



# The Thomas Hardy School

QUEENS AVENUE DORCHESTER DT1 2ET

Headteacher  
MT Foley BA MEd

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18 November 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am pleased to inform you that we have appointed Mr Nick Rutherford to take up post as headteacher of The Thomas Hardy School from the start of the summer term, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Mr Rutherford, currently the Principal of the Mossbourne Victoria Park Academy in Hackney, is an English specialist. He will be re-locating to Dorset with his family, including four young children, and I look forward to introducing him to parents at the earliest opportunity.

Whilst writing, I will take the opportunity to update you on the pandemic. As with most other secondary schools, we have had some positive tests for covid-19 for both staff and students, although in relatively small numbers considering the size of the community here. When cases arise, we report them to the local authority who advise us on what further steps we need to take. Normally this involves tracking down anyone who has been in close proximity as defined on the school website and sending them home to isolate. If your child is part of that group we will contact you directly and send home a letter supplied by public health. There is little point writing to parents every time we have a case or a suspected case, but we will keep you informed by updating the website with details of confirmed, positive tests. We will inform you of the year group involved and the date of the test but we cannot publish names or further details.

I hope you enjoyed the extended break over half-term. We have received some excellent feedback from parents and it could not have come at a better time. Later this term we will hold mock exams for Year 11 and Year 13. I understand that this is a stressful time but there is a delicate balance to be struck between doing nothing and leaving students under-prepared, and pressing ahead with some adjustments to reduce levels of anxiety. Most exams will take place in lessons under the supervision of the normal class teacher, but we will look for an opportunity later in the year to provide a more realistic experience once we get confirmation about final arrangements for the summer.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

M T Foley  
Headteacher

Leadership Team  
Mrs L Cheney BEd  
Mrs K Chittenden BA  
Mr I Cornell BSc  
Mr J Dean BSc  
Dr T Ennion BSc PhD  
Mr T Hardinge BSc MA  
Mrs L Morrison BEng



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