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Dear Parents and Carers,

Subject: Year 9 important dates: Options Evening, in-class assessments, and Parents' Evening

We hope you are well and wish you a Happy New Year! It has been wonderful welcoming the children back this term and seeing so many continuing to think hard in lessons and exploring the new knowledge they have been learning since they started in Year 9. This letter is to share dates and details of upcoming key events for Year 9 this Spring term.

Options Evening on Wednesday 14 January

The first event is Year 9 Options Evening on Wednesday 14 January from 16:00 to 17:30, starting with a talk in the hall followed by the opportunity to learn more about different subject areas, the GCSE courses available, and the process for applying for these later in the year. The Options Evening will give children useful information about potential courses, prior to their in-class assessments.

In-class assessments from Monday 19 January to Friday 30 January

In-class assessments will take place across lessons from Monday 19 January to Friday 30 January. These will cover content and skills learnt since Year 9 began their time at Tallis. Information will be shared with children in assembly, and they will be prepared in lessons. Additional preparatory work or revision may be set on MCAS, and they will be told which of their lessons will be dedicated to the assessment. Some subjects will set more formal assessments, whilst others focus on evaluations of work completed in lessons.

Parents' Evening on Wednesday 4 March

The results of these assessments will be shared with you at Parents' Evening on Wednesday 4 March from 15:45 - 18:30, when we will have the opportunity to discuss potential GCSE courses before applications are made. Please keep this date free as it is an expectation that every child has a parent or carer attend. Appointments will be made available to book online via SchoolCloud, and further information about how to log into the platform will be emailed to you before the end of this half term.

We will be having another set of more formal, externally set core assessments after Easter, in the week beginning Monday 27 April, and end of year tests are scheduled to take place in the week beginning Monday 15 June. We will write to you closer to the time with more details of topics to revise and how you can help children with their revision for these more substantive assessments.

We understand that assessments may cause worry for some students, so please remind your child to talk to their teacher, form tutor or one of us, if they have any concerns.

Thank you for your support and please contact either of us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Gordon
Head of Year 9

Katherine Walsh
Deputy Head: KS3 and T&L