



# The Thomas Hardy School

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Headteacher  
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23 March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Thank you for your continued support and your messages of encouragement. We even received an email from a past-student, now an A&E doctor, offering to help support our distance-learning programmes.

Thank you also for heeding our appeals to use the school only in the last resort. We are running with a heavily depleted staff and that is before we reach anything close to peak levels of infection.

The main enquiries we have received today are concerned with summer examinations. We have been informed that results will be based upon predicted grades, combined with other 'relevant data' such as prior attainment. Exam boards hope to publish these grades before the end of July and students will have the right of appeal if they are unhappy with the process. They will also have an option to take examinations early in the next academic year or in the summer of 2021 if they remain unhappy with their grades. However, I must emphasise that this is unconfirmed and that none of the detail yet exists.

Some parents heard on Facebook that schools would be setting additional assessments over the summer that would inform the predicted grade. We will not be doing that here. Staff know their students well by this stage and have more than enough assessment data to inform their judgements. I suggest that years 11 and 13 continue with the work that has been set for the time being; year 11 students returning to the sixth form will certainly want to keep up to date with the subjects they are considering for A Level and with that in mind we are hurriedly updating the summer tasks section of our website. As soon as I have more detailed information from the exam boards I will include it in my updates.

Following the weekend, no-one will be under any illusions about the seriousness of the situation we find ourselves in. The safest place for all of us to be, if at all possible, is in our own homes. We have set plenty of work but the most important thing is to maintain an active mind. Puzzles, games, crosswords, additional reading and documentaries are ideal ways for students to ensure that learning continues come what may.

With all best wishes to you and your families

Yours faithfully

M T Foley  
Headteacher

Leadership Team  
Mrs L Cheney BEd  
Mrs K Chittenden BA  
Mr I Cornell BSc  
Mr J Dean BSc  
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