



The
Thomas Hardy
School



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Welcome

Welcome on behalf of all our students, staff and governors, to The Thomas Hardy School prospectus. We hope it gives you an inspiring insight into our values, expectations and the way we work.

We are proud of our reputation. Our aim is to unlock the potential in every student by providing outstanding learning opportunities. We focus on the things that matter – commitment to the highest academic standards, positive relationships, mutual respect, concern and generosity for others and a willingness to do things differently.

We believe that learning has the power to transform lives and that every young person has a special skill or talent that can be nurtured through relentless optimism. For us, learning is everything.

Thank you for your interest in our work.
I look forward to meeting you.

Nick Rutherford

HEADTEACHER



“Students’ achievement is outstanding. By the end of year 11 they achieve standards significantly above those found nationally, especially in English and mathematics.”

OFSTED 2015

Our Values

We want students to look back on their time at school with a sense of pride. We believe that every student has special skills and talents that need to be nurtured or, in some cases, discovered. Our job is to unlock that potential through discovery and outstanding opportunities for learning. We want them to learn new skills, to develop a love of learning and to be confident, sensitive, caring citizens in their future lives.

Therefore, we have exceptionally high standards of how our students behave, speak and present themselves. We believe that mutual respect is the foundation for good relationships and that we should act with care, concern and generosity towards each other.

As a result, we have a school that is calm, civilised and grown-up. This does not happen by accident: we have a magnificent team of staff who strive to unlock the potential in every student – within the classroom and beyond. These values create a culture that celebrates the success of all young people whatever their background, faith or origin.



“Students’ behaviour is exemplary. They display a thirst for learning and this ensures that levels of engagement in lessons are exceptionally high.”

OFSTED 2015



An Expectation of Excellence

We care deeply about each student's academic success. We want every young person to leave our school qualified for the right university or college course, or the right employment route with training. We have a relentless optimism that every young person can achieve and progress.

We offer a curriculum that places an emphasis on skills such as literacy and numeracy, and encourages students to think and to work independently. We look upon the period between Year 9 and Year 11 as a coherent three year programme and in the core areas such as English, maths and science students will begin work on their GCSE course on entry to the school. Year 9 offers an opportunity to develop independent learning and thinking skills that will be so vital to future success.

The majority of our students join the Sixth Form following the end of Year 11 where we offer an unrivalled range of A Level courses and an unrivalled level of success.

"Inspirational teaching in the sixth form ensures that all students make outstanding progress."

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Learning is Everything

At Thomas Hardye, we are passionate about learning. It is at the heart of everything we do. Many of our staff are involved in research projects, or serve as examiners. We spend our training sessions exploring new ideas which will help students to learn better. Groups of staff work together in professional learning communities to test out new ways of learning. Since 2016 we have been accredited as a teaching school, responsible for training new entrants to the profession and leading on training and research in this part of Dorset. As an exceptional school, we take seriously our responsibilities for training the next generation of teachers and for supporting other schools.

We want our students to develop into confident, independent learners inside and outside of the classroom. That means offering additional learning opportunities through trips and visits, exchanges, sport, music, drama and other extra-curricular activities.

“The quality of teaching is outstanding and this enables all students to learn exceptionally well and make outstanding progress.”



Leadership

We need more people with exceptional leadership skills - individuals who can imagine, analyse, take decisions, and are driven by a deep sense of what is right and wrong.

Therefore, leadership is one of our core activities. Our distinctive college system allows students to take on new responsibilities: to lead assemblies, to represent the school on public occasions, to greet and entertain visitors and to get actively involved in the environment, charitable work and global links. The Sixth Form is led by two presidents and a team that drive the student union.

Student Voice is a well-established body that provides students with a forum for raising new ideas and suggestions that will help the school to progress and to provide feedback on what we are doing well and what needs to improve. We are looking for every student to display leadership qualities in the classroom, in assemblies, on the sports field, on the stage or around and about the school.



"Students are very proud of their school and are keen to take on positions of responsibility."

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Colleges

Each young person who joins the school will be placed in one of four colleges named after the original signatories of the foundation deed that set the school up in 1569: Henning, Napier, Stratford and Trenchard.

Each college will have four tutor groups starting in Year 9. It allows students to be part of a smaller community and for older students to take responsibility. It enables us to get to know students better and to ensure they get the best individual attention.

Each college has its own college leader and deputy college leader who are members of the teaching staff; together they monitor the academic progress of all students, including the most vulnerable students and those who need to make accelerated progress. A guidance leader looks after the well-being of students on a daily basis; they do not have a teaching timetable which allows them to pick up any problems quickly and to deal with them.

Every young person has a tutor who they see every day and is the main point of contact and parents are kept informed through regular reviews and meetings. A member of the senior team has ultimate responsibility for the smooth running of the college.

“Pastoral leadership of the school is remarkable.”





Extra-Curricular

Discovery is an important part of learning and by offering an extensive range of extra-curricular activities we offer students a chance to immerse themselves in an interest or discover a talent they were not aware of. This includes trips and visits, STEM clubs, a thriving Combined Cadet Force, Duke of Edinburgh, sports clubs, music, drama, dance and many more. Please look on the website to get a flavour of what we have to offer.

Passionate about the Arts

We believe that the arts enrich our lives and we want our students to feel as passionate about them as we do. In the course of their lifetime, young people will be enriched and fulfilled by an interest in art, music, drama, dance and film. We are able to offer exceptional facilities taught by teachers actively involved in the arts as musicians, actors, dancers, artists and film-makers. We have a full programme of concerts, plays, community events and productions which are open to all students, not just those with a special talent.

Passionate about Sport

Sporting success goes hand-in-hand with academic success. Thomas Hardye is fortunate to have some of the best sports facilities in the country. The sports centre offers us the use of a six lane indoor swimming pool and outstanding gym facilities. Students can take advantage of an excellent membership scheme allowing them to use the facilities out-of-school hours and at weekends. This is in addition to the two existing sports halls, the 3G pitch and extensive playing fields. Students can join school teams, or enjoy recreational sport for pleasure.

“Students benefit from an exceptional range of enrichment activities.”



"All groups of students make exceptional progress."

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Partnerships

The Thomas Hardye School is part of the wider Wessex Multi-Academy Trust, which enables us to work in close partnership with other schools and share expertise and resources. We are also members of the Dorchester Area Schools Partnership that includes all our feeder schools. Our priorities for the partnership are to develop literacy and numeracy skills between 3 to 19, underpinned by a robust system of assessment. Most importantly, we want to ensure every child is reading and writing at a level appropriate to their age.



“The school works proactively with first and middle schools to track and monitor student progress from key stage 1 to key stage 5.”

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School Essentials

Admissions

THE LOCAL AUTHORITY ADMINISTERS ADMISSIONS ON BEHALF OF THE WESSEX MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST. FULL DETAILS ARE SET OUT IN THE CURRENT 'ADMISSIONS TO SCHOOLS IN DORSET' BOOKLET OR ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE.

Accessibility

WE RUN TWO BASES — A DISABILITY BASE AND ONE FOR COMPLEX COMMUNICATION NEEDS. WE WELCOME STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND ARE WORKING CONTINUOUSLY TO MAKE THE SITE MORE ACCESSIBLE.

Education for Everyone

WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT, DEDICATED TEAM OF TEACHERS AND TEACHING ASSISTANTS WHO WORK 1:1 AND WITH SMALL GROUPS OF STUDENTS TO HELP THEM ACHIEVE THEIR BEST.

Most Able

WE CATER FOR THE FULL RANGE OF ABILITY, INCLUDING THE MOST ABLE AND TALENTED STUDENTS. THIS INCLUDES AN EXCELLENT PROGRAMME OF SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO APPLY FOR PLACES AT THE TOP UNIVERSITIES, INCLUDING OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE.

The Whole Child

WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF OUR STUDENTS, BUILDING THEIR INTELLECTUAL, SOCIAL, MORAL AND PHYSICAL SKILLS. WE HOPE THIS PROSPECTUS HAS GIVEN YOU A FLAVOUR OF HOW WE AIM TO ACHIEVE THAT AMBITION.

