







# Thriving Togethe



# WELCOME

At this school, my education is really important but so is ensuring I am able to grow and be the best I can be. Our teachers are committed to nurturing our curiosity and providing amazing support on our educational journey.

It doesn't matter if your passion lies in sports, music, arts or academics, the range of offerings cater to everyone. We have a strong sense of community and mutual support among students and staff alike – like at home, family is everything.

As you embark on the next step of your education adventure, we invite you to join us at Thorns; it's a place where we embrace opportunities and stand together with pride.

# PARTNERSHIPS

Students' safety, happiness and success are paramount. Our families are an integral part of our success, and our school believes in building strong partnerships between students, teachers and families.

Regular communication means our families are involved in our journey, with opportunities to engage in school life and provide invaluable feedback. Together everyone makes sure that we are prepared for school, feel supported and any concerns we or our families have are addressed promptly.

Families can join the Standards and Performance Committee, participate in Family Forums to help shape the school's direction or support with our events through the Parents Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA).





# ENGAGEMENT

As soon as I walk through the school doors, I feel valued and supported by teachers and staff, who are not just dedicated to helping us achieve academically but also grow as individuals. Staff genuinely care about our success and wellbeing, with lots of support put in place whenever we need it.

Every lesson, every conversation, feels important and meaningful. Like in a family, everyone wants the best for each other. I'm not just a student, I'm part of a community that believes in me and is helping me shape my path to an amazing future.

#### CURRICULUM

In Key Stage 3 we cover the national curriculum but in a slightly different way, we call this Literacy for Life. We learn in themes, which last about three weeks and each one covers a different set of subjects. I like this way of learning because we can easily see the links between different subjects and it prepares us for choosing our options and taking our exams in Year 11. We also spend more time with one teacher (17 hours in Year 7), which means they get to know us really well and help us settle into secondary school.

What's also good is that we have an extracurricular programme and special focus days. These make learning even more exciting because we get to apply what we've learned in different contexts, in and out of the classroom.





# ENRICHMENT

What happens outside of our classroom is almost as important as what happens in it. We have a huge range of enrichment activities including lots of sports clubs, dance, homework club, coding and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award to name a few. There are also lots of trips designed to bring what we learn to life.

There is so much to get involved in and it makes academy life really varied. I know the staff work hard to give us these opportunities but it's also good to see parents getting involved too through the Parent, Teacher's and Friends Association (PTFA). It feels like a family.

#### WELLBEING

At Thorns Collegiate Academy, we really care about how we feel. We believe each one of us can achieve great things and our teachers expect us to give our best every day. Feeling happy and safe here is super important to us. We know it's okay to talk about how we're feeling, whether we're feeling excited, sad or anything else.

Our teachers are always ready to listen and support us. We want everyone to feel like they belong and that their thoughts and feelings matter. They help us learn how to handle tough times and work together to make our time here fun and successful, starting from Year 7 all the way through school.





## PRIDE

At our heart, we are about sharing the spirit of education. That spirit is what makes the Academy unique. We see it in the small moments, like individual successes in the classroom as well as the big moments such as whole school concerts, sporting fixtures and assemblies.

As parents, you entrust your children to us, and we will support them, warmly and with high standards, to be the best that they can be. We regard it as a privilege to serve the local community and we look forward to working with you over the coming months and years to secure the best possible outcomes for your children.

**Ms Nikki Jones** Principal





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