnerable students from specific groups.

The policy aims to be clear, fair and objective and complies with all relevant legislation.

Admission Criteria

The Governors of Thornden School Academy Trust will consider first all those applications received by the published deadline of midnight on Monday 31 October 2018. Notifications to parents offering a secondary school place will be sent by the County Council on 01 March 2019.

The published admission number (PAN) for Thornden School for 2019-2020 is 290.



Applications made after midnight on 31 October 2018 will be considered after all on-time applications have been fully processed unless exceptional circumstances merit consideration alongside on-time applications.

For the normal admission round, all preferences will be considered simultaneously and ranked in accordance with the admission criteria. If more than one school can offer a place, the parent's highest stated available preference will be allocated.

If the school is oversubscribed, places will be offered up to the published admission number (PAN) in the following priority order. Places for applications received after the deadline will be allocated using the same criteria.



1. Looked after children or children who were previously looked after (see (i) in Definitions)

2. Children or families who have a serious medical, physical or psychological condition which makes it essential that the child attends the preferred school rather than any other. (Appropriate medical or psychological evidence must be provided in support.)

3. Children living in the catchment area of the school (see (ii) in Definitions) who at the time of application have a sibling (see (iii) in Definitions) on the roll of the school who will still be on roll at the time of admission. [See 5 for additional children who may be considered under this criterion.]

4. Other children living in the catchment area of the school.

5. Children of staff (see (v) in Definitions) living out of the catchment area of the school who have, (1) been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, or (2) have been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

6. Children living out of the catchment area of the school who at the time of application have a sibling (see (iii) in Definitions) on the roll of the school who will still be on roll at the time of admission. [Where a sibling was

allocated a place at the school in the normal admission round in a previous year because the child was displaced (see (iv) in Definitions) from the catchment school for their address, the application will be considered under 3, above, subject to the siblings still living in the catchment area for the school from which they were displaced. In future normal admissions rounds a younger sibling will be considered to have been displaced where they were allocated a place at the school under this criterion as a consequence of their elder sibling's displacement and they remain living in the catchment area.]

7. Children living out of the catchment area of the school who are on the roll of a linked junior or primary school (Hiltingbury Junior School, Knightwood Primary School, Merdon Junior School, Otterbourne Church of England Primary School, Scantabout Primary School or St Francis Church of England Primary School).

8. Other children living out of the catchment area of the school.





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