

## 16 to 19 study programmes

## Outstanding

- The school has a large, highly successful and very well organised sixth form, which continues to build on its strong, long-term track record. It is competently and enthusiastically led.
- Sixth-form teaching is outstanding. Teachers are very adept at helping students to think deeply, find solutions, and develop the higher skills and understanding needed for A level and equivalent courses. Staff know the examination and qualification specifications very closely.
- For example, teaching in physics engages pupils in challenging investigations about electricity. Well-tailored support and advice enables students to take the initiative.
- Staff promote English and mathematics skills very effectively. Students who need to retake GCSE examinations in these subjects fare well.
- The sixth form is highly inclusive. It offers a very wide range of academic and practical subjects. Students' attendance rates are high.
- Students feel secure and looked after. They behave very well and are enthused by their learning. They have many opportunities to help others. They do much to support younger pupils in the school, as mentors for example.
- Students generally make excellent progress in their courses, fully complete them, and achieve very strong grades at A level and in vocational subjects.
- Students with SEND, including those entering from the school's specially resourced provision, are provided for and achieve well.
- The sixth form is very popular and oversubscribed. Students like the structures and systems of the school alongside some of the freedoms of a college. Most Thomas Tallis Year 11 pupils transfer to the sixth form, and it also recruits high numbers of external entrants. The transition from Year 11 to Year 12 is carefully and successfully managed. Many students travel long distances to the school and see their attendance as a privilege.
- Staff listen to their students and offer them meticulous advice. Students are well prepared for their future education, careers and the world of work. Most students gain places at the universities of their choice, with many going to Russell Group universities, including several at Oxbridge. Many students, too, are accepted at their chosen art colleges, often gaining places at the most competitive institutions.
- Parents are justifiably very pleased with the school. One typical comment was: 'The sixth form at Thomas Tallis is excellent, and we are delighted our child chose it. I do recommend it to all prospective parents.'

## School details

Unique reference number

100190

Local authority

Greenwich

10052795

Inspection number

This inspection of the school was carried out under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

Type of school

School category

Age range of pupils

Gender of pupils

Gender of pupils in 16 to 19 study programmes

Number of pupils on the school roll

Of which, number on roll in 16 to 19 study programmes

Appropriate authority

Chair

Headteacher

Telephone number

Website

Email address

Date of previous inspection	Secondary comprehensive Community 11 to 19  Mixed Mixed 1,928 550  The governing body Catherine Farrant Carolyn Roberts 020 8856 0115 <a href="http://www.thomastallischool.com">www.thomastallischool.com</a> <a href="mailto:vcummins@thomastallis.org.uk">vcummins@thomastallis.org.u k</a> 25 January 2018
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### Information about this school

- This is a very large secondary school with a sixth form. It serves a suburban area with much new housing development close by.
- More pupils than average speak English as an additional language, although very few are at an early stage of learning English.
- About two in every five pupils are eligible for pupil premium funding. This proportion is above the national average.
- The proportion of pupils with SEND is below average. However, more pupils than average have an education, health and care plan, or equivalent.
  
- The school uses two alternative providers. One is run by the local authority and the other by NEST, which is connected to Newhaven School, Eltham.

- The school operates specially resourced provision in two bases. Twenty students are supported in the deaf support unit and another twenty are within the support centre for autism spectrum disorder and language impairment.

## Information about this inspection

- Inspectors observed classes across all year groups and in most subjects, many jointly with senior leaders. They observed around the school before and after the school day, at break and lunchtimes and visited an assembly.
- They held discussions with the headteacher, senior and middle leaders, other members of staff and governors. They analysed the opinions of 151 staff members from confidential questionnaires. They met with a representative from the local authority.
- They met with several groups of pupils and students formally and informally, and heard pupils from Year 7 read. No questionnaires were received from pupils.
- Inspectors evaluated documents, including the school's strategic plans and evaluations, minutes of meetings, assessment information, pupil premium information, records of attendance and behaviour, and notes of governors' visits.
- They took account of the views of 286 parents who responded to the online survey, Parent View, and over one hundred written comments received from parents. They also held discussions with parents.

## Inspection team

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