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Introduction to Progression Planning

Dear Students/Parents and Carers

Please find enclosed our recently developed progression booklet, designed to help all Tallis students to explore differing progression pathways. We hope this is a helpful and supportive booklet as we know this can be both an exciting but also daunting process, especially at such a challenging time. We usually begin progression planning at this point in the academic year and we want to give as much support and guidance as we possibly can.

An Overview of Progression Post-16 At Tallis: Getting started...

At Tallis, we do our very best to support every student to make the right progression choices. We normally run a progression week in the summer term to encourage all Year 12 students to explore, experience and question a range of post 16 progression pathways. Our new progression booklet is being launched to allow students to explore these choices virtually, to look at three main pathways – university, art college, and work and apprenticeships - and to begin writing a personal statement as outlined in the booklet. We find that this process really helps students to think about their interests and strengths. You should receive the booklet in the post and a digital link to this booklet is here: <https://www.tallispost16.com/progression-booklet-2020.html>

Applying to University using the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

Most of our year 13 students choose to go to university. It is therefore vital that the information, advice and guidance that we give them is first-rate. The UCAS team offers a bespoke service, and we spend a great deal of time with each student, doing our best to ensure that we match their strengths, skills and passions with the right course for them. As a result, our students achieve places at the most prestigious institutions across the country but, most importantly, on courses that are right for them. Many of our students achieve the highest grades, and progress to Russell Group and other top universities, while others achieve their higher education ambitions through the route of a foundation degree, which offers those students who need a little longer to get there an extra “foundation” year in which to achieve their ambitions. The team’s mission is to support every student through the appropriate progression route for them. Please see the UCAS section for more advice and guidance.

Early Applications

Many of our students make early Oxbridge, dentistry and medical applications and the national deadline for this is 15 October 2020. If you are intending to submit an application for one of these courses you should already be in touch with Ms McGowan, our UCAS co-ordinator. If you have not done so, please e-mail her now. Full list of the Year 13 members and contact e-mail addresses is at the bottom of this letter.

Art College Applications

Thomas Tallis School has a well-established history as a centre for creativity. Our Arts provision is fantastic and we place students in the very best art colleges in the country every year. In 2019-20 more than thirty of our students won places at Art Colleges including Camberwell, Chelsea, St Martins, Ravensbourne and many others further afield. The secret of our success? Great VMA teaching, and a dedicated Arts College Coordinator, Mr Kiff, who oversees all applications for Foundation courses and arts degrees. We work in close partnership with Ravensbourne College, the University of the Creative Arts, Central St. Martins, Camberwell, Chelsea and the London College of Fashion. We offer every arts student personal guidance and support throughout the application process, from the writing of the personal statement, through to the portfolio interview.



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Other VMA courses

Each year several students apply to other specialist music, dance and drama courses. Some of these CUKAS applications need to meet an earlier deadline and each conservatoire and specialist college out with the UCAS process has its own application process and deadline. If you are intending to apply for one of these places, please inform the UCAS Team and your subject lead teacher.

Careers and Training

Another pathway we also support our students through is directly into the world of work. We do so in partnership with Maria Elia, our brilliant careers advisor from Prospects. Degree, apprenticeship, straight into employment? Tallis staff are experts in these questions and we work closely with all our students to explore the options, providing customised advice on available choices. Please take time to read this progression booklet and when you return in September, we will support you through these differing pathways.

Student Progression Action List

1. Make sure you read your hard copy of The Tallis Progression booklet cover to cover.
2. Prior to the end of the summer term we ask that all students – regardless of the pathway(s) that you end up pursuing – to write a personal statement as outlined in this booklet. Please try to complete a draft (one side of typed A4) by the end of this term, to be ready to share this with your Year 13 tutor in September. We will ask all students to up-load this to a tutor group statement bank, as directed by their tutor at the progression tutorial on Wednesday 1 July, with their current tutor.
3. Prior to writing your personal statement we also ask that all students consider and deepen their main area of subject interest with the related extended reading and research lists that can be found on our tallispost16 website <https://www.tallispost16.com/reading--research-lists.html>
4. For further guidance on this aspect please see the May issue of our sixth form newsletter https://mcusercontent.com/840bf6dce8ed5e6b8f5f548c9/files/9f75b63d-262b-4700-a10c-2983e2c24a9c/Year_12_advice_on_choosing_a_course.pdf
On the Tallispost16 website under the student tab.
5. If there is a problem in accessing these resources, please contact your subject teacher in the first instance and please contact a member the Year 13 Team if you need support in getting started with the progression process.

Take care and try to enjoy exploring these next steps!

Best wishes

The Year 13 Team

Members of the Year 13 Team

Head of Year 13: Fiona Lumsden - flumsden@thomastallis.org.uk

Co-Head and Deputy Head of Year 13: Louise Astill - lastill@thomastallis.org.uk

The UCAS Co-ordinator: Oonagh Mc Gowan - omcgowan@thomastallis.org.uk

The UCAS Assistant and First Generation Co-ordinator: Sam Wilks - swilks@thomastallis.org.uk

The Arts College Co-ordinator: Sam Kiff - skiff@thomastallis.org.uk

The Prospects (Careers) Advisor: Maria Elia - Maria.Elia@Prospects.co.uk