



Information
2026 - 2027

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2026 - 2027

The School Calendar will be available on the school website and will indicate other important dates such as when to expect school reports and reviews, examination dates, parent consultation evenings, after-school productions, field trip dates, and so on.

The School actively discourages parents from taking students on holiday during term time and will not approve such absences except in exceptional circumstances. Your child must always obtain a signed Leave of Absence form from the College leader. Unapproved absence will be recorded as 'unauthorised'.

AUTUMN TERM 2026

<i>sixth form enrolment:</i>	Tuesday 1st September
<i>open for staff training only:</i>	Wednesday 2nd September
<i>term starts: Years 9 & 12</i>	Thursday 3rd September
Years 10, 11 & 13	Friday 4th September
<i>open for staff training only:</i>	Wednesday 21st - Friday 23rd October
<i>half-term:</i>	Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October
<i>term ends:</i>	Thursday 17th December
<i>open for staff training only:</i>	Friday 18th December

SPRING TERM 2027

<i>open for staff training only:</i>	Monday 4th January
<i>term starts for students:</i>	Tuesday 5th January
<i>half-term:</i>	Monday 15th - Friday 19th February
<i>term ends:</i>	Thursday 25th March

SUMMER TERM 2027

<i>open for staff training only:</i>	Monday 12th April
<i>term starts for students:</i>	Tuesday 13th April
<i>open for staff training only:</i>	Friday 30th April
<i>bank holiday:</i>	Monday 3rd May
<i>half-term:</i>	Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June
<i>term ends:</i>	Wednesday 21st July

The School Day	2
The School Curriculum	4
Uniform	6
Exam Results	8
Staff List	10
Board of Governors	12
School Policies	13
Personal Responsibility	14



THE SCHOOL DAY 2026 - 2027

The school runs a fortnightly timetable. The chart opposite shows the pattern of the school day. Students should arrive at school on time and report to the school office if late. Those who are regularly late must expect that time lost will have to be made up later. Punctuality is an essential part of the education of every student.



START OF SCHOOL DAY

8.50	Move to tutor bases for morning registration
8.55	Start of tutor time or assembly
9.10	Move to Lesson 1
9.15	Lesson 1 starts
10.15	Lesson 1 ends
10.20	Lesson 2 starts
11.20	Lesson 2 ends
	BREAK
11.37	Move to Lesson 3
11.40	Lesson 3 starts
12.40	Lesson 3 ends
	End of morning school: LUNCH BREAK
13.20	Afternoon registration
13.25	Lesson 4 starts
14.25	Lesson 4 ends
14.30	Lesson 5 starts
15.30	Lesson 5 ends

END OF SCHOOL DAY

THE CURRICULUM

YEAR 9

The Year 9 curriculum reflects the excellent work done within our Middle Schools and throughout the Dorchester Area Schools Partnership. The curriculum offers work and challenges relevant to students' abilities and learning styles, following the completion of Key Stage 3 programmes in Year 8. Continuity and progression of learning and teaching from the Middle Schools is essential: all areas of the curriculum have Key Stage 3 links, and College leaders have close contact with the Middle Schools to aid transition.

Subjects Studied in Year 9:

Art and Design

Design and Technology

Drama

English Language

English Literature

Geography

History

Information & Communication Technology - ICT

Mathematics

Modern Foreign Languages

Music

Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education -

PSHCE

Physical Education

Science

Theology and Ethics

In Year 9, the focus of Careers Education is on their GCSE option choices.

Students are introduced to our in-house careers service and on-line support service in order to provide the information, advice and support needed.

YEARS 10 & 11

The curriculum offers each student a broad and balanced education while encouraging individual interests.

The school believes that all students should experience a wide and varied programme.

The compulsory curriculum includes:

English

English Literature

Mathematics

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE)

Physical Education

Science

Modern Foreign Language

Design and Technology

one choice from:

Electronics, Food, Graphic Products, Resistant Materials, Textiles

Students choose two other GCSEs from:

Art and Design

Business Studies

Computing

Dance

Drama

Geography

Health and Social Care

ICT

History

Modern Foreign Language

Music

Physical Education

The school also provides vocational courses for selected students. Students in Year 10 take part in Work-Related Learning days, whilst Year 11 students have sessions focusing on post-16 options. Students have the opportunity to meet with local businesses and links with industry and commerce are encouraged throughout the curriculum.

UNIFORM

School uniform develops a feeling of self-esteem among students and does much to eliminate feelings of inequality as well as projecting a positive image for the school. The principles of the school uniform are smart, professional and understated. All students (other than the Sixth Form) will wear the items of dress set out below.

The school asks for your co-operation to ensure that your child always comes to school wearing correct school uniform. If for any reason this is not possible, please write a note to your child's tutor.

All students in the lower school have a locker for bags and coats.

DRESS COMMON TO ALL:

- Blazer – black with the school crest blazer badge.
- Shirt or blouse – white, of sufficient length to be tucked in.
- Tie – clip-on only, the correct colour for your child's year group:
Year 9: blue Year 10: red Year 11: silver
Ties are available to purchase from the School Office.
- Jumper or Cardigan – v-neck, black, standard waist length.
- Trousers – mid-grey trousers. Leggings and jeans are not acceptable.
- Shorts – mid-grey tailored shorts, worn to above the knee, see examples shown on school website.
- Tights – black or natural tights, not patterned.
- Socks - dark colour with no patterns or designs.
- Shoes – black school shoes, they must be leather/leather look/polishable. Boots, suede or canvas or shoes with prominent or coloured logos are not permitted, see the school website for examples of acceptable/unacceptable shoes - this is not an exhaustive list.
- Skirts – Year 9 from September 2026:
Skirts will no longer form part of the school uniform.
Years 10 & 11 from September 2026:
Skirts must be grey, at least mid-thigh length and unrolled, unaltered, or students will be required to wear trousers.

SPORTS AND PE

- THS Sports Top - blue and grey
- Sports Socks – black
- PE top – white t-shirt
- Sports shorts, skirt or leggings – black only

Students may wear one pair (only) of discreet earrings and a wrist watch. Other body piercings or visible jewellery are not allowed for any students. Flamboyant or extreme hair colours and hairstyles are not acceptable. Make-up or nail varnish, if worn should be discreet. False nails are not permitted

Students may wear coats on the way to and from school, and during lunch if the weather is inclement. Coats may not be worn at break or in lessons. Students may wear less formal outdoor wear, such as hooded tops, on the way to and from school, but must store them in their locker upon arrival at school, and may not wear them during the school day, including break or lunch.

NON-UNIFORM ITEMS

If a student arrives at school in non-uniform items, parents may be contacted and the student sent home to change, this includes: *denim or leather clothing; black trousers or skirts; leggings or jeans; t-shirts with logos worn under shirts or blouses; training/canvas shoes and soft shoes with logos.*

Parents should contact the School Office if they have any questions about personal appearance, hairstyles or uniform BEFORE purchase.

EXAM RESULTS 2025

4 or above <i>inc. English & Maths</i>	2025	5 or above <i>inc. English & Maths</i>
69%	Thomas Hardy	50%
65%	Local Authority	40%
62%	England	45%

PROGRESS 8*	2025	ATTAINMENT 8
N/A**	Thomas Hardy	49.3
N/A	Local Authority	43.1
N/A	England	46.0

% entering EBacc	2025	EBacc avg. point score
58%	Thomas Hardy	4.5
38%	Local Authority	3.8
40.5%	England	4.1

* Progress 8 is a measure of how much progress students make from the beginning of Year 7 to when they complete their exams at the end of Year 11.

** There is no Progress 8 data for 2025, due to KS2 assessments not being held during COVID restrictions.

NOTES



STAFF LIST

Headteacher:	Mr N St J F Rutherford		
Deputy Headteacher:	Mrs L Morrison		
Assistant Headteachers:	Miss C Tanner	Year 9	
	Mr J Dean	Year 10	
	Mr S Walker	Year 11	
	Mr R Nicholls	Sixth Form	
	Mrs R Glennie	Pastoral Lead	
	Mrs C Noble	SEN	
Business Manager	Mrs A Bendall		
Heads of Sixth Form	Mr C Hall	Year 13	
	Mr M Bewley	Year 12	
	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Head of Year:	Mrs S Hedgecox	Mr S Graham	Miss D Samways
Deputy Head of Year:	Mr T Foyle	Mrs M McNulty	Miss L Bowley
	Mrs M Peukert	Miss H Burton	Mr T Rolph
	Mrs F Kirby	Mr A Sammons	
Guidance Leader:	Ms C Morgan	Mrs C Kelly	Miss J Gosling

A list of teaching staff can be found on the website.

SUBJECT CO-ORDINATORS

Mrs A Davies	Art & Design	Miss E Bright	PE
Miss G Higgins	Drama	Mrs G Allner	Business Studies & Economics
Mr B Trevorrow	Music	Mrs J Josic	Law
Ms E N'Cube	Dance	Mrs S Hedgecox	Sociology
Mrs H Greening	Design and Technology	Miss K Loveless	Psychology
Mr R Davison	Modern Foreign Languages	Mr F Price	ICT
Miss E Moss	Science	Mr T Lansdale	Maths
Mrs D King	English	Mrs G Bunker	History
Mrs C Sellway	Theology & Ethics	Mrs N Bramley	Geography

SEN/Education for Everyone Coordinator:
Headteacher's PA:

Miss H Rowden
Miss L Pointer



THE GOVERNORS

The Governors of Thomas Hardy School are:

CO-OPTED GOVERNOR

Dr Rachel Turberville-Smith (Chair)

Mrs Sophie Duke

Miss Zoe Hopkins

FOUNDATION GOVERNORS

Mr Ross Cumber

Prof Hugh Griffiths

TEACHER GOVERNOR

Mrs Genna Bunker

SUPPORT STAFF GOVERNOR

Mr Mike Faulkner

PARENT GOVERNORS

Mrs Christina Hancock

Mrs Eva Lewis

Mr Rob Heathcote

HEADTEACHER

Mr Nicholas Rutherford

CLERK TO THE GOVERNORS:

Mrs Sarah Parry

SCHOOL POLICIES

ADMISSIONS TO THE SCHOOL

Students are admitted to the Thomas Hardy School in accordance with the Governing Body's Policy for Admissions.

At present the school is significantly over-subscribed. If you wish your child to be considered for admission please contact the Headteacher.

A full copy of the School's Admissions Policy can be found on the school website.

OPEN EVENINGS

These are held in the summer term for all parents of students in Year 8 moving up to the school in September. Their child will visit the school in the summer term to meet their new tutor and members of their tutor group and to experience lessons for a day. This helps them to become familiar with the school before joining later in the year.

POLICY INFORMATION

Copies of all school policies can be found on the Thomas Hardy School website.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The School believes in a well-organised community, emphasising a positive atmosphere based on care, courtesy, common sense and self-discipline. Respect for each other is expected from everyone and bad language is not acceptable at any time. No one should ever seek to hurt another or misuse or damage their belongings.

REWARDS

Personal achievement is the best way to develop responsibility. High quality work, helpful service to the school community and excellent attendance are recognised and rewarded by special postcards home, merit cards and ties.

Outstanding work is recorded in the Book of Excellence and the student receives a personal letter of commendation from the Headteacher.

LEAVING THE PREMISES

A student needing to leave the premises during the day must bring a note from their parents or guardian informing their tutor. The tutor will then authorise a pass. The student must always report to the School Reception with the pass to sign out and in.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A parent must complete a Leave of Absence form from the student's College leader. The school does not approve holidays taken during term time and absence will be "unauthorised".

VALUABLES

Students are advised not to bring valuable items onto the school premises. The school accepts no responsibility for their loss or damage.

MOBILE PHONES

For Years 9 - 11, we are a phone-free school. Parents who wish for their child to bring a phone to school will need to purchase a Yondr lockable pouch. All smart phones and smart watches must be stored in these during the school day and then unlocked at the end of the school day. Urgent calls may be made by students from the School Office on request. Examination Boards will disqualify any student if they are found to have a mobile phone in their possession during an examination.

SMOKING

Smoking and vaping is forbidden on the school premises and when approaching or leaving school; no student should have tobacco or vaping equipment and if found they will face the appropriate sanctions.

SANCTIONS

Withdrawal of privileges or detention may be used to make a point about a student's behaviour whether in, or out of, the classroom. Detentions may be given, and parents will be given 24 hours' notice of any detention after school; they will also be informed if a student has been excluded from lessons at any time.

The ultimate sanction is suspension or exclusion; this is rarely imposed but is especially relevant where the health and safety of students or staff is put in jeopardy.

FOOD AND DRINK

Food can be bought from the Canteen for lower school students, and from the Sixth Form snack bar. Space is available in the dining room and theatre for eating packed lunches. The Canteen and the Sixth Form cafeteria are run by the school and use locally sourced food.



NOTES

CONTACT INFORMATION

THE THOMAS HARDYE SCHOOL | QUEENS AVENUE | DORCHESTER | DT1 2ET

HEADTEACHER: Mr N. St J. F. Rutherford

TEL: 01305 266064

www.thomas-hardye.net

Year 9

Head of Year: Mrs S Hedgecox

Deputy Head of Year: Mr T Foyle

Mrs M Peukert

Mrs F Kirby

Guidance Leader: Ms C Morgan

Year 10

Mr S Graham

Mrs M McNulty

Miss H Burton

Mr A Sammons

Mrs C Kelly

Year 11

Head of Year: Miss D Samways

Deputy Head of Year: Miss L Bowley

Mr T Rolph

Guidance Leader: Miss J Gosling

Attendance
for all year groups:

Ms A Trafford
01305 266064



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