



THOMAS MILLS HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parents

June 2020

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Public Health – Coronavirus – LETTER 8 (OF 8)

Following on from my last letter to you, I am pleased to report that many plans have moved forward especially around the school re-opening as well as the remote learning. This letter provides a brief update on many developments connected to this National Emergency and its impact on our school.

Remote Learning

By the time you receive this letter, pupils should have received instructions about using Microsoft Teams. This platform enables greater personalised feedback as well as support. Lessons will initially be in the form of narrated PowerPoints. Teachers can set work here or in the Assignments Section. This means that work will no longer be set via the "Cloud." Messages can be left for teachers in Teams enabling questions to be asked about the work.

Pastoral Teams have also been busy and have plans for further online pastoral support and communication. Heads of Year will be in touch with you about this.

This phase which is being gradually introduced from next week, takes us to the scheduled end of the Summer Term. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.thomasmills.suffolk.sch.uk/public/files/online-learning-guide-for-pupils-and-students-20611104105.pdf>

School Re-opening

Thank you very much to parents of Year 10 and Year 12 students who responded to the online survey. The responses have been very helpful in arranging the final aspects to our provision which sees up to 25% of the cohort in school at any one time.

Mr Mugliston, Business Manager, will contact you about canteen arrangements and the online payment for purchases.

Staff have been busily preparing the school site to support the new arrangements for June and July. There are photographs on the school website but I thought it would be useful to include some below.





Provision for Key Workers and other Priority Groups

This provision has slowly grown over the past week. From the 15th June, with the exception of Free Schools Meals, pupils will need to pay for any food purchases from the canteen. An email from Mr Mugliston, Business Manager, will be sent to you explaining the details about the food provision and online payment.

Centre Assessment Grades 2020

Following on from the cancellation of external examinations, I am pleased to report that good progress has been made on the award of grades and these will be submitted to the Awarding Authorities. This will be subject to an external statistical standardisation model. The results will be released as originally planned – 13th August for A Level and 20th August for GCSE. At the moment we do not know the exact arrangements for the release of grades.

September Re-opening

At the time of writing, there has been no official Government Guidance about this. I sense that there is an aspiration to open all schools for all children. The national health situation, as will the control measures, will need to be different to the current arrangements if we are to enable 1,150 pupils to return safely. There is speculation, of course, that social distancing measures may change if lockdown restrictions continue to ease.

We are continuing with the usual planning such as the budget setting, timetable and staffing recruitment. Mr Symes, next year's Head of Year Seven and Miss Armes, Assistant Headteacher, are in contact with schools and parents about Year 6 transition. By the end of term, I would expect there to be more detail about September opening as well as any potential plans for the Summer Holiday period.

Once again, thank you for your continued support. We will be in touch when there are significant announcements which affect the provision. In the meantime, I wish you all well.

Yours sincerely

P J Hurst
Headteacher