



Week 4 – 26 September 2014

Calendar

29 September – 3 October
September – Week A

Monday 29 September

School Photographs

Tuesday 30 September

AM Reg – Y12 Assembly

PM Reg – Y13 Assembly

6pm – Governors L&A Committee

Wednesday 1 October

AM Reg – Y9 Assembly

PM Reg – Y7 Assembly

5 – 8pm – Open Evening

Thursday 2 October

AM Reg – Y10 Assembly

Friday 3 October

AM Reg – Y11 Assembly

PM Reg – Y8 Assembly

We have an exciting week coming up at Tallis. We're just putting the finishing touches to our plans for Open Evening on Wednesday when our primary school friends come and see if they'd like to join us. If you are a Year 6 parent reading this - we hope very much that you will. If you are a Year 7 parent reading it, please tell us if there is anything that would be useful to pass on to others in the same position. We are also open every Tuesday morning for visitors: prospective parents and students are very welcome to see us at work without the embellishments of Open Evening.

On 30 September we are delighted to be hosting an important training and information session for headteachers across the borough and beyond when Sir John Dunford comes to talk to us about the Pupil Premium funding and the most effective ways of spending it in school. John is the Department for Education's Pupil Premium Champion. That may not sound exciting to you, but it is to me!

Thank you for all your support!

Mrs Roberts, Headteacher



As is customary each year we open our doors to all those children and parents who are pondering which secondary school to choose. Everyone is welcome and we hope get a flavour of what we are about through meeting staff and our wonderful students. We understand how big a moment this is in everyone's lives so we've designed an evening that we hope makes that choice a bit easier.

Children and parents will hear from our Headteacher, Mrs Roberts, and one of our Deputy Headteachers, Mr Tomlin. After that the very capable hands of our student guides will lead a tour of the school where other learners will be showcasing the learning that goes on in subject areas, supported by our excellent teaching staff. Obviously on that tour our guides will readily share what life is really like. Added to all of this children and parents will also get the chance to experience the tastes of Tallis, with sample menus available to try.

We look forward to welcoming so many of our guests.

Mr Walsh, Head of Year 7 & Transition

Supporting our most able mathematicians

I would like to publicly thank one of our most successful ex-students, Leilah Forward, who is about to start her second year at Mansfield College, Oxford. She has been coming in to school and working with three current Year 13 mathematicians who are applying to Oxford, Cambridge or Imperial University this term. As a group they have been looking at MAT (Mathematics Admission Test) questions, getting ready for the examination and enjoying the challenge of discussing some very advanced mathematical problems. Last Friday they worked through their lunch hour together as they were having so much fun!

Ms Harding, Maths Department

How to help your child to learn the times tables

Encourage your child to become more confident with their times tables, by playing tables recall games with them and testing each other, maybe when you are on a car journey or together at home.

- There are materials on the [mathsisfun](#) website that can be printed out and made into posters to be displayed in the bedroom or around the home.
- There are also [different tricks and tips](#) you can use to aid learning of tables, because unfortunately, memorising all the times tables is the ultimate aim!
- There are numerous fun ways to support the learning of timetables on the mymaths website. Your child will know the school password and log in details. [Here is one example of a great game](#) where tables are used in an amusing way, called the sum bash game. [Another is snakey sums](#)

Ms Harding, Maths Department

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Year 7 Welcome Evening - 22nd October

Now that we've started to settle in to our routines and our newest group of learners are finding their feet we think it's really important to meet with all of our partners in the home who we could not do what we do without their support: you, the parents and carers.

I'd like to invite you all to come along and meet us. You'll get a chance to hear from Mrs Roberts, who will tell you about her vision for Tallis. You'll also hear from our Deputy Headteachers, Mr Greig and Mr Tomlin as well as our Assistant Headteacher, Ms Coppins, who will talk to you about learning and teaching as well as the pastoral structures. Added to that, Mr Nicholls will talk to you about something very exciting and bespoke to Tallis: Tallis Habits. Of course I very much look forward to speaking and meeting with you too as well as introducing you to the most important people in your child's day to day life at school; my excellent tutor team.

We hope it builds upon what you discovered last year at the Open Evening as well as what you have heard from the experts: your children. Community is really important to us here at Tallis and it is with this in mind that I would very warmly welcome you to come along and meet us and make new contacts and, I hope, friends.

Mr Walsh, Head of Year 7

Local History Project

A group of 30 Year 8 students have been taking part in a research project on local history. They have been working with staff from Manchester University and Runnymede Foundation in the project aimed at providing some suggestions for the Department of Education on the shaping of the new KS3 History curriculum.

The students were taught film-making skills by a professional producer and sound technician so they could make their videos on some aspect of local history that interested them. They also went to the Greenwich Heritage Centre to research local archives and work with a local historian on how to develop their research skills. They went on a walking tour of Blackheath to find out about how the area developed over time.

The students have put together a number of videos on local history which included interviews with staff who have lived in the area for a long time and looked at how the area has changed as a result of migration. They included stories about how their own families came to the area and how local landmarks such as Charlton FC changed over time as well as how their street has changed over the last 50 years.

Following on from all this work in the summer term the students will be going to an exhibition at Goldsmiths College on 2 October where their finished work will be exhibited to academics. In November the group have been invited to the House of Commons to hopefully present their research and talk about what they learned from the project to a group of MPs and to meet with the staff and students from the two other schools involved from east London and Manchester.

Mr Quigg, History Department

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Sports Results

English Schools Cup

Year 9 3-7 Deptford Green
Year 10 5-1 Saint Cecelia's
Year 11 0-3 Whitgift School

Mr Muirhead, PE Department

Literacy across the Curriculum

“Literacy arouses hopes, not only in society as a whole but also in the individual who is striving for fulfilment, happiness and personal benefit by learning how to read and write. Literacy... means far more than learning how to read and write... The aim is to transmit... knowledge and promote social participation.”

- UNESCO Institute for Education, Hamburg, Germany

Our community wants to achieve the highest standards in reading, writing, speaking and listening skills for all. Children are in command of sophisticated technology, and ensuring we equip them with the literate skills to navigate this dynamic and ever changing world is increasingly important. Throughout the year there will be a variety of activities with a literacy focus to challenge pupils on their journey towards independent thought and lifelong learning.

I will be leading a number of initiatives throughout the year, and would welcome your comments and ideas. My email is: avitte@thomastailis.org, or my extension is: 3053.

Ms Vitte, Literacy Coordinator

School Grounds/Car Park

You will be pleased to hear that we have been able to reopen the side entrance gates to the school. However, large areas remain fenced off where the grass has been reseeded and this is likely to be the case for the rest of this term.

The school has very limited parking on site for both staff and visitors. Therefore, I would ask parents and carers that if you are visiting the school for any reason, can you please park outside on the surrounding roads. We have had a number of incidents of illegal parking on site which has serious implications for the health and safety of both students and staff within the school. If you are one of the many users of the after school activities run by GLL at the Tallis you should not be using the school car park until after 6 pm. Please do not queue at the gate waiting for 6 pm as this causes traffic chaos on Kidbrooke Park Road.

Mrs Maskell, Business Manager

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HOW TO HELP MY CHILD - ENGLISH

One of the best ways you can help your child do well at school is by helping them to enjoy reading for pleasure – whether they like magazines, newspapers, novels or comics. Research shows that children who enjoy reading do better at school, and that parents play a key role in helping to develop this love of reading.

Recent research into the reading skills of 15 year olds across the world found that children who are more interested in reading do better at school than those who don't read for pleasure. The study also found that parents who talk to their children about books, TV programmes and films help to keep their children interested in reading.

Having books, newspapers and magazines around at home also made a difference to how interested children were in reading.

Instant ideas for helping your child to love reading:

- Let your child choose what to read, rather than choosing what you think they should read.
- Encourage your child to read magazines, comics, newspapers and the internet as well as books.
- Talk to your child about books or magazines you haven't enjoyed, as well as things you love.
- Read together. Try picking reading material about interests or hobbies you share, like your football team or a place you have visited together. 10 minutes a few times a week will make a difference.
- Buy books as presents. Don't forget TV tie-ins and books about interests such as computer games or bands.
- Remember that your child is reading when they are looking at bus timetables, menus, instructions, TV guides and the internet.
- Help your child to find books they will enjoy by joining the public library, if you are not already members. It is free to join and many libraries have CDs and DVDs that can be borrowed very cheaply, as well as many different types of books that can be borrowed for free.
- Some libraries close to Thomas Tallis School include:

BLACKHEATH LIBRARY

Old Dover Road, SE3 7BT

ELTHAM CENTRE LIBRARY

Archery Road, SE9 1HA

CHARLTON LIBRARY

Charlton House, Charlton Rd

WOOLWICH LIBRARY

The Woolwich Centre,
Wellington Street, SE18 6HQ

- Try some skimming and scanning together. Skimming is when you read through a piece of text quickly to find out what the main idea is; scanning is glancing through a piece of text to find a specific piece of information. You can do this with a newspaper – perhaps ask your child to find something out for you. Why not ask them to scan a newspaper for news about a favourite footballer or to find out the weekend weather, or get them to skim read a recipe to tell you the basic steps?
- Help your child to work out what an unfamiliar word means by getting them to read the rest of the sentence and look for clues.
- Help by testing your child when they have spellings to learn, and by encouraging them to look up words they don't know in a dictionary.

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Some websites that you might find useful are:

[Achuka](#) is an independent children's book site that has something for everyone.

[Booktrust](#) promotes children's reading and produces a wide range of information for young readers including booklists.

[First News](#) is a news website aimed specifically at young people.

[Reading Is Fundamental, UK](#) is an initiative of the National Literacy Trust that offers parents advice and help on reading with their children, and also has a section for teenagers.

[The Thomas Tallis English Faculty blog](#) features links to interesting and relevant articles as well as important English Faculty news and examples of students' work.

YEAR 8 THORPE PARK REWARD TRIP



On Friday 19 September, 60 Year 8 students went to Thorpe Park as part of the reward trip that was put in place in Year 7. They were accompanied by Mr Walsh, Ms Wells, Ms Nwidag and Ms Mohammed.

These students achieved 100% attendance and 3 sub-level of progress in both English and Maths in Year 7. Quite an achievement! We left school at 8.30am and travelled to Thorpe Park by coach. After a briefing the students went on their way to enjoy the attractions.

We came back to Tallis at 4.00pm and all had a wonderful time. This reward trip is in its second year and is becoming very popular. The current Year 7 is very aware of the trip and so far the attendance in this cohort has been really good. Could the reward trip be the motivator?

Mr Brunoir, Deputy Head of Year 7

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