

November 2019



Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that all parents, carers and students had a relaxing half term and are prepared for the busy, but hopefully successful, half term to follow.

The school performance league tables were published recently <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/find-a-school-in-england> showing Thornden at the top of the Hampshire tables for the three key areas; progress, English and maths and EBacc (English, maths, science, humanities and languages).

The progress figure (Progress 8) shows progress made in 8 subject areas based on how students achieved at the end of KS2. The Progress 8 score was 0.66 which indicates that students achieved two thirds of a grade better than expected in all subjects measured, which was very positive. We celebrated the results and wider achievement from last year with parents and students at our Certificate Presentation Evening this week. This was attended by over 200 of our previous year 11 cohort to celebrate their achievements over the previous five years. This is the last formal meeting of the year group and it was great to see so many familiar faces.

At the end of the last half term, all of our year 10 students participated in the 'Restart a Heart' day, where they learned basic first aid. This was supported by seven medical professionals throughout the day and was well received. All students also received a certificate to recognise the participation. To coincide with Road Safety week, there are two performances by theatre companies for year 7 and year 10. Year 10 saw 'The Passenger', which focussed on the true story of an accident involving teenage drivers. Year 7 will see 'The Decision', which is focussed on the true story of a pedestrian knocked over by a car. Both of these are hard-hitting, but powerfully reinforce the importance of awareness and taking responsibility.

Year 7s and 11s had their full year group photographs taken before half term and these will be available shortly.

Mrs Bekker, our Vocal Director hosted our annual T-Sing event, inviting students and their teachers from our linked primary schools to spend a day working together and developing their singing. This is always a popular and well-attended day which was enjoyed by students and staff.

Year 10 and year 11 students also performed exceptionally well at the recent Shakespeare Festival in Winchester and were a credit to the school and the drama department. This is an event that we have supported for a couple of years and continues to bring out the best in our students. Year 11 geographers have returned from a successful trip to Iceland and have developed their knowledge of a range of issues. They had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

The School Council has formed for the year and had its first meeting of the year. A number of issues and areas were covered including charities to support, communication between other students and the School Council and the school rules. They are a confident group, who will be presenting their thoughts and ideas to Miss Whelan and myself on the school rules over the next couple of weeks, and we will listen carefully to any thoughts.

We continue to place a strong emphasis on ensuring that students are organised, punctual and complete their homework to the best of their ability in order to fulfil their potential. The vast majority of students are responding exceptionally well to this and we are working with those students who are finding this more challenging.

There will be a non-uniform day on the 15th November, which was initiated by the School Council, to raise money for Children in Need. Students are requested to each bring in £1 to go towards this. The monies will be collected by tutors on the day.

Year 11 are building up to their Trial exams in December and completing their college applications during this period. It is a busy period for year 11 and they will receive weekly assemblies supporting them through this process academically, as well as managing themselves emotionally throughout this period.

There are a number of key dates that are worth reminding you about over the next few weeks, including:

13 th November	Year 11 Parents and Carers Progress Meeting
25 th November	Year 10 Parents and Carers Progress Meeting
4 th December	Year 7 Technology fayre (3.30 to 5pm)
2 nd – 13 th December	Year 11 Trial exams
11 th December	School and community choir Romsey Abbey
16 th December	INSET day
17 th December	Christmas Concert in the Sports Hall
18 th December	Year 7 theatre trip (Nuffield)
20 th December	Last day of term. School finished at 11.50
7 th January (Tuesday)	School returns for the Spring Term

Our toilet refurbishment is well and truly underway and we hope to be complete in the next two or three weeks. Contrary to some rumours, these will be a suite of toilets for boys and a suite for girls.

Before Christmas we will offer an update on the repairs to Thornden Hall. Mr Collar will continue to inform our increasing number of followers on Twitter with highlights from the school week.

As always, please contact the school if you require any further information about any of the events mentioned.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Hicks
Deputy Headteacher

MUSIC INFORMATION

Concerts (further information from Mr Jones, Head of Music)

Please find below the list of concert dates that our extra-curricular groups will be performing in over the course of this academic year. All the performances will start at 7.00pm.

Tuesday 17 th December	Christmas Concert <i>all Ensembles</i> (Sports Hall)
Wednesday 11 th March	Wind Band Concert <i>also featuring Jazz Band, Sax Mad, Percussion Ensemble</i> (Gym)
Wednesday 6 th May	Summer Concert <i>all Ensembles</i> (Sports Hall)
Tuesday 16 th June	Rising Stars Concert (Yr.7,8 & 9) (Gym)

Tickets for each concert will be available from Thornden Hall Box Office and online or can be purchased on the door on the evening of the concert (The Christmas Concert is often sold out). We look forward to seeing you at these forth-coming events.