



The Thomas Hardy School

QUEENS AVENUE DORCHESTER DT1 2ET

Headteacher
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Dear parents and carers

What a year - for our school, our county, our country. We all know now what it is like to 'live in interesting times', and I miss the days when the news could be safely turned off after the headlines and thought of as dull. And that's just the adult perspective. Your children have missed school, social time with friends, exams and opportunities. Uncertainty continues to pervade.

Yet we must not forget the positives. The school's youngsters have been called upon to show determination and resilience beyond anything expected of their age-group for generations. Their successes this year are all the more impressive because of the circumstances in which they were achieved, and so let us end the year by praising them, their optimism and their cheerfulness.

Along with the external disruption of lock-downs and restrictions, we've had lots going on in school during the year. You may have seen the scaffolding going up and down at various points, as the project to replace and improve the majority of windows on site has progressed well. Never has it seemed better timed than this week, as temperatures soar, that windows are able to open properly and let in a breeze. I must also share with you a comment from one of the construction team working on the project, who said he'd never worked on a school with more polite and mature students – and he'd worked in lots of schools!

The improvement to facilities continues next term as the refurbishment of our theatre gets underway in October. This will transform an already excellent space into a more modern, more functional and better equipped facility, both for the school and the community. Slated to be finished in the spring, the new theatre will be real crown jewel for the school, and I can't wait for the first events and plays to be performed there in 2022.

We all hope that next academic year sees the return of normal school life – from the wealth of activities and clubs with which students can get involved, to the important rites of passage that are the public examinations at the end of Years 11 and 13. Whichever year your child or children are going into, it's going to be a big year, and one I hope they are excited about.

Finally, I must pay tribute to the school staff, who have worked tirelessly to support students and each other through what has been a surreal, draining and frustrating year. Their optimism and effort have been inspirational.

Farewells

Farewell to all teachers, teaching assistants and support staff who are leaving Hardy's this summer, thank you for your contributions to the school, and good luck in your next adventures. Three deserve special mentions – Mark Richardson in Design & Technology (30 years' service), Keith Johnson in PE (29 years) and Clive Jackson in ICT (13 years). Mark and Keith actually pre-date the school in its current form, and have taught generations of Dorchester's children brilliantly. We wish them all the very best, and will miss them.

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



Reminders

Owing to the need to administer a lateral flow test to all consenting students upon their return to school, there have been some changes to the start of term arrangements. These are outlined in a separate letter from Mrs Morrison, also on the school website. The key dates are:

	First Test Date	Return to School	Second Test Date
Year 12	Wednesday 1 st Sept	Friday 3 rd Sept	Tuesday 7 th Sept
Year 9	Friday 3 rd Sept *	Monday 6 th Sept	Wednesday 8 th Sept
Year 10 & 11	Monday 6 th Sept	Tuesday 7 th Sept	Thursday 9 th Sept
Year 13	Tuesday 7 th Sept	Wednesday 8 th Sept	Friday 10 th Sept

Some students who had outgrown shoes have been waiting until the holidays to replace them. Please make sure shoes are black, polishable and formal – no canvass shoes or trainers please. Neither white socks nor any facial piercings are allowed in school – other than one understated earring in the lobe of either or both ears.

Finally, please support your children to be in school by 08:50, as registration starts at 08:55.

Thank you for all your support during the year. On behalf of all staff at The Thomas Hardy School, I hope you and your family have a happy and restful holiday.

Yours faithfully



Nick Rutherford
Headteacher