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3 July 2018

To All Parents and Carers

Dear Parents and Carers

Now that we have a newsletter and all the other means of communication I hardly ever write to you in the old way. This one is the annual end-of-year letter, about dates, times and events.

First, please find enclosed the full list of dates for next year. This includes the early closes for staff training. These sessions will occur on *one Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday* per half term. On these days students will leave school at 14.15. Once again, we will review this around Easter 2019.

There are also three dates before the summer when school will finish early for students:

On Friday 6 July, we will be celebrating with our Year 11 and Year 13 students during the afternoon and evening in our special leaving ceremonies. Therefore, Years 7 to 10 and Year 12 will be finishing school at 1.10 pm, after lunch.

Wednesday 18 July is the date for our first Tallis Community Showcase. Again, students will finish school at 1.10pm.

Friday 20 July is the last day of the year. Students will finish school at 12.30 pm after a big assembly. There will be no lunch this day; free school meals students will be able to collect their lunch from the canteen at break.

Second, we are having to increase our school meal prices. From September, it will be £2.40 for a standard school meal of 2 courses. In terms of choice and nutritional value we are confident that this is still very good value for money!

If you think your child may be eligible for Free School Meals, please ask at reception for details on how to apply, or you can apply on-line via this link <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Third, Holiday Learning Guidance - particularly for year 10! Mr Tomlin writes.....

There is plenty of research detailing that student learning can actually go backwards over the long summer break, particularly in maths. Whilst it is important that students do get a good rest ready for the year ahead, it is also vital that they keep their brains ticking over.

When year 10 return in September, there will only be 3 months until their mocks and 8 months before their final GCSE exams begin, so it is really important they are fully prepared. With this in mind, I have asked subject areas to set them a small amount of home learning over the summer period and would ask that you support your child to do this gradually over the six weeks rather than at the last minute. This should mean they come back to school feeling confident about their final months. Students should try to avoid too many computer games, phones, tablets and should do something active ie visit somewhere new, take walks, sports etc. More specifically, they should:

1. Read at least one book
2. Watch a GCSE pod a day for each subject in areas they find difficult
3. Do a little maths every day i.e. Mathswatch
4. Write something every week
5. Start researching what they want to do next ie. careers, A-levels, colleges etc.

I appreciate that encouraging teenagers to work in their holiday is a challenge, steady work is less stressful and more effective than panic. If they need any encouragement, you could remind them that they will finish their GCSEs before the end of June next year and will have an extra month summer holiday as a reward!

Fourth, GCSE Results Day – GCSE results will be available to collect from the school in the main hall at 10.00 am on Thursday 23 August.

The exams office asks students to email them with the details of how they would like to receive their results if they can't come into school to collect them on the day themselves. The various options are:

- Nominate a person, giving the person's name in their email. The nominated person will need to know the student's date of birth as a security question.
- Results can be emailed on the day, but we can't guarantee the time of the day this will happen, but usually by lunchtime.
- Results sent in the post

Please remember, whichever option is chosen, it needs to be organised with the exams office in advance of the day. Our exams office contact details are Exams@thomastallis.org.uk

I would also like to take the opportunity to promote our wonderful end of year school musical, Bussy Malone, which will take place from Tuesday 10 to Friday 13 July, complete with a full size two storey set, live band and splurge guns! Over 100 young performers will be acting, singing, playing and dancing their socks off. Tickets are available via WisePay or at reception. Adults are £5.00 and under 16s £2.00. You can bring a family of four for £10. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the show starts at 7.00 pm. It promises to be a spectacular show in our lovely Main Hall and I know that I can't wait to see it.

In a final note, and thinking ahead, we are beginning to consider as a school community how we might think and commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War through Acts of Remembrance on Friday 11 November 2018. We are aware that what often creates a meaningful link between the present and the past in such Remembrance considerations are local and personal stories that connect the two. In this respect we are extremely interested to hear from any family with a First World War family story that they would be prepared to share as part of our considerations for the Tallis Act of Remembrance. If this might be you, please write me a short email describing your families FWW story and whether you would be prepared to be contacted with a view to sharing such a story on the 11th November.

I hope you have a lovely summer when it comes. I wonder if the heat will last? School starts again for all students on Wednesday 5 September at 8.40am.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Roberts', written in a cursive style.

Carolyn Roberts
Head