

BOARDING NEWSLETTER

MICHAELMAS 2ND HALF - 2025

Dear parents,

Once again, we've reached the end of another wonderful Michaelmas term at Thornton!

Although the weather has gotten colder and the nights earlier, the evenings in the boarding house have been just as warm and exciting as ever. This half-term has seen the boarders competing in Karaoke, roasting marshmallows, making Christmas decorations, learning how to ribbon dance, battling it out fiercely in fortnightly trivia quizzes, baking sweet treats and much more!

Continue reading on to see what the boarders have also been up to on their thrilling weekend trips. We look forward to welcoming the students back to the boarding house from 5pm on Tuesday, 6th January!

Boarding team x

Included inside:

Our trips this half-term

The Christmas Party

Student spotlights & snapshots

Our social media

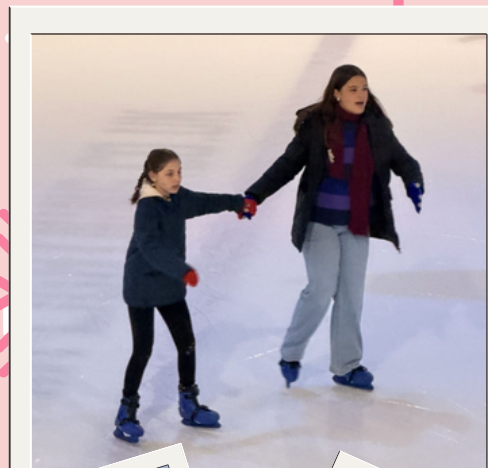
OUR TRIPS THIS HALF-TERM

Week 1 - The Lion King

Our first trip of the half-term was a big one - travelling in to London to see the famous production of *The Lion King* on the West End! To get there, the boarders had to be quite savvy getting on both the overground and underground train. Once in London, we made a quick stop at Buckingham Palace to try and spot some royals. Finally, at the theatre, the girls were very impressed by the puppetry that brought the animals to life, and had a difficult time not singing along to the catchy music.

Week 2 - Ice-skating

In Week 2, we headed to Planet Ice in Milton Keynes to have a go at ice-skating. For a few of the boarders, it was their first time ever going on the ice, but with the help of a trusty polar bear and the steady hand of the boarding staff, they managed to make their way around the rink. The more experienced skaters took to the ice like penguins, showing off their impressive skills as they twirled and danced their way around the crowds. We ended the day with some warm drinks and sweets.



OUR TRIPS THIS HALF-TERM

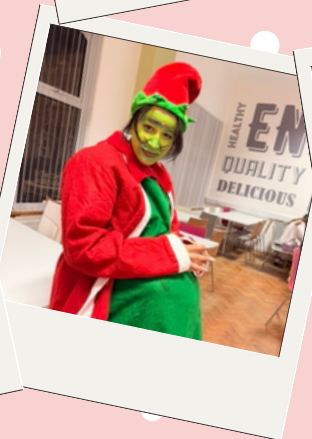
Week 3 & 4 - Wicked movie & Holiday shopping

For the third and fourth weekend of the half-term, the boarders became MK Centre locals. In Week 3, they put on their best pink and green outfits to go and see the much-anticipated (at least by the boarding staff) *Wicked: For Good* at the cinema. Then, in Week 4, it was time to hit the shops for some desperately needed Christmas shopping. The girls shopped until they almost dropped, buying slippers, snacks, secret santa gifts and so much more!



Week 5 - Blenheim Palace

The final trip of the half-term was one we had all been looking forward to! On the Friday evening, we drove to Blenheim Palace to explore the wonderful *Wizard of Oz* themed exhibit inside. After that, the girls got to grab a warm drink and last minute Christmas presents at the markets and food stalls. To end the evening, we walked the after-dark illuminated trail! The trail was over a mile of twinkling Christmas light installations, creating spectacular photo opportunities for the girls.



The final week of Michaelmas term is one that every boarder looks forward to ... and not just because it's nearly the holidays! On Tuesday of Week 6, the Year 11s (with help from some kind Year 13s) hosted the annual Boarding Christmas Party. The evening began with some delicious dinner of chicken katsu and hot chocolate, followed by a cupcake decorating contest. Then it was time for the games to begin, with boarders competing in pass-the-parcel, musical chairs, musical statues and a Christmas quiz. We concluded the night with a scavenger hunt that led the girls to their Christmas gifts, which included scarves, water bottles, beanies, fuzzy socks, mugs and more!

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY



STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

What did you enjoy the most in boarding this half-term?

Clara (Yr 7)

I like everything in boarding. I especially like the activities, like doing crafts, making cookies, doing the Bob Ross paintings.

Patricia (Yr 8)

I've enjoyed Blenheim palace because it was raining and it was very fun to dodge puddles. It was funny to all get muddy - I liked that and getting hot chocolate. It was also very beautiful on the walk with the lights.

Blanca (Yr 7)

I liked making decorations for Christmas, because we did it all together, so there was lots of joy with my friends. My favourite one was the cardboard houses we made.

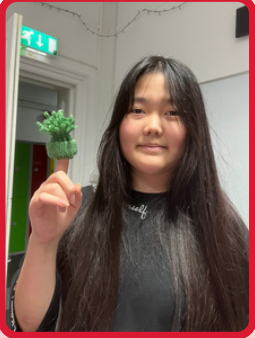
Alejandra (Yr 9)

I really enjoyed when we went to Blenheim and it was all muddy and wet and we went in a chain and Blanca pushed us and we all fell over. We were dancing to Jingle Bell Rock with the staff and the people around us under all the lights. It was fun to say Merry Christmas to everyone!

Ines (Yr 9)

I liked when we went to see *Wicked* - we all dressed as the characters from the movie. It was fun to be with my friends watching English movies and laughing at the boarding staff's reactions.

STUDENT SNAPSHOTS

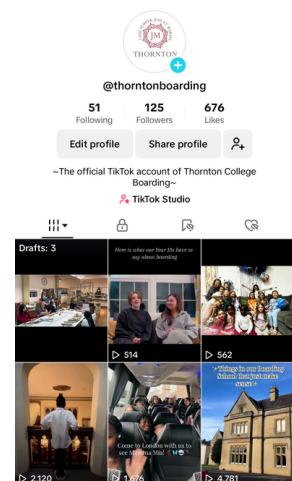


OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

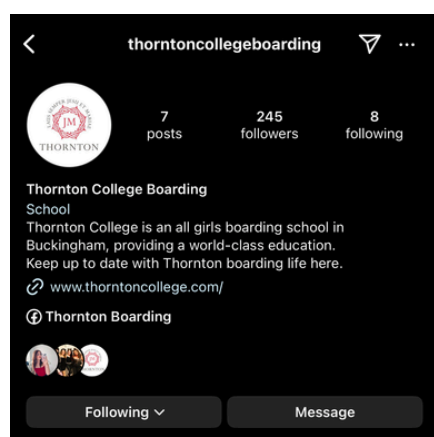
This year, we have continued to enjoy creating content for our different social media platforms. Both our TikTok and Instagram accounts offer all who follow an exciting snapshot into both the daily activities and special events that happen in Thornton Boarding. If you're interested in staying connected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