



Sent via email 5 June 2020

Dear Everyone,

1. First of all, thank you to everyone who has responded to the Tech for Tallis initiative. <https://www.thomastallischool.com/ptfa.html>. We are delighted to have had offers of £ and machines – keep them coming! We hope to get the first ones out next week.
2. On that matter, the delay in the government's laptops-for-year-10 promise is not of our doing. They simply haven't arrived at the Local Authority, despite frequently-repeated promises. It is very disappointing and makes life harder for our many students who are in need of this support.
3. We are looking forward to welcoming year 10 for tutorial sessions week beginning 15th June. Parents should have all the information they need, I hope? If not, please contact us.
4. We have been thinking about racism and injustice this week, following the very troubling events in the US. Greenwich schools have had this message from the Director, Florence Kroll.

'I'm sure like me, many of you are concerned about your BAME children, families and communities, not just on a physical level regarding the impact of Covid 19 but the distress of the murder of George Floyd and the impact of racism on people's wellbeing.

With the global impact of the death of George Floyd please do all consider how you contribute to challenging structural oppressions and how you deeply listen to the voices of people of colour. Schools can be the very best places for our children to meet people from different backgrounds, learn about equality and discrimination and celebrate achievements of people from diverse backgrounds. We all have a responsibility to be not just aware of racism but to combat racism and actively be anti-racist. Education is the foundation of change. Let's all continue to educate ourselves to do better where we can, to try to find our voices and be informed.'

We are renewing our commitment to this at Tallis and re-scrutinising all of our work. Students will be thinking about this next week in their tutorial work.

5. We are beginning assemblies next week too: Mr Brunoir and I are going to do a whole-school assembly which will be pre-recorded and sent out for watching on Wednesday (if our current plan works). There will be year group assemblies after that.
6. On the matter of the disproportionate effect of CV19 on minority ethnic communities, I attach Public Health England's report on 'Disparities', in case you haven't seen it and would be interested to read it. Section 4 is about ethnicity and Covid-19 outcomes
7. I also attach some slides from Greenwich about Health and Safety in schools, which you may find interesting ('Coronavirus Presentation Schools Children and YP')
8. We had a remote staff meeting this morning and have been discussing learning, as you would hope!
 - a. We are glad that spreading the Teams lessons experience to younger year groups has been received well. I have asked staff to be very clear about the nature of lessons and how important it is for children to attend them. I've asked them to stop using the

term 'drop-in' as it makes children think that these sessions are optional and avoidable!

- b. We are also about to start using the scheduling system on Teams properly, I hope. This should mean that you can see your child's week in Insight in a way that will help you support their remote attendance and learning.
- c. I've also asked staff to make sure they stick to their timetabled slots for lessons, to avoid pile-ups!

It has been a troubling week for so many reasons. The prolonged remoteness of school life, and the pressures and anxiety bearing down on so many families and individuals are making this a real test of endurance. I sincerely hope that we are all back together soon.

With my best wishes as ever,
Carolyn Roberts