



Thomas Mills
High School & Sixth Form

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Dear Parents,

26th March 2026

Headteacher's Update letter 2025/2026 (Letter 7)

I hope this letter finds you well. It's been great to have seen many of you at some of the events this half-term including the lower school production, Year 8 Options Evening, and the Friends of Thomas Mills Cabaret Evening, for example.

This letter is a quick update on matters of whole school interest. *Outlook*, our termly magazine, captures many wonderful achievements and events which have taken place this term.

Government White Paper on 'Every Child Achieving and Thriving'

A Government white paper outlines some proposals for the future. The main news headlines were about SEND system reform. The link below from the Department for Education is a version called an 'easy read.'

[Our plan to help every child do well at school easy read version](#)

More detail can be found in this version:

[Every child achieving and thriving \(HTML version\) - GOV.UK](#)

There are a lot of details, and the government is seeking feedback, and this will inform future policy. The initial media response was around changes to SEND provision. However, if there are changes to Educational, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) these will not occur until 2030 at the earliest.

I have noted provisions commenting on rebuilding local services.

In summary, there is the potential for change in the educational system, and I will be keeping a close eye.

New Ofsted Framework and Parent View

Some of you kindly completed the Parent View but the format has now changed. It would be really helpful if all parents could complete the new version. This will give us an idea of your main observations and any specific areas to work on.

The following link will take you to the relevant page to give your views.

[Thomas Mills High School & Sixth Form | Ofsted Parent View](#)

Thank you in advance.

Speak Up, Speak Out

Some years ago, we introduced the above, online form, to encourage students to report any non-urgent concerns with the safeguarding team. The link can be found at the top of our website.

As our mobile phone free school stance is now embedded, the posters which had a QR code are largely unhelpful. We do encourage students to raise concerns at the earliest opportunity so that they can be dealt with.

Kids Online Safety Website: New Resources for Gaming and Online Bullying

Two government departments have published new resources on the 'Kids Online Safety' website to help parents understand and get support for online bullying and gaming. The updated content includes:

- how to spot the signs of online bullying
- guidance and support if a child is being bullied
- practical tips to help make online gaming safer
- information on age ratings and parental controls for games

There are signposts to specialist support.

If you have any concerns, you are welcome to contact the school too.

The website can be accessed via the following link:

[Kids online safety](#)

My advice is to keep online activity to strict time limits and encourage other activities including enjoying the outdoors too.

Psychology in Schools Team

The local team have asked us to promote their free online parent Mental Health workshops for the Summer Term.

The posters can be accessed through the following links.

[Child and Adolescent Mental Health Parent Workshops](#)

[Supporting Young People's Mental Health Parent/Carer Workshops Summer Term 2026](#)

All their upcoming workshops can be booked for free on the [Eventbrite page](#). Information on all our workshops, past and present, as well as workshop recordings, can be found on their [website](#).

Critical Incidents and Lockdowns

A recent incident in a Norwich School will have focussed the minds of many school authorities. We have protocols in school. In terms of immediate communication, we have the following:

- Nine short bursts of the bell (3 times – so 9,9,9)
- Screen alerts on all computers
- Radio communication for senior staff, office and site team

Every scenario is different. We were going to practice last term but used some of the protocols in response to a situation when the school (and the area) had no electricity for the afternoon. What was interesting is that we had to use other forms of communication. It is fair to say that staff and students responded well. The ability to stay calm and follow instructions is essential.

Message from the Office

The Main Office have asked if any messages to be passed onto students after 2pm are for emergencies only.

Message from Mr Mugliston, Business Manager

After Easter, Mr Mugliston will launch the 'Bag to School' appeal. I'm sure he is hinting to me that this is a good time for a Spring Clean and 'sort out'! You will also have received a communication from him about the changes to school uniform provision from Trutex from Monday 6th April.

Simon Wade

We were very sad to learn at the start of this half-term that Mr Wade, a parent and well-respected member of the local community, had died. Our thoughts are still very much with his family and friends at this sad time. Simon was also an instructor on many of the school ski-trips. He is remembered as being very encouraging, inclusive and friendly. He was also well known to several students as a coach with Framlingham Football Club.

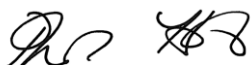
Summary

As ever, it has been a very busy half-term. Year Eleven and Year Thirteen are very focussed on examinations and I hope their revision goes well. External examinations start on the 6th May. I have had the pleasure of reading some Year Eleven reports and in summary parents should feel very proud of their children's great achievements.

Interest in the school and Sixth Form has stayed strong and we are expecting to be full again for the new Year 7. We have sustained the wider life of the school with trips and clubs and there was a lovely atmosphere on Charity Day with over £2,000 raised for good causes.

As ever, a break is needed. I hope you all can enjoy a lovely rest and an opportunity to do different things. We look forward to students (and staff) returning on Monday 13th April.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P J Hurst
Headteacher