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Dear Tallis Family,

I hope that, where possible, you are remaining in good heart. Thankyou for remaining in contact with us and for your many messages of support and encouragement.

1. We will be open in a way over Easter. We won't put on lessons, but be open in case of *emergency*. If you are in this position, you should email Ms Kamei please on fkamei@thomastallis.org.uk .
2. If you are worried about safeguarding in any way, about any children who are part of the Tallis family, please also contact us on the same address
3. Online safety is hugely important in safeguarding and your children may be spending a lot more time online than usual. We want to support you so please take a look at the online safety resources on the website <https://www.thomastallischool.com/online-safety.html>
4.but the human reach is vital. In these strange circumstances I am asking tutors or others to make contact once a week with children even over Easter. Please, if a teacher phones or emails you and you miss the call, will you reply? We really want to know how the children are.
5. This whole experience is one big exercise in independent learning! Guidance for parents and student ones can be found here: <https://www.thomastallischool.com/schoolclosureresources.html>.
6. For the Easter holidays, no new work or curriculum contact will be set or made, but children should catch up with the things they haven't done, please. Diligent children may take the time off !
7. After Easter we will be sending a batch of work out on paper as well as continuing with the online provision. We know that 'access to IT' sometimes means phones or a single family machine, and we are anxious that everyone gets the work.
8. Year 11 are in a particularly difficult position in all this. I hope that year 11 teachers are providing guidance to students on how they should be spending their time. For some this will be preparatory reading for KS5. For some, who may not be expecting to reach grade 4 or above in English and maths it should include regular work in these areas. The requirement to retake maths or English at college if they score below a 4 is not likely to change.
9. Ofqual official guidance on year 11 and 13 assessment is awaited. Once it is with us, we will tell you what we are doing.
10. Some children with EHCPs might be feeling overwhelmed by the quantity of work on offer. Ms Kamei and Ms Cameron say:

What extraordinary times we find ourselves in. We are conscious that the situation we find ourselves in is challenging for parents and students alike and we are very keen to support you the best way we can. As you will be aware, teachers are using our online platform - Insight - to set work for students. We know that for some of our students the amount of work and expectation being set may be overwhelming and raising anxiety levels. We want to assure you that we understand these concerns and reassure you that there is no expectation that your child must complete all the work set on Insight. If your child feels that there are some activities they can do, by all means encourage them, however, if there are tasks that seem too challenging, please don't feel compelled that your child must complete them. Learning comes in different guises and so if you can find different creative ways to work with your child and for your child to learn please feel free to do so. The most important aspect of this season that we find

ourselves in, is that you find a way that works best for your child and family, where you can manage your lives in a balanced and safe way.

11. If you are a family entitled to free school meals and you have not had the voucher please check your email and ring reception.

On a broader note, may I say a word about the value of education without exams? It is only in recent times that the focus of education has been all about exam results. There is a real value in finding things out and getting to know facts and other stuff. The teenage brain needs to keep busy so that it develops the pathways which help adults lead fruitful and interesting lives and continue learning even when they are as old as me. For all students, time spent reading is well spent, whether that is fact, fiction or special interest information. PLEASE encourage your children to read, and investigate, and follow all the Tallis Habits, while we are parted!

On a sadder note

- Some families may have lost people close to you, and I am very sorry about that. Could you let us know? We would want to support children through this difficult time.

I'm sure I've missed something and will probably have to email again tomorrow. Sorry!

My very best wishes

Carolyn Roberts