

03 October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Subject: Getting going on a bit more independent study

We're just over a month into the year and student routines have settled nicely in nearly all cases. Thank you for your assistance with this.

We know that by Christmas of Year 12 the most successful students at Tallis are already working the equivalent of a '9-6' routine of attending lessons, completing homework and revising independently on self-chosen tasks. The steps below are intended to move all students gently on towards this goal.

The impact of a steady habit of study on well-being, stress levels, understanding of a syllabus and student outcomes is **massive** over time – hence, an investment in good study habits at this point is a 'force multiplier' compared to the same investment made at this time next year.

For this reason, we are now insisting that all Year 12 students increase their supervised independent study hours by a total of **three hours** over the two-week timetable. These hours once nominated will be written onto student timetables and are compulsory once agreed. They are to take place in one of two venues – the Sixth Form Canteen in Week A and the Silent Study Area in Week B. Staff invigilate both these venues and registers are taken. (Of course, if there are spaces available in either study area these may be taken by students who are not 'booked in' for them.)

So, we have just written to Year 12 students asking them to nominate three additional study periods of their choice using "Applicaa", software for which they already have a login. If a login doesn't work, it can be reset using the 'reset password' link and their school email.

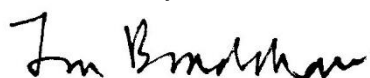
Once they have nominated their choice of periods, in consultation with their tutor they will then be enrolled into them *where this is possible*. Please note: each study venue has a capacity limit and for each period places must be assigned *on a first-come first-served basis*. It is therefore possible that if your child delays making their choice of extra study periods, they might lose out on their first choice of time slots. Please encourage them to make their nominations as soon as possible and speak with their tutor to have these translated into enrolment.

If choices are not made by individual students by the end of next week, the school will choose on behalf of students. We would strongly prefer, though, that students exercised choice themselves!

Would you be willing to check in with your young person to make sure that their study periods are assigned, and encourage them to make a selection if they have not already done so?

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Jon Bradshaw
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Louise Astill
Head of Year 12