



Thames
Christian
School

navigation for life



ACHIEVEMENT
2024-2025

THAMES

25 YEARS - THE JOURNEY



Stephen Holsgrove
Head

It is now 25 years since Thames was founded and our first set of A Level results was a wonderful way to celebrate this anniversary. Our initial leavers have gained some impressive university places and, more importantly, they have grown into outstanding young people, fully prepared for the next phase of their lives. Facilitated by a staff team committed to success, a highly flexible curriculum and genuinely small classes, our students' stories speak for themselves.

As educators we must prepare our young people for a fast changing world of technology and AI. The timeless skills of critical thinking, creativity and problem solving, along with the ability to lead and be part of a team, are becoming ever more important. Without these essential elements the next generation will become dependent on technology and not masters of it.

At Thames we embed a highly intentional approach to teaching traditional skills alongside technological understanding. The future will favour those who possess the emotional intelligence to embrace both aspects.

I would like to personally invite you to one of our open events or for a private tour to see how a Thames education can enable your child to stand out as an authentic, confident and knowledgeable young person, ready to become a leader of tomorrow.

GCSE Results 2025

This year, 16% of all grades were grade 9, 42% were awarded at levels 9-7 and 88% at 9-4. Furthermore, 34% of pupils achieved at least five grades at 9-7, 48% at least three 9-7 grades, and 81% at least one 9-7 grade.

As a school that is not rigorously academically selective, these results reflect the hard work of our pupils, coupled with the school's commitment to providing an environment where every pupil can succeed. Small, bespoke classes and a wide range of subjects enable an exceptional flexible choice of options at GCSE and A level.

Outstanding individual performances: Our top-performing pupil achieved 12 grade 9s. Other notable results were achieved by: Eric 9 grade 9s, 2 grade 8s, 1 grade 7; Aaron 9 grade 9s, 2 grade 8s, 1 grade 7; Rubie 4 grade 9s, 5 grade 8s, 2 grade 7s; Lorien 4 grade 9s, 2 grade 8s, 3 grade 7s; Nicholas 2 grade 9s, 5 grade 8s, 2 grade 7s; Simisola 2 grade 9s, 4 grade 8s, 3 grade 7s. Eric and Aaron both achieved an A grade in their Mandarin A Level at the end of Year 10.

GCSE Subject highlights: Music 80% 9-7; Art 73% 9-7; French 71% 9-7; Further Maths 67% 9-7; Spanish 67% 9-7; Physics 60% 9-7; 3D Design 58% 9-7; History 53% 9-7; Biology 46% 9-7; Chemistry 46% 9-7; Computer Science 40% 9-7; Maths 39% 9-7.

ZIGGY

With AAB in Spanish, Biology and Geography, Ziggy has accepted a place at Cardiff University to study Human Geography. At Thames from Year 7, Ziggy left to take his A Levels at a local state school before returning after six weeks, realising he'd made a huge mistake. Ziggy brought enthusiasm, maturity, reflectiveness and endless curiosity in the world around him and, as Head Boy, a strong ability to build meaningful relationships with the younger members of the school.





CECILIA

*Cecilia achieved A*AA in 3D Design, Maths and Physics, the grades she needed to study Architecture at the University of Bath, her first choice. Cecilia came to Thames in Year 7 but left to go to a local state school after her GCSEs. Regretting this move, she rejoined Thames at the end of Year 12 to successfully complete her A Levels, with grades averaging 2.5 above her predictions. Alongside her A Levels, Cecilia achieved a merit in her Grade 8 RAD ballet exam.*



CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Trips and camps

Tanzania: After a gap of five years, this unique grassroots opportunity resumed as a Sixth Form trip. The team spent 14 days in Musoma on the shores of Lake Victoria with the charity Go MAD in Tanzania. They worked on community projects, built water tanks and goat sheds, contributing to life-changing infrastructure and income-generating opportunities in the local villages. They also went on a safari in the Serengeti. Fundraising for the projects and their own trip costs were part of this enriching experience.



Rome: Pupils learnt about the rich blend of art, culture and history of Ancient Rome. Highlights included a guided tour of the Colosseum and Roman Forum with a local archaeologist, and visits to St Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel.

Morocco: GCSE students explored the culture and geography of Morocco. In Marrakech they visited the Gardens of Menara, Bahia Palace and Ben Youssef Madrasa. Heading into the Atlas Mountains, they learnt about village irrigation and drainage systems, and hiked in the mountains. They returned via Lake Lalla Takerkoust and the Agafay Rocky Desert, lunching under a nomad tent. Highlights included an hour's camel ride and learning to cook chicken tagine with a local woman.



Berlin: Pupils learnt about the history of Nazi Germany and Communism and experienced visits to the Charlottenburg Palace, the Berlin Wall Memorial, Holocaust Memorial, Berlin TV Tower, the German Spy Museum and the newly opened Upside Down Museum.

Year 7 Camp: In September Year 7 enjoyed three days at the Horstead Centre on the edge of the Norfolk Broads. Activities included raft building, rock climbing, zip wire, crate stacking, a night walk and low ropes and focused on gaining familiarity with the school ethos and values and building relationships.

Fundraising & Community Involvement

Fundraising: Our annual Sponsored Cross Country raised £11,317 for the school's partner charities, Go MAD in Tanzania and A21 Campaign. The proceeds have enabled Go MAD to build a new toilet block at Mkirira Secondary School and fund girls' menstrual education there. £2,500 was donated to A21's crisis care centres, supporting their anti-trafficking work.

Peter and Charles, Year 13, completed the 55 mile London to Brighton bike ride, raising £1,000 towards their costs for their trip to Tanzania.

Wandsworth Foodbank: At the end of each term Year 12 students organised collections of groceries, hygiene products and seasonal treats to be donated to the foodbank at St Mark's Church Battersea.

Year 8 pupils supported WOW Mums - Women of Wandsworth - by helping look after the Falcon Estate gardens and watering the plants.

Katherine Low Settlement were invited to bring elderly residents from the Battersea area, along with WOW Mums, to the matinee performance of our end of year show, *Happy Days*.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Hosting the Gold award for the first time, five of our sixth formers completed their Gold award, receiving the award from the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace. Eight Year 10 pupils completed the Silver award and 11 Year 9s the Bronze award.

JACK

*Jack achieved A*AA in 3D Design, Maths & Physics - more than required to follow his dream of studying Mechanical Engineering with a Motorsports focus at the University of Exeter. He also took the EPQ. Passionate about Formula 1, Jack headed up the development team of Year 10 pupils in the F1 In Schools Competition.*



Trips 2024-2025

Futures Week: Focusing on post-16 options, Year 10 experienced sessions on interview techniques, personal finance, skills required for the changing job market and A Level taster lessons. They also visited Imperial College and investigated careers at the V&A and Science Museum.

Mandarin: Pupils attended *Chinese Bridge*, a Mandarin speaking competition at SOAS where they interacted with degree students.

Other trips included: *War of the Worlds* at Wilton's Music Hall, *Ballet Shoes* at the National Theatre, Tate Britain, Imperial War Museum Holocaust Exhibition, University of Bath, Battersea Power Station, University College London, coastal fieldwork at Seaford, History walking tour of local blue plaques, Tower of London and local Geography fieldwork.

Co-curricular activities: 3D modelling, Bake Off, band, basketball, British Sign Language, chess, choir, coding, community outreach, dance, debate, digital research skills, dissections, electronics, forensic science, football, international cookery, illustration, instrumental ensemble, life drawing, lino printing, London explorers, Mandarin, musical theatre, needlework, netball, philosophy & ethics, propmaking, radio podcasts, rounders,

Spanish conversation, story writing, surrealist collage, table tennis, tech dissection & repair, topology, spreadsheet skills, STEM, tennis, The Table, Thames radio, Thames Theatre Company, touch rugby, volleyball, woodwork, WorldWide Quiz and Youth Alpha.



"It is incredible to reflect on the last seven years and to see such positive growth in both the school and the individuals."

Thames parent 2025



ALICE

*With A*s in 3D Design and Art and B in Spanish, Alice is taking up an unconditional offer from Kingston University to study Product and Furniture Design. As Head Girl and Student Chaplain, Alice helped to run Youth Alpha. She showed maturity, kindness and grace in all her interactions throughout the school.*

VE Day 80th Anniversary

At a special assembly pupils were encouraged to consider the memories and stories of VE Day and WW2 from members of their families and others. In Cookery, to demonstrate wartime rationing, Year 10 made Hunt Pie and the kitchen served school lunches based on wartime recipes.



Civic Trust Award

The Thames Christian School building was awarded a Highly Commended commendation by the Civic Trust Awards. This achievement places the project amongst an elite group of buildings celebrated for their architectural excellence and civic value. Recognised projects demonstrate excellence in architecture and design whilst being sustainable, accessible and providing a positive civic contribution.

Staff news

Mrs Champagne spoke in California at a three day trip to the Social Science Foo Camp at Meta's HQ in San Francisco.



C R E A T I V E A R T S

Happy Days – A New Musical: Families and guests greatly enjoyed catching up with The Fonz, Pinky, Richie and all at Arnold's at our summer show in July. Behind every successful show lie hours of hard work and dedication, and the cast truly excelled. Mrs Rachael Smith directed and choreographed the show; Dr Paul Mitchell directed the music, with a six piece instrumental ensemble accompanying the cast. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed their time, skills and passion to bring this production to life, especially our Art and 3D Design department who created amazing scenery, props and backgrounds.



Drama: In the ISA Drama Competition, Lorien, Eloise, Gabriela, Olia and Adrianna, Year 11, received an Honourable Mention Best Ensemble for their performance of *Girls Like That* by Evan Placey.

Performing Arts: Parents enjoyed a high standard of individual, instrumental, choral, radio plays and musical theatre performances including from *CATS* and the *Allegro-Largo Pastorale* from Corelli's *Christmas Concerto*.

LAMDA: In the LAMDA graded acting awards this year, all our pupils achieved Distinction.

Art: In the ISA SW London Art Competition, Lase secured 2nd prize in the KS3 Drawing category for her self-portrait. Zhenghao won 1st prize in the KS4 2D category for his self-portrait and 1st prize for his lotus lamp in the KS4 3D Art category, qualifying him for the ISA Nationals where his self portrait was awarded 1st prize overall.



Zhenghao's winning self portrait

"My daughter has had a wonderful, positive experience at Thames."

Thames parent 2025



FREYA

Freya achieved ABB in 3D Design, Art and English and is studying Architecture at Nottingham Trent University, where she was offered an unconditional place on the strength of her 3D Design and Art portfolio. Freya's growth as an individual and academically since Year 7 has been impressive, achieving B in English from a 'strong pass' at GCSE.



S P O R T

Swimming: Harmony, Year 9, won the 50m Fly at the ISA SW London Regional Swimming Gala, earning her a place at the ISA National Swimming Gala where she came 4th in the Year 9/10 50m Fly and 3rd in the freestyle relay.

At the London Youth Games, Harmony won Bronze in the 50m Fly and Leilani, Year 12, won Silver in the freestyle relay and Bronze in the medley relay.

Cross Country: In the ISA South West London XC Competition. Nathan, Year 9, and Josiah, Year 8, qualified for the ISA National Cross Country Championships where Josiah came 9th.

Athletics: At Wandsworth Schools Athletics, Josiah, Year 8, won the U12 1500m, and Ava, Year 8, came second in U12 long jump with 4.29m, qualifying them for the London Schools Athletics Meet where they both came fourth in their events.



Josiah

Rugby: At the SE Schools Touch Championship, five pupils received an invitation from a talent scout to join the Try Centre of Excellence Rugby Programme.



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

National Geographic WorldWide Quiz: Defending their title from 2024, this year our teams came a very creditable fourth and fifth out of 15 teams.

Biology: In the RSB Biology Challenge, Elijah, Oliver and Rosie were awarded Silver, and Georgina achieved Bronze.

Chemistry: In the UK Chemistry Olympiad, a competition for 16-18 year olds, Eric and Aaron, Year 11, achieved Bronze.

UKMT Maths Challenges: In the Intermediate Challenge, seven pupils were awarded Bronze, and four silver. Elijah, Eric and Caleb achieved Gold. Eric's result qualified him for the follow-up Pink Kangaroo competition where he achieved Silver, just one mark off Gold. In the Senior Challenge, William attained Silver, Veniamin, Jack, Kalab and Raphael Bronze. In the Junior Challenge, Elizabeth and Isaac achieved Gold, three pupils attained Silver and six Bronze.



English: Thomas, Year 7, won the People's Choice Award at the Oxford Poetry of Science which included the opportunity to visit Oxford to read his poem, *Plastic Planet*, at the Science and Ideas Festival.

F1 In Schools Competition: Jack, Year 13, led the team of Year 10 pupils Elijah, Oliver and Joe in this international design and engineering competition, judged by professional F1 mechanical engineers. The team developed their brand 'Delta Racing', gained sponsorship and designed a scale F1 car to meet the criteria to be allowed to race. Their car completed the 25m course in 1.447 seconds, only 80/100ths of a second slower than the winning car. Overall they came 5th out of 21 teams in the Development Class.



Speakers & Visitors 2024-2025

Stuart Burgess, professor of Engineering Design, University of Bristol, and lead transmission designer for the British Olympic Cycling Team

[Frantic Assembly](#), one of the UK's most successful theatre companies, for Year 11 drama workshop

Millicent Grant, High Sheriff of London

[Marsha de Cordova](#), MP for Battersea

Janet Kemp JP, criminal mock trial with Year 9

[Simon Henley](#), founder of architects Henley Halebrown

Graham McClure, Go MAD in Tanzania

[Andy Monks](#), youth leader & author of *The NOW Generation*

Irina Gorbounova, senior executive at ArcelorMittal Ltd, overseeing the XCarb® Innovation Fund

[Themba Kaonga](#), radio-frequency design engineer

Thea Docherty, Babcock International

[Faris Sanhaji](#), Goldsmiths University

WILLIAM

William achieved A in Maths, and As in Art and History, and is taking a gap year to gain fluency in German and take Further Maths A Level before going to university. Will joined us in Year 12 and was on the team working in Tanzania with Go MAD in October, building goat sheds and water tanks in remote villages.*



Leadership Training

Sixth form students benefited from the experience of Andy Monks, a local youth leader and author of *The NOW Generation*, who led a series of sessions on leadership and mentored our head boy and head girl.

Young Apprentice Challenges

As part of Year 10 Life Skills programme, pupils developed an idea for a new business, service or product to present to external judges from the business world, including from Barclays Bank and Saatchi & Saatchi.





S I X T H F O R M

Year 12 Careers Speakers & Trips 2024-2025

- Inner Temple & Law Courts hosted by Roger ter Haar KC
- What University? What Career? Live at Olympia.
- Guy Butler Ltd, independent institutional credit specialists
- Mace Group, construction & architecture
- Robert Byk, solicitor Slaughter and May

Other trips included: National Portrait Gallery, Tate Modern, designers Black+Blum, Guy's Hospital Cancer Centre, EBEA Student Economics Conference at the Bank of England, the Houses of Parliament, Insider London City Finance Walking Tour, NEA fieldwork course at Rhyd-y-Creiau, Snowdonia National Park and Churchill War Rooms



A Level results

Our first A Level cohort have achieved excellent results with almost all our students going on to their first choice university destination. Overall, students achieved 38% A*-A grades compared with 28% nationally, and 66% A*-B grades.

Students have taken up places at the Universities of Exeter, Bath, Cardiff, Sheffield, Manchester, Essex, Surrey, Kingston, Nottingham Trent, Swansea, Goldsmiths and City & Guilds Art School. Five students received unconditional offers and 36% of students go on to Russell Group universities.

A Level Subject Highlights

3D Design 100% A*-A; History 50% A*-A; Spanish 100% A*-B; Art 100% A*-B; English Literature 100% A*-B; Maths 50% A*-B; Biology 50% A*-B; Economics 100% A*-B; Geography 100% A*-B.

Sixth Form Work Experience

Placements included: The Economist, Robert Bird Group, UCL Cancer Research Laboratory, Mott MacDonald, Structure Workshop, Jensen Hunt Design, Fletcher Crane Architects, Laing O'Rourke PLC, Building Design Partnership, Westside Vets, Canal & River Trust, Beckoffice Ltd and The Prophets Agency.

Year 12 had individual sessions with independent careers advisor Sasha Wellings of SW Consulting.

"The environment, the culture, the teachers, the community, everything about Thames is unbeatable."

Sixth form student 2025

