



Thames  
Christian  
School

*navigation for life*



2022-2023 ACHIEVEMENT

# THAMES

## THE CREATIVE CHOICE

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Stephen Holsgrove  
Head

Having spent 20 years in industry before starting Thames, I am acutely aware of skills sought by employers including creativity, problem solving and the ability to communicate clearly. At Thames we believe that these skills can be developed across the curriculum from the arts, maths and sciences to English and the humanities.

We do not make assumptions that children fit into stereotypes and we encourage our pupils to choose creatively from our wide selection of GCSE subjects. It is not unusual for pupils to take separate sciences, maths and further maths along with several arts subjects and a foreign language. Others may choose a much more arts, science or humanities based blend of subjects. This flexibility along with our co-curricular activities and relational ethos enable our pupils to develop those core workplace skills alongside their academic studies. We are very excited that this approach now extends into our new Sixth Form.

This year we have been excited to see how the first group of pupils studying 3D Design GCSE have developed their ideas into prototypes and product concepts supported by our state of the art workshops and equipment. Many pupils have also achieved high grades in maths, further maths and the sciences and we are delighted with how many have chosen to stay on and become our foundation Sixth Form cohort.

# Design Technology

Our new DT facilities enable pupils to study 3D Design up to A level for the first time. The wood workshop is equipped with a wide range of tools and machinery and the STEAM studio has a 3D printer, laser cutter and pressure former. In 2023, 64% of GCSE grades were 9-7 in 3D Design.

The DT curriculum focuses on both perceptual and conceptual skills, so pupils can develop and execute creative ideas, using overlapping knowledge from the arts, maths and physics.

Mr Robert Orchardson has taught DT at Thames for 16 years. An artist and sculptor, Robert exhibits widely and has works in public collections. His jewellery brand has appeared in many galleries including Barbican and Tate.

## CECILIA

*An all-rounder who enjoyed both sciences and the arts, Cecilia attained grade 9s in English Language, English Literature, Maths, Biology, Physics, Geography, Art, 3D Design and Religious Studies and grade 8s in Chemistry and Spanish, and 7 in Further Maths. Cecilia is a gifted athlete and achieved success in ISA and regional cross country and athletics competitions during her time at Thames.*



## Maths

In 2023 45% of grades in Maths were 9-7, and 43% 9-7 in Further Maths. Mathematics is a popular subject at Thames; over half of our Year 12 intake chose Maths A level, with the sciences and 3D Design the next most popular.

Maths at Thames is taught by Mrs Lorraine Tang and Mrs Luisa Fuertes who both bring professional experience to the classroom and demonstrate exactly why mathematical concepts are integral to so many careers. A former chemist, Mrs Fuertes used algebra and calculus on a daily basis and Mrs Tang worked for a management consultancy, handling large datasets and financial modelling.



## PETER

*Peter demonstrates what can be achieved with diligence and consistent hard work over the years since he came to Thames in Year 7. In his GCSEs he achieved grade 9 in Art, grade 8s in Physics and History, and grade 7s in English Literature, Maths, Chemistry and Religious Studies. In the LAMDA graded awards, Peter attained Distinction in Grade 7 Silver Acting. His performance as Puck was a highlight in our summer revue, *A Night on the Town*, in 2022. Peter is a foundation student in our new Sixth Form taking A levels in Chemistry, Physics and Maths.*

## GCSE Results 2023

In 2023 the percentage of grades at 9-7 was 34%. 33% of pupils achieved at least five 9-7 grades, 57% at least three 9-7 grades and 90% at least one 9-7 grade.

**Outstanding individual performances:** Cecilia 9 grade 9s, 2 grade 8s, 1 grade 7; Jack 4 grade 9s, 4 grade 8s and 1 grade 7; Raphael 2 grade 9s, 4 grade 8s, 2 grade 7s; Siegfried 6 grade 8s, 3 grade 7s; Peter 1 grade 9, 2 grade 8s, 4 grade 7s; Alice 2 grade 9s, 1 grade 8, 2 grade 7s; Emily 3 grade 8s, 4 grade 7s; Nepheli 1 grade 9, 7 grade 7s, Baxter 2 grade 9s, 1 grade 8, 2 grade 7s.

**Subject highlights:** Art 79% 9-7; Geography 64% 9-7; 3D Design 64% 9-7; Chemistry 50% 9-7; Maths 45% 9-7; Further Maths 43% 9-7; Religious Studies 38% 9-7; Physics 37% 9-7.

## Leavers' destinations

Excitingly, some students will be staying on to become our foundation A level cohort whilst others are progressing to a range of sixth forms including St John's Leatherhead, London Screen Academy, Graveney School, Esher College and Ashcroft Technology Academy.

# Speakers & Visitors 2022-2023

Speakers included:

Kenneth Cukier, Executive Editor *The Economist* & co-author *The Big Data*

Sam Holness, Guinness World Record holder, autistic triathlete and marathon runner

Victoire Eyoum, sports journalist at BBC World Service

Pastor Leonid German, Odessa, Ukraine

Noline Matemera, solicitor

Yassamin Ghassemi, Amnesty UK

Jide Owolabi, Metropolitan Tabernacle

Tom Hammond, Insurance Asset Manager at Schroders

Akhtar Shah, The Foundry International

Alanna Thompson, Asper Investment Management

Graham McClure, Go Make A Difference in Tanzania

Emily George, Stewards Trust

Naila Khairallah, environmental consultant

Mikey Froome, A21

## British Science Week

A series of science professionals spoke on veterinary pathology, renewable energy, medicine development, careers in civil engineering, and medical research techniques focusing on MRI scans.







# CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

## Overseas Trips

**Bay of Naples:** The trip included exploring the remains of Herculaneum and Pompeii, looking into the crater at Vesuvius, visiting the island of Capri, and learning to make pizza and gelato.

**Paris:** Pupils learnt about French culture, art and science, with visits to the Musée d'Orsay, the Cité des Sciences, Sacré Coeur, the Palace of Versailles, Montmartre and Ile de la Cité. Highlights included the Eiffel Tower and a Bateaux Mouches trip on the Seine to see Paris by night.



**Iceland:** Pupils enjoyed visiting the natural geographic features including Seljalandsfoss, Gullfoss and Skógafoss waterfalls, the Great Geysir and a glacier walk. On a whale watching tour they saw both humpback and minke whales. They met the ex-president of Iceland, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, who talked about his life in politics.

## Camps

**Year 10 Study & Activity Camp:** In September Year 10 spent three days at Carroty Wood Activity Centre in Kent. The camp combined sessions on effective ways to study for GCSEs with teamwork activities including tackling high ropes courses and a climbing tower.

**Year 7 Camp:** In September Year 7 enjoyed three days at the Horstead Centre on the edge of the Norfolk Broads. The camp focused on the school ethos and values. Activities included raft building, rock climbing, low ropes, zip wire and a night walk enabling pupils to build relationships while having fun.



## Local Trips

Theatre trips included *Much Ado About Nothing* at The Globe, *Richard II* at Omnibus Theatre and the musical *42nd Street* at Sadlers Wells Theatre.

Other trips included: the Holocaust Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum, Cézanne at Tate Modern, Beatrix Potter at the V&A, the National Gallery, Digital Storytelling at British Library, Science Museum, the Tower of London, Creating Scrooge at the Dickens Museum, Hampton Court Palace, Natural History Museum, Science Museum, Kew Gardens, furniture design showrooms in Clerkenwell and coastal fieldwork at Seaford.

## Workshops

Year 9 and Year 10 enjoyed an afternoon focusing on athletics and football skills led by athlete and Olympic medalist Marilyn Okoro, and ex-pro footballer and former Exeter City player, Leon Braithwaite. Year 8 enjoyed a STEM workshop with Thea Docherty, Babcock International. Year 9 took part in a mock trial led by Janet Kemp JP. Other workshops included a forensic science investigation, cookery, design technology, ceramics, fashion and textiles.

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Eighteen pupils completed their Bronze Award and seven pupils the Silver Award. The Bronze expedition took place in Ashdown Forest and the Silver on the South Downs.

## Co-curricular activities

Amnesty International, art history, arts & crafts, badminton, Bake Off, band, basketball, British Sign Language, chess, choir, circuit training, coding, community outreach, debate, dissections, Enterprise Challenge, football, international food, instrumental ensemble, Latin culture, life drawing, London explorers, Mandarin, Model UN, origami, Revolt & Revolution, rounders, Spanish, STEM, street dance, table tennis, tech dissection & repair, tennis, The Table, Thames Times, touch rugby, Vive La France, volleyball, weight training and WorldWise Quiz.

## Community Involvement

- A group of pupils regularly volunteered at a local care home, interacting with the elderly residents and making artwork with them.
- Thames invited the Katherine Low Settlement to bring around 40 elderly from the Battersea area to the matinee performance of our end of year show, *42nd Street*.
- Year 7 visited Farm 2 City at Providence House, a local youth club with links to Shallowford Farm in Devon. Their time coincided with a visit from HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh, who chatted with the pupils and took time for photographs.
- The choir led the singing at a carol service at Royal Trinity Hospice, Clapham Common, for relatives of those who had passed away at the hospice during Covid.



## EMILY

*Emily came to Thames in Year 10 from an independent school having a diagnosis of dyslexia. In her GCSEs she achieved grade 8s in Maths, Geography and Art, and grade 7s in English Literature, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Emily is now studying A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Maths in West Sussex.*





## LIFE SKILLS



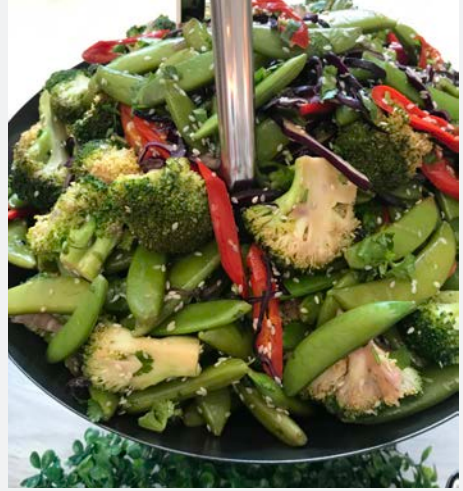
**Cookery:** Our new cookery room provides an exceptional setting to teach culinary skills in Year 9 as part of their Life Skills curriculum. Bake Off and International Food co-curricular activities were also oversubscribed. From September 2023, cookery will also be taught in Year 8 and Year 12.

## Hot School Lunches

We are delighted that from September 2023 we can provide hot school lunches made on the premises by IFG Independent.

*My daughter is raving about the lunches. It's great to know she is getting a delicious meal each lunchtime.*

Thames parent



**Careers:** Year 11 pupils took the Morrisby Profile and had one to one careers interviews with a careers advisor. Year 10 pupils undertook a week's work experience in the autumn term.

**Careers Fair:** A wide range of professionals attended our biannual Careers Fair to inform our Years 9, 10 and 11 pupils about over 35



potential careers.

Professionals introduced creative choices such as advertising, marketing, graphic design, architecture and motion design, academic choices including banking, neurosurgery and engineering, and practical options such as catering, the police and armed services.

*Pupils value the opportunities they are given to pursue interests beyond the classroom and many achieve success in them.*

Independent Schools Inspectorate, April 2022

## NEPHELI

*Talented in art, Nepheli attained grade 9 in her GCSE Art. She also attained grade 7s in English Language, English Literature, Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Religious Studies. Nepheli was part of the Year 11 leadership team. She is studying A levels in Art, Psychology and Biology at St John's Leatherhead.*



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## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

**WorldWise Quiz:** Stanley, Year 10 and Eddie and Percy, Year 7, won the Geographical Association WorldWise Quiz, beating teams from large London independent schools. This University Challenge style quiz for multiple teams of three students is aimed at Years 8–10. Our second team, Micah, Sam and Oliver, Year 8, were in second place until over half way through.

**English:** Joshua, Year 8, and Rubie, Year 9, had poems published in the Young Writers *Power of Poetry*.

**Languages:** Pupils celebrated International Mother Tongue Day by making a short film to introduce the array of languages spoken at home including Mandarin, Ukrainian, Russian, Italian, Amharic, Korean and Swahili.

The Mandarin Society met regularly to encourage pupils who speak Mandarin. Ms Stella Ng has joined the staff team in September 2023 to teach Mandarin.

**Biology:** Jack and Cecilia, Year 11, attained Bronze in the Royal Society of Biology Olympiad which is designed for sixth form students. Emily, Year 11, was Highly Commended; Jackson and Stanley, Year 10, were Commended.

In the RSB Biology Challenge, Caleb, Year 9, attained Silver, Aaron, Year 9, and Helena, Manu, Jackson, Stanley, Campbell, Robyn, all Year 10, achieved Bronze. Seven others were Highly Commended or Commended.

**Debate Society:** Debates were held against Emanuel School resulting in a close one all draw. Motions were: 'This house believes that the public has a right to know about the private lives of the Royal Family' and 'This house believes that Roald Dahl books should only be published in their original form.' In both debates, our Year 9 team showed their strength in the rebuttals.

**UKMT Maths Challenges:** In the Intermediate Challenge, pupils achieved 17 Bronze medals and 6 Silver. Zhenghao, Year 10, achieved Gold and qualified for the next stage. In the Junior Challenge, 6 pupils achieved Silver and 9 Bronze. These challenges stretch and motivate our pupils to develop their problem solving skills.

*The quality of the pupils' academic and other achievements is excellent.*

Independent Schools Inspectorate, April 2022



## JACK

*In his GCSEs Jack achieved grade 9s in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and 3D Design, grade 8s in Biology, Chemistry, History and Religious Studies and grade 7 in English Language.*

*Passionate about F1, for his 3D Design project, he designed a trophy for the Italian Grand Prix based around the shape of the track. Head Boy during Year 11, Jack is staying at Thames to take A levels in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry.*



## C R E A T I V E   A R T S

**42nd Street:** Pupils put on a brilliant performance of *42nd Street*, our first full length musical since 2019. Eloise, Talia and Rufus gave outstanding performances as lead characters Peggy Sawyer, Dorothy Brock and Julian Marsh. The show provided a high level of challenge for our pupils with solo performances and big dance numbers. We were proud to host the three performances in our new theatre which is equipped with top of the range lighting and sound. The show was choreographed and directed by musical theatre professional Anna Griffith. The music was directed by Dr Paul Mitchell, our Head of Music, with a seven piece orchestral ensemble accompanying the cast.



**Dance:** Ryleigh, Year 7, who studies at The Royal Ballet School, performed in *Light of Passage*, Crystal Pite's production at Royal Opera House and in *The Nutcracker* with Birmingham Royal Ballet at The Royal Albert Hall.

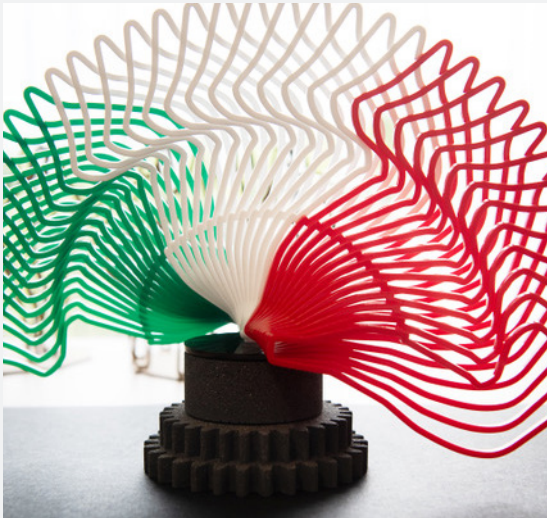


**Music:** Parents enjoyed a high standard of individual vocal, choral and instrumental performances, including from our music scholars, at our Musical Evenings, Awards Night and Carol Concerts.



*“I can remember how my son started as a Year 7 student. Today he is a confident, happy young man with so many ideas. All credit should go to the amazing team at Thames.”*

Thames parent



**Art:** Charlie won the ISA London South West art competition, “3D artwork”, with a clock which qualified his entry into the ISA national competition.

Professional ceramicist Adele Williams led three days of workshops for Year 11 art pupils as part of their GCSE course. In 2023, 79% of grades in Art were 9-7.

*“I strongly believe that my son’s grades are due to the exceptional education that he received at Thames. The school taught him to believe in himself and how to be disciplined in his study.”*

Thames parent



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# S P O R T

**Cross Country:** At our sponsored cross country, five pupils ran over 10k: Leo, Year 11; Thomas, Elsie & Theo, Year 8; and Alex, Year 7. In total pupils ran 545k and 33 pupils ran at least 8k to raise money for our school charities.

**Rugby:** Our Year 7 and 8 boys team competed in the ISA London South West touch rugby tournament, coming second overall. Rugby at Thames is coached by Mr Mark Bright, who as a former professional player for London Scottish, was inducted into the London Scottish Hall of Fame in 2016 and in the 2016/17 season was the Rugby Players Association Championship Player of the Year.

**Athletics:** Pupils put in many great performances at our Sports Day at Wimbledon Park Athletics Track. In total, 10 school records were broken, with athletic prowess shown by Taylor, who threw 34.78m in Year 9 javelin, Thomas who achieved 17.74m in Year 7 javelin, Joshua, who ran the Year 8 100m in 12.76 seconds, and Elsie, who won the Year 8 400m in 1 minute 08 seconds.



At Wandsworth Schools Athletics, Elsie, Year 8, attained Silver in the 800m and Ana came fourth in the 200m.

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## Charity fundraising

Our annual Sponsored Cross Country raised £9,800 in aid of the school's two main charities, Go MAD in Tanzania and A21 Campaign. £1,500 was donated to A21 which works towards abolishing human trafficking.

Go MAD exists to improve the health and living standards in the Diocese of Mara. £4,000 paid for two 19,000 litre water tanks in primary schools with no clean water, £2,700 helped fund mobile clinics that provide basic

preventative healthcare in remote villages, and £1,600 funded tree planting as part of Go MAD's reforestation work, which has contributed to them becoming a representative of The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy. We are making plans to resume our annual trip to Tanzania with a Year 12/13 trip in October 2024.

Further funds were raised for victims of the Syrian earthquake and Amnesty International.

## RAPHAEL

*Raphael joined Thames in Year 10 from Hong Kong and is a foundation student at our new Sixth Form. In his GCSEs, he attained grade 9 in Maths and Mandarin, grade 8s in Chemistry, Business Studies, Further Maths and Religious Studies, and grade 7s in English Language and Biology. He will be taking A levels in Maths, Chemistry and Biology.*



## Where are they now?

- Oscar (2016) achieved 9 A\*s and 2 As in his GCSEs and is in his fifth year of studying medicine at Imperial College.
- Rohan (2016) having spent a year working at Harwell Science & Innovation Campus, has a PhD from York University in Mass Spectroscopy.
- Matthew (2016) has completed a degree in International Relations at LSE.
- Kale (2018) has graduated from King's College London with a degree in Computer Science.
- Gianluca (2021) achieved A\*s in Maths, Physics and Chemistry A levels and A in Economics and has taken up a place at LSE, his first choice university. In his GCSEs at Thames he attained 10 grade 9s and 2 grade 8s.
- Leilani (2021) attained A\* in English and As in Art and RS Philosophy A levels and takes up a place to study Law at LSE.