

Kidbrooke Park Road
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www.thomastallis.org.uk

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

Dear Parent or Carer

Online Learning for your Year 12 child from this point on

We are writing to you to explain how the school plans to teach your child for the Summer Term.

At present we are still shut physically for nearly all children. In common with all UK schools, we have no reopening date at present.

Your child's teachers have been posting work to Insight and have been using Microsoft Teams. All children have access to the Teams software through their school Microsoft Office 365 account. Please email helpdesk@thomastallis.org.uk if Office 365 proves problematic.

From this point on we are going to be encouraging staff to use Teams to teach your child in real time for at least one hour a week for each of their subjects. Some staff may be able to offer more teaching than this. All staff will also be posting a good deal of written work to Teams and Insight. It is your child's responsibility to check both sites regularly, and log on in plenty of time for their lessons.

Teams should permit students to have more interaction with their teachers, as well as independently completing work.

We hope that you are willing to:

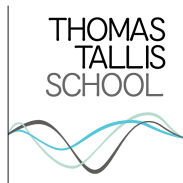
1. Let us know, if you have not already, if your child does not have access to Office 365 on a computer or tablet. Ccourtney@thomastallis.org.uk is the email address to use to do this. Alternatively, you may call 020 8331 BLAH and leave a clear message.
2. Ask your child to log into their Teams account through Office 365 so that they can find out when their 'live' lessons will be.
3. Support your child to complete work as set by teaching staff. Students should be completing four to six hours of work each day, either completing new tasks as these are set by staff, or revising, relearning, and overlearning previous topics.

New units of work and resource needs

As the summer term progresses most subjects will be changing units; in some cases, this will mean starting the Year 13 courses. Please be aware that your child may therefore require new textbooks; the majority of these can be obtained online from usual outlets such as Amazon or Waterstones etc. Your child's teachers will give advance warning of when they intend to start using a new textbook. If your child is in receipt of the bursary or book bursary, we will purchase their textbooks for them. Please email Ms. Weber - dweber@thomastallis.org.uk - to arrange this. If, like many families, you have fallen into financial difficulties due to loss of income, please do let us know - we will see how we can support you.

Assessments

We expect students to complete and electronically submit work so that we can continue to assess student progress. This is particularly the case with BTEC qualifications, as these were always continuously assessed anyway. BTEC deadlines must be kept to and work for them submitted electronically.



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Similarly, A-Level subject staff expecting students to be completing assessments online. We will be asking staff to set mock examinations online during the first two weeks after the May half term, because as a school we need to be able to gauge where students' learning is at - particularly so that we can offer accurate advice about whether to continue to the second year of an A-level course.

Mental wellbeing

Our students' mental and physical wellbeing continues to be very important to us. These are strange times! Please ask your child to remain in contact with us. Your child's tutor is emailing them every week with tutorial-related materials and links to various cultural and health websites. It is important that students respond to their tutor on a weekly basis and let the tutor know if they are feeling overwhelmed or need support. Part of the process of staying motivated and focused is to get your child to keep to their normal timetable; this provides structure to their day. See www.tallispost16.com for information on all the various cultural enrichment activities students can engage in, even from home. Lastly: exercise matters! Please ensure your child takes at least 30 minutes' exercise a day.

Progression after Post 16 - please start pondering this now

In normal circumstances the Year 13 team would be writing to you about Progression Week, which usually takes place at the end of June. We do not know whether we will be able to run it this year and so are currently working on an online package to support your child through the process of applying to any and all of the following: university, arts college or apprenticeships.

We will write to you later this year to say more about how this will work, and in particular to explain more about how the UCAS process works.

Students can start 'window-shopping' about possibilities now of course. Please see <https://www.tallispost16.com/progression.html> for lots of information about the various choices students have. www.ucas.com has an excellent university course search feature which is a good place to start too.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support at this time. If you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us on hodd@thomastallis.org.uk or jbradshaw@thomastallis.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Heather Odd
Head of Year 12

Jon Bradshaw
Assistant Headteacher: Head of Sixth Form