



The Thomas Hardy Sixth Form

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): For students who are about to start year 12

Students will receive information about the start of term, including their enrolment form in July.

1. When will staff be available to discuss enrolment?

Firstly, look through these FAQs, we may have the answer to your question. If not, staff will be in school on GCSE results day (22nd August) between 9:30am and 1:00pm and again from the start of term, September 2nd. Your enrolment form has a specific time for you to attend on 2nd September. Staff will see students on a first come first served basis on 22nd August.

2. Can I enrol on GCSE results day?

There will be an "Express Enrolment" option on GCSE results day. You will only be able to use this and enrol if you are not making any changes (other than discarding a fourth option if you had one initially) to the course selection on your enrolment form and you are confident that you do have the required entry requirements specified. If you are making changes to your options, or you are not sure about grades, please come back at the specified time on your enrolment form on 2nd September.

3. What do I need to do with my enrolment form?

- a. Keep it safe over the summer and then bring it with you to enrolment.
- b. Fill in section A. If your options are changing, please fill in a brief reason why.
- c. Fill in section B. Please indicate all of your GCSE results, including any grades for courses completed last year. You need to bring your statement of results with you so that we can confirm the grades that have been written down.
- d. Fill in section C. If you have any exam access arrangements, you must let us know. These are not always automatically carried over into sixth form so it is your responsibility to make sure we know and can get you reassessed later in the year. intentions, then please let us know. Also, write down your UCI and ULN numbers down. These numbers can be found on your statement of results. These numbers are used to identify you throughout your education.

4. I can't find my UCI or ULN numbers.

Look carefully on your statement of results, they should be there. However, if you took your GCSEs at a private school or are joining from an international school, you may not have one or either of these numbers. If this is the case, please bring proof of your identity (Passport/Birth Certificate) with your enrolment.

5. Can I change one of my subjects on my enrolment form?

Often students change their mind following their results and experiences since making their application. Have a careful look at the online prospectus for ideas. Look for a course that you will both enjoy and have met the [entry requirements](#) for. Please check entry requirements using this information sheet, you will also need to check the [option pools](#). Carefully consider what you will study and how you will be



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assessed. Fill in your ideas in section A of your enrolment form. Come ready to discuss a change of subject with the enrolment team. They will check everything with you and complete section D of your form.

Please note that any changes to courses on the enrolment form will be made on a provisional basis. Students will be accepted onto their courses on their enrolment form, subject to meeting the entry requirements; however, there are a few courses that are potentially oversubscribed and whilst this is not always a problem, a student wishing to change may need a place to be released by another student making a different course change. We will notify students by Wednesday 4th September if the requested change is not possible. All original choices will be honoured subject to the entry requirements being met.

6. Do I have a better chance of making a course change if I enrol on 22nd August?

No; we are not dealing with any changes until 2nd September. Even then, changes are not made on a first come first served basis. In most cases, making a change will be possible, but you will be informed that the change will initially be provisional whilst we finalise numbers through the next day or two. If you are not making a change to your course selection, your place will be guaranteed (subject to meeting entry requirements).

7. Can I change one of my subjects after enrolment day?

It is not recommended that students change courses once they have started. However, there will be a window of opportunity to swap courses in the first three weeks of term. Students will need to have a meeting with one of the sixth form team to discuss why a change is happening and we will do our best to support you.

8. What if I do not get the required grade in one of my subjects to enrol on a course?

You will need to have the specific course requirements to enrol on a course. If you have not met this requirement, then there could be other courses on offer that you could study. Have a careful look at the online prospectus for ideas. Look for a course that you will both enjoy and have met the entry requirements for. Please check the [entry requirements](#) information sheet and the [option pools](#). It is important not to rush into a decision, so please come and enrol on 2nd September when the school is fully open and not on results day. Staff will work with you to find an appropriate programme of study.

It may be that we are not able to confirm your full programme of study straight away; this is because a panel of staff will need to look at all forms in this situation once initial enrolment meetings have been concluded. We need to ensure you are enrolled on the right courses for you; it is important that you enrol on a suitable programme of study as, once enrolled, you will be expected to complete these courses.

9. What if my GCSE grades are not quite as I hoped they would be, and I now cannot enrol on a full programme of study?

All students should be enrolled on a full-time programme of study, the equivalent of three A-levels. Have a careful look at alternative courses outlined in our prospectus, as there may some that appeal to you. However, it is so important for you to be enrolled onto courses



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that you enjoy and that we know you can be successful on. It may be in some cases that we can still enrol you, but otherwise we are always sorry if students cannot take up their conditional place and staff will help to advise you on alternative provisions offered in the local area.

10. The courses I want to study are in the same option pool. Can I study both courses?

Unfortunately, it will not be possible; we are sorry about this. All lessons in an option pool effectively take place at the same time and clash with each other. You need to select a combination of three courses from across the four option pools. Look carefully, many subjects appear more than once so your combination could still be possible. Due to the number of multiple classes that we have, it means that we can offer a wide combination of courses.

11. Have there been changes to the option pools?

Yes. Unfortunately, we are not able to run classes in Dance, History of Art and Applied Science. There have also been a few other minor changes to how often some subjects appear in the option pools. (Biology, Chemistry, French and Psychology)

12. How many courses do I have to study?

All students in year 12 should be “full-time” and the general rule is that you should have a programme of study that is equivalent to three A Level courses. For some students this could be a combination of A Level courses and Professional Pathway courses.

If you are concerned or unsure, please attend enrolment when a member of the team will be able to help you.

13. Can I study four courses?

Students who take Further Mathematics should always study the equivalent of four A Levels as this gives them the same breadth of choice as all other students.

Otherwise, students only study four courses in exceptional circumstances. Most students will study three A Levels or equivalent and this remains the standard offer for all universities. There needs to be very good reasons why students would study four courses. Students with very high academic performance (a large number of 8+ grades) sometimes consider the four-course option. Later in year 12, students can opt to take the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), which is worth just over half an A-level. Some students will also opt to study Mathematical Studies in September as a fourth option. This is only a one-year course and students can opt into this once term has started.

14. I am changing my options, should I still complete the Summer Task for the courses I applied for?

No. We want you to complete the summer tasks for the courses that you are going to enrol on, and it is these tasks that will need to be submitted. However, you can complete other tasks for your own information. Some students do this to get a “feel” for the different courses and help decide about what course to enrol on.



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15. If I change an option at enrolment, will I have time to complete the summer task?

Yes. Each task is designed to take 3 – 4 hours to complete. They also do not have to be submitted until the week beginning 16th September. This should give you plenty of time to finish a task for any last-minute change. We do recommend that tasks are completed before term starts for the courses you are most likely to enrol on. If you leave all three until the last minute, then you will put yourself under additional pressure.

16. I have received an enrolment form. Does this mean that my place has been confirmed for September?

No, it hasn't, not yet. All places will be confirmed once you have your results and bring them in to be verified at enrolment. We send the enrolment forms out before we break-up for our summer holidays. Please keep your form and the letter sent with it safe and bring the form with you to enrolment.

17. I have not got a grade 4 in English and/or maths. Does this mean that I cannot come to sixth form?

Not at all, however it may affect what options you can enrol on. Please take a careful look at the [entry requirements](#). If you are uncertain in anyway then we still would like you to come to your enrolment appointment on 2nd September (and not 22nd August) Our expert staff will help advise you on the best possible pathway.

If you have not achieved a 4 in English/maths but are able to enrol on a full-time programme, then you will have to re-take these courses. You will have taught lessons on your timetable, on top of your three main choices. We hope that you achieve these qualifications in year 12.

18. I'm not sure if I am with any of my friends in my new tutor group?

Your enrolment form will indicate the initials and name of your new tutor. You will not meet your tutor and the group until Wednesday 4th September, but in the meantime, you can ask your friends which groups they are in. We have worked very carefully to ensure that you are with at least one of your requested friends. If we have not got this quite right for you, please do not worry. Instead speak to one of the sixth form team at your enrolment and we can work with you to ensure you are happy in your new tutor group before term starts. We will confirm your tutor group change on your arrival to school on 4th September, please come to the sixth form centre when you arrive.

19. I do not have any career ideas. Is that a problem?

No, not at all. The vast majority of students will not know what they want to do in the future and this is perfectly normal. The important thing is to pick subjects that you enjoy, are good at and will keep options open for you. However, if you are fortunate enough to know what you want to do in the future then please tell us. For certain aspirations there will be courses that could be essential that you study.



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20. What should I wear to enrolment and sixth form?

Clothing should not be untidy, immodest or revealing. The Sixth Form dress code can be found on the policies section of the Sixth Form website and will be given to you at the start of term.

21. How long is enrolment?

On your form it will indicate what time you should come in if you are enrolling on 2nd September. The times have been staggered over the day so that you can spend the time discussing your options and to give you the time to make important decisions. For a lot of students, the process will be relatively quick, and you may only be in school for 10 – 15 minutes. For a small number of students, we may not be able to complete your enrolment at your first meeting. If this is the case, staff will explain clearly why and inform you of the next steps to take.

If you are enrolling on 22nd August, then you may have to wait in line to be seen by one of the team. We would recommend that only students who are fully confident they have met their entry requirements and are not making lots of changes should enrol on this day.

22. Do parents/guardians attend enrolment?

If you are confident that you have the required entry requirements and are keeping your options the same (or only making a minor change) then we ask that only the student comes to enrolment. If this is the situation you are in, then you may choose to enrol on 22nd August or come at your allotted time on 2nd September.

However, if students are concerned about the options available to them, then one parent or guardian should attend the enrolment if they wish too. In this situation it is important not to rush into decisions, so students should come to enrolment at their allotted time on 2nd September.

23. I can't make either of the enrolment days. What should I do?

It's important that all students speak to staff in school to confirm their enrolment. If, in exceptional circumstances, you cannot attend enrolment, but do wish to take up your place then please email sixthform@thomas-hardye.net to inform us.

24. Where do I go on Induction Day – Wednesday 4th September

The start of term for year 12 students will be an Induction Day on Wednesday 4th September starting at 8:50am. Your enrolment form will tell you your tutor group and in your pack, you will find the tutor bases for the year group. If you already know the school, then please go straight to this classroom on the Monday. If you are new to the school, or do not know your tutor group, then please come to the sixth form centre where your new tutor will meet you and take you to your classroom to join the other students.

25. What does the induction day involve?

Your new tutors will explain the format of the day and tell you where to go during registration. All groups will then be on a rotation of four activities across the day. Some



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activities will cover expectations and key information about how the sixth form functions, whilst others will be more informal and give you the opportunity to continue making new friends.

26. When do lessons start?

Lessons will start on Thursday 5th September.

27. What do I need to bring on my first day?

For sixth form study it would be a good idea to have a well-stocked pencil case. We would also ask you to bring your own paper and a large ring binder folder for each of your subjects. If you are studying maths or a scientific based subject a specific calculator will be required, these can be purchased from the maths department. More specific information can be found on some of the summer tasks and teachers will provide more details when lessons start.

28. I'm a parent and I would like to speak to someone, who should I contact?

Your son/daughter's tutor will be your first and main point of contact from 4th September onwards. In the meantime, you can email sixthformteam@thomas-hardye.net. Please be aware that this email account is only monitored during term time and you may not get an immediate reply during the summer holidays.

29. I have tried ringing the school but not got through to anyone.

The office is only staffed generally on results days during the summer holiday. The ideal time to contact us is on results day (between 9:00am and 1:00pm) or from 2nd September onwards.

30. I had extra time or other support in exams for my GCSEs. Will this continue in year 12?

It is highly probable that this will continue in sixth form. However, it is really important that you tell us about the access arrangement that you had, even if you were already at The Thomas Hardy School. If you were previously a student at the Thomas Hardy School, there is a [form](#) which can be filled out online. For external applicants, there is a printable [form available here](#). Please print this off and return it to school in September. This will then action the E4E department to make a few quick checks and ensure that you get your access arrangement if it is still required.

31. I do not wish to take up my place at The Thomas Hardy School, Sixth Form. What do I need to do?

We are always disappointed if someone does not wish to take up their place. If there is anything that you would like to know, that would help answer any queries you may have, then please contact us on sixthformteam@thomas-hardye.net



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However, if you have firmly decided to not take up your place then please do let us know. We really appreciate if you can give us a reason too. This will help us with our planning for future years. Please email sixthformteam@thomas-hardye.net