Trafalgar School
Learning today, leading tomorrow

Miss G Pearse BA (Hons) NPQH
Headteacher

Trafalgar School, London Road,
Portsmouth, PO2 9RJ

Telephone: 023 9269 3521
Email: info.trafalgar@salterns.org
Website: www.trafalgarschool.org.uk

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are well and that you had an enjoyable half-term break.

I wanted to write to you with some further information and reassurance on an issue you may have read about.

Yesterday, the Teacher Regulation Agency (TRA) published the outcome of a professional conduct panel into the actions of a former staff member, Richard Hill. The panel looked at details of messages he sent to a student shortly after they had left our school.

The TRA is an important body. They help ensure those who work in education don't just follow the law, but also meet the expectations outlined in the Teachers' Standards, a set of requirements about the personal and professional conduct of those who work in schools.

While the messages were not deemed illegal, which is why the police did not pursue the case, the panel concluded that they did not meet the standards expected of teachers and, as such, Richard Hill is now banned from teaching indefinitely.

After a process like this, a full report is made publicly available. Schools are understandably restricted with what they can say until this happens. However now that we are able to, I thought it important to reassure parents that the safety of your children will always remain our utmost priority.

Whilst incidents like this are incredibly rare, the school's response in 2024 was both appropriate and robust. As soon as we were made aware of the inappropriate communication, Mr Hill was suspended and he did not return to our community.

We all work tirelessly to ensure Trafalgar is a place where children feel safe, happy and can learn and I therefore welcome the TRA's decision.

I know discussions about such sensitive issues will impact people in different ways, based on their own experiences. Staff have therefore been briefed by me today and are well prepared to support our students with any questions they may have.

As parents, if you have any questions or concerns, then please do reach out to me directly.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Gemma Pearse
Headteacher