



#WeAREThorpe



Aspire - Aim High



Engage - Work Hard



attendance MATTERS

#WeAREHere



Heather Dorniden

Our weekly attendance focus shifted this week from Careers opportunities to addressing missed learning. We took our inspiration from Heather Dorniden, a middle distance runner who famously fell just before the last lap of a 600m race. She picked herself up, and overhauled all the other competitors to win the race. We used a YouTube Short to tell her story - [you can see it here](#). We know from the supportive meetings that we hold with parents and students when there is an attendance concern that one obstacle to a return to school is the fear of having fallen behind. Our message, inspired by Heather's run, is that it's never too late to begin that return to form. Teachers and BEST will help and encourage a student with catching up on lost learning, but we need parents' support to help with home routines to plan for catch-up time. Our message in Form Time was **"It's never too late"**.

EMBEDDING FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

"Every teacher needs to improve, not because they are not good enough, but because they can be even better."

Dylan William



Here at Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form, we know how it is important that teachers continually develop. Although our outcomes at GCSE and Sixth Form are already excellent, the school continues to offer all staff regular training and development to make those improvements.

We have invested in a new teacher development programme run by the Schools, Students and Teacher's Network known as *Embedding Formative Assessment (EFA)* to support feedback and assessment.

What is EFA? A whole school approach to teaching that focuses in particular on the most effective and innovative ways in which teachers can give students feedback that will help them move forward in their learning.

Why the EFA? As well as wanting to improve as teachers, we also want to continue to get better at helping our students improve the work *they* do in every lesson. In line with the Broad Horizons Trust's motto that **"Time Matters"**, we also know that school can be a very busy place. We believe this is the best way to support teachers in continuing to help students get the best outcomes every day.

Marking in school - The way in which students are assessed has changed drastically over the years. Teachers will no longer just look at exercise books, make positive comments and give written feedback. Who remembers being at school and getting back work and desperately looking for a score in red pen with no focus on how to improve? The Education Endowment Foundation research tells us that "Feedback studies tend to show high effects on learning", so this is the focus of all of our marking.

In school now, a range of different methods of feedback and assessment will be used by teachers to help your child progress. Below are just a few that your child might recognise:

Assessment Strategy	What is it?	Benefit to the student?
Whole Class Feedback	The teacher will look at all of the books in a class and offer feedback to the class as a whole, based on common misconceptions.	This allows all students to benefit from the feedback of the whole class and work on these targets together.
Verbal feedback	In class discussions and from looking at student's work, a teacher is able to offer feedback in person.	This is quick and direct and live, in the moment which research shows is the most effective. Students are able to ask questions to help them understand the feedback more fully.
Cold calling	When asking a question, there is a 'no hands up' rule and the teacher carefully selects different students to answer different questions.	When the teacher is clear about exactly what the class know and understand they can adapt their teaching to meet the needs of the class.
Whole Class Response Systems	The teacher poses a question to check for understanding and everyone in the class responds at the same time. This could be using: whiteboards, post it notes, coloured cards, a show of hands.	The teacher knows in an instant which students have understood a concept and can then adapt their teaching accordingly.
Do Now Retrieval	A task at the start of every lesson that checks on previous learning.	This helps students to store the key knowledge of any topic in their long term memory which is crucial for them as they prepare for terminal assessments.
Low Stakes Quizzes	A short and simple quiz on any given topic that tests the student's knowledge. This could be in exercise books, using Google forms or a website like Blooket or Kahoot. Students prepare for these by revising Key Knowledge Sheets for homework.	Teachers can analyse the data from these quizzes, correct misconceptions and adapt teaching accordingly.

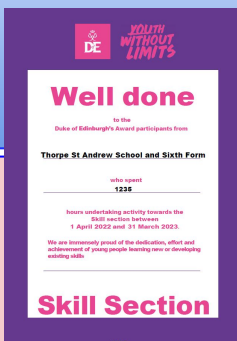
As you can see the main aim of this project is to give teachers the information they need to adapt their teaching, in order to help students move forward in their learning.



#WeAREThorpe



"I would definitely encourage people to do The Duke of Edinburgh Award as it is a really good way to develop new skills as well as forming really good relationships with friends and other people in environments you wouldn't normally find yourself in."
Matthew Meston



Please click [here](#) for the Black History Month 2023 Poetry Entries and Winners.



Calling all Year 9 Students interested in signing up to DoFe! Please click on this [LINK](#) for more information.

Follow this [LINK](#) to read Matthew Meston's article on the benefits of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.



Thorpe Sixth Form Football Academy Open Evening Thursday 23 November 2023 from 5.00 pm to 7.15 pm



Experience a coaching session with UEFA Coaches and Industry Experts.

Visit our fabulous facilities, meet staff, discuss over 38 qualifications available to study at Thorpe Sixth Form.

Find out about your experience as a member of our Elite Football Academy as a Player, Coach, Physio, Journalist or Analyst.

Our FA is for all those with a passion for football.

COME ALONG TO FIND OUT YOUR MAXIMUM POTENTIAL BOTH IN THE CLASSROOM AND ON THE PITCH.

Please scan the QR-Code or follow the [LINK](#) below to book your place NOW:
<https://shorturl.at/zBMV8>



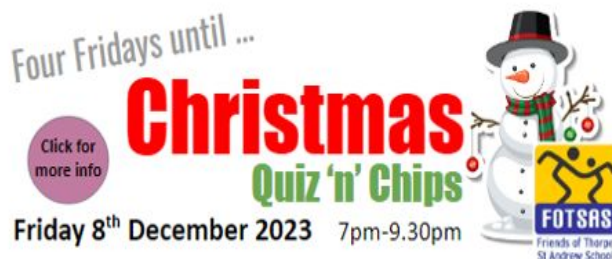
Curriculum Week letters will be sent via email to parents by Friday 17 November 2023.



Next week we will be celebrating Maths Week England, the largest Maths Festival in the World. Throughout the week, students will be taking part in puzzles, competitions and problem solving activities, aimed at showing how maths can be fun and enjoyable for everyone; there is even the chance of winning some prizes! More information is available via this [LINK](#).



This week we have launched our exciting new X account @ThorpeSTEMM with a brilliant logo designed by Yasmine Blyth Year 8. Youth STEM award students are researching and producing careers posters as part of the 'Shaping your Future' strand: highlighting the different routes people can take into their careers. Students are also finishing their entries to the 'Fashion Fixers' project where they have been creating STEM solutions to the evolving problems fast fashion creates as well as finding sustainable alternative materials for clothing.



Click [here](#) for information about all our Clubs.



- Friday 10 November 2023 - Year 9 Sports Leaders for Years 3 to 6 Cross Country
 - Monday 13 to Friday 17 November 2023 - Year 13 PPEs and Live GCSE Resits, Anti-Bullying Week
 - Monday 13 November 2023 - Year 11 Sixth Form Taster Day
 - Tuesday 14 November 2023 - Year 9 Netball v Sprowston
 - Wednesday 15 November 2023 - Year 9 Parent Consultation Evening, please click [here](#) to book appointments
 - Thursday 16 November 2023 - Year 9 Critical Screening 12 Angry Men
 - Friday 17 November 2023 - U13 Girls Football EFL Cup
- Check out our [website](#) for future dates.

