



THOMAS MILLS HIGH SCHOOL

Headteacher : P J Hurst, BA, MA, MBA, NPQH

Saxtead Road, Framlingham,
Suffolk, IP13 9HE
Telephone : 01728 723493

Email: inmail@thomasmills.suffolk.sch.uk
Website: www.thomasmills.suffolk.sch.uk

Dear Parents

31st October 2023

Headteacher's Update Letter 2023/2024 – Letter 5 (of 5)

Thank You

Thank you all very much for the community spirit and forbearance that was shown on the last day of the half-term when the decision was made to close the school. We took a relatively early decision in view of the very heavy rainfall which made some areas of the site quite treacherous, as well as our worries about possible journeys home. Later we learnt that a Critical Incident had been declared in the county. There are rehearsed plans for gradually contracting the school and these came into effect.

This was clearly an unprecedented event and the 'yellow warning' on the weather forecast did not give any hint as to what did eventually arrive in a few Suffolk towns and villages. Many areas of the country were badly affected, and I know that many families will be only too aware of the actual impact of the flooding. Our thoughts are very much with you at this time.

Our school and wider community stepped in with offers of help from food, to lending us mobile chargers, as well as accommodation. Some staff and parents managed to work out some safe routes and this was useful to many staff when some respite arrived. Anyway, thank you to everyone.

The night before we enjoyed a lovely celebration for our Duke of Edinburgh's Award Students and we were delighted to welcome back former students Ben Newton and Ruby Robinson. Their speech was based on their cycling adventure in Vietnam which was brought to an abrupt halt by the pandemic in 2020. Little did I know that their key messages would be valuable for us the next day.

Year Eleven Parents' Evening – Thursday 2nd November 2023

We had made the decision to hold these face- to-face; however, another yellow weather warning around gusty winds is understandably causing some anxieties. We think it is safer and fairer, to revert to online appointments now and Mrs Woollatt in our School Office is arranging this change with our provider. If there are any issues do contact the School Office tomorrow. Apologies for this change of plan.

School Closure Protocol

We do of course keep an eye on weather forecasts but decisions to close the school are usually considered by at least three factors: Police or Local Authority information; Transport issues; as well as any site-specific information. An early decision is always best and ideally communicated by 7am before many staff and parents leave the house. We will put a message on the school website and also contact the Local Authority.

Summary

Although the overriding theme seems to be about the weather, for me it is really the sense of community that is very strong here.

With best wishes

P J Hurst
Headteacher

