



Thomas Mills

High School & Sixth Form

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Dear Parents

11th December 2025

Headteacher's Update Letter 2025/2026 – Letter 4 (out of 4)

I hope this letter finds you well although I know there are some seasonal illnesses doing the rounds. I am planning for this letter to be my last for the term although we will have our usual round up of many events in our Outlook magazine next week. I'll keep this letter as a speedy update.

Press Reader

You may not be aware that we have access to Press Reader which is especially useful for independent Sixth Form study. It is free with a Suffolk County Libraries card. Users will have to log in and out every thirty days to keep it active. More information can be found in the link below:

[PressReader.com - Digital Newspaper & Magazine Subscriptions](https://www.pressreader.com)

School Uniform Guidance

You may be aware that the government has updated its guidance on the school uniform and its cost. Mr Mugliston, Business Manager and Miss Armes, Deputy Headteacher have been keeping a close eye on this.

From April 2026 our uniform and associated items will be available through Trutex. This is an online retailer, and they currently manufacture some of our items. Further details will be shared next term.

Our current branded items are the school tie and jumper and the girls' skirt (optional). Some unbranded items can be purchased elsewhere.

Our current suppliers, Coes, will continue to supply what they have in stock but as they run out of items, will not replace them.

In the meantime, we also ask for your support with our uniform requirements.

Friends of Thomas Mills Raffle

I just want to place on record my thanks not only to the Friends for organising the annual raffle, but also the generosity of the donors. There are some worthwhile prizes, and further information can be found [HERE](#)

Safeguarding – Some Useful Organisations

I thought it would be useful to share some brief details of three organisations who we occasionally work with:

Childline: They offer a free and confidential helpline for children and young adults in the UK. Their telephone number is 0800 11 11 (24 hours a day, 365 days a year)

Talk to Frank: They provide, in their words, 'honest information about drugs'. Website is: talktofrank.com

Internet Watch Foundation: They work to eliminate child sexual abuse imagery online and making the internet safer for all. They have a facility called 'report remove' which helps to ensure that inappropriate images and postings can be removed from the website. Website is: iwf.org.uk

As ever, if you have any specific concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant staff in school.

During the holidays, Suffolk Customer First is the single point of contact for Social Services. The telephone number is 0808 800 4005. Opening hours are weekdays 8.00am to 5.20pm.

Attendance

Thank you for your ongoing support for attendance. The Department for Education produces summary data and up to Friday 24th November we were recorded as 93.9%. I sense the key messages around attendance are well known in our school community and good progress has been made since the lockdowns in 2020 and 2021. Our approach remains very focussed on relationships.

At the same time there will be the worries around illness and the following link from the NHS is useful.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

For some of the conditions listed it is important to seek medical advice.

Non-Uniform Jumper: Tuesday 16th December 2025

It has become a tradition in recent years to support a local foodbank on our non-uniform jumper day. Details regarding this were emailed out to parents earlier this week.

There is no obligation to purchase a Christmas Jumper, this is just one option for the day. Any alternative jumpers must be respectful and any item which causes offence would not be appropriate or in keeping with the spirit of the day. Apart from the jumper of choice, school uniform should be worn as normal.

Any donations are voluntary. Thank you in advance for your support.

Staffing


At the end of term, we say goodbye to Mrs McCartney, Senior Teacher, who is moving with her family to Australia. We have appreciated Mrs McCartney's input to a range of areas in her time here. We also say farewell to Dr Alwis and welcome Mr Jenner back to the school. I am pleased to report that we are fully staffed for January.

Summary

It has been a very long but busy term with many successes. Interest in the school remains strong and we want to retain a good focus on the curriculum and options. Our school production of *Grease* was amazing. Later this week we have the Awards Evening, and next week the Christmas Concert to look forward to.

In the anticipation this is my final correspondence of the year, may I thank you and your families for your support and to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a lovely New Year 2026. The new term for students begins on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Yours sincerely,



P J Hurst
Headteacher