



# The Thomas Hardy School

Headteacher  
MT Foley BA MEd

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14 September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

We are now settled back into a routine and I am very pleased with the way the new school year has started. Thank you for all your support and for ensuring that your children are so well turned out and equipped for learning. Please keep an eye out on the website for any changes to arrangements.

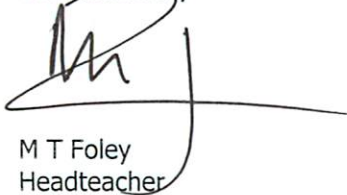
As you know, The Thomas Hardy School has been leading on the establishment of the Wessex Multi-Academy Trust, originally set up in 2016. Alongside The Thomas Hardy School, we have been joined by Bere Regis Primary School, Damers First School and St Osmund's Middle School. It is growing and developing at pace and we are regularly contacted by other schools wishing to join. In due course it is likely to be a significant influence on education in West Dorset providing goods and services as well as educational support for all our schools. It is part of a change in the way education is organised as local authorities gradually relinquish their responsibilities for maintaining local schools.

Since 2016, I have been combining the job of headteacher of The Thomas Hardy School with my responsibilities for leading the Wessex MAT and it has become increasingly difficult to do both. Therefore, we intend to appoint someone to lead The Thomas Hardy School, taking responsibility for all the normal day to day demands of running a large school, leaving me to develop and grow the MAT with overall strategic responsibility for all our schools.

It is an ideal time for that change to happen: we are heavily over-subscribed in the main school and numbers in the sixth form are at a record high; recruitment and retention of staff is excellent with an outstanding leadership team; the budget is balanced with a healthy reserve; millions of pounds have been invested in the building in the last few years with a major project to develop the performing arts in the offing; exam results are consistently excellent, adding significant value and placing us at the top of most league tables. We are looking for continuity of success and for someone to take the school on to the next stage in its journey.

We will advertise later in the term and keep you informed of progress. I am delighted and proud to be continuing my association with this amazing school, albeit in a slightly different capacity.

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  
Mr T Hardinge BSc MA  
Mrs L Morrison BEng



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