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Dear Parents and Carers,

Subject: Getting going on a bit more independent study

We're just over a month into the year – exams begin at the end of May, of course – and student routines have settled nicely in nearly all cases. Thank you for your assistance with this.

We know that by Christmas of Year 13 the most successful students at Tallis are already working the equivalent of a '9-6' routine of attending lessons, completing homework and revising independently. Independent revision (that is, going over material, increasingly by completing exam-style assessment on it) is key to the higher grades. 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, say, at Easter next year.

For this reason, we are now insisting that all Year 13 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 Silent Study Area in Week A and the Sixth Form Canteen 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.)

This week we have therefore written to all Year 13 students asking all students to nominate three additional study periods of their choice using our "Applicaa" software, which is the software your child used to apply to Tallis in the first place. Our email contains full instructions. 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 of the week places must be assigned *on a first-come first-served basis*. It is therefore possible that if your child has delayed 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 this 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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Thomas Tallis School



Fiona Lumsden

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