



Thomas Mills

High School & Sixth Form

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Dear Parents,

22nd May 2026

Headteacher's Update Letter 2025/2026 (Letter 8)

I hope this letter finds you well. It has been a very busy half-term, both in school, as well as with developments from the Government. As there are a lot of items in this letter, I will keep this as a speedy update.

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026

The above act recently received royal assent. There will be changes to guidance for schools. For now, I will focus on two areas: kinship care and free school meals.

Kinship carers often step in to care for children when their parents are unable to do so. They are entitled to support from Local Authorities.

A child will be in a kinship care arrangement if a child lives with a "relative, friend or other connected person for all or most of their time than with the parent". If you think this definition fits in with your situation, please do let the school know.

Curriculum Review

New legislation, a report called *Building a world-class curriculum for all* and the Ofsted Framework, require us to think about our curriculum. As parents will know and appreciate, we value the breadth and choice here. I intend to read some of the key documents over half-term and will look to write to you in more depth. I will also look to gauge your views on this important area.

Legislation requires all schools and academies to be teaching the revised National Curriculum from September 2028. Although Ofsted may be a lever for earlier change, we have identified one very good school in Middlesex (called Dormers Well) which has a two-year Key Stage Three and was assessed favourably in a recent inspection. As always, we will proceed carefully.

Government and Mobile Phones

There is now a legal ban on smartphones for pupils in schools. This clearly supports our current stance which is that the school day should be smart-phone free. From my initial reading, it is up to schools to implement the legislation through their current policies.

Ofsted Parents Survey

Please could I ask all parents to complete the Ofsted Parents Survey. From November 2025 this is a new survey, and as there are only 10 replies, we cannot see the results! Thank you in advance. The following link should take you to the survey:

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

Children's Commissioner Survey

Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner, has launched a new survey called The Big Future. This can be accessed via the following link, and we would be grateful if you could support your child in completing this.

[The Big Future.](#)

World Class Schools and Accreditation

Although we are eligible, we have decided not to re-accredit for the time-being. We are looking at the Careers Quality Mark which will provide further focus to this important area.

Senior Staff Update

From June, we will have some additional capacity on the senior staff as Miss Lambert and Mr Pope will join as Associate Assistant Headteachers. They will still retain their curriculum roles but will undertake several additional projects around teaching and learning and pupil progress for the next academic year.

Changes to FAYAP (Framlingham Area Youth Action Partnership)

You will probably know that FAYAP who work from The Shalom Centre on the school site are disbanding after several decades of outstanding service to generations of young people in the area. We hope to have a feature in this term's *Outlook*. After half-term it does mean that there will no longer be a Lunchtime Club which has, over the years, proved to be popular. Other clubs and activities will continue until the end of term.

Consent and Recording of Meetings

I understand that there have been a couple of occasions where parents have asked if meetings could be recorded. Recording raises legal issues including written consent. We have amended the Information, Records and Copyright Policy to support a process. The key message for now is that verbal consent is not an option.

Sixth Form Young Enterprise Success

We have received lots of lovely comments following the success of the Year Twelve Young Enterprise team at the county finals and their feature on BBC Look East. A link to the feature on our website can be found via this link [BBC Look East feature our Young Enterprise team | Thomas Mills High School & Sixth Form](#)

Presentation about Cycling Across Africa

You may recall that a former student Robin Hutchinson and a friend cycled across Africa, raising £8,000 for St. Elizabeth Hospice. A BBC article about their adventure can be found via the following link

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cdepz4xnp5no>

Robin and Cam will be talking about their trip at an event at Kenton Hall (Five Rod Farm) with food and live music on 3rd June at 6pm. [Details can be found here](#)

Suffolk Army Cadet Force

The links below will show some of the recent activities from our local detachment. They meet every Thursday in the Framlingham Youth and Arts Centre (referred to earlier as The Shalom Centre) from 6.45pm. The cadets develop many positive attributes including communication, leadership, resilience, confidence and teamwork for example. The link below provides more information on registering, and you can also email Vicki Harris at ea-sufaol@rfca.org.uk

[Suffolk Army Cadets](#)

New Resources about Online Hate and Misogyny on the 'Kids Online Safety' Website

The Government have published new resources on the 'kids online safety' website to deal with online misogyny. The content will help parents understand what misogyny is, how to spot the signs, and how to talk and support your child.

Misogyny includes prejudice against women and has been highlighted in several high-profile television programmes such as *Adolescence* and *Louis Theroux: Inside the Manosphere*.

My view is that good conversations both at home and at school can ensure the online influencers do not create the wrong culture.

If you have any specific concerns do contact the pastoral team but the link for the website is

[Learn - Kids Online Safety](#)

External Examinations

These are very much underway. Heads of Year have been in contact about specific arrangements. The following link from the NHS about examinations could be useful for other year groups and this can be found here:

[Help your child beat exam stress - NHS](#)

We wish Year Eleven and Year Thirteen well and we look forward to celebrating with them at their respective Prom and Ball next month.

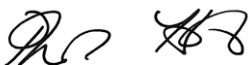
Summary

Thank you all for your support this half-term. It is a longer Summer Term this year with lots of wonderful opportunities alongside the classroom provision. At the weekend I enjoyed visiting the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition in the Chilterns. In this context our staff are volunteers and I appreciate the time and energy they give to this commitment.

Interest in the school from prospective families remains strong. Parents continue to support the curriculum options (including extracurricular), overall ethos and also the stand-alone academy status. Our young people are the best ambassadors.

I very much hope that you enjoy the half-term break and we look forward to everyone returning on Monday 1st June 2026.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P J Hurst
Headteacher