



THOMAS MILLS HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear parent

December 2019

I trust this letter finds you well. As we approach the end of this very busy term, I thought you would appreciate an update on several items of interest.

World Class Schools Quality Mark (WCSQM)

We are delighted to announce that following a rigorous assessment, we have been awarded World Class Schools Status. This accreditation is not awarded to many schools so it is a privilege to have achieved this. Unlike many awards, it focusses very much on the pupils and students and Miranda Perry the Director of WCSQM said, "your students are genuinely some of the very best in the country." My thanks to everyone involved in this award. This award will introduce us to a wider school network so that we continue to develop further.

School Term Dates 2020-2021

These dates have now been finalised as follows:

Autumn Term for Pupils: Thursday 3rd September 2020 to Friday 18th December 2020

Half Term: Week commencing Monday 26th October 2020

Spring Term for Pupils: Tuesday 5th January 2021 to Friday 26th March 2021

Half Term: Week commencing Monday 15th February 2021

Summer Term for Pupils: Monday 12th April 2021 to Friday 16th July 2021

Half Term: Week commencing Monday 31st May 2021

Cycle Safety

It is important that all pupils take steps to ensure that they are as safe as possible travelling to, and from, school. Cyclists should have reflective clothing and a cycle helmet. Bikes should be road worthy with good lighting too.

Governing Board

Following the Election from Parents, Fiona Edwards and Lisa Hamon, have joined the Governing Board.

Eco-Council

The school now has a very active Eco-Council. Recently they have planted 20 trees from the Woodland Trust for example. They have asked if I could mention to parents about switching engines off whilst waiting for pupils at the end of the day. Thank you for your understanding. Hopefully we will continue to identify actions within and beyond school that can positively contribute to a sustainable environment.



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SCHOOL
MEMBER



School Fund and Support for the School

In response to requests to donate, a School Fund has been created. The donations assist with extra expenditure that is not funded by central government. The fund is entirely voluntary and there is no expectation to contribute.

More details can be found on the Parents section on the School Website. This includes the Charity Gift Aid Declaration. Alternatively, donations can be made via our secure giving page: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/ThomasMillsHighSchool>

As you are probably aware, our main fundraising campaign is the Fab Labs appeal. The 'Friends' have organised a number of fundraising events including a successful Casino Night at the end of November. They welcome new members and if you are interested please contact Linda Mitchell via the School Office.

Thank you to everybody who supports the school in a variety of different ways. The hard work and enterprise is much appreciated as we continue to improve and develop the facilities we offer.

The Sunday Times Top State Secondary Schools

I thought parents would be pleased to know that the school recently featured in The Sunday Times Top State Secondary Schools. The newspaper used the high attainment at both A Level and GCSE and as a result we were one of only three Suffolk schools to be featured.

Other Matters

This has, once again, been an extraordinarily busy term with so much good work both inside and outside of the classroom. At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our first non-uniform (Christmas) jumper day which will support several charities. There is absolutely no expectation to purchase a Christmas Jumper.

In terms of teaching, we are fully staffed for next term. Sadly, this term we say farewell to three valued members of the Support Staff Team: Mr Jarrett (Business Manager), Mrs Granger (HLTA) and Mr Peacock (Cover Supervisor). We thank them for what they have achieved here and wish them every future success.

We have now secured some additional funding to undertake some repairs needed in the west side of the school. I am also pleased to report that the school is full with 1,159 pupils on roll.

Finally, as we approach the Christmas Holidays I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support. I wish you and your families a pleasant break. We look forward to seeing pupils return on Tuesday 7th January 2020.

Yours sincerely



P J Hurst
Headteacher