



# The Thomas Hardy Sixth Form

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): For students who are about to start year 12**

*Students will receive information about the start of term, including their enrolment form later in July.*

### **1. When will staff be available to discuss enrolment?**

Firstly, look through these FAQs, we may have the answer to your question. If not, staff will be in school on GCSE results day (August 12<sup>th</sup>) between 9:00am and 2:00pm and again from the start of term, September 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **2. What do I need to do with my enrolment form?**

- a. Bring it with you on Enrolment day.
- b. Fill in section A. If your options are changing, please fill in a brief reason why.
- c. Fill in section B. Please indicate all of your GCSE results, including any grades for courses completed last year. You need to bring your statement of results with you so that we can confirm the grades that have been written down.
- d. Write down your UCI and ULN numbers down. These numbers can be found on your statement of results. These numbers are used to identify you throughout your education.
- e. Fill in section C. If you have any career intentions, then please let us know. It will help us advise you on the course combination that you have selected.

### **3. I can't find my UCI or ULN numbers.**

Look carefully on your statement of results, they should be there. However, if you took your GCSEs at a private school, you may not have one or either of these numbers. If this is the case, please bring proof of your identity (Passport/Birth Certificate) with you to Enrolment Day.

### **4. What if I don't get the required grade in one of my subjects to enrol on a course?**

You will need to have the specific course requirement to enrol on a course. If you have not met this requirement, then there could be other courses on offer that you could study. Have a careful look at the online prospectus for ideas. Look for a course that you will both enjoy and have met the entry requirements for. Please check the [entry requirements](#) information sheet and the [option pools](#). However, please do not worry as there will be someone who can help you with these decisions and finalise your programme of study on Enrolment Day. If in any doubt, please come to Enrolment Day. Staff will discuss with you about reasons as to why this grade may not have been met.



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## 5. Can I change one of my subjects?

Yes, you can. Often students change their mind following their results and experiences since making their application. Have a careful look at the online prospectus for ideas. Look for a course that you will both enjoy and have met the [entry requirements](#) for. Please check entry requirements using this information sheet, you will also need to check the [option pools](#). Carefully consider what you will study and how you will be assessed. Fill in your ideas in section A of your enrolment form. Come ready to discuss a change of subject with the enrolment team. They will check everything with you and complete section D of your form.

Changes to options are subject to their being a space on that course. We will confirm your choices after everyone has enrolled. All original choices will be honoured subject to the entry requirements being met.

## 6. Can I change one of my subjects after enrolment day?

It is not recommended that students change courses once they have started. However, especially because we had to cancel Taster Day, there will be a window of opportunity to swap courses in the first three weeks of term. Students will need to have a meeting with one of the sixth form team to discuss why a change is happening and we will do our best to support you.

## 7. What if my GCSE grades are not quite as I hoped they would be and I now cannot enrol on my chosen subjects?

Have a careful look at alternative course outlined in our prospectus. Check the course grade requirements to see if your GCSE grades meets them. We would still like to see you on Enrolment Day when you will be able to receive expert advice and guidance about your next steps. It We know how challenging the last year has been with the pandemic. Your GCSE teachers will have worked hard to ensure that you are awarded an appropriate grade this summer and it is this grade that we must use to confirm entry onto courses.

## 8. I don't think one of my exam results is correct?

You can apply to the school where you completed your GCSEs for a Centre Review. The deadline is 3<sup>rd</sup> September. We will have to make enrolment decisions based on your current results.

## 9. I would like to sit some of my GCSE exams in the Autumn.

When you have enrolled on to your new courses you will be embarking on the next stage of your education by taking new level 3 courses. Therefore, we do not recommend that you opt to take any GCSEs and instead focus on your new courses. The only exception to this guidance is the requirement for any student who has not yet achieved a grade 4+ in English language or mathematics.



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## **10. I do not have the correct entry requirement for a course. If I chose to take the Autumn examination, will I be enrolled on a trial?**

No, once enrolled on a course you will be expected to complete it. The results from the Autumn exam series will not be known until January and at this point in the year it would be far too late to change your programme of study. Therefore, it is so important that we enrol you on the right courses for you this September based on your results this Summer. All students are moving on to new, Level 3 courses and you should be looking forward to this exciting time in your education and not looking backwards.

## **11. The courses I want to study are in the same option pool. Can I study both courses?**

Unfortunately, it will not be possible; we are really sorry about this. All lessons in an option pool effectively take place at the same time and clash with each other. You need to select a combination of three courses from across the four option pools. Look carefully, many subjects appear more than once so your combination could still be possible. Due to the number of multiple classes that we have, it means that we can offer a wide combination of courses.

## **12. How many courses do I have to study?**

All students in year 12 should be “full-time” and the general rule is that you should have a programme of study that is equivalent to three A Level courses. For some students this could be a combination of A Level courses and Professional Pathway courses.

The BTEC Diploma Business course is a double option. This course could be combined with an A-level or a single professional pathway course.

If you are concerned or unsure, please attend Enrolment Day when a member of the enrolment team will be able to help you.

## **13. Can I study four courses?**

Yes, this is possible but a member of the enrolment team will need to discuss this with you on Enrolment Day. Most students will study the three A Level or equivalent and this remains the standard offer for all universities. There needs to be very good reasons why students would study four courses. Students with very high academic performance (a large number of 8+ grades) sometimes consider the four course option.

Students who take Further Mathematics should always study the equivalent of four A Levels as this gives them the same breadth of choice as all other students.

## **14. I am changing my options, should I still complete the Summer Task for the courses I applied for?**

No. We want you to complete the summer tasks for the courses that you are going to enrol on and it is these tasks that will need to be submitted. However, you can complete other tasks for your own information. Some students do this to get a “feel” for the different courses and help decide about what course to enrol on.



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## **15. If I change an option on Enrolment Day, will I have time to complete the summer task?**

Yes. Each task is designed to take 3 – 4 hours to complete. They also do not have to be submitted until the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> September. This should give you plenty of time to finish a task for any last minute change. We do recommend that tasks are completed before term starts for the courses you are most likely to enrol on. If you leave all three until the last minute, then you will put yourself under additional pressure.

## **16. I have received an enrolment form. Does this mean that my place has been confirmed for September?**

No it hasn't, not yet. All places will be confirmed once you have your results and bring them in to be verified on Enrolment Day. We send the enrolment forms out before we break-up for our summer holidays. Please keep your form and the letter sent with it safe and bring the form with you to Enrolment Day.

## **17. I have not got a grade 4 in English and/or maths. Does this mean that I can't come to sixth form?**

Not at all, however it may affect what options you can enrol on. Please take a careful look at the [entry requirements](#). If you are uncertain in anyway then we still would like you to come to your Enrolment Day. Our expert staff will help advise you on the best possible pathway

If you have not achieved a 4 in English/maths then you will have to re-take these courses. You will have taught lessons on your timetable, on top of your three main choices. We hope that you achieve these qualifications in year 12.

## **18. I'm not sure if I am with any of my friends in my new tutor group?**

Your enrolment form will indicate the initials and name of your new tutor. You will not meet your tutor and the group until Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, but in the meantime, you can ask your friends which groups they are in. We have worked very carefully to ensure that you are with at least one of your friend requests. If we have not got this quite right for you, please do not worry. Instead speak to one of the sixth form team on your Enrolment Day and we can work with you to ensure you are happy in your new tutor group before term starts.

## **19. I do not have any career ideas. Is that a problem?**

No, not at all. The vast majority of students will not know what they want to do in the future and this is perfectly normal. The important thing is to pick subjects that you enjoy, are good at and will keep options open for you. However, if you are fortunate enough to know what you want to do in the future then please tell us. For certain aspirations there will be courses that could be essential that you study.



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## 20. What should I wear to Enrolment Day and sixth form?

Clothing should not be untidy, immodest or revealing. The Sixth Form dress code can be found on the policies section of the Sixth Form website and will be given to you at the start of term.

## 21. How long is Enrolment Day?

On your form it will indicate what time you should come in. The times have been staggered over the day to help with social distancing (if required) and to give you the time to make important decisions. For a lot of students, the process will be relatively quick and you may only be in school for 10 – 15 minutes.

## 26 Do parents/guardians attend enrolment day?

Usually for enrolment, students will attend on their own and for any potential social distancing we must limit the number of visitors on the school site. If you are confident that you have the required entry requirements and are keeping your options the same (or only making a minor change) then we ask that only the student comes to enrolment day. However, if students are concerned about the options available to them, then one parent or guardian can attend the enrolment if they wish too.

## 27 I can't make the enrolment day. What should I do?

It's really important that all students attend at their allocated time on Enrolment Day. This is when we can confirm your place in the Sixth Form and the courses that you will be studying. There are lots of staff available on that day to help you with your decisions. If, in exceptional circumstances, you cannot attend Enrolment Day, but do wish to take up your place then please email [sixthform@thomas-hardye.net](mailto:sixthform@thomas-hardye.net) to inform us.

## 28 When do my lessons start?

The start of term for year 12 students will be Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 8:50am. At your enrolment you will be told where to go to on the Friday to meet your tutor. Your tutor will cover some of your induction in the morning and we hope to have an assembly with you.

During the morning you will be given your timetable and lessons will start after the morning break. The school day will end at 3:30 pm. Lessons continue there on.

## 29 What do I need to bring on my first day?

For sixth form study it would be a good idea to have a well-stocked pencil case. We would also ask you to bring your own paper and a large ring binder folder for each of your subjects would be very helpful. If you are studying maths or a scientific based subject a specific calculator will be required, these can be purchased from the maths department. More specific information can be found on some of the summer tasks.



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## **30 I'm a parent and I would like to speak to someone, who should I contact?**

Your son/daughter's tutor will be your first and main point of contact from September 3<sup>rd</sup> onwards. In the meantime, you can email [sixthformteam@thomas-hardye.net](mailto:sixthformteam@thomas-hardye.net) Please be aware that this email account is only monitored during term time and you may not get an immediate reply during the summer holidays.

## **31 I have tried ringing the school but not got through to anyone.**

The office is only staffed generally on results days during the summer holiday. The ideal time to contact us is on results day or enrolment day.

## **32 I do not wish to take up my place at The Thomas Hardy School, Sixth Form. What do I need to do?**

We are always disappointed if someone does not wish to take up their place. If there is anything that you would like to know, that would help answer any queries you may have, then please contact us on [sixthformteam@thomas-hardye.net](mailto:sixthformteam@thomas-hardye.net)

However, if you have firmly decided to not take up your place then please do let us know. We really appreciate if you can give us a reason too. This will help us with our planning for future years. Please email [sixthformteam@thomas-hardye.net](mailto:sixthformteam@thomas-hardye.net)

## **33 I had extra time or other support in exams for my GCSEs. Will this continue in year 12?**

It is highly probable that this will continue in sixth form. However, it is really important that you tell us about the access arrangement that you had, even if you were already at The Thomas Hardy School. There is a [form](#) which is on our website. Please print this off and return it to school in September. This will then action the E4E department to make a few quick checks and ensure that you get your access arrangement if it is still required.