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8 October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Whilst we are all focusing on the run up to your child's final GCSE examinations, it is important that we maintain the reasonable standards we expect at Thomas Tallis school. Three particular areas seem to present the most potential for confrontation and we would ask you for your help in trying to avoid this in such a crucial period of school life.

Homework, revision and independent learning must be a major feature of your child's out-of-school life. They should be doing 2 hours work *every evening*. Please make sure that they do this.

We have noticed that some year 11 students appear to be wearing non-standard uniform. There is much greater detail on the website, however the simple expectations are black trousers (not jeans or leggings), the school polo shirt and a school sweatshirt or jumper. Please can you check that your child has the correct uniform before they leave for school in the morning and send them in with a note if, for any reason, there is an issue. We have a stock of newly bought and washed uniform in the pastoral office and will expect students to change into this if they are not in the correct uniform.

There is clear evidence that punctuality to school, as well as attendance, is linked to outcomes in GCSEs. This is likely because of the attitude of mind that is created when turning up late, as well as the potential for missing key messages at tutor time. Please can you make sure that your child arrives in school by 8.30 am. If they wish to arrive earlier, there are plenty of places for them to work or relax. Whilst traffic, buses, trains all present challenges, it is imperative that students appreciate the need to 'get an earlier bus', rather than risk being late. Students will receive escalating sanctions if they continue to be late and this is really something we should all aim to avoid in such an important year.

Thank you in advance for your support in these three matters.

Yours faithfully

Sharon Gallagher  
Head of Year 11

Tom Williams  
Assistant Headteacher