



The Thomas Hardy School

QUEENS AVENUE DORCHESTER DT1 2ET

Headteacher
MT Foley BA MEd

TEL: 01305 266064
EMAIL: admin@thomas-hardye.net
www.thomas-hardye.net

30 March 2021

Dear parents and carers

This is the final update of the term and indeed my final one as headteacher. In April we welcome Nick Rutherford to the school as my replacement and I am sure you will join me in wishing him every success in his new post.

To lead Thomas Hardy has been the greatest privilege of my career and I leave after 10 very happy years. We have enjoyed many successes during that time and nothing in the last 12 months tarnishes or detracts from that. The site has developed and modernised with several major building projects, the school is more popular than ever with parents and we are financially secure despite a long and gruelling period of cuts to education budgets. Most importantly, all the young people who attend school here continue to inspire me on a daily basis with what they achieve. I could not feel more confident or proud of the next generation of young people going out into the world from this small corner of Dorset.

That success has only been possible with the support of an army of people who make Thomas Hardy such a special place to work. I am asked often why the school is so outstanding: the answer is that we have outstanding people in every post and every department – teaching and support, administration, site, catering, finance and technical. I have also received excellent support from governors and I would like to make special mention of Garry Batt who has served as Chair of Governors for the entire 10 years of my headship.

Last but not least a thank you to parents, every parent over that 10 years, for your unstinting support and to your children for making it all worthwhile.

Please find below other information regarding the start of next term.

Uniform

We have had to make compromises on uniform during lockdown particularly during the winter months and we also understand that students may have outgrown various items of clothing. However, please ensure that your daughter/son is in full uniform for the start of next term including shoes. The improved weather will mean that it is no longer necessary to wear coats or other outdoor clothing during the school day.

Lockers

At least until half-term, we will keep the same policy on lockers and students will continue to carry bags. Lockers present an additional risk because people inevitably gather around them in close proximity at key points in the day.

Leadership Team

Mrs L Cheney BEd
Mr I Cornell BSc
Mr J Dean BSc
Dr T Ennion BSc PhD
Mr T Hardinge BSc MA
Mrs L Morrison BEng
Mr R Nicholls BSc
Mrs C Noble BA





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Year 11 students will need to return their locker keys after Easter. If students have lost the key, a payment of £5 will be necessary to cover the cost of replacing the lock and providing a new key. Year 9 students will be assigned lockers in due course.

Bubbles

The improved conditions and as part of the Government's strategy for moving out of lockdown, we will move to a more normal timetable after Easter. This will mean that specialist areas such as science, art and design and technology will be able to move back into their own classrooms, workshops and laboratories. Many schools chose not to use bubbles at all and the policy was not really suited to a secondary environment. Students should notice a significant difference to their learning in those subjects that rely on practical activity and it will remove a significant pressure from teachers who have had to move from room to room rather than teaching from their own base.

End of the School Day

The staggered end to the school day will continue as it is for the time being.

Masks

The Government have promised to review the policy on masks over the Easter holiday so please keep an eye out for any updates.

Testing

We have had only one positive result from the lateral flow tests having completed all three cycles. This is a tremendous achievement when you stop to consider the thousands of tests that have taken place in such a short period.

Whilst we are breaking up for Easter on 1 April, it is vital that we continue to operate our own track and trace system until **8 April** in order to identify close contacts.

- If your son or daughter receives a positive test result during this time please contact the school as soon as you are able to either via email (lcheney@thomas-hardye.net) or telephone (07388 831806). We will then call you to gather further information - it is really useful if your son/daughter can think of any potential close contacts in school outside of lessons. We will then inform close contacts of the need to self-isolate. Any positive test results after 8th April please follow guidance via NHS Test and Trace.
- If someone else in your household or bubble has a positive test result at any time during the holiday, please email the above contact to inform us of the name of your son/daughter, tutor group, reason for self-isolation and their expected return date to school if it is after 19th April. If they then develop symptoms and test positive please refer to the instructions above.

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Information about claiming test and trace support payments can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-coronavirus-covid-19-operational-guidance#test-and-trace-support-payments>

If the members of your household do not receive home-testing kits through work/school, information about collection points can be found here: <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

We ask that students continue to test twice a week during the Easter break, and that they take a test on Sunday 18th April or the morning of Monday 19th April before returning to school.

Sixth Form Attendance

Sixth Form students will be expected to attend all morning registrations with their tutor following the Easter break. This is a crucial time of day to support students with their learning as well as an opportunity to provide vital information and establish good habits and routines for learning. Students will still have access to the library, sixth form study room and lower school canteen (during lessons) for quiet study facilities. Sixth form students will continue to have flexibility for the time being to go home once they have completed their timetabled lessons for the day.

Year 11 and Year 13 Leaving Dates

The last day for Year 11 will be Thursday 27th May and the last day for year 13 will be Friday 28th May.

Have a restful and enjoyable Easter break in anticipation of brighter times ahead.

Yours sincerely

M T Foley
Headteacher

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