



The Thomas Hardy School

Headteacher
N St J F Rutherford BA

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Dear parents and carers

It has been a delight to welcome your children back to school for a new academic year, and I hope they are feeling settled. Special welcome and congratulations to our new Year 9 and Year 12 students, who have made a fantastic start to their time here; we look forward to getting to know all our new students over the course of this first term.

It was with sadness that we learnt of the death of Queen Elizabeth II, and our condolences are with her family and all who mourn for her. I can confirm that schools have been asked to close on **Monday 19th September**, so please do not send your child to school on this day.

I have spoken to all year groups about our priorities this year, and about the values of respect, responsibility and resilience which characterise our school at its best. I know how important it is to you, as parents and carers, that your children fulfil their potential and make the most of all the opportunities that the school has to offer. Please support your child with attendance and punctuality, as well as making sure they do their homework – these are the simple things that lead to fantastic results in every part of school life.

The student planner remains a crucial piece of student equipment and, as a school, we are getting back to using it consistently after learning went online during the pandemic. You should be able to see your child's homework, messages from staff, as well as any detentions your child receives, in their planner. Please do support us by checking and signing your child's planner every week so we know they are being organised and showing it to you every week.

As I write, a group of students from across the age-range are in the theatre with a nationally renowned vocal coach, warming up for a day's voice workshop. It is just one of many opportunities available at the start of the year. The music department have published their sign-up sheets for bands, choirs, ensembles and orchestras, the PE department will be running fixtures in local and national leagues from this week, and there is a wide range of other clubs for students to join. I urge all students, particularly Year 9s who are new to the school, to find out what is on and get involved.

As always, please contact your child's tutor or head of year if you need to know more about opportunities at the school.

Yours faithfully

Nick Rutherford
Headteacher

Leadership Team

Mr I Cornell BSc
Mr J Dean BSc
Mrs R Glennie BA (Hons) MA
Mr T Hardinge BSc MA
Mrs L Morrison BEng
Mr R Nicholls BSc
Mrs C Noble BA

