



The Thomas Hardy School

Headteacher
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Dear parents and carers

I hope you had a good half-term even if it was only a short break from the current routines.

At the time of writing we are still waiting on Government announcements although there have been plenty of hints in the press. It looks as if all schools will be returning in the week beginning 8th March with some flexibilities built in for secondary schools. As soon as this is confirmed I will write again with arrangements for re-opening. We are keen to know what expectations there will be for testing students using the lateral flow tests – it is likely to be the biggest logistical challenge.

We are also awaiting guidance on centre assessed grades for students in years 11 and 13. There are plenty of rumours and leaks in the press but nothing concrete coming into schools. The only exception to this is modern foreign languages GCSE. Even though there is no formal speaking test this year, teachers have been asked to award an 'endorsement' for spoken language. If your child is taking GCSE languages, please look out for an email with further guidance from the relevant MFL teacher.

As soon as we hear more on centre assessed grades we will communicate that to you.

We are very keen to have students back in school as soon as it is safe to do so. I understand the struggle of online learning and the demands it places on all of you. I am also aware of the additional pressure it places on staff; I am immensely grateful for the way they have responded and I know you are too judging from the messages of support we have been receiving. Thank you.

Spring is a time for hope and new life. We look forward to better days ahead and the prospect of some kind of return to normal school life before the end of the school year.

With all best wishes

M T Foley
Headteacher

Leadership Team

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Mr I Cornell BSc
Mr J Dean BSc
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