



LOUGHBOROUGH
Grammar School

Thomas Burton Award

Thomas Burton Award

At Loughborough Grammar School, our Academic Curriculum opens doors whilst our Extra-Curricular options allow young men to walk through them and thrive.

Good grades open doors – but only young men comfortable in their own skin can walk confidently through them. The new Thomas Burton Award has been devised to ensure that **all** students gain the benefits of a rounded education, and are therefore able to grow into young men of character.

With sport, music, drama and outdoor education as well as over 100 clubs and societies integrated into the school day, there has always been plenty going on at Loughborough Grammar School. Now we have devised a new Award to take all the good things that are already happening and use them more effectively in a carefully thought through programme. Our aim is to equip

our students with the resilience and confidence they need to stride out into the next stage of their lives and beyond.

In the Lower School boys are challenged and supported through a wide range of experiences and opportunities. It is at this stage that the boys **find out who they are** by discovering their passions and strengths. As boys move through the School they will be given more independence to delve deeper into these areas and in the process, develop core life and transferable skills. In the Sixth-Form our young men will be given opportunities to take ownership of their ‘journeys’ and will also be encouraged to enjoy leading others along similar paths of self-discovery.





Developing Hands, Heads and Hearts

We are aware that some boys are passionate about sport while others prefer reading a book; some thrive as the centre of attention, while others avoid centre stage at all costs. Some are very aware of the issues in the wider world, while others prefer smaller self-contained social groups. With the core strands of **'Hands, Heads and Hearts'** we make sure that boys are exposed to new experiences. If team sports are not for you – try an individual sport like fencing; become involved with something totally different, like Eco-Club - and see how you can make a difference. If Maths and Physics interest you – imagine programming a robot or making a virtual classroom.

A hockey match is about far more than just winning (but we don't apologise for wanting to succeed); it is also about team work, self-discipline, resilience to failure and commitment. The charity cake sale is not just about raising funds for our School in Sri Lanka; it is also

about organising a rota, budgeting and working in groups. A talk about Ancient History is not just about ticking a box on a challenge card that you have tried something new and different; it could be 30 minutes that might be the spark that opens up a life-time passion.

We don't make all boys stand on stages and set challenges to see them fail; however there is no job where you don't have to talk to people, no university course where you only have to work on your own. No one can get through life without experiencing setbacks, and there are going to be times when we need to pick ourselves and others up off the ground. The Award certificate is something to aspire to, but it is not the most valued prize; what is of greatest worth, is the young men the Award produces by the time they leave School. The slogan 'educating the whole child' is not just a line on our website, it shapes everything we do.



The Thomas Burton Award

The Lower School – Getting to know who I am

Engagement

Integrity

Empathy

Respect

Community

In Years 7 to 9 we want boys to experience **breadth**. They might have convinced themselves that they are a rugby playing cellist who struggles with French. While we will fully support their passions, we also want to encourage them to try new things. Each year they will start a new and slightly different leg of their journey, and we want them to try at least one new activity from each area on offer. Their decisions might change frequently and that is fine. Finding out that something really isn't 'you' is just as important as finding something new.

Boys will be part of a number of **'performances'** – whether it be the Year 7 Christmas production, inter-form debating or a presentation to their form. Each time we will look to build more confidence, and make sure all boys gain the benefits from these experiences.

They will also choose a **'challenge'**; something that is specific to them, e.g. Run 10km, compose a piece of music, design a website – it can be anything they want. The aim is that they do it by themselves and manage that commitment for themselves, rather than be led through it.

Examples in each strand might be:

Hands: Music - Sport - Art - Cookery

Heads: Web design - Mind sports
Academic clubs

Hearts: Form charity activities - Eco-club

All the clubs and societies are listed by strand on our website.

In Years 7 and 8, as well as the Form Tutor, boys will have a Sixth Form Mentor to help them not just to choose, but more importantly to reflect on their experience.



The Middle School – Getting to like who I am

Inquisitive

Resilience

Self-discipline

Independence

Embrace challenge

The Award runs through the first 4 terms of Years 10 and 11 so that it does not interfere with GCSEs. It is far less prescriptive as pupils start to take ownership of their journey, with the support of their Form Tutor and the Pastoral Team. They can really focus on their true passions and take advantage of new opportunities such as entering national competitions.

All pupils take part in the Thursday afternoon enrichment programme. Most take advantage of the wealth of opportunities in CCF. These promote team-building, adventurous training and leadership while mastering a whole range of activities in the different sections.

Senior cadets then specialise in Year 11 with opportunities ranging from Advanced Infantry to a private pilot's license. There are also other options like writing for the School newspaper or helping teach children to read at local primary schools.

A new strand in the Award includes pupils needing to complete an Individual Academic Project. The title and format is of their own choosing (e.g. website, dissertation or piece of art). But over the course of the two years they will manage their own research and present their findings. This is a key step for preparing them to become independent learners and where they can acquire core skills for higher study.





The Upper School – Getting to be good at who I am

Courage

Adaptable

Cultured

Risk taker

Leadership

Again the Award runs over the first four terms so as not to interfere with public exams. The objectives in the Sixth-Form build upon those honed in the Middle School, but now with a strong focus on developing leadership skills and the courage needed to set high aspirations.

Taking on key roles in the School, senior students have positions of responsibility. Whether it be as a Prefect or Mentor, Team or House Captain, they are expected to challenge, not just themselves but support and demand the best of those around them. They are role models for the younger years as they now run many of the clubs and organise some of the lectures.

Not only do we expect them to go ‘beyond the classroom’ but also to take advantage of other opportunities, such as refereeing and coaching qualifications, Gold DofE and Young Enterprise. They might choose some challenges of their own such as running a marathon or setting up a business.

The opportunities on the Thursday afternoon enrichment programme are even more varied by this time – all designed to challenge and build character. Boys can pitch for the ‘Johnnie Johnson Travel Bursary’ where the key criteria is that it is a chance for young men to grab life with both hands and go and do something they love.



If you have any questions about the
Thomas Burton Award please contact:

Al Waters
a.waters@lsf.org

www.lsf.org/grammar

The Loughborough Schools Foundation

Burton Walks
Loughborough
LE11 2DU
T 01509 233233



LOUGHBOROUGH
Grammar School