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To All Parents and Carers

15 October 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

We are sorry to write to you in such a serious vein.

We are concerned about the safety of our students in an area near school. The area is commonly known as "Dover Patrol" - the parade of shops on Rochester Way behind Susan Road. Many of our students visit this area before or after school, to use the shops or buses. We are concerned that a number of students also use it as a meeting place particularly after the end of the school day. We do not believe it to be safe place for young people to linger.

We have spoken to students regularly about this in assemblies and tutorials. We have reminded them that this area is beyond the school grounds and when they are meeting there outside of the school day, we cannot guarantee their safety, nor do we have responsibility for what happens there. Despite this, we are in regular communication with local shops and police about the Dover shops and have often visited the area after school hours to try and encourage positive community relationships.

We are asking you to tell your child to avoid this area. If your son or daughter needs to go there to buy things from the shops or get a bus home, please tell them not to stay there for any longer than is absolutely necessary.

We take the safety of our young people very seriously, as well as the good name of Thomas Tallis School. The overwhelming majority of our students behave in an exemplary manner and we are very proud of them. However, all of them need to know that we cannot supervise what happens so far away from the school gates. Although we have no responsibility to supervise this area we do have a responsibility to keep our community safe. I will take the strongest possible action against young people who are involved in misbehaviour in this area and we do have the power to discipline young people

while they are wearing school uniform or if they are behaving in such a way as to:

- *have repercussions for the orderly running of the school*
- *pose a threat to another pupil or a member of the public*
- *adversely affect the reputation of the school*

(Thomas Tallis School Behaviour Policy 2015)

Please tell your sons and daughters to keep themselves safe and protect their future at Thomas Tallis by not loitering at the Dover Patrol shops.

Yours sincerely

Carolyn Roberts
Headteacher

Shaun Brown
Deputy Headteacher, Pastoral