

July 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is hard to believe that we have completed another academic year! The time has flown by, with an abundance of achievements, successes and events accomplished.

This term our Year 11 students sat their GCSE exams. They were excellent and demonstrated their resilience and aspiration right to the end. The BBQ and Prom were a chance to celebrate their hard work during their five years with us. The Prom, held at The Queens Hotel, was our biggest and best to date and staff and students alike all enjoyed a wonderful evening together. I look forward to seeing them on Thursday 21st August for results day!

There has been much to celebrate this term. Activities week was a huge success! It was just wonderful watching our young people just be children, enjoying a broad range of enrichment activities that will have created memories for life. A particular highlight for me was our first ever year 7 camp which I visited on Thursday, helping to serve lunch. Our students were full of smiles and laughter (and dirt!) and the 'Team Trafalgar' spirit was strong. Planning has already begun to make 2026 bigger and better than ever! Our annual Sports Festival has been another success this term. Our sporting students thrived, with Britannia House taking the cup as overall winners on the day. I enjoy seeing the healthy, competitive side of our students (and staff!) challenging themselves for their house.

Our PD Days saw our students develop their cultural, diversity and social understanding, and has supported their development as active citizens in our society. These days are so instrumental in supporting our young people to become well rounded individuals and promote our five core values which mean a lot at our school. A standout moment of our days this year was the presentation by Charlie's Promise. The impact this had on our whole community was profound and not something any of us will forget.

After a gruelling process our new Head Boy, Miles and Head Girl, Jessica were appointed and will be ably supported by their, Kal-El and Sophia. They and our new prefect team, which is our largest ever, have big shoes to fill! In September, they will write their student school improvement plan and present it to the governing body for approval. I am really looking forward to working closely with them next year to strengthen the school further.

Our school production 'Back to the 80s' has taken place this week. Our students and staff have worked so hard and their efforts were clearly evident in the quality of the production they put on. It was really fantastic, huge congratulations to all those involved! We have some really talented performers in our school community and I can't wait to see how that is fostered next year as we prepare for our next whole school show, details of which will be revealed in September.

Trafalgar took a leading role in the service children 'Festival of Friends' project this year and I was thrilled to attend the celebration event at the University of Portsmouth. This project highlighted the challenges children of serving parents face, particularly when a parent is deployed. One of our Year 9 students, Arielle, bravely spoke at the event and shared her experiences and the positive impact of the project on supporting her; I was so proud of her! The work Mrs Argyle has led this year on supporting our service children has been excellent and we are now supporting schools in Portsmouth and beyond with improving their offer.

New Build Update

I am hugely disappointed to share the news that very recently PCC told me their decision to cancel the build of our new Performing Arts block, due to start this August. Rising building costs and a recalculation of their predicted Year 7 numbers needed for September 2026 means they no longer need the 250 spaces we had agreed to. This came as a huge shock and I am so saddened that these facilities will no longer be available for our community. However, we are working hard with PCC on an alternative smaller project to create a new dance studio, second food technology room and improve the existing gyms and changing areas to make better use of these spaces. This project will mean Trafalgar is able to provide additional secondary places for the cohorts starting secondary school in September 2026 and September 2027, which is when the demand for places will be greatest.

End of term Celebrations

We will be celebrating our student's successes and achievements at our end of term assembly at The Mountbatten Centre. Huge congratulations to all our award winners!

Farewells

It is the time of year where we say goodbye to some members of staff who are moving on. Miss Cannon, Miss Bothma and Miss Abdul are moving on to pastures new and I wish them all the best in their new roles. Mr Pearson and Miss Dalaba are moving to schools within our trust to undertake their teacher training. Miss Bulloch and Miss Kane are also changing schools and locations next year and will be sorely missed. Mr Cathie and Miss Newell have secured their promotions into substantive roles at Mayfield school where they are both currently doing secondments to support their rapid school improvement journey. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work and wish them the very best in the next stages of their careers. Miss Cunningham and Miss Reid will be on maternity leave and we wish them the very best of luck with their new arrivals. Congratulations to Miss Clarke who welcomed a healthy baby boy in June!

Change of leadership to Temeraire House

This week Mr Furnell secured a promotion to the position of Assistant Headteacher: Engagement and Attendance and will therefore be stepping down as Head of Temeraire House at the end of this term. Mr Stokes will be leading Temeraire from September.

Key dates for the autumn term

Our school calendar, containing all key dates, will be available on our school website to view during the summer holidays. However, some key dates for the first half of the autumn term are as follows;

- Wednesday 3rd September: INSET Day
- Thursday 4th September: Years 7 and 11 only - 8.50am start
- Friday 5th September: All students return - 8.50am start
- Thursday 18th September: Preparing for Year 11 Evening
- Thursday 25th September: Live Well Event and Year 7 Meet the Tutor and Curriculum Evening
- Thursday 2nd October: Activities Week Launch Event (virtual)
- Thursday 9th October: Open Evening
- Friday 17th October: Activities Week Choices Deadline

Governors

If you are interested in becoming a Trafalgar School Governor, please email our Trust Chief Operating Office at rparr@salternstrust.co.uk for more details about the role. We are currently looking for parent and community governors with expertise in Finance and Human Resources.

Uniform and equipment

Full details of our school uniform and essential equipment required can be found on the [school website](#). Please familiarise yourself with our expectations so that your children come back in September fully prepared for their learning. It is worth noting, all students are expected to have an appropriate school bag with them every day to carry their equipment and keep their Chromebook safe. As always, if you require support meeting these high expectations, please get in touch.

Attendance

Attendance to school will remain a focus for 2025/26 and we are thrilled with the improvements seen this academic year across all year groups! Please ensure, on the rare occasion absence from school is unavoidable, you contact us immediately with the reason to avoid us visiting you and/or receiving a fine.

We look forward to seeing Year 7 and 11 on 4th September and all other year groups on 5th September. As a reminder, the school gates do not open until 8:30am therefore, children should not arrive before this time.

Please be aware we share a staff car park with UTC Portsmouth and this is not a drop off point. We politely ask that you park offsite if you wish to bring your children to school.

Thank you for your continued support this year. Trafalgar School is an incredibly special community and one I am proud to lead every day. My staff and I cannot wait to safely welcome your children back to school in September.

Have a wonderful summer break.

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Copeland
Executive Headteacher