



The Thomas Hardy School

Headteacher
MT Foley BA MEd

QUEENS AVENUE DORCHESTER DT1 2ET

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9 June 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

Return to School – Monday 12th June

I hope the AS Level exam period has gone well for your son/daughter and indeed yourselves. I also hope that your son/daughter is looking forward to their return on Monday 12th June ready to start the second year of their courses.

As I explained in previous correspondence good attendance in these final weeks of the school year is essential for your son/daughter's success on their final year courses. Our Year 12 students are expected to complete some independent work over the summer weeks; completing this work is important for a good start to Year 13.

I have enclosed a brief document reminding you of our Sixth Form attendance policy.

A Level Reformed Subjects

The following subjects have reformed: art, biology, business, chemistry, computer science, dance, drama and theatre studies, economics, English language, English literature, geography, history, modern foreign languages, music, physics, PE, psychology, religious studies and sociology.

Students taking these subjects will sit a full A Level exam in the Summer of 2018 and will be awarded a brand new grade based on their performance in the full A Level exam only. If students decide to not continue their studies in a reformed subject, they will keep their AS grade.

Non-Reformed Subjects

The AS Level results from non-reformed subjects will continue to form 50% of the final A Level grade, the other 50% of their grade will come from the A2 examination in Year 13. The AS grade is then converted into the full A Level grade. If students decide to not continue their studies in a non-reformed subject, they will keep their AS grade.

Regardless of whether the AS Levels have been reformed, all of our students have sat AS Levels this year. This will allow our students and their teachers to assess their progress across all of their subjects and will put them in a strong position for all of the exams in Year 13 whether reformed or not.

Programme of studies

All students should study the equivalent of three A Level subjects in year 13. For some students this will mean that they will need to discard their fourth course, however we strongly advise that all students continue with their programme of study until they know their results and can make an informed decision. If a student still wishes to discard a course before August, then they should pick up a form from the office and we will use this

Leadership Team

Mrs N Bousfield BA
Mrs L Cheney BEd
Mrs K Chittenden BA
Mr I Cornell BSc
Mr J Dean BSc
Dr T Ennion BSc PhD
Mrs L Morrison BEng





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to check their progress in all subjects. Until that form has been processed, we expect students to attend all lessons.

We recommend that students studying Further Mathematics should continue with all their courses next year.

In previous years' some students have made changes to their programme of study (other than discarding their fourth course) and picked up a one year AS course. However, due to the final round of A Level reforms the school will no longer be offering all AS courses next summer. Therefore, if a student wishes to change subject they would be starting a new two-year course. This would need discussion with a member of the year 12 team. There will still be a very small selection of one year courses and more information will be available later in the summer.

FUTURES Programme

A lot of time will be spent this term looking at students plans for the end of year 13 and the huge number of opportunities available to them. Important work will be happening in tutor times but there are also two key dates and attendance on these days is crucial.

Tuesday 20th June - How to apply for higher education courses, apprenticeships and employment

Our students will be provided with advice and guidance from expert members of staff, visiting speakers and a wealth of ex-students who are willing to share their experiences.

Wednesday 5th July - The World of Work

I am delighted that Mat Follas, Masterchef winner 2009 and local business owner is our keynote speaker for the day. We then have a further twenty-five visitors from local and national businesses and self-employed people coming into school to run workshops. These workshops will be grouped into different general skill areas and give an insight into the world of work, the professionalism needed in the work place and the varied routes people have followed into their careers.

Our students will have the opportunity to attend two different workshops of their choice. I recommend that students select two workshops from different skill areas and find out about professions that they might not necessarily consider doing themselves. All our visitors will provide an excellent insight into what any employer is looking for in an applicant. In the afternoon and following morning each Year 12 student will have the opportunity to be interviewed by the visiting guests.

Students wanting to find out about their chosen profession can arrange work experience with Mrs Karen Weir – kweir@thomas-hardye.net Please can I remind you that all work experience opportunities that take place in term time must be coordinated by Mrs Weir and not just arranged by yourselves.

Enrichment

I shall be encouraging students to get involved in enrichment activities, either in the final half term or over the summer break. Universities and employers repeatedly tell us that in addition to examination grades, when

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selecting candidates for courses or positions of employment the so called soft skills are of utmost importance. Through enrichment activities students gain vital experience of leadership, team work, communication skills and responsibility.

I have summarised below key dates for year 12 students:

Monday 12 th June	Year 12 Students return to lessons
Tuesday 13 th June	Assembly, in the theatre
Tuesday 20 th June	Futures Day 2 – Applying for courses and positions
Wednesday 5 th July	Futures Day 3 – The World of work and interview practice
Thursday 6 th July	Continuation of interview practice (for some)
Friday 7 th July	First draft of Futures documents
Monday 10 th July	EPQ research trip
Tuesday 11 th July	Model UN Conference
Thursday 20 th July	Last day of lessons
Friday 21 st July	Summer break begins for year 12 students.
Thursday 17 th August	AS results available, 11.00 – 12.00 pm
Tuesday 5 th September	Year 13 enrolment (for students making changes)
Thursday 7 th September	Lessons re-start

Like us on Facebook – Thomas Hardy Sixth Form, for details and stories about all these events and much more.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any of the above or any aspect of your son/daughter's Sixth Form provision.

Yours faithfully

Mr R J Nicholls
Head of Year 12

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