



The Thomas Hardy School

QUEENS AVENUE DORCHESTER DT1 2ET

Headteacher
N St J F Rutherford BA PGCE

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Dear parents and carers

I'm writing to introduce myself as the new headteacher of The Thomas Hardy School. It is a privilege to have been appointed and, two weeks after joining, I can already see what a special place this is.

Having moved to Dorset from Hackney in East London, where I have lived and worked for 12 years, there is a lot for me to learn about the culture of the school, the history of the area and the needs of the community. As an English teacher, I believe passionately in the power of reading to unlock almost every other aspect of education, and am excited to work with you in encouraging your children to develop rich and rewarding reading lives. I believe that students have the right to feel safe, valued and respected at school, and that together as the adults in your children's lives, we can help them grow into adulthood as curious, independent and moral people.

Starting mid-year means I can spend this term getting to know students and staff, experiencing the life of the school, and understanding the challenges it will face in the coming years. Some of those challenges will be a result of Covid-19 pandemic - and not just supporting students who have fallen behind in their learning, but also supporting them emotionally as the Covid risks fall to a level which makes lockdowns and social restrictions unnecessary.

My first impressions of the school have been very positive. The vast majority of students are polite, confident and mature, and I have been incredibly impressed by the professionalism and expertise of the staff. A few things have, perhaps inevitably, slipped during this disrupted year - all students need to make sure they have and wear correct uniform, and some need to reflect on who exactly is in control in the relationship between them and their mobile phone. However, these are all things that I look forward to working with you on, in partnership, over the coming months and years.

I am always to be found at the school's front gate from around 8.40 am in the morning, and I look forward to meeting many of you there, or at future school events.

With best wishes



Nick Rutherford
Headteacher

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

