BOARDING NEWSLETTER

MICHAELMAS 1ST HALF-TERM

Welcome back!

Dear Parents,

We have had a fantastic start to Michaelmas term. Here is an insight into all of the wonderful things that have happened in the boarding house this half term!

As per usual, weeknights in the boarding house have been jam-packed with a range of exciting activities, including Bob Ross painting tutorials, vision boards, cosy reading nights in the library, board game evenings, beaded key ring making, air dry clay creations and trivia quizzes.

We have also embarked on some thrilling weekend trips but you'll have to read ahead to hear about them ...

We look forward to welcoming the boarding students back to the boarding house from 5pm on Sunday, 2nd November!

Boarding team x

Included inside:

- Meet the boarding staff
- Our trips this half-term
- Student spotlights & snapshots
- Our social media

CALLING ALL DAY STUDENTS!

Next half-term, we are excited to announce we will be hosting two Year Group Sleepovers and re-introducing Flexi-Fridays where day students get to spend the night in boarding and join us on our weekend trip. Read ahead for more information!

The Boarding Staff

The Boarding Leadership Team

Head of Boarding
Ms Tracey Wilks

Senior Housemistress
Miss Alice Winter

Junior Housemistress
Miss Gina Puchal

The Boarding Assistants

Miss Amanda Saki

Miss Lara McDonald

Miss Beth Flint

Our trips this half-term

Week 1 - Ninja Warrior

Our first trip of the year to Ninja Warrior got the boarders' hearts racing and their muscles burning. The girls got to test their skills on a number of different obstacles - climbing, balancing and swinging their way across the course. They scaled the sloped wall, defeated the ringed monkey bars and cartwheeled over the balance beam. They were much more successful than Miss Flint and Miss Winter, who spent their time bouncing across the inflatable course before needing a long rest!

Week 2 - Cadbury's World

Our trip in Week 2 was much anticipated - a visit to Cadbury's World! The tour started with an explanation of the history of Cadbury, and a detailed description of the chocolate making process, from the cacao plant to the supermarket. The girls then got to try tempering melted chocolate, before sampling some themselves. The tour ended with a much-awaited visit to the gift shop, where the girls (and the boarding staff) could buy as much chocolate as their hearts desired.

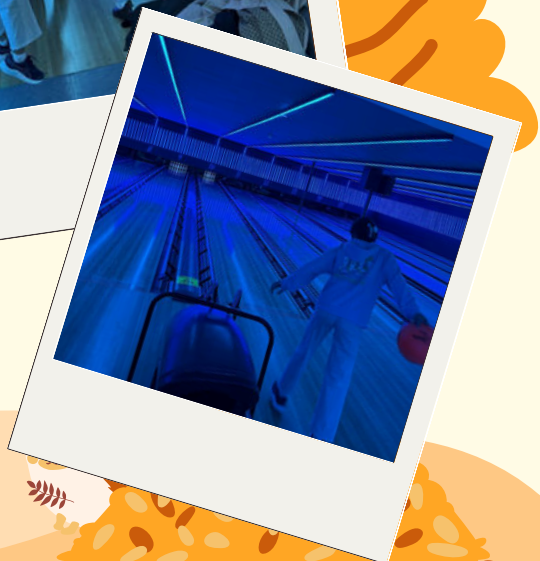
Our trips this half-term

Week 3 - Cambridge

The weekend of Week 3 saw us jumping in the mini bus and heading off to Cambridge. After a quick picnic in the park, we took a leisurely punt along the river, where our tour guide told us many fun facts about the famous buildings and students of Cambridge's colleges, such as Alan Turing and Sir Isaac Newton! We ended our day with a much needed shopping trip, buying many school essentials and plenty of snacks.

Week 4 - Bowling

Our fourth trip of the half-term was to Ten Pin Bowling in Milton Keynes. The girls split into two teams, where they had to compete to get the highest score. The competition was fierce, with some girls scoring multiple strikes and spares, even if they were beginners! However, the great music playing at the venue meant that there was always time for a dance break between their turns. The girls then had some retail therapy at Milton Keynes shopping centre to finish the day.



Our trips this half-term

Week 5 - Alton Towers

On Saturday morning we could not contain the boarders' excitement for their trip to Alton Towers. Immediately, they hit the rides, with the group favourite definitely being The Runaway Train (choo choo!). The dark and dreary weather didn't dissuade the real thrill-seekers from venturing onto the bigger rollercoasters, Nemesis and Thirteen. When their stomachs settled from the twists and turns, the girls then went to enjoy some snacks and hot dogs for lunch!

Week 6 - Pumpkin Patch

Our final trip of the half-term was perfect for getting into the autumnal spirit - pumpkin picking and carving! At The Patch in Milton Keynes, the girls got to walk the fields to hand select their perfect pumpkin, choosing from a variety of sizes and colours. They also had the chance to sample a number of pumpkin flavoured sweets and treats! Back at school, they all then had to deseed and clean their pumpkins (with only some squeals of disgust), before they could plan and carve their spooky designs.

UPCOMING TRIPS

In the second half of Michaelmas term, we are excited to be hosting two sleepovers! Keep an eye on your emails for the official invites. We will also be continuing our Flexi-Fridays where day students get to spend the night in boarding and join us on our weekend trip. Spaces are filling up fast, so email the Housemistress email account if you wish to lock in your spot!

Saturday 8th November	*Lion King* Theatre Trip (No spaces available)
Saturday 15th November	Iceskating
Saturday 22nd November	Cinema Trip
Saturday 29th November	Christmas Shopping
Saturday 5th December	Blenheim Palace

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

What is something you enjoyed this half-term?

Vali (Yr 10)

I enjoyed the vision boards, and I've liked that we've had opportunities to actually do the activities that we put on the vision board.

Ines (Yr 9)

I really enjoyed when we made the sugar body scrub, because it was really fun to learn how to do it.

Patricia (Yr 8)

I have enjoyed the concerts in the common room, when we sing High School Musical and songs in different languages. I like singing and I like to be active.

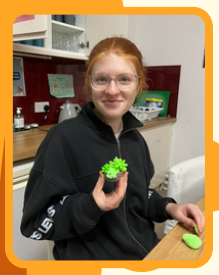
Serena (Yr 8)

I enjoy decorating my room with posters and post cards. I enjoyed it because I had the ability to make my room look like my own.

Alejandra (Yr 9)

I have enjoyed very much the trip we did to Cadbury World because there was a lot of chocolate and they explained it well. We were able to play with chocolate and it was very yummy.

STUDENT SNAPSHOTS

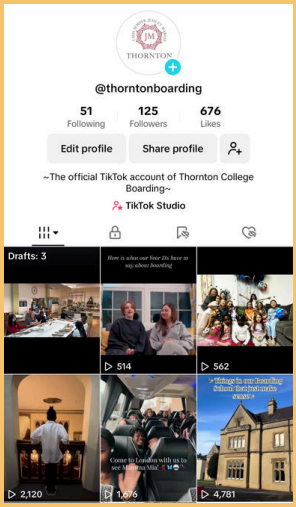


OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

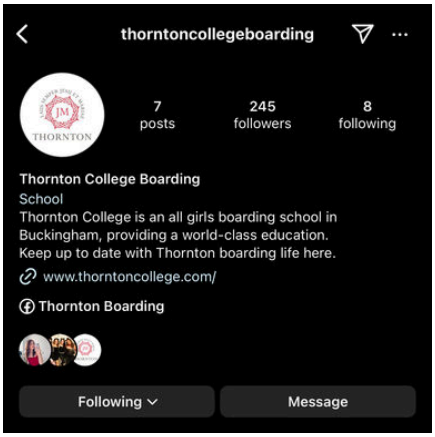
This year, we have continued to enjoy creating content for our different social media platforms. Both our TikTok and Instagram accounts offer all who follow an exciting snapshot into both the daily activities and special events that happen in Thornton Boarding. If you're interested in staying connected with the boarding experience online, follow our social media accounts below!

TikTok | @thorntonboarding

Our TikTok is where you can find short behind-the-scenes videos that best capture the life of the boarding house. To the boarders' horror, this is also where the Housemistresses try to keep up with the current social media trends. By now, the boarders are more than used to getting roped into the unusual video ideas that the staff have come up with, many even keen to get their moment to shine in the spotlight. They are certainly not shy about sharing their expertise in all things social media, as well as their thoughts on our editing skills!



Instagram | @thorntoncollegeboarding



Our Instagram page is where to go for picture and video updates of the vibrant daily life of our boarding community. Our posts show exciting glimpses of anything from evening activities, weekend trips or special events that pop up throughout the year. The boarders are all excellent photographers themselves, so it is sometimes even their very own happy snaps that get posted to the account.