



# Thomas Mills

High School & Sixth Form

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Dear Parents,

27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## **Headteacher's Update Letter 2024/2025 – Letter 2 (out of 2)**

As always, I hope this letter finds you well. A relatively brief update from me as I'm sure some of you are busily preparing for tonight's Quiz, kindly arranged by the Friends of Thomas Mills. If you haven't managed to get a ticket booked or are suddenly at a loose end tonight - do come along and pay on the door!

### **Safeguarding and online sites**

It's an ongoing requirement now for providers to talk to parents about children's access to online sites when away from school. If there is sufficient interest, we would be happy to arrange a presentation if you would find it helpful. If there are any safeguarding topics you would welcome guidance on, please let us know. In the meantime, the following links may be helpful.

For online safety South West Grid for Learning has some useful resources:

[Safety and Security Online | SWGfL](#)

This also includes some guidance around cyber security.

For advice that relates to Suffolk, the Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership is useful:

[Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership \(suffolksp.org.uk\)](http://suffolksp.org.uk)

For wide ranging advice and guidance, the NSPCC has some excellent resources:

[Support & advice for parents | NSPCC](#)

The page for parents includes guidance on babies, managing family life, friends and relationships as well as online safety.

I hope these signposts are useful but if you require something specific, please contact us.

### **Open Week and Open Day**

We are very much looking forward to next week and welcoming many prospective families to the school. It's pleasing that we have had a lot of interest recently and the focus on a broad curriculum plays a part. The range of options is clearly a standout feature with some students opting for several arts subjects for example. By also offering the separate sciences and three languages we are keeping students' future options very open.

The extracurricular opportunities from great productions and exciting adventures from Duke of Edinburgh award expeditions or Borneo are clearly draws. We work hard to have an ethos where self-discipline is the expected norm so that teachers are willing to organise many clubs as well as many great school trips. This year our Open Evening is on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October from 6pm.

### **Briscoe Way/Cambell Close**

Further to my last letter I have been asked to remind parents that the two roads above are private and that there is a restriction on parking. Neighbours have stated that parents should not use these roads when dropping off or picking up.

### **Friends of Thomas Mills High School**

Earlier I mentioned the Quiz Night and we continue to appreciate the support of the Friends who are a group of parents and staff who fundraise for many extra things for example minibuses. At their recent AGM, a new Chair was elected, and we are pleased to welcome Jennifer Reid in this role. They would welcome new members, and the email address is:

friendsoftmhs@thomasmills.suffolk.sch.uk

Mr Chittock has been holding the fort over the past couple of years and we have very much appreciated this. He is of course our Quizmaster tonight. I can assure you that I have no idea of the questions.

### **Summary**

It has been a busy few weeks, but students are settling well into the routines. In the Sixth Form, Year Thirteen are already thinking about their next steps and we have eighteen early applicants for university courses including Oxbridge as well as Medical and Veterinary Schools. We wish them well. Lucky you if they are on your Quiz Team!

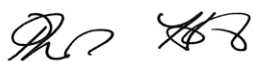
With this underlying theme of the quiz, I am reminded about the philosophy exam which asked *Is this a question?* The best response was the shortest one which stated, *Is this an answer?*

One answer we will learn next week is the final stage of the Librarian of the Year. Beth Vale our fantastic School Librarian is in the final shortlist. We are so proud of her and appreciate her work in turning our Library into the cultural hub of the school. We wish her, as well as all the other finalists well.

With the weekend imminent I wish you all a lovely weekend,

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



P J Hurst  
Headteacher