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To All Parents and Carers

Dear Parents and Carers

How time flies: here is my annual end of year letter already, largely business about dates 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.

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

- Thursday 4 July is an early close for staff training. Students will be dismissed at 14:15.
- On Friday 5 July, we will be celebrating with our Year 11 during the afternoon in a special leaving ceremony. On this day, Years 7 to 10 and 12 will finish school at 13:10, after lunch.
- Friday 19 July is the last day of the year. Students will finish school at 12.30 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, Holiday Learning Guidance - particularly for year 10! Mr Curtis-Brignell 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 independent 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 i.e. visit somewhere new, take walks, sports etc. More specifically, they could:

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 using their revision workbooks (but do the work on paper, not in their workbooks)

inquisitive • collaborative • persistent • disciplined • imaginative

4. Write something every week
5. Start researching what they want to do next i.e. careers, A-levels, colleges etc.

I appreciate that while 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!

GCSE results will be available to collect from the school in the main hall at 10:00 on Thursday, 22 August.

If students cannot come into school to collect their results, the exams office asks students to email them with the details of how they would like to receive them. 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.

Third, we are having to increase our school meal prices. From September it will be £2.60 for a standard school meal of 2 courses. We apologise for this, and 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>

I hope you have a lovely summer when it comes. School starts again for all students on Wednesday, 4 September at 8:40.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Roberts
Head