



Thomas Mills

High School & Sixth Form

Headteacher: P J Hurst BA MA MBA NPQH
Thomas Mills High School & Sixth Form
Saxtead Road, Framlingham, Suffolk, IP13 9HE

T: 01728 723493
E: inmail@thomasmills.suffolk.sch.uk
thomasmills.suffolk.sch.uk

Dear Parents

20th June 2025

Headteacher's Update Letter 2024/2025 – Letter 12 (out of 12)

I hope this letter finds you well. As we approach the end of term, the school has been buzzing with activity—from enriching trips to Parham Airfield Museum to the final preparations for the Year Eleven Prom.

Generative AI Safety

AI is increasingly influencing education and daily life. In line with recent government guidance, we are developing school-wide procedures to ensure its safe and effective use. While I've found it helpful for refining staff communications, we are mindful of the risks. The link below offers guidance for parents on how to support children in navigating AI responsibly.

[What You Need to Know: Generative AI Safety | Free E-Safety Guide](#)

In summary, the risks are given as:

- Misinformation and inaccuracy
- Exposure to inappropriate content
- Privacy and data security issues
- Reduced critical thinking
- Digital dependency
- Unclear ethical boundaries

We will proceed carefully, and this is supported by one of the Department for Education's advisors who has suggested that we “learn fast, act slowly.”

Revised Ofsted Framework

Ofsted's revised framework, now expected in the Autumn, promises a renewed focus on 'teaching and learning'—a welcome shift. We are committed to keeping this at the heart of our work next year.

Uniform and Warm Weather

Given the warm weather, students may forgo ties next week and during Activities Week. We appreciate your continued support in maintaining the remaining uniform standards, helping us preserve a focused learning environment.

We have already suggested relaxing the top buttons. We also recommend utilising shade and keeping hydrated.

Sixth Form Update

The Sixth Form are very much looking forward to their Ball in a week's time. For many of them it marks the end of seven years of a wonderful education.

It was a pleasure seeing the high standard of Art and Photography work in Framlingham's 'Old Theatre' this week. I congratulate the students on their brilliant work and hope the examiner thinks the same (the exhibition is open every day from 10.00am to 4.30pm between 19th June and 29th June).

Recently the trustees of the Michael Sims Memorial Trust met. They were delighted to hear about the achievements of the students and Hattie Chew has been awarded the Michael Sims Prize.

Interest in the Sixth Form remains strong and we are looking forward to the transition day on 9th July.

Behaviour Policy

We are looking to amend the Behaviour Policy in September using a graduated approach of the four R's: Remind, Reset and if necessary, Remove followed by Restore. We will share details in the new school year but where this has been used, feedback has been positive. We want to sustain an approach which maintains relationships but ensures the focus is on teaching and learning.

We maintain awareness of other approaches and some schools have introduced more stricter regimes around uniform, silent corridors and outside line ups to lessons.

These have tended to work in newer schools, often in London, but when imposed suddenly can increase conflict. As always, we keep things under review but also, we stress here the importance of self-discipline.

Primary School Sports Event

Earlier this week we hosted over 800 primary school pupils for QuadKids, a multi-sports athletics event. There was a great atmosphere and an opportunity for thirty Year Eight Sports Leaders to demonstrate their skills.

Promotion of the Arts

Earlier this week the BBC ran a feature about the importance of the creative arts within the main curriculum. This featured some of our pupils as well as our staff. The video is on our website and can be accessed via

<https://thomasmills.suffolk.sch.uk/sixth-form/icymi-thomas-mills-featured-on-look-east/>

On a related theme, Mrs Watkins, who we have been pleased to work with again this year, is running Summer Workshops throughout the summer. Further details can be accessed [here](#).

Summary

I realise the theme for this letter is the future and this is, to some extent, very much what we make of it.

Year Eleven and Year Thirteen have worked very hard on their examinations and can now enjoy a well-deserved rest. Year Eleven will celebrate this important milestone tonight at their Prom, and Year Thirteen will celebrate at their Summer Ball next week.

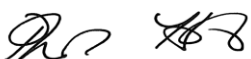
In a wonderful example of resilience and community spirit, Mr Sparkes, Head of Design Technology, is running the 51-mile Ultra Trail Wales to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support in memory of our dearly missed colleague, Brian Jones. If you'd like to support his cause, please visit:

[Steven Sparkes is fundraising for Macmillan Cancer Support](#)

We wish Mr Sparkes well.

I trust that you have a pleasant weekend,

Yours sincerely,



P J Hurst
Headteacher