



# Thirsk School

& Sixth Form College



## CURRICULUM WITH PURPOSE

Broad, balanced and designed for every future.

**THE THIRSK JOURNEY**  
From Year 5 transition to  
Sixth Form success.



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## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

### Headteacher

Emma Lambden

### Deputy Headteacher

Jo Dickinson

### Assistant Headteachers:

#### Personal Development:

George Hollis

#### Head of Sixth Form

Gordon Pentland

#### Head of Lower School

Jo Marston

#### Head of Upper School

Nic Stimson

#### Special Education Needs & Disabilities Co-ordinator

Julie Hudson

Welcome to Thirsk School and Sixth Form College.

For more than sixty years, our school has stood as a place where young people are seen, known, and guided towards futures that are uniquely their own.

We believe education is not only about knowledge, but about shaping character, nurturing courage, and helping each child discover their strength. Our classrooms and corridors hum with learning, yes, but also with laughter, music, creativity, and belonging.

Beyond lessons, we open doors to experiences that stretch minds and grow hearts: drama, sport, music, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, and countless opportunities to shine. Every talent is noticed. Every step forward is celebrated.

Care is at the heart of all we do. Our pastoral and inclusion teams walk alongside students, ensuring no one faces life's challenges alone. We hold high expectations, but we hold our young people even closer, supporting, guiding, and believing in them, now and for the future.

We know true success comes from partnership. When school and home work together, children flourish. At Thirsk, strong relationships are the thread that binds our community together.

# WE HAVE HISTORY

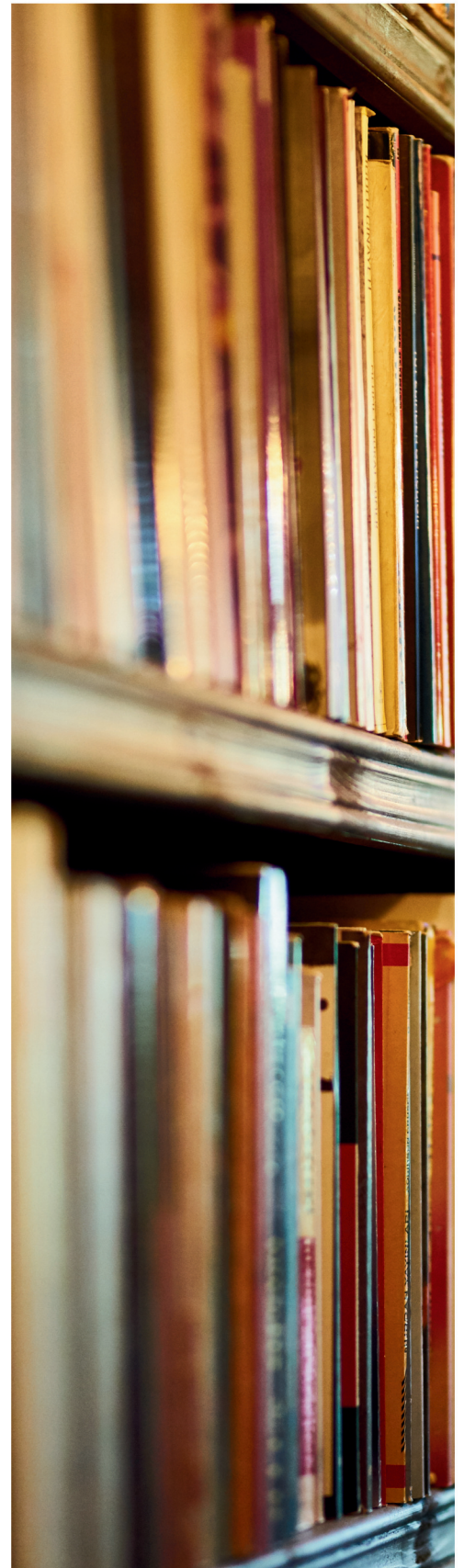
OUR HISTORY IS NOT JUST BRICKS AND DATES. IT'S THE LIVES SHAPED HERE, AND THE FUTURES STILL TO COME.

Thirsk School opened in 1957, built as Thirsk Grammar and Modern School. From the start it has been a place rooted in community, serving generations of local families.

Our crest and motto, Victor Qui Laborat meaning victory through effort, still guide us today. Every individual is valued. Every achievement is celebrated.

Over the years, our students have gone on to universities including Oxford and Cambridge, and careers across the world. From music and sport to science and the arts, their success is part of our shared story.

We remain proud of our history, and even prouder of the young people who continue to shape it.

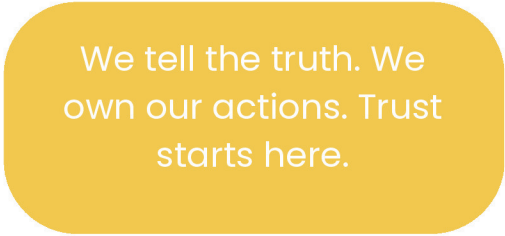


OUR VISION IS SHAPED BY OUR SHARED VALUES

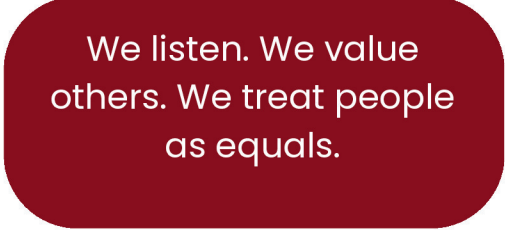
# BE MORE THIRSK



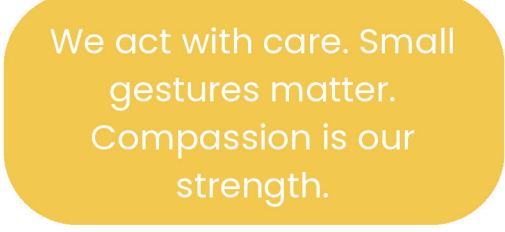
We celebrate teamwork. No one left out. Success is shared.



Everyone belongs. Every voice counts. Differences make us stronger.



We lift each other up. Help is always given. Nobody stands alone.



## Our Values

**Tolerant - Happy - Inspirational - Resilient -  
Successful - Knowledgeable**

# THE CURRICULUM

At Thirsk, learning isn't just about exams. It's about curiosity, confidence and the skills to thrive.

We offer a broad mix of subjects and experiences so every student finds their spark. From Key Stage 3 onwards, we build strong foundations of knowledge while encouraging independence and ambition.

Character matters too. Honesty, respect, and inclusivity run through every lesson. Students learn to think for themselves, support each other and value different perspectives.

By the time they leave us, our young people are ready for life... resilient, knowledgeable, and confident in who they are.



## KEY STAGE

# 3



During Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9), students study a broad and balanced curriculum designed to spark curiosity and build strong foundations for the future. Alongside core subjects such as **English, Maths and Science**, they explore **Technology** (including Food, Textiles, Resistant Materials and Graphics), **Humanities** (including History and Geography), and **Social and Religious Studies**, which also incorporate **Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education**. Students develop their creativity through **Art, Music and Drama**, keep active in **PE**, and expand their horizons by learning a language such as **French and/or German**. **Computing** is also taught, ensuring every student gains the digital skills they'll need for modern life.



## KEY STAGE

# 4

At Key Stage 4, students continue to access a broad and balanced curriculum while beginning to make important choices about their future. In Years 10 and 11, they study a wide range of GCSEs and vocational qualifications designed to reflect their individual interests, strengths and ambitions. This ensures every student can pursue subjects that inspire them while keeping doors open for the next stage of their education or training. The core curriculum includes **English, Maths, Science, Social and Religious Studies** (incorporating **PSHCE**) and **Physical Education**. Beyond this, **students select from a variety of option subjects**, giving them the opportunity to deepen existing passions or discover new ones. This balance of compulsory and chosen study helps students to develop resilience, independence and confidence as they prepare for life beyond school.



LEARNING THAT

LASTS  
LONGER  
THAN THE  
LESSON





At Key Stage 4, students are given the opportunity to shape their learning more closely around their own goals. In addition to the core curriculum, each student selects option subjects, allowing them to specialise, broaden their experience, or strike a balance between the two.

The choice is wide and varied. GCSE options include the **Sciences, Humanities, Languages, Arts and Technology**, while vocational courses cover practical areas such as **Engineering, Health and Social Care, Hospitality and Catering, and Sport Studies**. This range ensures that whether a student is aiming for university, apprenticeships, or direct employment, they have a pathway that fits.

By blending compulsory subjects with personal choice, Key Stage 4 helps students develop independence, confidence and a clearer sense of direction, while keeping every door open for the future.



At Sixth Form, students step into the final stage of their school journey and take real ownership of their education. With a wide range of A-level and vocational courses on offer, they have the freedom to design a programme of study that plays to their strengths, fuels their ambitions and prepares them for the next stage of life. Whether their future lies in higher education, an apprenticeship or direct employment, the curriculum is carefully structured to provide challenge, choice and opportunity.

Academic study is supported by high-quality teaching, close guidance and excellent facilities. Students benefit from smaller class sizes, specialist expertise and the encouragement to think critically, work independently and take responsibility for their progress. Alongside qualifications, there is a strong emphasis on personal growth. Leadership, teamwork and resilience are developed through enrichment activities, community involvement and a culture that values respect and ambition.

Sixth Form is not only about gaining results. It is about equipping young people with the knowledge, confidence and skills to thrive as adults, ready to take on new challenges and make a positive contribution wherever their journey leads.

# "IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?"

Every journey starts with a decision. At Thirsk, we believe the time to be bold, to try, to grow, is always now. These school years are the chance to discover what excites you, to shape your future and to become the person you want to be. Don't wait for the perfect moment.

Make this moment count.

The background of the entire page is a photograph of several colored pencils (yellow, green, red, blue, orange, purple) scattered on a light-colored, speckled surface. The pencils are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and movement.

# THE TRANSITION

WE KNOW MOVING FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL IS A BIG STEP, AND A SMOOTH TRANSITION MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE.

Our programme begins in Year 5 and 6, with a series of visits, sports competitions and enrichment days designed to help pupils feel confident and excited about joining us. These early experiences mean that by the time students start at Thirsk, they already feel part of the school community.

In Year 5, we offer dedicated Enrichment Days where pupils take part in lessons such as Drama, Food Technology, Music, Key Stage 3 English and Science. Our staff also visit local primary schools to meet children in their familiar environment.

To further support families, we hold an Induction Evening in July, where students and parents can meet teachers, tour the school and ask questions. Additional visits can be arranged where needed, ensuring every child feels as comfortable as possible.

We work closely with each family to make sure the move to secondary school is a positive, supportive experience. Our aim is simple: to help every child settle quickly, feel at home and start their Thirsk journey with confidence.



# PASTORAL CARE

At Thirsk School and Sixth Form College, we take the wellbeing of our students seriously. Academic success matters, but so does feeling safe, valued and supported. From the very first day, every young person is welcomed into a community that cares.

Our pastoral system is built around clear structures. Students are supported daily by their form tutor and pastoral team, with additional guidance from heads of year, our SENDCO, and senior staff. This ensures that no child is ever overlooked and that support is always close at hand.

We also work closely with families, recognising that education is a partnership. Parents and carers are encouraged to be involved in their child's journey and to share in both successes and challenges along the way.

One of our greatest strengths is the dedication of our staff to knowing and caring for every student as an individual. With this foundation, each young person has the opportunity to thrive, to develop resilience and confidence, and to achieve their full potential in a safe and supportive environment.

# SKILLS FOR

Not just facts in books but resilience, curiosity, problem-solving that stays with you.

# LIFE



The connections built here carry on long after the uniform's gone.

# FRIENDS FOR LIFE



# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

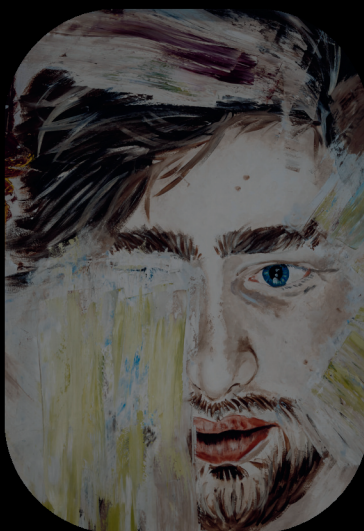
Learning doesn't stop at the end of a lesson. At Thirsk, students can choose from a huge range of clubs, teams and activities designed to spark new passions and develop hidden talents. From sports, music, art and drama to technology, debating, Lego and board games, there's something for everyone.

Our students achieve highly beyond the classroom. Hockey and debating teams compete nationally, many gain Duke of Edinburgh Awards at Bronze, Silver and Gold, and the annual school musical is a highlight for cast, crew and audience alike. Musical ensembles, bands and drama clubs also thrive throughout the year.

We also believe in the power of experiences. Trips at home and abroad – including our popular Battlefields visit to Belgium and France – broaden horizons and create lasting memories. Staff go above and beyond, giving their time at evenings, weekends and holidays to make these opportunities possible.

This vibrant programme is one of Thirsk's greatest strengths, helping every student to discover their interests, build confidence and take pride in being part of something bigger.

# GOO SEE YOU THE AUTUMN TERM



Visit

# THIRSK SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



**This is the place where every child belongs, where doors open, talents grow and futures take flight.**



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thirskschool



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Visit us online

[www.Thirskschool.org](http://www.Thirskschool.org)