



Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form



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Welcome to our school. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the ethos behind our beliefs and why our motto is **Success for All.**

A successful school; that is what I wanted for my children and this is what I believe the students of this community deserve and will find at Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form.

So what is a successful school?

Somewhere where everyone wants to come and be part of the learning process.

Where every individual really matters and their achievements are celebrated.

Where opportunities exist both in class and in extra curricular activities.

Equally, each student needs to feel safe and happy, knowing that they will be encouraged and supported in their growth.

Partnerships are at the core of our work, with the student very much at the centre. As teachers, we maintain close links with parents, feeder schools, employers and the community at large.

Our achievements are based on us all following a simple set of guidelines:

- Every individual is important.
- We come to school to work and learn.
- We will always try to do our best.
- We will work to promote our community.

Our school has a successful record. We now invite you to be part of our future achievements, as together we aim to bring success to each individual student.

Ian Clayton

Principal





Valuing Every Individual

Every individual is important

The success of any school only comes by ensuring each student achieves their full potential. To ensure this, at Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form, we have a vertical house system to support every student.

Each Form Tutor, under the direction of one of six Heads of House, receives regular reports and updates from Subject Teachers. This data is used and discussed with each student in order to set targets and monitor progress and attitude.

This important monitoring information is sent home to parents, which means they can work with the Head of House and establish a link lasting for five years. This also extends to any other family members who will be with the same Head of House. This makes it easy for families to work with the school.

The setting of individual academic targets is also important. Each student will be guided as to their present standard and what they need to do to achieve the next level. In this way, each individual can strive to achieve and do the best they can.

As parents, you will see this important information, not only in the regular reporting system, but also in the routine marking that takes place in students' books.

Success for All

Uniform

Our uniform code is based on common sense and aims to help students learn how to present themselves in an appropriate manner as expected in adult life.

Students will be asked to correct any infringements of the code. As conflict can cause distress to students, staff and parents (including extra costs for replacing inappropriate items) we would ask for your support in keeping to the code.

Attendance

For an individual to achieve, their attendance must be very good (over 95%) across the year. The school operates a close monitoring system with text messages sent home if parents have not made contact on the first day of absence.

We celebrate and reward good attendance in our special termly 'reward assemblies'.





The Best Learning Opportunities

We come to school to work and learn

Each student's right to a quality education is paramount to all we do at Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form, and outstanding teaching is at the heart of this process. I regularly visit classrooms to share in the successes of the students, to support my teaching colleagues in their work and see good practice taking place.

Examination success is important and students need appropriate work both within school, through homework and extension activities. We have a successful record in preparing for examinations. I also believe every student should find work enjoyable, yet challenging, at whatever level they are working.

For this reason, our curriculum is broad and balanced at Key Stage 3. Our strategies include a commitment to Literacy and Numeracy and increasingly a focus on Information and Communication Technology as a skill for the twenty-first century. We also cater for all abilities, from Gifted and Talented students to those with learning difficulties.

As students embark on GCSE courses we aim to maintain this breadth of subjects but we are also able to offer a range of subjects beyond the traditional areas including new subjects, vocational options and work related programmes. Therefore, students can start to follow subjects related to both their interests and skills. Equally, as students progress into the Sixth Form, we are able to offer an extensive range of Post-16 courses in an environment within which the students are familiar.

Beyond the Classroom

We will always do our best

Our job in school is to make our students 'Learners', learners who will continue to learn throughout their lives and will use these skills to live better lives. The use of computers is important, but so are the skills of independent learning, practical work and project style activities. All of these are included in our teaching.

Although these are achieved partly in the classroom, what goes on outside the classroom is of equal importance. Homework is one component and other opportunities offered include an extensive range of clubs and activities along with numerous educational trips and visits, including residentials.

Music is a good example as it shows how individual endeavour can be drawn together in collective activity to benefit all. The same can be said for Sport, Drama, Languages or any of the other activities on offer.





Serving our Community

We will work to promote our community, positive behaviour and discipline

All our teachers work hard to reward students who behave in the manner that is expected. We share these with parents through our reward system. I believe students need clear boundaries and we build sensible rules around our guidelines, which are on display in all classrooms.

However, there are occasions when 'the few' need to be reminded of the rules so that they do not stop the majority from working. In these cases, we use an agreed set of sanctions, which involve informing parents about what is happening. By accepting a place at Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form, parents are agreeing to these rules, including uniform, and to fully supporting the school, should sanctions be necessary.

Our Leadership programmes, delivered at form time, help students develop a sense of responsibility for our whole community. This work is taken on through the school Senate, which is where the views of students can be heard and their ideas put forward for improving the school.

All this work builds upon the Educational Partnership that exists between the school and our partner primary schools. Here, we share expertise and knowledge to ensure we provide a continuity of education for our young people from the age of 3 to 19.

SUCCESS FOR ALL

What makes Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form special?

Talk to any student, former student or parent and you will get a different set of answers, highlighting that the school caters for every individual. However, here are some of the most frequently identified reasons:

- Students are happy, feel safe and want to be in school.
- Proven record of examination success at GCSE and A Level.
- Evidence of former students' success in gaining university places and employment.
- A large school with a pastoral structure to support each individual.
- An extensive range of subjects offered at GCSE and A Level.
- The advantages of a large Sixth Form within the school structure.
- A comprehensive range of extra curricular activities.
- Graded Outstanding by Ofsted.
- Professional staff who reflect an ethos of support.
- A rewards system which recognises achievement and endeavour.
- Positive links with parents and the wider community.
- A member of the Thorpe St Andrew Educational Partnership with our seven primary partners.
- More and more parents and students choosing the school for both Year 7 and Sixth Form.

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