



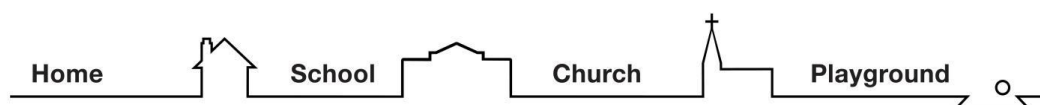
Year 7 Welcome Guide

2025/2026

www.thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk



@thornleighsalesiancollege





**Because the show is taking place earlier than usual, there will be no Year 7 students in the cast. There will be other opportunities during the year for them to participate in performing arts.*

Welcome

July 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to Thornleigh Salesian College.

The staff and students of the school are delighted to welcome you and your child into our school community.

I am sure that you and your child have lots of questions about transferring to secondary school. We hope that the Welcome Event, Induction Days and contents of this guide go some way to answering them.

We are confident that by the end of the Induction Programme and a busy first half term that includes a parents/carers Information and Guidance event and form tutor consultation that your child will feel at home.

We are excited about your child beginning this new chapter of their education with us and look forward to celebrating their personal growth and many achievements along the way.

Yours sincerely

Mr Fitzsimons
Headteacher

School Structure and Key Staff

Overall Year Group Structure:

Students in Year 7 are organised into two balanced and mixed-attaining bands;

Alpha (A) and Kappa (K)

These bands contain the following mixed-attaining Form Groups:

- A Band - Forms A B G D Z
- K Band - Forms K T S L O

Key Staff

- Headteacher - Mr Fitzsimons
- Deputy Headteacher - Mr Smith
- Deputy Headteacher - Mr Harwood
- Assistant Headteacher - Mr Tye
- Assistant Headteacher - Mrs Wilkinson
- Head of Year 7 - Mrs Salisbury
- Assistant Head of Year 7 - Ms Farrelly
- Assistant Head of Year 7 - Mr Crook
- SENCO - Mrs Anthony
- Year 7 Inclusion / Transition Lead - Mrs Pickup
- Safeguarding - Mrs Sharp
- Attendance - Mrs Cornwell / Mrs Dean

Year 7 Form Tutors

A - Ms Saeed	K - Mr MacNamara
B - Ms Fearn	T - Ms Gamble
G - Ms Vara	S - Ms Cunningham
D - Mr Garland	L - Mr Mapana
Z - Mr Bell	O - Ms Grimmer

Subject Leaders for Core Subjects:

English	Mr Pritchard
Maths	Ms Youssouff
Science	Ms Fletcher
RE	Fr S Lloyd
PE	Mr Gavin

If you need to contact the school, please call 01204 301351 to speak with the **Form Tutor in the first instance**. Alternatively, you can email: contact@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk. For face-to-face meetings, we work on an appointment basis.

Term Dates and Holidays 2025/2026

INSET DAY - Students not in school	Monday 1 st September 2025
INSET DAY - Students not in school	Tuesday 2 nd September 2025
First day of term for students	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025
First day of mid term holiday	Monday 27 th October 2025
Students return to school	Monday 3 rd November 2025
INSET DAY - Students not in school	Friday 28 th November 2025
Last day of school - 1pm EARLY FINISH	Friday 19 th December 2025
First day of term for students	Monday 5 th January 2026
First day of mid term holiday	Monday 16 th February 2026
Students return to school	Monday 23 rd February 2026
Last day of school	Thursday 2 nd April 2026
First day of term for students	Monday 20 th April 2026
Bank Holiday	Monday 4 th May 2026
First day of mid term holiday / Bank Holiday	Monday 25 th May 2026
Students return to school	Monday 1 st June 2026
Last day of school - 1pm EARLY FINISH	Friday 17 th July 2026

Tools for Learning

Your child is expected to be ready to learn every day. This is helped by having the following essential tools for learning. Bags should be packed the night before school.

The top 5 essentials packed in a suitable pencil case in an appropriate and hard wearing bag:

- 1) Two pens
- 2) Two pencils
- 3) One ruler
- 4) One eraser
- 5) Scientific calculator

Desirable:

- 1) Pencil sharpener
- 2) A highlighter

Students are also expected to bring a reading book with them every day

Specific subjects may require students to have specialist equipment. For example:

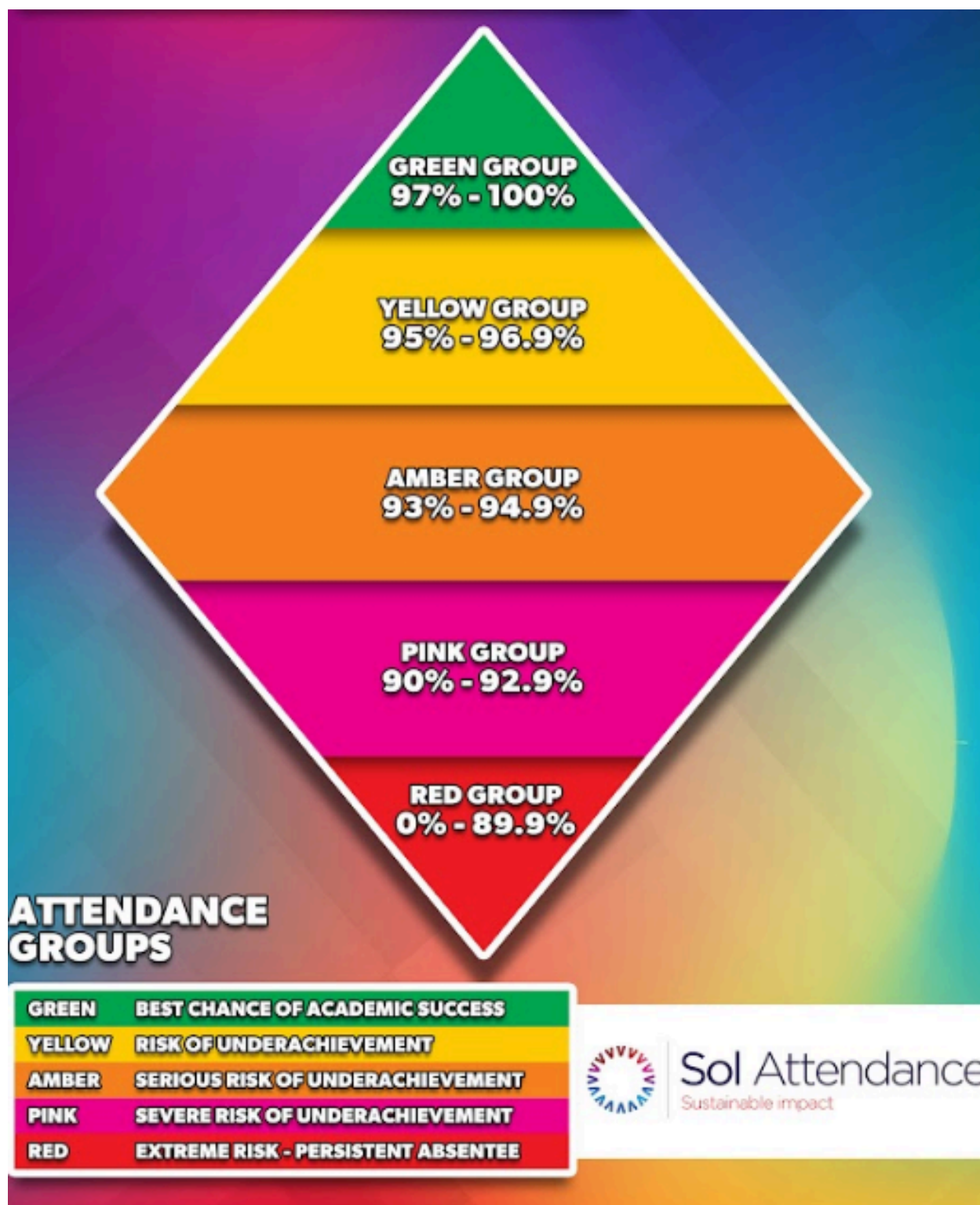
Home Technology - Students will be required to purchase ingredients for practical cooking lessons.

PE - Students will be required to bring a separate PE bag containing their PE kit.

Music - It may be that your child continues or begins learning a musical instrument.

Attendance

Regular attendance is not just a legal requirement, but it is vital for students to maximise their learning and achieve their full potential here at Thornleigh Salesian College. Good attendance is seen as **97% plus**. Below is the Thornleigh Attendance Diamond that we use to review attendance.



Your child is twice as likely to achieve their potential if their attendance is 97% compared to a child whose attendance is 90%. Good attendance habits are built in year 7 and you as a parent have the biggest impact on your child's attendance and GCSE achievement. Research shows that only 45% of students who have attendance below 95% achieve 5 or more good GCSE grades; whereas; 82% of students who have 99% or more achieve 5 or more GCSE grades.

You may be aware that the Department for Education has recently announced national changes to penalty notices issued for unauthorised absence in term time. These changes came into effect on 19 August 2024. The government has directed schools to consider fines if a pupil misses 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. Absence fines have also changed to £80, or £160 if not paid within 21 days. Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160 to be paid within 28 days with no option for a discounted rate. It is important to note that lateness after the registers close is counted by the Department for Education as 1 absence so this makes it important that your child arrives at school on time.

To report an absence to school please either call the school and leave a message with the absence team on 01204 301351 or email attendance@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk ensuring that you leave your child's name, form group, year group and reason for absence. **You need to inform the school each day of your child's absence if they are absent for more than one day.**

The Department for Education also advise that from September 2024 no holidays will be agreed upon during term time and that any term time holidays that are taken after the start of the 2024/25 academic year will be treated under the new legislation, regardless of when the holiday is booked.

Preventing your child from missing school - what you can do

- Make sure your child understands the importance of good attendance and punctuality
- Take an interest in their education - ask about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities
- Discuss any problems they may have at school
- Encourage resilience by not allowing your child to take time off school for minor ailments - particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work
- Arrange appointments and outings **after school hours**, at weekends or during school holidays

Uniform and Appearance

All students attending Thornleigh Salesian College are expected to wear full school uniform.

We expect students to represent Thornleigh Salesian College with pride and have high expectations for our students' standard of appearance.

Items marked * must be obtained from the outfitters. Other items can be purchased where you will.

Girls' Uniform *PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME*

- Plain black formal school shoes (These must be below the ankle with a maximum heel of 3cm/1inch – no boots or shoe boots, no trainers, leisure shoes or canvas pumps. Nike/Adidas/Asics/New Balance/Vans/Converse shoes are not permitted)
- Brown school skirt (special dye): top of the knee length to allow for growth during the year and/or brown trousers (available only from school outfitters)*
- Pale blue blouse (shirt-style, top button must be fastened)
- Clip-on school tie*
- White knee socks or black/brown tights. Black tights must be a minimum of 60 denier
- School blazer *

Girls' Optional Uniform Items

- Outdoor coats (including anoraks and rain coats) must be plain black. The school PE rain jacket may also be worn as an outdoor coat. Hooded/Zip-Up Hooded jumpers (including the school version) and tracksuit jackets are **not permitted** as an outdoor coat.
- Brown school pullover (special dye) *

Girls' PE & School Sport Kit (brought to school in a separate bag)

- School branded white aertex school polo shirt or school branded purple shirt*
- School branded black school skirt*
- School purple & black coloured long socks*
- Appropriate training shoes (these should be running trainers/astro turf shoes - no pumps or leisure shoes)

Girls Optional Items of PE Kit

- School branded purple & black rain jacket*
- School branded black shorts*
- School branded PE leggings*
- School branded plain black tracksuit bottoms (no logos/stripes etc.)
- School branded sweatshirt*
- White base-layer

Boys' Uniform *PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME*

- Plain black formal school shoes (These must be below the ankle–no boots or shoe boots, no trainers, leisure shoes or canvas pumps. Nike/Adidas/Asics/New Balance/Vans/Converse shoes are not permitted)
- Black trousers (standard fitting - no skinny fit, cords, denims or canvas trousers allowed)
- Plain white shirt (not patterned – top button must be fastened)
- School blazer *
- Clip-on school tie*

Boys' Optional Uniform Items

- Outdoor coats (including anoraks and rain coats) must be plain black. The school PE rain jacket may also be worn as an outdoor coat. Hooded/Zip-Up Hooded jumpers (including the school version) and tracksuit jackets are not permitted as an outdoor coat.
- Brown school pullover (special dye) *

Boys' PE & School Sport Kit (brought to school in a separate bag)

- School branded purple shirt*
- School branded black shorts*
- School purple & black long socks*
- Appropriate training shoes - (these should be running trainers/astro turf shoes - no pumps or leisure shoes)
- Football boots with plastic moulded or rubber studs (required for astro and grass pitches)
- Shin guards
- Gum shield

Boys Optional Items of PE Kit

- White t-shirt with Thornleigh logo*
- School branded purple & black rain jacket*
- School branded plain black tracksuit bottoms (no logos/stripes etc.)
- School branded zip-up mid-layer*
- Purple or black base-layer

You can purchase items of school uniform from the following school outfitters:

- **Harrisons, 467a Blackburn Road, Bolton, BL1 8NN**
- *Whittakers (formerly Parkers), 106 Deansgate, Bolton, BL1 1BD*
- *Smart, Units 5,6,7 Blackhorse Street, Bolton, BL1 1SY*

Further guidance about uniform:



GENERAL NOTES ON UNIFORM, PERSONAL APPEARANCE AND CORE RULES

- No jewellery except watches may be worn by boys or girls. For safety reasons, earrings may not be worn in school. Students must remove these before going to lessons. Tattoos, body piercings and jewelled teeth are not allowed.
- No nail varnish, false nails, false tan or make-up may be used at school. Fingernails must be short, neat and clean. Students will be required to remove makeup and nail varnish using wipes provided by school.
- Hair styles must be in accordance with standards laid down by the Senior Leadership Team. No extreme haircuts, (including 'V' cuts, lines or shaved styles) are allowed. Hair length at the back and sides must not be below a number 2. Hair must be one natural colour. Students will not be allowed to access classes in the event of these rules being broken.
- A hard wearing school bag is required for books/homework, as well as for basic equipment such as pens/biro, pencil, ruler, calculator, rubber, highlighters and coloured pencils. This basic equipment MUST be brought to school each day along with any necessary books, kit or equipment. NOTE - Parents are requested to maintain a close check on the condition of their child's text and exercise books.
- Fashions change with such rapidity that it is not possible to cater for every possibility in print. The school must, therefore, reserve the right to decide what is and what is not allowed, both in uniform and general appearance, in cases not catered for by specific rules. It would be advisable, when in doubt, for parents to contact the school before spending money on styles/items that might not be allowed.
- If, for exceptional reasons, large amounts of money or valuables need to be brought into school, they should be given into the Year 7 office for safe keeping. However, please note that this is a facility offered to aid security; any teacher providing such a service is not accepting responsibility for the money or valuables. Any valuables left in pockets or bags are left at students' own risk.
- Mobile phones are not allowed to be used in school at any time. This includes Apple Watches. When on site, mobile phones must be switched off and out of sight securely in a school bag. Any student seen using a mobile phone in any way and at any time during the school day will have it confiscated. The parent/carer must collect a confiscated mobile phone. The phone will NOT be returned to the student.
- Students are not permitted to wear headphones and/or airpods during the school day. Any student using personal headphones without permission in class will have them confiscated.
- Energy drinks, fizzy drinks and chewing gum are not permitted at any time in school. Students are not permitted to bring in large quantities of sweets, chocolate and/or crisps. Students with these items will have them confiscated and they will not be returned.
- While every effort will be made by normal supervision, discipline and inquiry to safeguard students' property, the school authorities cannot accept responsibility in the case of damage or loss. Parents may deem it advisable to insure against such loss with their House Contents Insurance Policy. It is the student's responsibility to hand in valuable items to a member of staff at the start of a PE lesson. School will not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to any item not handed in.
- Students must not buy or sell any goods in school. Any student found to be doing this, will have the goods confiscated before being issued with a senior leadership consequence.
- Students are not permitted to use the toilet during lesson time unless they qualify for a toilet pass by providing medical evidence to the Year team. Students must use the toilet before school, at break time, at lunchtime and after school.

School Bus Services

The school bus timetable will be updated for 2025/2026. So, please be sure to check the school website for updates.

To support you during the induction programme, the bus timetables for 2024/2025 can be found here:



In order to pay the concessionary bus fare, children require an **IGO card**. These can be purchased for £10. Details about how to apply for an IGO card can be found here:

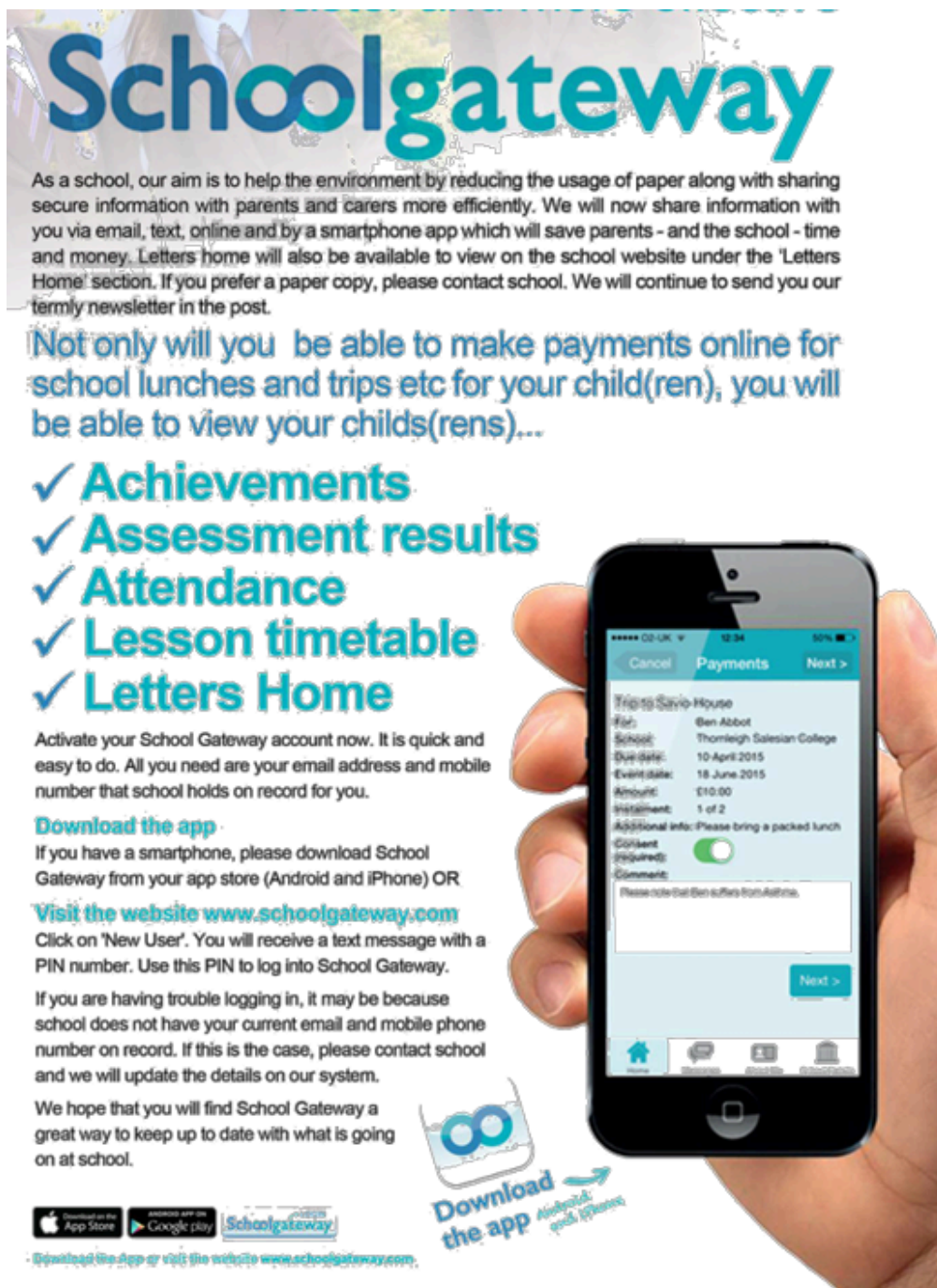


The School Day

From September 2025, the timings of the school day will be as follows;

Thornleigh Salesian College New School Day 2025/26			
New School Day (Split Lunch / 1 hour lessons)			
Period	Start Time	End Time	Duration
AM Reg	8:40	8:55	0:15
P1	8:55	9:55	1:00
P2	9:55	10:50	0:55
Break	10:50	11:10	0:20
P3	11:10	12:10	1:00
P4	12:10	13:05	0:55
<u>Year 7,9,11</u> Lunch 13:05 - 13:50		<u>Year 8,10,12,13</u> Form 13:05 - 1:30	
<u>Year 7,9,11</u> Form 13:50 - 14:15		<u>Year 8,10,12,13</u> Lunch 1:30 - 14:15	
P5	14:15	15:10	0:55

School Gateway - used to make payments online



Schoolgateway

As a school, our aim is to help the environment by reducing the usage of paper along with sharing secure information with parents and carers more efficiently. We will now share information with you via email, text, online and by a smartphone app which will save parents - and the school - time and money. Letters home will also be available to view on the school website under the 'Letters Home' section. If you prefer a paper copy, please contact school. We will continue to send you our termly newsletter in the post.

Not only will you be able to make payments online for school lunches and trips etc for your child(ren), you will be able to view your child(s)...

- ✓ Achievements
- ✓ Assessment results
- ✓ Attendance
- ✓ Lesson timetable
- ✓ Letters Home



Activate your School Gateway account now. It is quick and easy to do. All you need are your email address and mobile number that school holds on record for you.

Download the app
If you have a smartphone, please download School Gateway from your app store (Android and iPhone) OR

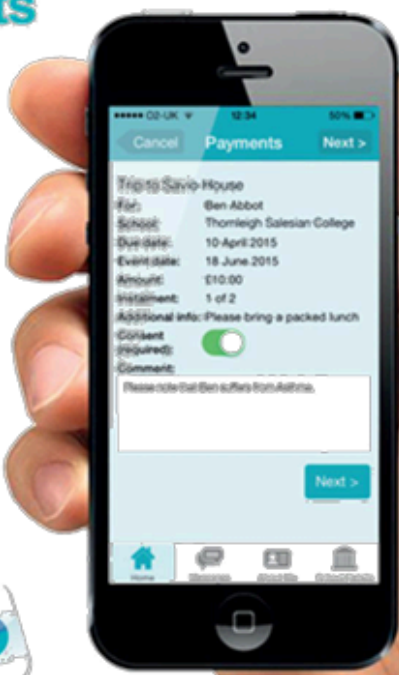
Visit the website www.schoolgateway.com
Click on 'New User'. You will receive a text message with a PIN number. Use this PIN to log into School Gateway.

If you are having trouble logging in, it may be because school does not have your current email and mobile phone number on record. If this is the case, please contact school and we will update the details on our system.

We hope that you will find School Gateway a great way to keep up to date with what is going on at school.

Download the app  **Download the app** 

Download the App or visit the website www.schoolgateway.com



The smartphone screen shows the 'Payments' section of the app. It lists details for a trip to Sario House, including the user's name (Ben Abbot), school (Thornleigh Salesian College), due date (10 April 2015), event date (18 June 2015), amount (£10.00), and installment (1 of 2). There is a toggle for 'Content required' and a 'Next >' button at the bottom right.

Set up as a new user*:

**May not be able to do this until 1st September 2025*



Free School Meals:



Online Learning

At Thornleigh Salesian College, we predominantly use the following online learning platforms:

- Google Classroom
- Gmail
- Class Charts

We recommend that you familiarise yourself with these platforms;



We also take **online safety** seriously. You can find out more about how we do this here;

