



TALLIS 2014 2015

Newsletter

Week 13 – 5 December 2014

CALENDAR:

8 December – 12 December

Week A

Monday 8 December

Tuesday 9 December

- AM Reg – Y12 Assembly
- PM Reg – Y13 Assembly

Wednesday 10 December

- AM Reg – Y9 Assembly
- PM Reg – Y7 Assembly
- Y13 Parents' Evening 3.30 – 6.30
- PTFA Meeting, Gallery 7.30 – 8.30

Thursday 11 December

- AM Reg – Y10 Assembly

Friday 12 December

- AM Reg – Y11 Assembly
- PM Reg – Y8 Assembly

It was good to see so many of you at the Winter Concert last night. We had a wonderful evening with a very wide range of performances and styles, a credit to the children, parents and the Music Department. If you've never been to one of our concerts, do think about coming to one. They are uplifting. I hope that most of the young people who want locker keys have now been issued with them.

If your son or daughter has chosen not to ask for a locker, you might talk to them about how they intend to manage their kit, coat and everything else?

It is getting colder and I'd remind you again that students may only wear Tallis jumpers and cardigans in school. They are easily available from Whitehalls in Lewisham.

We had a wonderful Community Day last Thursday and then staff had a very good training day on Friday. We were looking at the action research into classroom practice that we will do this year, and how to assess, now that the national curriculum levels that we've all grown so used to, are being removed. On the matter of assessments in the form of reports, Mr Fyfe has developed a new format for our interim reports and is keen to get parent feedback on it. Do let us know what you think. Likewise, attendance at Parents' Evening (Year 10) was a little lower than we are used to, so we'd be glad of some feedback about that too.

We have Year 11 mock exams next week. Good luck to them!

Mrs Roberts, Headteacher



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twitter.com/creativetallis

flickr.com/photos/tallisphoto

Barriers to learning

What barrier to learning has this person overcome?



Answer on back page



Sports News

Fixtures

Thursday 4th

Year 10 Boys vs Skinners Kick off 2.15pm Home
Inner London Round 2

Friday 5th

Year 11 Boys vs St Bons
London Cup Round 1 Kick off 2.15pm Home

Monday 8th

Year 7 Girls vs Harris Academy Green
Away Kick off 2.30pm

Year 7 Boys vs Bishop Challoner

English Schools Cup Round 4 Home Kick off 2.30pm

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Tuesday 9th
Year 8 Boys vs Queens
English Schools Round 5 Away Kick off 1.00pm

Wednesday 10th
Year 12/13 Vs Prendergast Ladywell Fields College
Blackheath cup quarter final Home Kick off 2.00pm

Thursday 11th
Year 9 Boys vs John Roan
Blackheath Cup Round 1 Home Kick off 2.15pm

Friday 12th
Year 7 Girls vs City Academy
Inner London Cup Round 3 Home Kick off 2.15pm

Tuesday 16th
Year 7 Boys vs Correlli College
Blackheath Cup Round 1 Away Kick off 2.30pm

Thursday 18th
Year 9 Boys vs Stepney Green
Inner London Round 2 Home Kick off 2.00pm

Results

Boys Football
Year 7 Boys 0-2 Carshalton College

Year 8 Boys 2-0 Bacons

Girls Netball
Year 8 girls netball 3-18 Kingsdale

Mr Muirhead, PE Department

PTFA

A reminder that there is a PTFA meeting at 7.30 pm in the Gallery on Wednesday 10 December with mulled wine and mince pies. All new members welcome!

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Year 11 Mock Exams

Students will be in school from 8:40am until 1:10pm; they only need to stay after this time if they have an exam in the afternoon.

Students must be in full uniform and ensure they are aware of the regulations regarding examinations – the exams will be invigilated by external staff, not teachers. Students will need to follow all instructions of the invigilators.

School will run as normal for the final week of term.

Mr Quigg, Head of Year 11

Weekly Newsletter

We are in the process of setting up an email service which would send out an email each week when the newsletter is published. If you would like to subscribe to this email please use the link [here](#) or the link on the school website (on the newsletters page).

#Findyourvoice

#Useyourvote

Exciting times are ahead in the Tallis community. Just two weeks until we elect our whole school council.

Year Councils have been voted in and have met officially for the first time. Each year group will now elect two students from the Year Council to represent them on the Whole School Council. It has been wonderful to see students involved in making decisions and being proactive within their school environment. Their ideas, energy and drive for change are what will make this student council a success.

Elections will take place in the final week of this half term and will be run in much the same manner as any other election with ballot boxes, an electoral register, voting booths and all that is involved in the democratic process. The Sports Hall will be transformed into a voting station each lunchtime for the week and each year group will be given a specific day on which to use their voice and vote.

Remember even if you are not part of the Council you still need to play your part and vote. It is very easy to be blasé about your right to vote and take a "whatever, who cares" kind of attitude about it, but you shouldn't brush this great honour off so quickly. In some countries people are literally dying to be able to cast a ballot and make a difference. Being able to vote is a privilege and if you don't use your vote you lose your right to complain, so please encourage your son or daughter to vote, use their voice and get involved.

Ms Kelly, School Council Coordinator

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Community Day – 27 November

On Thursday 27 November we had our first Community Day. The usual timetable was suspended and students across the school took part in activities relating to the theme of Choices. The day was hugely successful with students and teachers alike.

We welcomed a wide variety of visitors into the school to talk about their areas of experience and expertise. One of the favourites was Lee Cheney, a guest from Stonewall who spoke about his experiences of being gay. He was an inspiring speaker on the theme of diversity and inclusivity. Students were hugely respectful and asked excellent, interesting and intelligent questions.

Another was Martin Cross, a gold medallist in rowing at the 1984 Olympics, who spoke to Year 11 about motivation and personal legacy.

The Year 12 debating competition was also hugely exciting and we have established an annual trophy for the winning tutor group!

A huge thanks to everyone who was involved and we are looking forward to the next opportunity to work together in such a creative and collaborative way!

Ms Springer, Head of Guidance

Year 7 Community Day

A bit like Phileas Fogg, minus the circumnavigation of the whole world in eighty days, our intrepid Year 7s spent their community day exploring different parts of our capital city, as part of the theme 'Choices'. Their verve was at least the equal of Fogg, Columbus, Polo, da Gama, Armstrong or any other explorer setting off on an adventure.

All 270 students, located in their nine different tutor groups, exited Tallis and made their way to Kidbrooke train station to journey to their designated place, to include: The Science Museum, The Natural History Museum, The Tate Modern, The Museum of Childhood, HMS Belfast, The Royal Observatory and Richmond Park. All returned safely and by all accounts acquitted themselves admirably, being a credit to the year and indeed the whole school.

The very root of the experience was to further enable the amazing bonding that has been going on since our lovely Year 7s arrived, where their belonging to the tutor group and Tallis as a whole was further solidified and future memories safely banked, to be used amongst friends and families when recounting days of yore at secondary school.

In Armstrong's words days like these are 'One small step' but as part of the bigger picture on our travels through schooling I would hope it becomes an aspect of a 'giant leap' in future directions.

Mr Walsh, Head of Year 7

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Year 8 Community Day

We had such fun on Community Day! It was a delight to have so many activities taking place across the school but especially in Year 8. Students spent the morning exploring future career options playing 'The Real Game' and 'Fast Tomato.' They quickly moved on to creating and capturing futuristic careers such as a Zombie Catcher or a Doctor that travels back in time healing people (well, they never said it had to be original?). They ended the day making paper aeroplanes, thrown off the walk way, to symbolise their hopes, dreams and wishes on their next steps in school and beyond!

Ms Hodgson, Head of Year 8

Year 9 Community Day

The theme of the day for Year 9 was Choices and had a largely Citizenship/PSHCE focus.

The day consisted of 4 workshops-including Anti - Social Media Conflict in the World, Drug Prevention and Education-and each workshop was delivered by a guest speaker. The students' approach to the day was excellent. I visited each workshop and each tutor throughout the day. The students were engaged with each of the speakers and were able to ask informative questions and hold interesting discussions.



The final part of the day required the students to reflect on the day through a piece of art- a small selection is shown here.

I hope to be able to piece together all the individual art work and make one big picture of the day and I will hopefully have more news about this in a later addition of the newsletter.

I spoke with the students in assembly this week and congratulated them on how well they conducted themselves - well done year 9.

Ms Gallagher, Head of Year 9

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Year 10

The Year 10 students enjoyed the Community Day with the main highlight being the talk from the guest speaker who came to speak about his experience of working as an actor and about his sexuality. The students found his talk to be open and frank and this was the first time that they had experienced somebody speaking about their sexuality and they were pleased to be invited to ask questions which they had planned before. They found that being spoken to in a mature manner made them feel at ease, and they felt that were able to learn a lot about sexuality and the implications of excluding a person for their sexuality.

Ms Minnicucci, Deputy Head of Year 10

Year 12 Community Day

Thursday 27 November was the day where Year 12 partook in a debating challenge, where each tutor group would debate over a particular topic. Each tutor group was given the role of either the proposition or the opposition, and they had 30 minutes to research and prepare. In the debate, there would be a chair, who would introduce the debate and a time keeper. In the debating teams, there would be 3 main speakers and a 4th person who would advise the speakers (this person was not allowed to speak during the debate). Each speaker had three minutes to make their point, and after one minute, the other team could interrupt them. Then in the last 30 seconds, the opposing team could no longer interrupt the speaker.

The first motion of debate was 'Hollywood has a lot to answer for'. My tutor group took the proposition side and I was on the panel for this debate, playing the role of the lead speaker. The debate was certainly 'heated' if you will, and my tutor group won by a very small margin. In the second debate, the motion was 'Violent video-games should be banned'. Much to the disappointment of my tutor group, we found we were again taking the side of the proposition, as a large population of the tutor group claimed they could easily argue why they shouldn't be banned. However, after half an hour of exhaustive research, we were ready to debate. I decided not to be on the panel for this debate, but to be the advisor, taking notes on the opposition's argument and constructing other arguments to be used against them. Unfortunately, my tutor group did in fact lose this round of debating, meaning we were officially knocked out of the tournament.

We then watched other debates taking place, and some were extremely interesting, with strong points being made from both sides. For the final debate, I was given the role of Chairman. The motion of debate was 'Society would be a better place without organised religion' (a slightly controversial topic to say the least). I was slightly on edge because it was possible that the two sides would go head to head in a full on 'Who Can Shout The Loudest' contest. Fortunately for me this did not occur, and the proposition side came out on top, as I had predicted.

Joe Linkins, Year 12 student

Year 13: Progression Planning

We had a really productive time on Community Day. Students took part in a range of workshops depending on the progression route they are taking.

Our arts college applicants were working on their portfolios all day with a visiting artist from Camberwell College of Arts alongside The Art College Co-ordinator. The work consumed the art corridor and spilled out in all its forms. Our guest was exceptionally impressed by the calibre of our students, and their art work.

The apprenticeship students met with the prospects advisor, and a visiting speaker from The National Organisation of Apprenticeships, where the students explored different routes as well as the nuts and bolts of applying. They all have follow up one to one meetings this term and next with Beatrice Joseph, our Prospects advisor, to firm up their post16 plans.

The vast majority of our students are applying to university, and over 100 have now sent their applications. The offers are rolling in, and several students now have their five offers to choose from!

Our Oxbridge applicants also met with journalist and academic Rev Giles Fraser for mock interviews, as well as taking part in a "thinking aloud" session on logic problems.

Ms Lumsden, Head of Year 13

Reading support for students

Every Tuesday, during morning registration, all staff and pupils are collectively reading. To help all pupils engage and think a bit more deeply when reading, they can adopt this template. It includes modal verbs, in addition to the 5W's+How. By incorporating the two, pupils can think of a wealth of questions about the text prior, during or after the reading process. This will help them retain more information.

Feel free to try it with a book of your choice or your children. I hope you tried your own in-house D.E.A.R Time!

Ms Vitte, Literacy Coordinator

BrightSparks A Level Music trip to the Royal Festival Hall

The trip was to the Royal Festival Hall on London's South Bank to learn about Neoclassicism in the music of Stravinsky and Poulenc, two of the 20th century composers that we are studying for A level music. We listened to live performances of both composers performed by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. There was an accompanying seminar which analysed each piece.

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra are amazing. It was great to hear the pieces performed live, rather than listening to it through speakers in a classroom. It had the feeling of a concert which was exciting and there was a full orchestra which meant we could see the instruments being played. It gave a physical sense to the music.

We had already studied the works being performed but we got lots of additional information, especially about the lives of the composers and context of the musical works. Neoclassicism is music written in the 20th century music, but based on earlier styles from the classical and baroque period, given with a 20th century twist through addition harmony and instrumentation. The music was performed by a modern day symphony orchestra but also on early instruments such as the harpsichord. It was interesting to see the different styles of the performances and to learn more about how music has developed over time.

The seminar helped us understand the music better as each piece was broken down into sections to give a clear understanding of the analysis process. There were presentations that showed how the harmony was created and explained the structure of the pieces, paying particular attention to instrumentation. As the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra were performing this has inspired us to go to more orchestral **concerts**. It makes such a difference to watch a live performance - to see as well as hear the instruments being played. It is an incredibly powerful sound.

Year 13 Music students

Barriers to learning

Jonathan Adams has Cerebral Palsy

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