



The Thomas Hardy School

QUEENS AVENUE DORCHESTER DT1 2ET

Headteacher
MT Foley BA MEd

TEL: 01305 266064 FAX: 01305 250510
EMAIL: admin@thomas-hardye.net
www.thomas-hardye.net

20 March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

All schools across the country will close this evening for an unspecified time. Public Health England have reminded us again that social interaction should be kept to an absolute minimum. I received a message from my GP this morning informing me that all future appointment requests will be booked as a telephone consultation. In that context, I am so pleased that we have heeded the advice, taking sensible precautions such as stopping assemblies.

I am so sorry that we were not able to hold leaving events for years 11 and 13, but bringing together hundreds of people in one confined space to embrace and swap pens for shirt signing is simply irresponsible. I feel huge sympathy for years 11 and 13 and if we can do something at a later stage in the year then we will.

We have just received the promised statement on GCSE's and A levels but at the time of writing we are still considering the implications for our students. We will issue further guidance in due course.

Next week the school is open for a very small number of vulnerable children who have been invited in. Since we are a 13-18 centre, we do not expect to offer childcare facilities and provision in school for any other students is a last resort. We are already operating on very low staffing levels and any support is conditional on available resources.

We will continue to remain in contact with you throughout this period. We will publish a weekly newsletter and updates as and when necessary. If you have any concerns please contact the relevant college leader or head of year (sixth form), including any problems with the on-going setting of work:

Henning	Mrs Biddle	(kbiddle@thomas-hardye.net)
Napier	Mr Hardinge	(thardinge@thomas-hardye.net)
Stratford	Mr Long	(elong@thomas-hardye.net)
Trenchard	Mrs Noble	(cnoble@thomas-hardye.net)
Year 12 Mrs Stafford	(kstafford@thomas-hardye.net)	
Year 13 Mr Nicholls	(rnicholls@thomas-hardye.net)	

Finally, thank you for so many wonderful messages of support. One in particular caught my eye from the parent of a Year 13 student: 'Thomas Hardy School has been amazing, thank you. The staff, atmosphere, communication and opportunities are incredible. Please pass on my sincere thanks to the incredible staff team that have invested into the lives of our children'.

This makes it all worthwhile – thank you for your continued support during such exceptional times.

Yours faithfully

M T Foley
Headteacher

Leadership Team
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

