



Thomas Mills

High School & Sixth Form

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Dear Parents,

12th February 2026

Headteacher's Update Letter 2025/2026 (Letter 6)

I hope this letter finds you well. It's been a busy half-term for everyone. Year Eleven and Year Thirteen have been very well engaged with Prep Examinations and Parents' Evenings. There have also been many events too.

As we approach the half-term a speedy update on several school matters.

School Uniform Supplier

After half-term, Mr Mugliston our Business Manager, will send details of the new uniform supplier Trutex. The uniform policy is not changing. The letter will include a link to the uniform list.

Safer Internet Day

This was earlier this week, and the theme was *Smart tech, safe choices – exploring the responsible use of AI*.

The following are some useful links from the UK Safer Internet Centre:

Top tips for parents and carers

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers>

Top tips for children and young people

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-young-people>

You can find more information here:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026>

We continue to support safe internet use in assemblies and IT lessons, as well as in the Personal Development Programme.

New Online Safety Website from the Government

I understand that the Government are launching a new website on the 16th February. This supports the Online Safety Act and will include:

- tips for parents' conversations with their children
- actions to support each stage of their child's life
- parental controls information

Further details can be found via the following link

[Kids online safety](#)

Canteen Accounts and PE Kit

Student Services have asked me to remind you to keep a close eye on canteen account balances. Students who do not have enough credit to make a purchase are supported by Student Services in contacting home; however, this can result in pupils missing breaks. By keeping the account topped up we can avoid this.

I have also been asked by the PE department to remind parents that students should have appropriate PE kit and footwear. We have an increasing number of students that turn up with either no kit or inappropriate kit.

Other Government Developments

There have been several announcements recently relating to education. These have included:

- Banning of smart phones in school
- SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Reforms based on 5 principles labelled early, local, fair, effective, shared (or partnership)
- Aim to reduce suspensions

As and when we learn more details we can let you know. I expect that some of these changes will be made in legislation which can take time to progress.

Behaviour and Exclusions Policy

Our trustees have approved an amended Behaviour and Exclusions Policy, and this has included a much stronger stance on vapes including situations which could involve suspension or even permanent exclusion.

The policy has also made it even clearer that all students are expected to follow reasonable instructions.

As is often remarked on by visitors, the typical behaviour is calm, purposeful and respectful. However, we are mindful of wider changes in society and wish to sustain an ethos of high expectations with the focus on education.

New Ofsted Framework

As you may know, the new framework is very much up and running and reports are gradually being published. Some areas are driven by data and others by observations.

Years ago, I know of one school that successfully engaged the parents in repainting the school ahead of an inspection. I will not ask you to do that but ask for your support in ensuring:

- Students have pride in their uniform
- Students have pride in their written work
- Homework is supported

Thank you to parents who completed the Ofsted Survey last term. Due to the new framework this has now closed and there is a new one. We will look to undertake this survey and the student version next term.

Summary

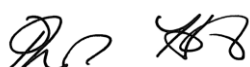
Thank you to everyone for their endeavours this half-term. It's not always been easy given the rain, but as always, everyone has persevered. There is definitely more daylight ahead.

I appreciate everyone's support with the wider life of the school. The Friends of Thomas Mills, supported by a strong group of staff, successfully organised a Year Seven Disco. Next week a party of students and staff go skiing. I'm sure they will have a great time. (I have enjoyed watching some of the winter Olympics and I like the look of snowboarding!)

A reminder that Friday 13th February is a Professional Development day for staff. School reopens to students on Monday 23rd February.

Wishing you a good break.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P J Hurst
Headteacher