



## #WeAREThorpe



### Are you showing you ARE?

**Aspirational** - "We will challenge ourselves by being here and on time every day to be 1% better".

This week we launched our next **ARE** focus!

**Aspirational** - We will challenge ourselves by being here and on time every day to be 1% better

**Respectful** - We will show respect to everyone, regardless of race, gender, sexuality or disability and be mindful of our choice of words

**Engaged** - We will engage in every moment of learning ASAP.



On the approach to half term our **ASPIRE** focus is to be present and to be on time. 1% recognises the value of making the smallest of improvements and the impact that can have!

To this end, we will be asking the whole community to make it a focus to be on time and if that is a particular struggle, to get better at it, setting achievable goals. This may mean the support of parents is needed to help our students be more organised in the mornings, or leaving a little extra time for the school run!

When we are at school our students need to think about how they can be on time for every lesson. How often has it been said "But I'm only 5 minutes late!"?

**If a student is 5 minutes late for each lesson of high school they lose 24,375 minutes of school, which is 406.25 hours or 16.25 school weeks or the equivalent of an entire Christmas term!**

Time matters. The start of the lesson is our crucial "do now" activity where we review our learning and teachers assess progress, knowledge is retrieved and misconceptions are addressed.

But what about the journey between lessons? With every transition comes the possibility of 1800+ people moving around the school site. This can mean that the corridors and the paths are busy and this is why we have routines for this. Much like when you leave a football match or a concert, we need our students to follow the directions of the stewards (which is us!) to keep everyone safe.

Stay on the left, move in sensible groups, do not play push or shove. It is also important to take heed of the one way systems. A new one way system will be introduced next week that is going to ease congestion in the North site corridors.

Please take time to discuss with your children the importance of attendance, being on time and walking in a sensible manner so that we can all get to where we need to be efficiently.

*P. Bignell*

### The Importance of Literacy

*"I really should read more."*

As teachers we hear this all the time from students, parents and even other teachers. We all recognise the usefulness of reading: it is an act of self-care, the cheapest form of education and the perfect antidote to a hectic world of screens.

Nearly all children come up from Primary School with an innate love of stories and reading but, without careful, sustained support from school and home alike, too frequently this can drop off.

Research shows us that Literacy is a vital strategy in improving outcomes for every young person that is part of our school community. The Education Endowment Foundation research shows that "Young people who leave school without good literacy skills are held back at every stage of life. Their outcomes are poorer in well-being, to employment and finance."

As a school we take our commitment to improving everyone's literacy very seriously and as such it features as one of our 6 Teaching and Learning Fundamentals.

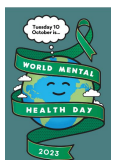
Culture of Excellence for All		
<b>Retrieval:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improving working and long term memory.</li> <li>2. Regular low stakes testing.</li> <li>2. Interleaving of concepts over time.</li> </ul>	<b>Modelling:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Subject specific explanations via explicit instruction.</li> <li>2. Narrate your thinking.</li> <li>3. Show messy thinking.</li> </ul>	<b>Scaffolding:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide supports at a detailed and overview level.</li> <li>2. Offer varying levels of support.</li> <li>3. Begin to take the scaffolding away.</li> </ul>
<b>Practice:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students working independently.</li> <li>2. Encode success from the start.</li> <li>3. Evaluate success and feedback.</li> </ul>	<b>Formative Assessment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eliciting evidence of learning.</li> <li>2. Effective feedback that moves learners forward.</li> <li>3. Students as resources.</li> </ul>	<b>Literacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explicit vocabulary instruction.</li> <li>2. Expert readers.</li> <li>3. Expert writers.</li> </ul>

**Attendance Matters - #WeAREHere** - Many people are experiencing an increase in their feelings of anxiety, worry or even depression. With Tuesday being World Mental Health Day, we focused on the five steps to mental well-being promoted on the NHS website.

**Connect With Other People    Be Physically Active    Learn New Skills    Give to others    Be mindful**

We promoted these in our Attendance Matters Form Time activity, because being in school is the best place to accomplish them.

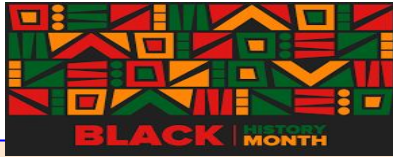
Students can also promote their own mental health by avoiding the things which make us anxious. Being on time, properly equipped, and ready to face the day can make huge difference to our mental balance. We can see it in students who arrive after we have lined up for our morning motivation, or who are not in the correct uniform. Their day has already started badly and they are already on the defensive. Parents and Carers can help by supporting students with a home routine that ensures good organisation, an early start, and arriving to school on time.



**Thank you to everyone who has already managed to make the yearly contribution to the Chromebook for all scheme. This scheme will enable current Year 11 students who attend our Sixth Form in 2024-26 to continue to have the access to internet resources and online materials that they have had over the past year.**

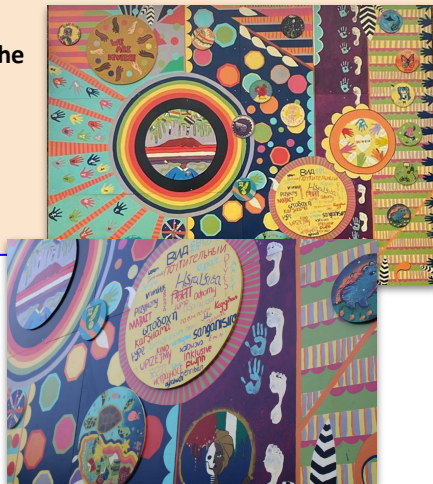


# #WeAREThorpe



On Wednesday 11 October 2023 we celebrated Black History Month with our first community event to celebrate diversity and black culture. Well done to all the students who took part, especially Imade Gray and Tooni Shotimeyin. During this event we presented our amazing diversity mural which can be seen on the side of the gym on the South Site. It is an amazing accomplishment, produced by over 60 students with an original design by Mrs Fletcher in the Art Department. A huge thanks to everyone involved in making the mural including the Art Department and the Site Team.

Please click this [LINK](#) to see the unveiling of the mural.



**Why not stand out?  
Join a Sixth Form in the Top 25% Nationally**



Thorpe St Andrew Sixth Form is rated in the top 25% nationally for progress\*



\* Includes all Sixth Forms and college providers

Youth STEM award students participated in a series of online seminars delivered by researching scientists at John Innes Centre. Students were introduced to the wonders of megakaryocytes and their role in wound healing; our bodies are capable of making 4.2 million red blood cells in 25 minutes; the combination of stem cell and genome research in personalised medicine; how a single DNA base change in the 17,000,000,000 genome of wheat (80 times longer than Harry Potter) may help prevent vitamin A deficiency. The final talk was delivered by Prof. Ben Garrod, Ambassador for the YSA, giving students encouragement that not all scientists wear white coats and work in labs, science is happening all around us and to get out and explore it.



## Thorpe St Andrew Sixth Form

Excellence for All

Welcomes you to our  
Sixth Form Open Evening  
Thursday 19 October 2023



Doors open at 6.30 pm  
The event will conclude at 9.00 pm

Presentations Times in the North Hall

- 7.00 pm Students New to the School
- 7.45 pm Form Groups F01 to F06
- 8.15 pm Form Groups F07 to F11

Oxbridge and Russell Group University Talk  
6.00 pm in the North Site Sixth Form Study Centre

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SAVE  
the  
DATE

**Monday 16 October 2023 - Thai Students Visiting**  
 Thorpe in Action Year 6, click [here](#) to book your place, Year 7 and 9 Netball Fixture  
**Tuesday 17 October 2023 - Black History Month Drop Down Day**  
 Thorpe in Action - Year 6, click [here](#) to book your place, Year 9 Netball  
**Wednesday 18 October 2023 - Thorpe in Action - Year 6 Parents**, click [here](#) to book your place  
 Year 9 GCHQ Virtual Outreach Session  
 Year 7 Netball Smash Up  
**Thursday 19 October 2023 - Year 10 Pop Up International Maths Competition**  
 Thorpe St Andrew Football Academy v Dereham Football Academy  
 Sixth Form Open Evening, TERM ENDS  
**Friday 20 October 2023 - INSET Day**  
 Monday 23 to Friday 27 October 2023 - Half Term Holiday  
 Monday 30 October 2023 - Autumn Term Begins  
 Tuesday 31 October 2023 - Year 11 Boys' B Team Football Fixture  
 Wednesday 1 November 2023 - Year 9 Working Together Evening  
 Friday 3 November 2023 - First Round of English Schools Athletics Cross Country Cup Competition  
 Check out our [website](#) for future dates.