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To All Parents and Carers

Dear Parents and Carers

I am afraid that I am writing to you again about safety after school. First, in relation to the shops on Rochester Way known as the 'Dover Patrol'.

As I wrote last year, many of our students visit this area before or after school to use the shops or buses. We are concerned that some students use it as a meeting place after school. It is not a safe place for young people to linger because there is drug dealing and potential violence: our young people are preyed upon by older youths unconnected to Tallis. Please tell your child to avoid the Dover Shops and the area around it. There are other shops to go to and other bus stops.

Second, the Local Authority has asked us to warn all students to stay out of General Gordon Square in Woolwich after school. There have been disturbances involving large numbers of school children and police, and some school leaders have been asked to go to the square to identify young people. Thankfully, police do not think anyone from Tallis has yet been involved and I want to keep it that way.

We take the safety of our young people very seriously, as well as the good name of Thomas Tallis School. The overwhelming majority of our students behave in an exemplary manner and we are very proud of them. I take the strongest possible action against young people who are involved in misbehaviour in this area.

We have the power to discipline young people
while they are wearing school uniform or if they are behaving in such a way as to:

- *have repercussions for the orderly running of the school*
- *pose a threat to another pupil or a member of the public*
- *adversely affect the reputation of the school*

(Thomas Tallis School Behaviour Policy 2015)

We expect students to follow instructions given by staff if they are in uniform outside of school. This is particularly true when meeting in groups at Dover Patrol and the surrounding area.

We are grateful for the support of parents and carers in keeping students safe and in good order after school. Please tell your sons and daughters to keep themselves safe and protect their future at Thomas Tallis by avoiding the Dover Patrol shops and, until further notice, General Gordon Square.

Yours sincerely

Carolyn Roberts
Headteacher

Shaun Brown
Deputy Headteacher, Pastoral