

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
From	01	09	2023	To	31	08	2024

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

FRIENDS OF THORNTON

Other names charity is known by

FoTS

Registered charity number (if any)

1064059

Charity's principal address

THORNTON COLLEGE

THORNTON

MILTON KEYNES

Postcode

MK17 0HJ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Helen Hircock	Chair of Trustees		
2	Melanie Bateman	Secretary		
3	Jennifer Walker			
4	Mia Bloomfield			
5	Suzanne Brown			
6	Sarah Winkelman	Chair of Executive Committee		
7	Jonathan Heap	Treasurer		
8				
9				
10				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Bank	Natwest	Units 164-166, Midsummer Arcade, Central Milton Keynes. MK9 3BA

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution adopted 9 th November 1996
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the Annual General meeting held in the Michaelmas Term, usually September/October

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Friends of Thornton welcomes staff, parents and families of the college to their Executive Committee and to volunteer at fundraising events.

The Charity follows the College's Child protection and Safeguarding policies. Criminal Records Bureau checks are carried out on Trustees in line with statutory requirements. and they also receive safeguarding training from the school to enable them to wear a grey lanyard in the College. Anyone who has not completed training will wear a red lanyard.

Friends of Thornton is supported by college staff at events, particularly the Summer Fete. The Charity have use of two rooms at the college – one for storage of equipment and one to run the Nearly New Uniform Shop.

All trustees and members of the executive committee give their time voluntarily and received no remuneration or other benefits.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To advance the education of the children and young people attending Thornton College, in particular by providing and assisting with the provision of books, equipment, buildings and other items and facilities at the college which may not otherwise be provided.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

During the year the objectives of the Charity have been maintained through the good work of the Executive Committee and other volunteer supporters. Throughout the year the trustees have paid due regards to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

In planning the activities for the year, the Executive Committee kept in mind the need to ensure funds are used to benefit all ages and departments at the school, without showing bias or favour to one area of learning.

The main fundraising activities of the year have been:

- the Christmas Market
- the Easter Egg Trail
- the Summer Fete

these activities generate funds and have benefitted the children and young persons at the College. These events have benefitted the students by providing opportunities for the students to volunteer, help run stalls and make things to sell.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The Trustees are very grateful for the many hours volunteers, including fellow trustees and members of the Executive Committee have spent working with the College community to raise funds for the benefit of the students. Without this valuable contribution of time, energy and expertise, we would not have been able to achieve so much this past year.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Chair Report 2023 – 2024

Well, what a fantastic year! I have greatly enjoyed this year as Chair of Friends of Thornton and the team that has been assembled is an absolute dream team of the highest order.

The academic year started with the Fireworks evening which posed our biggest challenge to date given the severe adverse weather warning. In true Thornton style, we showed grit and determination and held our nerve. We were rewarded with good enough weather with low winds and the fireworks went off without a hitch, it only started raining just as the display started luckily! Numbers were very good for the event and I feel that the display by Frontier Fireworks was the best one we've ever had.

The Christmas Market soon followed, and this was one of our finest events. A great turnout and some superb additions to the line-up (including Santa's Grotto being relocated to the Outside Classroom and the Café being open for hot drinks) meant this was a great success.

We held our first Quiz under the Quizmaster / Head of Grounds Chris Mayhew which we sold all tabled for. This raised reasonable funds given it was not too heavy an outlay for volunteers. I would highly recommend repeating this event this year, perhaps on a Friday or Saturday to allow for more attendees. In particular, the style of quiz was very popular, and the food arranged by Harrisons was excellent with an opportunity for parents to experience catering that the girls rave about!

The Easter Egg Trail was the busiest we have ever had with mostly good weather minus the hailstorm! This is a great marketing tool for the school and is mostly aimed at Prep age children and younger. Over 200 children attended this event, we even had to do a last-minute dash to buy more Easter eggs! The café worked well again for this especially as a start and finish point as we made great income from the hot and cold drinks alongside the barbecue supplied by Harrisons.

Finally, the Summer Fete was our biggest event of the year and a great way to finish. Over 2000 people attended and we raised the second highest amount of money in the past ten years, partly due to a much lower cost outlay this time. We welcomed alpacas, ponies, fairground rides and lots of new stalls this time.

We have used our funds very wisely this year with some great new additions including the following:

- A new state of the art gym for the Senior School and staff to make use of. This was opened by a male and female player from MK Dons with an official ceremony that was publicised locally
- Playground markings for the main playground and the Pre-Prep department
- Headsets for the Drama department which were delivered in time for the Matilda musical. This was a real showstopper and the sound quality was phenomenal!
- A wellbeing garden located at the top of the school site and proposed by the Head and Deputy Head Girl team.

The fortnightly planning meetings and monthly Tuesday evenings worked well in order to allow every member of Friends of Thornton an opportunity to broach new ideas and discuss how to improve current and future

events.

The Nearly New shop had once again this year raised significant funds through the sale of nearly new school uniform items donated by parents of current students. The team (including Jane, Gemma, Taiwo, Abbie and others) have worked tirelessly this year to ensure great quality items of clothing are available at very reasonable prices. I only ever hear such positive comments about the Shop – the opening hours, dry cleaning, the ease of finding items and the actual set-up itself are all testament to such dedication by the team there. I was approached by three different people at our last event all saying how friendly and helpful the staff in the Shop are and how it affirmed their decision that they'd picked the right school for their daughter! They have raised great funds again this year as we are finding more and more people turn to the Shop first before looking to purchase new.

Moving forward, we are awaiting a number of proposals from the School Committee and will look to discuss these in further detail. I believe that we should run the same set of events that we have done this year, provided the team feel this is manageable. They have become firm fixtures in the diary for staff, parents and children alike.

Unfortunately, due to a relocation away from Thornton, I have decided to step down as Chair of Friends of Thornton. I am thrilled to announce that Sadie Staten who has two daughters in the Prep department of the school will be taking over as Chair with Muncelle Dunn supporting her as Vice-Chair. I have complete trust that they will continue to take Friends of Thornton to the next level with fundraising while executing fantastic events to benefit the girls and wider community. I am deeply sad to be leaving but will of course still attend and help with all the events and meet regularly with the group as I feel such a deep sense of community with the team. I have been made to feel so welcome over these past few years and so well supported. Let's have a great 2024 -2025 academic year!

Sarah Winkelman

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Executive Committee have determined that a reserve of £5000 is required in order to enable it to "forward fund" events, particularly the annual summer fete.

Beyond this, the Executive Committee try to ensure that available funds are committed to appropriate projects at an early date, and therefore invest surplus funds on a temporary basis with the Charity's bankers.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The Trustees consider the biggest risk to the Charity is the failure of the Summer Fete, which is the principal fundraising activity of the year.

As the Trustees do not make forward binding commitments to the college, the shortfall in income for the year would be balanced by a compensating adjustment in future support given to the College.

Section F

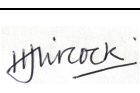
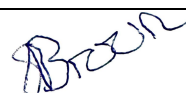
Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Helen Hircock	Suzanne Brown
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairperson	Trustee
Date	23 April 2025	

THE FRIENDS OF THORNTON

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2024

		2024		2023
	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources - activities for generating funds				
Fete		12,146		11,327
Christmas Fayre		7,274		4,028
Nearly New Shop		11,773		12,446
Quiz Night		1,060		
Centenary Teas				
Northbrook Gift Wrap				
Hoedown				
Donations Received		5		
Fireworks		7,235		5,543
Disco				
Easter		1,398		2,088
Total - activities for generating funds		40,892		35,432
Cost of generating funds				
Fete Expenses	2,560		8,653	
Fireworks	6,909		4,212	
Centenary Teas and Champagne				
Outstanding Fete Expenses from previous year				
Christmas Fayre	270		885	
Quiz	350			
Hoedown				
Nearly New Shop Purchases & Expenses	4,141		1,754	
Easter	200		1,701	
Leavers' Ball				
	14,430			17,206
Net Fund Raising Income	26,461			18,226
Governance and other resources expended				
Postage, stationery & other administration costs	-			
Boarders Day	-			
Independent Examination of Accounts	-		540	
Insurance	153		128	
General Expenses	93		2,548	
Bank Charges	-			
invoices owed to Thornton	-			
Depreciation of Equipment	120		1,209	
		366		4,425
Net surplus on generating funds		26,095		13,801
Investment Income				
Bank interest received				
Other Income (Scottish Widows transfer)				
Less: Expenditure on Charitable Activities				
Donations to Thornton College	37,220			
Donation to Police Dog Charity	1,000		1,000	
Donations to Syria (Sister Helen)	-		-	
		38,220		1,000
Net (deficit)/surplus for the year	-	12,124		12,801

THE FRIENDS OF THORNTON

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	1		978		1,098
Current Assets					
Stock (Nearly New Shop)					
Stock (held over from Fete)					
Debtors - Fund Raising Activities					
Prepayments - Leavers Ball					
Cash at Bank and in Hand		33,879		45,884	
Total Current Assets		33,879		45,884	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors		450		450	
Accruals (Christmas Fayre Stall Fees)					
Total Liabilities		450		450	
Net Current Assets			33,429		45,434
Total Assets			34,408		46,532
Represented by:-					
Unrestricted funds of the charity					
As at 1 September 2023			46,532		32,130
Retained (deficit)/surplus for the year			- 12,124		14,402
As at 31 August 2024			34,408		46,532

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:-

.....
Helen Hircock
Chairman

.....
Sue Brown
Trustee

Note 1: Depreciation of value due to loss of two tents in winds - written off.



Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name Friends of Thornton	any) 1064059
On accounts for the year ended	August 31, 2024 Charity no (if	

Set out on page 1

	I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2024.
Responsibilities and basis of report	followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.
Independent examiner's statement	I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect: ■ accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or ■ the accounts do not accord with the accounting records
As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").	I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have	

Signed:

[Redacted Signature]

Name:

[Redacted Name]

Relevant professional qualification(s) or
body (if any):

Member of the Institute of Accountants and
Bookkeepers (IAB)

Address:

[Redacted Address]

