

To Year 8 (and their parents/guardians)

Owing to the pandemic that we have been experiencing these past few months, it has meant that you haven't had the full opportunity to familiarise yourselves with your new school. From being in this transition process myself, I understand that whilst some are enthusiastic and eager, many of you may feel anxious about moving up to Hardye's. Therefore, this letter, alongside other resources provided by the school, aim to reassure you against these worries, so that your transition into year 9 is as smooth as possible.

Firstly, I would like to comment on just how positive my experience of Thomas Hardye's has been so far. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year in this excellent school, and I am sure that your time spent here will be much the same. All of the teachers have supported my year group to learn the routines and responsibilities of being a student at Thomas Hardye's, so I am sure that you will settle in smoothly.

So, what were my worries about starting out here?

Frequently, new students, including myself last year, worry that they will be unable to see friends outside of their college or tutor group - this is not true. For example, breaks and lunchtimes offer opportunities for you to hang out with friends, and personally, I have found that maintaining friendships outside my classes, is not difficult.

As well as this, the mere size of the school can seem overwhelming to begin with. Although, it doesn't take long to become aware of the school's layout. Though, if you happen to get lost, then your teachers will be fully understanding of this during the first few weeks.

Some of my friends were concerned about the amount of homework that they might receive. Despite the load being increased from that of middle school, it has always been manageable.

However you may be preparing for September, I am sure that the resources provided will either ease your nerves, answer your questions, or build up your excitement.

Leila Phillips (Year 9 student 2019-2020)