



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

19 March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

You will be aware that schools will be closed from Monday. This will reduce social contact and help to protect students and staff in the critical months that lie ahead. We have lost more and more staff as the week has progressed and we would not have been able to remain open beyond tomorrow in any case.

We will open tomorrow, Friday 20th March, but only for years 9, 10 and 12. **Years 11 and 13 should remain at home tomorrow** and from that point forward. If they need to collect books or personal possessions, they can do so next week when the school will be partially open between 8.00am and 4.00pm.

Many questions remain unanswered particularly how long this closure will last and, critically for us, how we will operate this summer in the absence of any public examinations. This is a particularly worrying time for students in years 11 and 13 and we will do everything we can to support them once the government has published new proposals. I understand there will be an announcement in the morning so I will write again once we have a clearer understanding.

Since this school is 13-18 we do not expect there to be issues of childcare for key workers as defined by the government. However, if you are a key worker and the school closure means that you cannot attend work, please contact me. We have arrangements in place for supervision where necessary using a skeleton staff.

We still have a responsibility towards our most vulnerable children and we have spoken to some of you about continuing support. We also intend to provide support for children entitled to free school meals through food parcels and the proposed voucher scheme: if that applies to you, we will be making contact in the next few days if we haven't already done so.

Teachers will continue to set work and monitor their classes at least weekly. Work set for the period up until Easter is already on the website – please follow the **home access** button - and you will see the magnificent effort that has been made to ensure that learning continues after the school closure. School staff have been told to work from home in line with advice from Public Health England. You can support your child by establishing regular routines and structures at home; it is not a bad idea to keep to the school timetable. Even where there are slots for PE it should be possible to build in some physical exercise, all the time keeping a safe distance from other people.

All these arrangements are based on our ability to staff them, but please be aware that school staff are just as likely to contract this virus as anyone else.

Throughout this period, we will maintain contact with you via email, group text or through the website. We will publish a simple newsletter each week and update the website as and when necessary.

Thank you for your continued support

Best wishes

Mike 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

