Weekly Newsletter

**Week 1 – 5 September 2014**

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| **Calendar****8 – 12 September – Week B** **Tuesday 9September** PM Reg – Y12/13 Assembly **Wednesday 10 September** AM Reg – Y9 AssemblyPM Reg – Y7 Assembly **Thursday 11 September** AM Reg – Y10 Assembly **Friday 12 September** AM Reg – Y11 AssemblyPM Reg – Y8 Assembly |

# Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to this first Friday newsletter.  We will put something together every week for parents and friends of the school, and it will appear by Friday afternoon every week.  Do let us know what you think of it!

Anyone who has been into school will have seen that we have made some changes to our reception area – in that we have redecorated and worked with students to try to make our front door reflect the creativity of the rest of the school.  We hope you like it.

You know that we work to develop Habits of Mind here at Tallis to help our young people become engaged and lifelong learners.  The first theme for this year is **INQUISITIVE** where we are focusing on developing

* wondering and questioning,
* exploring and investigating,
* challenging assumptions.

Those of you who are new Tallis parents will be doing lots of those things as this term begins.  If there is anything that we are not explaining clearly enough, please let us know.  Emails sent from the website always reach us and we will always reply to you.

Most of the newsletter will be put together by staff with particular responsibility for aspects of our communal life, and it will be a combination of celebration, information and reminders.  If you want to know what I’m thinking about, educationally speaking, I write a fortnightly blog piece most of which appear in the Sunday Times Online. It’s always on the school website too.

Have a great year!

Mrs Roberts, Headteacher

**Show My Homework**



We are delighted to be able to announce that we have launched a new online service which we will be using to set and publish all homework.  In the next week you will receive personal log in details for your son/daughter and for one for each household.  For the moment you can access it from the homepage of the school website and click on the button that says Show my Homework (the same as the logo above).  We expect all homework to be set this way, and staff will also check in homework.   We will send an important letter home containing the login details in the next few days, and you will be able to use this login to see the homework your child has been set, and also to see if they have handed it in or not.  We will be showcasing this through various events in the next few weeks and months, and will update you about new ways we are going to be using.

Mr Greig, Deputy Headteacher

**Uniform**

It is lovely to see the sea of Tallis turquoise now that everyone is back.  We are making sure that young people follow our uniform requirements this year, so will you please have a look at the information the website if you are uncertain.  In particular, we need our young women to wear skirts that are about knee length, and trousers that are formal, school-type trousers.  They MUST NOT be skin tight, leggings-style or jeans.  We are sending young people home who are not properly dressed, as is commonly done in many schools.

Ms Coppins, Assistant Headteacher, Pastoral

**Drainage works**

During the summer break work began on site to resolve the drainage problems the school has been experiencing since we moved into the new site 3 years ago and which have resulted in students not being able to use certain recreation areas because of flooding. Unfortunately, the works have overrun which has necessitated the closing off all the access gates other than the main gate, for health and safety reasons. The school is working with our partners G4S and Balfour Beatty to expedite the finishing of the works and the removal of plant from the site. The works involved digging up a large part of the grassed areas which will now have to be reseeded and fenced off for the rest of the autumn term. As a result, we are arranging for secure fencing to be erected around these areas and once this is in place we will be in a position to open all access gates once again.

Mrs Maskell, Business Manager

**Year 7**

A huge welcome from all of us here at Tallis to our new Year 7s and their respective families. In due course I will meet you and I'm looking forward to that. Equally I usually make a point of writing once a term where I share some of our many successes, so I expect us to get well acquainted.

The start has gone really well albeit with a few teething troubles. The biometric system for cashless payment of lunches has had a blip and we are working on fixing it, though we have made sure all children had a free lunch; in the meantime we will ensure that students are dismissed early from period 3 to so that they all manage to eat. Aside from that everyone is in their tutor groups, planners and timetables have been handed out and explained as well as a bit of orienteering around the building. Intrepid steps on so many levels!

So that all parents are aware school does indeed begin at 8.40am, where the register is then taken. We like to welcome the students into the classrooms from 8.30am so as to settle down and into the day. The school day finishes at 3.10pm although assemblies on Wednesday afternoons usually overrun by about ten minutes due to the logistics of getting everyone in and out in a calm and orderly fashion, so I hope I can have your support on this. However, those on the school bus will leave at 3.10pm.

All that is left to say is thank you for getting everything ready for the beginning of our great adventure and I look forward to all of our young people’s numerous successes.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Mr Walsh, Head of Year 7

**Stretch and Challenge**

*“If parents want to give a gift, the best thing they can do is teach their children to love mistakes, by enjoying effort, and keep on learning”* - Professor Carol Dwek

I am happy to introduce myself as the new co-ordinator for ‘Stretch and Challenge’. This will absorb what has previously been known as ‘Gifted and Talented’.

One of the big ideas that underpins Tallis Habits, is Professor Carol Dweck’s *Growth Mindset.* This research shows how everyone can become more successful learners.

I will be providing workshops towards the end of this term that will explore how we can work together to support our young people.

Watch this space, but in the meantime please do get in touch if this has spiked your curiosity.

**Ms Phillips, Stretch and Challenge Coordinator**

**School Library**

Welcome to a new academic year in the Library. The Library is located on the second floor room 2-625 above the Main Entrance and spread over 2 floors with the lower floor accessed by an internal staircase from the main floor. The lower floor is home to a range of resources for our Post 16 students to support their studies and reading for pleasure, while the main floor holds the resources for our younger students.

The Library is continually developing to meet the needs of our school community. We aim to provide a welcoming, safe environment, in which students can read and research effectively. We recognise the need to offer a stimulating and encouraging environment to provoke and satisfy curiosity. We offer a wide range of resources which are designed to supplement the main stream curriculum and promote literacy and learning. We are also keen for students to use the Library for reading for pleasure and we seek to actively promote reading as a valuable and enjoyable leisure activity.

The Library opening hours are as follows:
Monday 8.00am - 4.30pm
Tuesday 8.00am - 4.30pm
Wednesday 8.00am - 4.30pm
Thursday 8.00am - 4.30pm
Friday 8.00am - 4.00pm

For any enquiries or suggestions please contact us.

Mrs J Hall – Learning Resource Centre Manager jahall@thomastallis.org.uk

Ms A Hatch - Assistant Librarian ahatch@thomastallis.org.uk

**Wisepay**

At Thomas Tallis School we encourage parents to use our on-line payment system, Wisepay, to pay for school meals, school trips and events. The system has been chosen above others as it is very easy to use and offers significant benefits to parents:

* Payments can be made when the school is closed.
* It is safe and secure.
* Own private account history available at anytime.
* Balances can be viewed 24/7.
* Quick and easy way to find information.
* No more searching for cash or your child having to carry large sums of cash into school.
* All major credit and debit cards accepted.

If you wish to know more please refer to the [school website](http://www.thomastallisschool.com/wisepay-payment-portal.html) where you will find further information and guidance including the answers to frequently asked questions.

# Calendar 2014 – 2015

Please find below a reminder of the term dates for 2014/15.

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| **Term**  | **Dates**  |
|  |   |
| **Autumn Term**  | Monday 1 September to Friday 19 December 2014  |
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| **October Half Term**  | Monday 27 October to Friday 31October 2014  |
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| **Christmas Holidays**  | Monday 22 December to Friday 2 January 2015  |
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|   | **Inset Day Monday 1 September 2014**  |
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|   | **Inset Day Friday 28 November 2014**  |
|  |   |
| **Spring Term**  | Monday 5 January to Friday 27 March 2015 |
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| **February Half Term**  | Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February 2015 |
|  |   |
|   | **Inset Day Friday 27 March 2015**  |
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| **Summer Term**  | Monday 13 April to Friday 17 July 2015 |
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| **Summer Half Term**  | Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May 2015  |
|  |  |
|  | **Inset Day Monday 29 June 2015** |
|  |  |
|  | **Inset Day Monday 20 July 2015**  |
|  |  |
| **School Year Ends**  | Friday 17 July 2015  |
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