



# THOMAS MILLS HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parents

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023

## **Headteacher's Update Letter 2023/2024 – Letter 6 (of 6)**

As always, I trust this letter finds you well. I write to you from my office in school having reached the decision to close school earlier this morning. It's persistently raining with surface water on many roads, but the winds are not currently affecting us in Framlingham as they are on the coast and other parts of the UK.

### **School Closure**

There was clearly some anxiety around the weather forecast which had a yellow warning for wind. This means there may be some disruption, but you should take care. Coach companies were willing to try routes with one or two diversions needed, and possibly one cancellation of a route. However, the Environment Agency had shared flood warnings by this morning, and this tipped the balance to closing the school, mindful of safe journeys, as well as the anxiety following the floods we had before half-term.

School closure must always be a last resort. Although we can now set work on Microsoft Teams, it will not help students with the school routines if I make these decisions too often. Much will depend on the persistence of the rain today and the ability of our drainage, streams, and rivers in coping, as to whether this is the right decision. Early indications are that there is some localised flooding in areas although I suspect most places are accessible with care. In summary, I don't want to set a precedent on 'yellow warnings' and every decision is on a case by case basis. As ever, thank you for your support and I will continue to hone my weather forecasting skills.

### **Suffolk Police**

We have been in close contact with Suffolk Police following a statement they issued last week. This reported that police and ambulance staff were called to a report of a concern for safety in relation to a male found in Framlingham (Pageant Field). The person was taken to hospital for treatment. The Police also said it was being treated as an isolated incident.

Firstly, our thoughts and prayers go out to the person, their family and friends, as well as the local community at this time. I am very much aware that the police are our lead and I must take my cues from them. We are also mindful of privacy.

However, the nature of our community is such that people are affected, and in school we can offer and signpost support. If you are worried about a young person and they have not been signposted support, please do get in touch. There are a number of agencies in Suffolk and we can access good support and guidance at this time. We have a caring wider community and I know my thoughts are echoed.



## **Summary**

I appreciate this letter probably leads into a period of reflection for our school and wider community. A time to pause, to think, to share, to care, is important. Our website does have some signposts for support often under the 'information tab' and this also includes safeguarding. However, I have also included a direct link to one guide here:

[PowerPoint Presentation \(thomasmills.suffolk.sch.uk\)](http://thomasmills.suffolk.sch.uk)

If you wish to get in touch, please do not hesitate to do so and as ever we appreciate your support as we continue to ensure we remain the best educational community that we can be.

Yours sincerely



P J Hurst  
Headteacher