



# Thurstable

SCHOOL



Achieve More



Belong More



Be More

# developing independent learners



Our mission is to develop independent learners who understand the need to contribute to meeting the challenges of a changing world.

Our aims are:

- To protect, nurture and challenge all our students to secure their physical and emotional wellbeing, and to support their ethical and moral development;
- To ensure that all our students have the opportunity to realise their full educational potential;
- To develop the ability of all our students to take charge of their lives through their capacity to learn independently;
- To look outward to our community and beyond it to the wider world in order to be a cooperative and collaborative organisation.

Achieve More  
Belong More  
Be More



*"The head teacher and the governors have established a clear vision around the motto 'Achieve More, Belong More, Be More'. The school has ...demonstrated an unrelenting passion for creating a 'no excuses' culture where all pupils, no matter what their background, can achieve."*

Ofsted 2016





# sharing the values and aspirations

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At Thurstable School, we understand how crucial it is that children secure the skills, understanding and qualifications that will allow them to lead successful adult lives. We know that a safe, welcoming, orderly school with good resources and excellent teaching is essential, and we make sure that we provide it.

We also recognise that sharing the values and aspirations of our parents, and recognising the importance of the individual hopes and ambitions of their children, is a critical part of our contribution to the wider personal, educational and vocational development of our students. It is central to their development as effective learners and to their ultimate examination success.

*“Most parents, pupils and staff believe that the support provided by the school in both the personal and academic lives of its pupils is beyond compare: ‘They never give up on anyone’.”*

Ofsted 2016







# all children are individuals



Choosing a school is not easy or straightforward. All children are individuals, and all schools are unique. Comparing schools via statistics is a useful way to begin. However, past performance is no guarantee of future success, and amongst even the most sparkling of whole school statistics there are individual students who have not met their potential – and if one of them is your child it is no comfort to you, or help to your child, that most of the rest of the year group did well.

As parents we know that choosing a school is not about picking “the best”. It is about coming to a decision with our children on which school will be the strongest partner for us as parents, and the richest environment for our children as individual learners.

*“Achieve More Belong More Be More” is felt within the fabric of the school and runs through the curriculum both academic, music, clubs and sports. My daughter is very happy at school.”*

**Year 7 parent**

*“My son has settled very well and his needs have been met brilliantly. He now thrives and academically is improving in leaps and bounds.”*

**Year 8 parent**

This brochure, the information booklet that comes with it, our Ofsted reports and our examination results are useful first steps in getting to know Thurstable School, but you will also want to take advantage of our Open Evening, and to tour the school to see us at work. We want you and your child to see us as we are day to day as well as at our best, and to answer all your questions and concerns – so please ask.







# to understand what being their best truly means

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The choice of our child's secondary school is a key moment for parents, and being a parent is the most important job any of us will ever do – in turns joyful, exasperating, exhilarating, and demanding, but ultimately rewarding beyond any other experience of our lives.

Our children grow up so fast. We are determined to do all we can to make sure that they grow up safe, healthy, happy and true. We want them to love their childhood, and at the same time to develop the resilience to take the knocks that life deals to everyone, without ever despairing or becoming hardened or cynical. We want our children to have the strength to claim their own rights whilst recognising their responsibilities to others. We want our children to recognise their own potential, and to be determined to fulfil it, whilst being content to be who they are, and, over time, to come to understand what being their best truly means.



*"Personal development and welfare is outstanding.. Leaders and staff provide excellent pastoral care which goes above and beyond..."*  
*"Pupils are enthused about the vast array of high-quality clubs, trips, visits, and school performances."*  
*"Staff are incredibly positive and proud to be working at Thurstable School Sports College and Sixth Form Centre. They say that expectations are high but that they are supported to do the best job that they can."*

**Ofsted 2016**

Parents rightly expect that their child's school appreciates these hopes and aspirations, reflects them in ethos and in action, and supports them and their children in their realisation.

At Thurstable, we understand that the true measure of our success is not the percentage of each year group that meets a statistical measure. It is whether we succeed as a school in the mission we share with our parents - to support each individual child to Achieve More, to Belong More, and to Be More.









# “everything is awesome!”

Rosie Year 7

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*“Pupils are happy, courteous and friendly. They are very keen to help and thoroughly enjoy the many chances to be responsible.”*

*“Teaching is effective and constantly improving. Teachers have strong subject knowledge, use questions skillfully and make thorough use of assessment to plan effectively...and ensure that time is used well.”*

*“Lessons are calm and purposeful....Pupils take responsibility for their conduct... The school's consistent use of their cooperative model of behavior helps develop pupils' ability to make the right choices. This is through an understanding of why good behavior and effort is important.”*

Ofsted 2016

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*“It's been really good. I am really enjoying school. I've made lots of new friends and have joined rugby club.”*

Year 7 student

*“I was the only person to come from my primary school but since I started Thurstable I've made alot of new friends and have joined singing, dance, drama and rock climbing clubs.”*

Year 7 student

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*“Thurstable is a friendly school. My two children are really happy here.”*

*“Thurstable has good standards of teaching and has very approachable staff. Carry on as you are doing as both my children have been well looked after and done well.”*

*“Parent teacher communication is excellent.”*

*“My son comes home and raves about your lessons and how much he enjoys them. He never raves about anything!”*

*“The staff deal with problems quickly and help in times of trouble.”*

Our Parents











# Thurstable

## SCHOOL

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