



#WeAREThorpe #WeAREenhancing



We are delighted to introduce our first ever Curriculum Enhancement Week. Please follow this [link](#) to the booklet, where you will find a range of clusters that can be chosen from. Read the booklet carefully, including pages 2 and 3 which contain information on our aims, how to choose activities and how we will arrange payments for activities. Please click on this [link](#) to the Google Form that needs to be filled in by you to select the activity cluster for your child. The deadline for completing the google form is **Monday 6 November 2023**.



Curriculum Enhancement Week 2024

For three days from Tuesday 18 June to Thursday 20 June 2024, all lessons will be suspended and all staff and students will spend these three days pursuing one of the many activities detailed in this booklet.

Our main aims of curriculum enhancement week are to:

- ★ enable students to try something new beyond our broad academic curriculum
- ★ encourage students to learn and use additional skills that may not be fully developed in the academic curriculum
- ★ strengthen the working relationships between student and teacher
- ★ give students the opportunity to show leadership skills in different settings.



Imagine an adventure where you will visit the secret hideout of Anne Frank and cruise down the canals of the city of Amsterdam...



Ever wondered how maths helped half-giant Hagrid to be brought to life on screen? Join the Maths Department exploring how Maths and Science are crucial in making fantastic films and exhilarating roller coasters.



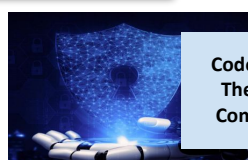
The Ultimate Fitness and Wellness Experience



Active Animation - Do you want to recreate scenes from Star Wars or the end of Deathly Hallows with Lego?



Exploring the Battlefields of World War One: France and Belgium.



Code Breaking and The Museum for Computer History



2D and 3D Art - Arm Casting.

There are so many exciting choices, what will you choose?



"Be at One with Nature" Allotment Project.



Science Explorers - Ignite your curiosity, encourage scientific endeavour and spark your imagination!



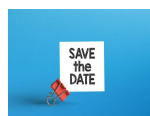
Wet and Wild Watersports.



The Motorsports Experience Challenge.

attendance MATTERS

Welcome to the first of our half termly [Attendance Newsletters](#). Here, we will keep you up to date with attendance trends, procedures and some of the things we are doing to encourage good attendance.



- 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
- Monday 6 to 10 November 2023 - Year 13 PPEs
- Tuesday 7 November 2023 - Years 12 and 13 Visiting Ormiston School for Talk by Governor of Bank of England, Years 12 and 13 Norfolk Maths Symposium
- Wednesday 8 November 2023 - Year 7 Netball Fixture v Open Academy
- Thursday 9 November 2023 - Year 9 Sports Leaders for Year 3 to 6 Cross Country, U16 Girls' Football v Langley School, Years 8 and 9 Netball v Hethersett

Check out our [website](#) for future dates.



#WeAREThorpe



Aspire - Aim High



Engage - Work Hard

#AREReadingCulture@TSAS



There is growing evidence in the field of education to suggest that the act of reading is one of the best ways in which you can improve academic performance in the long term. In form time twice a week, students in Years 7 to 9 are read to in their Tutor Groups. We read a range of texts from different cultures, traditions and time periods, as well as a careful selection of important nonfiction works.

At Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form we teach our students the importance of reading and we encourage them to read widely and often.

The benefits of reading are far reaching and whilst the quality and fluency of our students' reading is paramount to us, reading widely and often has an impact in many different areas of academic and personal development, please see the benefits below:

- builds a stronger sense of belonging;
- enhances emotional maturity;
- enhances empathy, understanding of self and others identities;
- reduces feelings of stress/anxiety/depression whilst increasing feelings of relaxation;
- reading more improves your vocabulary and ability to understand and answer examination questions.



Welcome to your Learning Resource Centre (LRC)

Reading and the Learning Resources Centre - The Learning Resources Center (or LRC) at Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form contains a collection of over 14,000 books, representing nearly 8,000 different authors, which is constantly refreshed and recycled to stay relevant. From graphic novels to non-fiction, this year's Carnegie finalists to the classics, the LRC has something to suit every interest and every reading level.

The LRC is open throughout the school day hosting guided reading and intervention lessons, as well as after it, to support students with homework and on Fridays the book club meet to share their love of reading. Students even use the LRC to prepare for reading competitions: did you know that earlier this year we were National Reading Champions Quiz finalists?

There is an online system called *Oliver* for reserving books for collection, and where the LRC does not have a book students can make suggestions for future purchases. New books are put on display where students can see them, along with any student reviews, when they are brought to the LRC by their English teacher fortnightly.



Reading In English - Throughout our curriculum students encounter stories: at times this is in extracts, where teachers can enthuse about the whole text before presenting the class with a part and at other times this is the whole text, unabridged, over a period of weeks.

Your child in Years 7, 8 or 9 will currently be reading *Private Peaceful*, Sherlock Holmes, or *The Woman in Black*. They have also been making their way through fantasy extracts, powerful non-fiction, and Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*.

Older students in Years 10 and 11 have been reading *An Inspector Calls* and Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, while the Sixth Formers are enjoying *King Lear*, *The Great Gatsby* and *The Handmaid's Tale* (alongside books and poems of their own choosing for their coursework!)



Reading Across the Curriculum - Of course, we know that improving reading is not just the job of the English department. Across every subject students will encounter guided reading to help them develop reading accuracy and automaticity.

For example, in **Music**, the department has transferred their reading onto a website that all students from Years 7 to 13 use. Important "tier 2" and "tier 3" words (challenging academic or subject-specific words) are capitalised and made bold to support vocabulary acquisition, and reading for the older years even hyperlinks key words to more detailed definitions!



In **Modern Foreign Languages**, where students must read in a language that is not native to them, learners encounter short texts (like descriptions or letters) on familiar topics, which teachers will read while students follow along with a finger or ruler, often taking turns themselves to read aloud with good pronunciation and intonation. In Years 10 and 11 students face even more challenging texts, in the style of magazine articles or even real excerpts from Literature.

"So how can I support my child's reading?"

- Model good reading habits at home and in all you say and do show that you value reading highly
- Allow your child a choice in their reading: find books connected to their interests but do not worry if they do not make it past page 20 as long as there is another book lined up (no one finishes every book they start!)
- Talk to your child about what they are reading; be patient and persistent until they talk
- Do not spend a fortune on new books. Second hand books are just as gripping as the first time they were read and libraries lend out books for free!
- You do not need to be an expert: search terms like "Year 9 reading list" or "books for 15 year olds" and have fun exploring.