

YEAR 6 TRANSITION INFORMATION FAQs

Who are the Transition Team at Thornden School?

Our transition team is made up of several staff:

- Ms E. Parker - Head of Year 7
- Mr A. Thomas - DSL and Assistant Headteacher
- Mrs W. Prince - School Nurse
- Mrs K. Maiden - Transition Co-Ordinator
- Mrs S. Kingsley-Smith - Pastoral Support Manager, Mrs H. Byrne - Pastoral Support, Mrs H. Malhi - Pastoral Support
- Ms R. Roadnight - SENCO team, Mrs S. Little - SENCO team, Mrs J. Beckingham - SENCO team

We also have several Year 8 student buddies to help out during the transition events.

Will my child meet anyone from Thornden School prior to starting in Year 7?

Someone from the transition team will visit all the link primary/junior schools during the summer term, where they will meet with the Year 6 students and their teachers. The aim is to get to know and understand students, both academically and socially. Where required, we will also visit non-link primary/junior schools.

Can my child be in the same tutor group as their best friend?

Using the knowledge of the students that has been collated from their Year 6 teachers, we do our best to place each student in the tutor group that is right for them. The Year 7 tutor groups are carefully constructed to allow the possibility for new friendships to develop and students to be supported in an effective way. There will usually be at least one other member of the tutor group from a student's link primary/junior school, but it should be noted that this is unlikely to always be a 'best friend'.

What is the school uniform?

A full list of the Thornden school uniform is detailed in the Year 6 Transition Booklet (found on our [Year 6 transition page](#), on our Thornden School website)

Where can I buy the school uniform?

We have two main school providers, Skoolkit (<https://www.skoolkit.co.uk/>) and Koolskools (<https://www.koolskools4u.co.uk/>). You can also purchase second-hand school uniform through FOTS (friends of Thornden School group).

What are the school day hours?

Registration with tutors starts at 08:35 with a warning bell 5 minutes before. Full timings of the school day can be found on the school website. The school gates will automatically lock at 08:35.

How will my child know where to go on the first day?

Plenty of staff will be on hand to meet your child outside reception and direct them to the appropriate place. Our Year 8 student buddies will also be there to escort students.

Can I request a preferred language choice?

Starting from September 2024, students will be taught one of two languages in Year 7 and throughout the school years: French or Spanish. On entry to the school, students will be allocated to a tutor group and subsequently to a language. Most lessons in Year 7 are taught in tutor groups and the whole tutor group will, therefore, study the same language.

The formation of the tutor groups is critical as we want to ensure a balance of genders, a mixed academic ability, and a range of students from all our main linked schools.

Whilst wishing to engage with parents and carers to ensure students make a positive start at Thornden and are not put with students they do not work well with; we cannot accommodate requests for a specific language.

Students with siblings already at the school will be allocated the same language as an older sibling so that families and siblings can support each other. However, if a parent does not want this to be taken into consideration, please yr6transition@thornden.hants.sch.uk ASAP. In this situation, a student may or may not then be allocated the same language as a sibling. Please note, if their sibling is currently studying German, they will not be allocated the same language and will be allocated either French or Spanish.

Are lockers available?

Lockers are allocated on a first come, first served basis. The cost of a locker is £25 for the five years. This is a one off payment and no money will be refunded when students leave. Please note that in the event of a lost key, there will be a charge of £3 for a replacement. Once we have received all admission applications, lockers will be available to purchase through our online school shop via Arbor. More information regarding lockers can be found on our [year 6 transition page](#) on the Thornden School website.

How does the school canteen operate?

Our school caterers are award-winning caterers HC3S. From morning break, hot and healthy light bites, to nutritious lunches from the deli range, there's something to suit everyone's taste.

The school canteen top-up system operates through Arbor, the parent portal system. There is a section within the Arbor parent app to top up your child's account by credit or debit card. This will be available a couple of days before the start of term. All students will be issued with an ID card, this card will not include their photograph but will identify them at the till.

If you have any queries, please contact the finance office - finance@hispmat.org

My child currently receives Free School Meals, how do I apply for this to continue at Thornden School?

Your child should automatically continue to receive free school meals provided the information passed to us from your child's primary school is correct. If you need to make a new application, as you haven't received free school meals before, please visit the Hampshire County Council website: <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants>

What should I do if my child loses something?

Losing things at school is unfortunately, part of school life. Chances of reuniting students with their belongings increase dramatically if they are clearly labelled. In such a large school it can be hard to differentiate individual's property; a clear name tag makes returning items much easier. If your child has lost something they should check to see if it has been handed in to lost property by seeing Mrs O'Rourke. They should also retrace their steps and return to the classrooms/ changing rooms they have been to that day to see if they have left it there. They should do this on the day that they discover the loss. If this proves unsuccessful, it is sometimes worth checking with lost property again, after a few days have elapsed.

What happens if my child feels unwell during the day?

If your child feels unwell during the school day, they should go to the Medical Room at break or lunch, or if in lesson, ask their teacher if they can go. The medical team will assess your child and if necessary, contact you. Often a child is assessed and treated in the Medical Room and after a while can return to class. Occasionally the Medical Room is unattended, if this is the case students are directed to go to reception, where a first aid trained member of staff can assist them. Students should not contact parents/carers in the first instance.

My child has a medical condition/needs to take medication during the day.

Please download and complete the relevant form (found on our [Year 6 transition page](#), on the Thornden School website) and return to school reception ASAP.

How many students are there in a tutor group?

On average there are around 28-30 students in each tutor group.

When is the Year 6 'Welcome to Thornden Day' being held at Thornden School?

This will take place on **Thursday 4th July 2024** (further details can be found in the Year 6 Transition Booklet)

Who should I go to if I have a concern about my child?

Pastoral concern or query:

Your child's tutor is your first port of call. Tutors are available to be contacted via email. If you would like to see a tutor, please email to arrange a date and convenient time.

In addition, you can also contact your child's Head of Year but please be patient as it is not always possible for them to respond immediately.

Academic concern or query:

Please contact your child's subject teacher or Head of Department via email. If you would like to see a teacher, please email to arrange a date and convenient time.

If you have any questions which have not been answered above, then please send an email to yr6transition@thornden.hants.sch.uk

Please note that our policy response time is 48 hours.

Student's FAQs

How long will it take to find my way around the school?

It should not take too long for you to find your way around. For the first few weeks you will be given a map and teachers will be very understanding if you are slightly late for your lessons. If you are lost around the school feel free to ask other students and staff, they will be happy to help.

What happens if I am late for lessons in the first few weeks of school?

In September, we know that you won't know your way round and if you are a bit late your teachers will understand. After a couple of weeks, however, we will expect you to be on time for lessons in the same way as the other year groups.

Where are the toilets?

This is a very popular question. You will be given a 'Moving on up' book, which contains a school map but also, Year 8 student buddies will be with your tutor group on the 'welcome to Thornden day'. So, they will be able to show you where the toilets are.

What if I get stuck with my work?

Your teacher and tutor are always there to help you. If you are stuck with something in class or with your home learning you can speak to your teacher or tutor and ask them to explain it again. Your fellow students are also on hand so don't forget to ask them too.

Will I make new friends?

Of course, you will make new friends! If you are the only student from a primary/junior school coming here, there are plenty of opportunities to meet new people, such as lessons, break, lunch and extra curriculum activities.

What extra-curricular and activities clubs are there for Year 7 students?

Thornden School provides a wide range of opportunities for students to get involved in. A list of extra-curricular clubs can be found in the Year 6 Transition Booklet.

Can I bring mobile phones into school?

Our aim is to ensure that phones are not used inappropriately, continuously or dangerously. As such students should have phones switched off and out of sight from 08:35 or the time they come onto the school site, until they leave at the end of the day.

If parents and carers wish to contact students during the school day, we ask that this is done via reception who will pass messages to students. If a student has a pressing reason to contact their parent and carer during the day, they should speak to their tutor, Head of Year or a senior member of staff, who if appropriate, will allow them to make a phone call in private.

On occasion staff will allow students to use phones under supervision for educational reasons. Examples could include recording speaking in languages or taking photographs of information to support learning.

If students use a device for any reason without permission, it will be confiscated, taken to reception, stored securely and logged. The device will be returned to the student at the end of the school day by a member of staff. This will be recorded on Arbor.

If a student persists in using their device without permission, parents and carers will be contacted by the HOY or tutor and asked to ensure that the device is left at home, or an alternative agreement is agreed.

If you have any questions which have not been answered above, then please send an email to yr6transition@thornden.hants.sch.uk and will endeavour to answer you ASAP.