



THOMAS MILLS HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parents

20th October 2023

Headteacher's Update Letter 2023/2024 – Letter 4 (of 4)

We approach the half-term break following a very busy but successful few months. It is currently Book Week and I am reading *How Google Works*. It explains how this global business operates but their focus on 'smart creatives' has relevance for many of our students. I write this letter as I await the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Evening and last night we enjoyed our wonderful Anniversary Concert as it is four hundred years since Thomas Mills was born. The talents of our students and staff never fail to impress me.

Revised Sixth Form Open Evening – Wednesday 15th November 2023

We have amended our calendar to provide for our Sixth Form Open Evening this year. We will welcome our current Year Eleven students, as well as external interest. We look forward to explaining the opportunities as well as the many subjects on offer. It is still very much the case that the individual matters here and the opportunities as well as future progression are very strong.

In addition, we shall be holding a taster day later in November where Year Eleven pupils can apply to be a sixth form student and sample sixth form lessons for a day. More information will follow after half term.

Last week it was good to meet many of our former students who were helping at the Careers Fair. It is always pleasing to note that the destinations and opportunities taken of students leaving the school after Sixth Form is as wide reaching and varied as in previous years. Three quarters of last year's Year Thirteen moved into Higher Education throughout the country from St Andrews and Edinburgh in the north to Falmouth and Exeter in the southwest. The range of courses studied are broad for example British Sign language to Law, from Physics to social policy and from broadcast journalism to medicine. A number of students have also been successful in being accepted onto apprenticeships such as EDF and BT. It is always so inspiring to witness students from this school aspiring in whatever field they choose.

Year Eleven Parents Evening

It was good to see many families at our Information Evening last week. Year Eleven are starting to think about their future options as well as the year ahead. Several staff had informal conversations about the Year Eleven Parents Evening scheduled for Thursday 2nd November and it was felt that a face-to-face evening would be more advantageous in terms of building relationships and making connections as well as providing good feedback.

Social Media/ Online Safety

With the half-term approaching, it maybe timely for families to consider internet safety. There are a number of parent guides linked to the school website and these can be found here:

[Social Media and Online Safety | Thomas Mills High School & Sixth Form](#)



Summary

As you will know, it has been a busy half-term and the students and staff are certainly looking forward to the break. With the increasing signs of Autumn and even the approach of Winter, it is important to revise safe travel arrangements including reflective coats. Cyclists should ensure their bike is roadworthy and use a cycle helmet.

My apologies that the original calendar for this year had been changed and so inadvertently some families had holidays booked from today. The change arose to allow the Ski Trip to depart on Friday 16th February 2024. Apologies, the calendar change could have been clearer and holiday absences booked will not penalise families.

Although year groups facing external examinations will have independent study to consider over half-term, I hope that students find time to relax and engage in good activities over the break. For me, it is a chance to catch up on my reading. I have the latest Tim Marshall *The Future of Geography* to read. I will also try and re-read a few chapters in his previous book *Divided: Why we are Living in an age of Walls*. I find his explanations of geo-political situations very clear.

Parts of our world continue to experience much conflict and I very much hope that resolutions are found and that humanity and hope triumph over division and conflict.

Once again, thank you for your kind support this half-term and wishing you a pleasant and peaceful break.

With best wishes



P J Hurst
Headteacher