



End of term newsletter

THOMAS
TALLIS
SCHOOL

July 2014

A welcome from the Headteacher

2014-15 starts early at Tallis (see term dates at the end of the newsletter) and I am delighted to introduce our new Newsletter! This will be weekly, and full of interesting bits and pieces so that everyone knows what's happening and what's new. I hope you enjoy it – do let us know!

Mrs Roberts, Headteacher

Piano recital

On Thursday last, 17 July, we held a recital to launch our new grand piano in the hall. 27 performers of many ages held our audience spellbound as they played everything from Chopin to Hendrix. The final performance was from Tom Savage, a Tallis old boy who has just graduated. Our guest of honour who snipped the ribbon on the piano was Alan Davey, Chief Executive of Arts Council England. He talked to us about his experiences not learning music in school, and the work of the Arts Council in supporting education and community groups to widen participation in music and the arts. Our guests were parents, governors and friends of the school – people who support us and are in partnership with us in one way or another: local businesses and community groups and people whose work involves supporting music and the arts among young people.



I talked about our aim for next year, which is to give instrumental lessons to everyone in Year 7. We think this will offer to children of all backgrounds the pleasure and personal development that musicianship can bring. While we can (just about) afford the project in 2014-15, school funding is always unpredictable. So, as we handed out little mementoes of the evening to our guests, I asked them to pass their experience and our good name onto people who might be able to support us with time or money for our piano and our project. Do spread the word!

Parent Forum

We had a parent forum on Monday 14 July. The notes taken of the discussions are available on the school website.

Staff Leaving July 2014

We have several staff leaving Thomas Tallis, for various destinations and careers paths. Thank you to all for your support.

- **Paul Edwards** Mr Edwards has been here since 1986 and for the majority of his time he was Head of ICT. Two years' ago, Mr Edwards gave up teaching in the classroom and worked part time supporting the school in setting up our internal communication systems. I hope Mr Edwards enjoys his retirement.
- **Martin Dean.** This is not a farewell to Mr Dean in any sense other than he is moving from our Leadership Group to teach part time in our DT department. The Leadership Group's loss is the children's gain as he devotes himself to them in his run up to retirement.
- **Denise Armstrong.** Ms Armstrong joined the school in 1995. She is a fabulously experienced Head of Year and she will be missed enormously. She has had great relationships with generations of Tallis young people and their parents. My thanks and very best wishes to Ms Armstrong.
- **Ben Macdonald.** Mr Macdonald has been at the school for 14 years and has been a Head of Year for a number of years. I wish Mr Macdonald success as he moves to another school to be Head of Geography.
- **Rachel Burnett.** Ms Burnett has been a key member of our DT department for more than 13 years and is now leaving education to spend more time on her art. I wish her well.
- **Janine Shelley and Steve Ormston.** Ms Shelley and Mr Ormston are leaving Tallis and moving abroad to teach in an international school. They have been at the school for 12 years and 10 years respectively. They leave behind the maths and history departments who have benefited from their expertise. I wish them well in their new venture.
- **Paul Avery.** Mr Avery was appointed Deputy Head at a time of great turbulence for the school and worked phenomenally hard as pastoral deputy. He has moved on to further his career at another school in Essex and I wish him every success.
- **Lindsey Rayner.** Ms Rayner was also appointed Deputy Head at a time of great turbulence and together with Mr Avery played her part in seeking to rebuild the leadership of the school. I wish Ms Rayner every success for the future.

We also say goodbye to the following colleagues:

- Ms Thomas – Head of Deaf Support
- Mr Rodwell – Business/ICT
- Mr Seddon-Dyer – Business/ICT
- Mr Belver – MFL
- Ms Strilchuk – Science
- Ms Gilmour – Science
- Mr Brighthouse – SCALI
- Ms Wilks-Hamid – Office Manager
- Ms Mortlock – Cover Supervisor
- Ms Sadler – Cover Supervisor
- Mr Kelly – Cover Supervisor
- Ms Bayliss - LSA

Exam results

Details of Sixth Form Results Day and how it will work are on the Post 16 website – tallispost16.com

Enrolment 2014

Enrolment for new Year 12 students takes place over two days this summer.

We can't enrol you unless you have previously been interviewed by us and we have offered you a place.

On Thursday 21 August 11.00 am - 3.00 pm, we will enrol those who meet the (higher) **recommended** entry requirements in *at least two* of their subjects.

On Friday 22 August 9.00 am – 1.00 pm we will enrol those who meet the (lower) **required** entry requirements.

Please check details on the Post 16 website (tallispost16.com)

Mr Bradshaw, Head of Sixth Form

PE News

It has been a busy year for PE and Sports at the school!

Winners of Sports Day 2014:

- 7 DE
- 8 CC
- 9 JK
- 10 JJ

Year 9 boys won the Blackheath Cup (Football), Year 7 girls came 2nd in the Inter school Netball Tournament and we hold the [World Record in the World Marathon Challenge \(Save the Children\)](#).

Ms Dedman, Deputy Curriculum Leader of PE

Sixth Form

The Sixth Form is racing to the end of another busy year. Year 12 students have spent the last month beginning A2 courses and setting up work to carry forward over the summer. The Thomas Tallis Record of Achievement Ceremony which took place early in July was a smashing way of seeing off our Year 13 students, on their way to university, arts college, and the job market.

Mr Bradshaw, Head of Sixth Form

Tour de Greenwich

A group of Year 7 students and staff set out on last Monday on two wheels to discover the local area. All students had completed level 2 of the cycle training and this was their reward. We cycled through the park along by Greenwich University stopping off to visit the beautifully painted chapel and then along the river to the O2 for lunch. The highlight for most was the trip across the river by cable car (and yes, you can take your bike). The students showed great resilience, particularly riding up the hill, and it was rewarding to see them so enthusiastic about such a sustainable mode of getting around.

Ms Crook, MFL Department

Year 12

With some familiar and many new faces, Year 12 got underway last September. Throughout the year there have been many exciting opportunities, such as the Question Time session chaired by our Head Carolyn Roberts, which included our local MP! This was followed up with students participating in Progression Week, where they visited a variety of top universities and Arts Colleges, such as UCL, Oxford, Chelsea and UCA. This was all finished off with AS Level Drama, AS Level/ BTEC Music performances, as well as the annual Fashion Show, which showcased the many talents of our students. These are just some of the events and activities our students have been involved in or led on. It has been a busy year and we look forward to welcoming the new Year 12s in September.

Mrs Odd, Head of Year 12

Year 10

Year 10 have been involved in a number of projects this year.

In January, they had a day working with Peace Child International on developing skills they would need for work experience; the year group then had two weeks' work experience in February.

This project led to 24 students taking part in a skills development programme with Peace Child where they organised a series of events for Year 7 students and showed how they had developed skills such as communication, organisation and motivation as well as team work.



Directions Day took place on Monday 21 July; students were able to take part in A level taster sessions with teachers at Tallis, followed with a theatre production by the RARA theatre group on options. In the afternoon, students looked at post 18 options where they had talks with universities, FE colleges and apprenticeship providers and then attended a careers fair in the sports hall.

A group of Year 10 students also visited the Science Museum to help Ms Mawer with the launch of SMART AMP, a new software programme designed to help students learn and collaborate. The launch was a global internet event covered by many digital media stations.

4 Year 10 students also took part in an expedition to Nepal doing some work with a school and having an opportunity to experience life in the country as well.

Mr Quigg, Head of Year 10

Year 8

It has been a busy year for Year 8. We have had a change in Head of Year; trips to Wrotham, Wales, the Tate and the local area. This was also the year students made their Option choices. The students were mature in their choices and are looking forward to Year 9.

Ms Gallagher, Head of Year 8

English Department

One of the English highlights this term has been our annual trip to Yorkshire with Year 12. Mr Bradshaw, Ms Church, Ms McGowan and Mr Talbot set off to Howarth and Whitby with 43 English literature students. The aim was to immerse ourselves in the gothic genre, read some classic texts (*Dracula* and *Wuthering Heights*) and marvel at the natural splendour of the Yorkshire moors.

Within KS3, The Carnegie Shadowing Group ran throughout the Summer Term, and involved eight top set English students reading the eight shortlisted books in only 11 weeks. There was much discussion about which book they preferred, with *The Rooftoppers* by Katherine Blundell coming out as favourite. However, the overall winner of the Carnegie Medal was the much darker *The Bunker Diary* by Kevin Brooks - popular with students but not so much with Ms Pollitt and Ms Church! All eight shortlisted books are available in the school library.

Four of the Carnegie students were lucky enough to win free tickets to the Young Adult Literature Convention on Saturday 12 July. They were accompanied by Ms Church to Earls Court Conference Centre, where they met a host of young adult authors, including Darren Shan, Charlie Higson and Derek Landy. The event was organised by the author Malorie Blackman, who gave a private audience to a small group of students, presenting them all with a free book!

Mr Curtis-Brignell, Curriculum Leader of English

International Collaboration in Maths

On 24 June 2014, Thomas Tallis School was visited by German students from a Berlin Primary school. The students experienced a maths lesson with Mrs Zeshan and Mr Robson. The lesson was about the links between maths and football. German students spontaneously got engaged with the starter activity where they matched the given data (football scores of four different teams) with representations in the form of bar-charts, pictograms and pie-charts. Next they were challenged to find the fractions of different colours within the flags of various countries participating in FIFA World Cup 2014. They also managed to make 3D models of a football by successfully cutting and folding nets of a dodecagon. It was an absolute pleasure for us to host the German students.

Mr Hordern, Curriculum Leader of Maths



MFL Fun Day

On Friday 18 July we had our first MFL Fun Day. Year 7 were involved in different workshops throughout the day combining their language learning with other areas of the curriculum.

The Art faculty organised a session where the students created their own Matisse and Picasso paintings. The work they produced was very impressive. We will keep their work on display around the school.

The Food Technology department taught the students how to make profiteroles. The room smelt divine, however the students refused to share their works of art!

The Dance department taught the students how to do the French Can-Can and Salsa dancing. It was a fantastic display. Many Year 12 and Year 9 dance students helped out too, which was really lovely to see.

The PE department put on some great activities combining physical activities with shopping vocabulary in French and Spanish. This brought out the students' competitive side 😊

The morning was rounded off very successfully with a musical interlude on the concourse where we had the pleasure of hearing some

Ms Crocker and the MFL team

afPE Quality Mark

Congratulations to our colleagues in P.E. for having achieved the **afPE Quality Mark** for Physical Education & Sport. The award is an endorsement of the high quality of provision in physical education that we provide at Thomas Tallis School, thanks to our dedicated team of talented teachers.



classical Spanish guitar music and some French pop music.

There are some photographs and a video available of the day's events put together by our very own photography and media students – these are available on the school website ([News > Tallis Photography](#))



The Year 7 students enjoyed the day, as did the teachers. It was a fantastic way to finish the year. I really enjoyed working with other departments and seeing the pupils working in different areas. The Year 7 tutors also commented on how lovely it was to spend a longer period of time with their tutees. I am looking forward to next year's MFL Fun Day already.

The Tallis Apprentice Challenge 2014



At the beginning of July it was time again for the annual Tallis Apprentice Challenge – a select group of Year 12 students found themselves competing amongst the schools best in central London in order to gain the award of being 2014's "hired" apprentice.

This two night residential, requires students to work in groups and each day they will be met in the morning by 'Lord Sugar' to find out the day's task. With tight timescales, students must work collaboratively and efficiently to be able to collate the necessary research and information needed to then return to the boardroom to deliver a presentation to external guest judges from the business world, in some of London's most iconic buildings.

Those students that deliver the best pitch will be the winners and individuals will also be recognised for their contribution, leading to a final award for the Tallis Apprentice winner of 2014. This residential is a fantastic opportunity for students to use and develop countless skills from creativity, confidence, presenting, team work, managing, communication, sales, and it is often an important contribution to their UCAS statements to show how they can stand out from others.

Some of the highlights from this year included the impressive boardroom setting where the presentations were delivered on the first day in Canary Wharf; one of the guest judges on the second day was the Vice President of Marketing at MTV and on the third day, after working on their communication skills with one of the judges, a student managed to arrange a work experience placement with NatWest over the summer. This year also included some cross curricular activities as some photography students were tasked with capturing the key moments from the second day's task, which added another level of intensity for the budding entrepreneurs.

It was a hotly contested year, with the winner being a consistently high performer, she possessed great team working skills and showed exceptional creativity; Leah Gouldbourne. Well done Leah!!



Wisepay

At Thomas Tallis School we encourage parents to use our on-line payment system, **Wisepay**, to pay for school meals, school trips and events. The system has been chosen above others as it is very easy to use and offers significant benefits to parents:

- Payments can be made when the school is closed.
- It is safe and secure.
- Own private account history available at anytime.
- Balances can be viewed 24/7.
- Quick and easy way to find information.
- No more searching for cash or your child having to carry large sums of cash into school.
- All major credit and debit cards accepted.

If you wish to know more please refer to the [school website](#) where you will find further information and guidance including the answers to frequently asked questions.

Deaf Support Centre

As we come to the end of a successful year in the Deaf Support Centre, it is time to reflect upon the highlights of this year.

- Benny Ngo and Kitty Keenan were two of many talented athletes who were involved in the schools world marathon challenge. Both students did extremely well alongside their hearing peers.
- Sophie Dalglish did extremely well in the Special Olympics, as a rhythmic gymnast she received a silver medal and had the pleasure of meeting Nicole Scherzinger from X factor.
- A theatre visit was organised to see puppetry in action where some of our DSC students were able to go behind the scenes and see how puppetry is used in retelling the story of War Horse.
- In May we celebrated Deaf Awareness Week, where the focus was to have the entire school community sign “Good Morning” by the end of the week. Each day staff and students from the DSC were visible out on the concourse break times and lunch times in promoting sign language through a number of different activities. The cake sale was a success, where contributions from staff and students raised £200 for our chosen charity “NDCS.”
- Towards the end of the year, our DSC students went on a three day residential to Hindleap Warren. This residential trip proved to be the highlight for a number of our students. Activities organised required our students to step out of their comfort zone, overcome fears and anxieties and work together to meet the challenges set before them.
- We say goodbye to six Year 11 students this year as well as the Director of the Deaf Support Centre, Jane Thomas. As they all embark on a new chapter in their lives, we wish them all continued success and happiness in the new direction life takes them.

Ms Cameron, Head of DSC

Staff Inset Day 7 July - "COMMUNITY DAY"

On 7 July staff undertook a staff training day focused on pastoral and community issues. The day started with a humorous but insightful video on community that is currently available to view on the opening page of the school website. The main thrust of the day involved all teaching and support staff being grouped into their new year teams, who then attended a number of different development sessions. The following is an example of some of the sessions delivered by a mixture of internal and external trainers.

- Beat Bullying – the school have engaged with the 'Beat Bullying' organisation to combat bullying this year.
- Behaviour Management – reminding staff on the best way to manage classroom behaviour.
- Anger management – understanding why students have these issues and how to best approach them.
- Pastoral systems and processes – examining classroom rules as well as class and whole school escalation procedures.
- Conflict Resolution - examining how conflicts can best be resolved sensitively and constructively.
- Rewards and habits of mind – a design thinking approach to developing a habits based rewards system.

The new September 2014 year teams also worked together to develop a number of community projects that will take shape throughout the year. These were broadly focused on our Tallis Habits and have taken the form of developing rewards, restorative practice, developing an understanding of Kidbrooke as a community, student voice, skills workshops, a community fayre, across year group mentoring and habits celebration assemblies.

All of these varied development sessions should help improve the community at Tallis even further next year and help develop staff and student expectations for September 2014.

Mr Tomlin, Deputy Headteacher

Year 7

The start of Year 7 always coincides with the end, such is the paradox of leading transition. The old adage 'as one door closes another opens' is true when I consider this time last year we had just concluded Headstart Day, where I welcomed our newest arrivals while at the same time I prepared to hand over a group to their new Head of Year who will take them from Year 8 to 11. This year was no different.

It is always with heavy heart that I see a group of young people pass over into someone else's charge; students who I have invested so much time, energy and love. However I do so confident that they have successfully managed one of the most difficult transitions in life, one that we all remember; the move from primary to secondary school.

The Tallis Habit most applicable to us in Year 7 must be 'Persistence'. Without this our Year 7s, and indeed parents too, could not have been as open minded to all of the innumerable challenges that have been confronted and overcome. It's customary in a newsletter to celebrate instances of success but how can this be limited to so few when

each day saw such impressive personal growth, both pastoral and academic. I prefer to celebrate our journey of what is an early juncture in secondary school life, but an incredibly important one at that.

I look at the current year and ask how can the next possibly be as good, though I remind myself that I thought the same last year. I have no doubt that the current Year 7s moving into Year 8 are amazing but, equally, I know our September arrivals will prove themselves to be every bit their equal. Nevertheless they have big shoes to fill - literally seeing how tall they've got!

Thank you to all the students and parents who have supported me this year and made it so memorable and, it has to be said, fun. I wish you all well and every success in the future, though I hope you spare an odd moment or two to look back and see where the journey started.

Bon voyage!

Mr Walsh, Head of Year 7

Performing Arts News

It has been a busy old year for Performing Arts once again!

- Recital Evening - An evening to showcase the exceptional music talents across our staff and students celebrating both our Grand Piano and Mrs Roberts' first year at Tallis. An invited audience from across the community and the professional arts world came together to enjoy this wonderful evening (see article on page 1 from Mrs Roberts).
- Shakespeare Schools Festival- A range of students from Year 7 to Year 10 embarked on a journey to perform Macbeth in the Shakespeare Schools Festival - the UK's largest youth drama festival, offering students from all backgrounds the opportunity to perform Shakespeare on their local professional stage. As a result of being so amazing, we were then asked to perform at a number of events including a VIP event in Southend attended by Prince Charles and Camilla.
- Sadlers Wells 'Step into Dance' live final - The Year 9 GCSE dancers got through to the live final of Step into Dance beating 180 other schools to perform in front of an audience of 1600 at Sadlers Wells.
- Cutty Sark Variety Night. We were asked to represent the borough as the **only** school in Greenwich to perform at the opening fortnight for the launch of the Cutty Sark Theatre Space. We created an amazing evening of Drama, Dance and Music showcasing a range of students from across the school.

There were also a number of other high quality, high profile performance opportunities for our students across the year. These include:

- Year 9 Teachers' Showcase
- Year 10 Shakespeare Showcase
- Year 12 examination plays
- GCSE examination plays
- Year 13 Devising
- Christmas Concert
- Band Night
- A Level Drama Showcase
- Dance Showcase
- Rendezvous Acoustic Night

Ms Carter, Curriculum Leader of Performing Arts

VMA

It's been a busy term in Visual and Media arts with Year 8 classes all going to Tate Modern for the day, our annual exhibition and 'Our City', the theme for this year's Fashion Show.

The annual exhibition contained submissions from AS/A2 photography and art and Btec media and art & design with enough excellent pieces to fill five rooms, two corridors and a props cupboard! The quality of work was truly impressive and showed student ingenuity, imagination and creativity at its best.

Then a week later came the Fashion Show, a cross curricular spectacular. This year's show was a joint venture between Visual & Media Arts, Performing Arts and Design Technology. Students from art & design, art, media, dance, music and graphics were co-ordinated by a Btec art & design team to produce an exciting and dynamic performance.

Ms Lemmer, Curriculum Leader of VMA

TERM DATES ACADEMIC YEAR 2014 – 2015

Autumn Term: Monday 1 September to Friday 19 December 2014

INSET Day – Staff Only:	Monday 1 September 2014
Tuesday 2 September 2014:	Incoming Year 7 students only and Year 12 Induction
Wednesday 3 September 2014:	School commences for all students
Break up for Half Term:	Friday 24 October 2014
Half Term:	Monday 27 October 2014 to Friday 31 October 2014
Return to School after Half Term:	Monday 3 November 2014
INSET Day – Staff Only:	Friday 28 November 2014
Break up for Christmas Holiday:	Friday 19 December 2014

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY:
MONDAY 22 DECEMBER 2014 TO FRIDAY 2 JANUARY 2015

Spring Term: Monday 5 January to Friday 27 March 2015

Return to School:	Monday 5 January 2015
Break up for Half Term:	Friday 13 February 2015
Half Term:	Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February 2015
Return to School after Half Term:	Monday 23 February 2015
Break up for Easter Holiday:	Thursday 26 March 2015
INSET Day – Staff Only:	Friday 27 March 2015

EASTER HOLIDAY:
MONDAY 30 MARCH TO FRIDAY 10 APRIL 2015

Summer Term: Monday 13 April to Friday 17 July 2015

Return to School:	Monday 13 April 2015
Break up for Half Term:	Friday 22 May 2015
Half Term:	Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May 2015
Return to School after Half Term:	Monday 1 June 2015
INSET Day – Staff Only:	Monday 29 June 2015
Break up for Summer Holidays:	Friday 17 July 2015
INSET Day – Staff Only:	Monday 20 July 2015
SUMMER HOLIDAY COMMENCES:	Tuesday 21 July 2015

BANK HOLIDAYS:	INSET DAYS:
Good Friday: Friday 3 April 2015	Monday 1 September 2014
Easter Monday: Monday 6 April 2015	Tuesday 25 November 2014
Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 4 May 2015	Friday 27 March 2015
	Monday 29 June 2015
	Monday 20 July 2015