



sent via email 19 June 2020

Dear Tallis Family

Here, as they say, is the news.

1. First, a change to our plans. We are very pleased with the way the y10 tutorial sessions have gone. Attendance has been high and both tutors and students have been positive, grateful to see each other before the summer break. It has been a relief to know that we easily have the capacity to bring in more students safely.
2. We will have year 12 in for the next two weeks, meeting with each of their subject teachers in small groups.
3. Encouraged by our success with year 10 we are going to bring **year 7, 8 and 9 back** in small tutorial groups too, before the end of term. Our plan for the moment is to have year 12 in for the next two weeks (wb 22 and 29 June) and then
  - a. **Year 8 on 6th/7th/8th July. Mr Brunoir will be in touch.**
  - b. **Year 9 on 9th/10th/13th July. Ms Dedman will be in touch**
  - c. **Year 7 on 14th/15th/16th July. Ms Rawlings and Ms Gallagher, their new Head of Year, will be in touch.**
4. As you'll see, this programme has 3 x 30 children in each day (3 tutor groups in 10s). This means that there are fewer than 40 students from any of these year groups on site at one time, even including our little crew of daily key worker children so we are well short of the 25% rule. Your child's Head of Year will be in touch soon, so please wait until you have received the arrangements before emailing to ask what they are!
5. We will also be sending reports out for the years who have not had a parents' evening this year: 7, 9 and 10.
6. From Mr Williams: we have two assemblies next Tuesday (23 June) for Y7 and Y8 and Wednesday (24 June) for Y9, Y10 and Y11, live on Town Hall at 3pm. These will be run as 'talking heads' assemblies, where students were offered the opportunity to send in any questions to be answered by their HOY. Students will be sent the links via their tutor on Monday, a reminder email will be sent on the day.
  - a. For Y7 and Y8 assembly, click the link Tuesday 3pm <https://tinyurl.com/TallisKS3Assembly1>
  - b. For Y9, Y10 and Y11 assembly, click the link Wednesday 3pm <https://tinyurl.com/TallisKS4Assembly1>
7. On **Friday June 26<sup>th</sup>** we will hold a virtual Year 11 Leavers' Ceremony. We're sorry it won't be like the usual event, which comes with strawberries and cream in a marquee and suchlike, but it is the best we can do. Ms Gallagher will send an invitation to the event which will be held online using the Teams software we use for big meetings and lessons. If you are worried about any aspect of this, please contact her.
8. Likewise, Ms Lumsden and Ms Astill along with the year 13 Student Voice group are working on a leavers' event on Friday July 3<sup>rd</sup>, of which more to follow.
9. Thank you for your continuing feedback about our lesson provision. We try to act on all the comments we get. We think we are improving things as we go along – and should we ever need to do this again, we would have a much better idea of where to start and what we can achieve. If I may be bold, would you please remember that the paper teaching materials are just as important as the online ones and encourage your children to complete and return them.
10. In case we are back to normal in September, *which we have no clear information about*, we are also going to **change the start of the 2020-21 year. This will only affect families of children starting in year 7 and year 12.** Given the extraordinary circumstances we find ourselves in, I want to put the needs of these new starters first and bring them in for a day's acclimatisation before the rest of the school. We will do this on Friday 4 September. I hope you think this is a good idea.
11. Ms Church sends you this survey about literacy from Bounce and the National Literacy Trust. It's aimed at parents during lockdown. If you would do it, the data will be very useful to look at. We think it will give a national picture and a school-specific picture.

There is also a student-only survey which it would be lovely if your children did, please?  
<https://www.bouncetogether.co.uk/national-surveys/literacy-practices-during-lockdown>

12. Ms Springer has made a Careers newsletter for year 11 which Ms Gallagher will send to students weekly. We thought year 11 parents might find it useful too so that you can encourage your students to look at some of the info  
<https://mailchi.mp/2678b6f8e58d/tallis-futures-5918520>
13. Tallis has joined the Greenwich Schools Sports Partnership (GSSP) Secondary Training, part of a consistently good Sport England programme. Our first task is to send out an information sheet to all parents which I've attached, and a request for all children to take part in a survey. All the information is in the documents and children will get the survey by email on 29 June. Sport England will then generate a report from the survey results for our use. It will help us to improve our PE curriculum and extra-curricular offers. We want as many children as possible to take part in this, so you may get this via e mail too!
14. I Hope that teachers and tutors are talking to children about The City of London Corporation's Virtual London Careers Festival which is happening for the second time this year between 29 June - 3 July 2020. Please would you encourage your child to take up this opportunity if it comes their way? There is an attachment.....attached.
15. ...and finally, today we have had an announcement about funding for a catch-up programme in 2020-21. I attach the government press release. We have no idea, of course, about how this will work and how much funding we will get at Tallis. The second document (EEF) is a set of FAQs about the proposed National Tutoring programme, which has one q and a about parents. In the small print you see that the funding for the tutoring is at 75% so schools will have to find the remaining 25% out of already-stretched budgets. However, a plan is to be welcomed! You will see from the release that the national intention seems to be building towards getting all children back to school in September. No doubt we will hear more, especially (as I finish this email) there has just been an announcement about the CV19 alert level being reduced.

With my very best wishes and continuing thanks for your continuing support.

Carolyn Roberts