



Kidbrooke Park Road
London SE3 9PX

t: 020 8856 0115
f: 020 8331 3004
www.thomastallischool.com

Head: Carolyn Roberts
e: headteacher@thomastallis.org.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers

Year 14 Students

Welcome to Year 14

We are writing to you to clarify our expectations of your child as they approach their third year of sixth form. Our 'Year 14' students usually feature amongst our most successful students, but there are some pitfalls to alert you to.

Firstly, we would like to congratulate your child on finishing some of their A-level courses. We trust the exams went well.

What happens from now until the end of term

However, your child is also almost at the half-way point in at least one other subject, due to be completed in June 2019. Therefore, for the remainder of this academic year Year 13 students who want to progress into Year 14 must attend all Year 12 lessons until the end of term, July 20 2018.

We reshuffle Year 12 students into Year 13 tutor groups on Monday 9 July and our three days of Progression Week activities start on Tuesday 10 July. During this week your child will meet their new tutor and tutor group, and consider a range of progression plans. Please find enclosed a copy of the letter regarding Progression Week, and please sign and return the trip form immediately.

What happens next year

Next year your child will be on a reduced timetable. Each A-level course usually amounts to a day's teaching each week, split most often into two a.m. or p.m. sessions which will most likely be on different days. Our past experiences of students on reduced timetables is that some struggle to establish a clear study routine. Our very strong recommendation is therefore that a student pursuing one A-level should study hard in school on every day that they have timetabled lessons on, and these should be full ones with no am or pm B's on these days to ensure time for revision and exam practice. Students who take this approach are normally able to be completely on top of their classwork and independent work for their remaining subject, and have the other days to spend in other pursuits such as part-time work or further work experience focused on their progression plans.

Our expectations for next year are clear. We need your child's attendance to remain above 95% to all lessons and scheduled Registration periods. If attendance drops below 90% we automatically take such students off roll. We really want to work with our Year 14 students to help them triumph in their exams and progression plans, but they must want to work with us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Lumsden

Head of Year 13