

Parent Bulletin



27th November 2025

Welcome to this week's roundup of news and events from Trafalgar.

Earlier this week, students took part in our first Personal Development (PD) Day of the year. Across all year groups, they enjoyed a wide range of experiences designed to build confidence, spark curiosity, and develop skills for life in and beyond school. From creative workshops and entrepreneurial challenges to forensic investigations and interview practice, it was a fantastic day of learning and growth. Our Year 10 students also sat their Citizenship mock exam this week. They approached the assessment with focus and professionalism and represented themselves brilliantly—well done to all of them.

Booking is now open for our Year 11 Parents' Evening on 11th December. This will be an in-person event, so please book early to secure your preferred appointments.

£30 winter vouchers have been ordered and will be delivered to eligible parents' email on Monday 1st December 2025.

A reminder that tomorrow (Friday 28th) is an INSET Day and the school will be closed to students. We hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Stay safe and take care,

Team Trafalgar

Christmas Dinner 2025

Each house will enjoy a festive Christmas lunch together during the penultimate week of term. On their designated day, students will gather in the canteen to share a meal as a house.

The schedule will be shared with students closer to the time.

Students will make their meal choices in tutor sessions next week.

Menu options:

- Classic Roast Turkey or Gammon (Halal meat)
- Vegetarian: Spinach and Feta Pastry Puffs

Payments via ParentPay should be made by the end of Thursday 4th December, to secure a meal. (Please note that only students on paid meals need to make a payment; students entitled to free school meals are already included.)

We look forward to celebrating the season together with plenty of festive cheer!



Key Dates

Friday 28th November - INSET Day

Monday 1st December - Activities Week deposit deadline

Thursday 11th December - Year 11 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 17th December - Christmas Concert

Autumn 2025

Uniform & Equipment

Please ensure your children have the correct uniform & equipment with them each day. If you require any support, contact your child's form tutor. Please ensure students have a bag. You can find full details of what they need [here](#).



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'Be Ready' in Action: What Happened on PD Day

Earlier this week, students across all year groups took part in our first Personal Development (PD) Day of the year. The day aimed to build confidence, spark curiosity, and strengthen the essential skills students need to succeed both in, and beyond school.

Across the curriculum, students engaged in a wide range of activities, including creative workshops, entrepreneurial challenges, forensic investigations, interview preparation, and post 16 guidance, all designed to prepare them for the opportunities ahead.



Year 7 took part in uplifting sessions with Positively You!, exploring communication, resilience, and creative learning. Year 8 embraced entrepreneurship during their UNLOC Enterprise Day, developing innovative thinking and problem solving skills. Year 9 stepped into forensic science through a CSI themed day featuring a talk from an University of Portsmouth Forensics professor and hands on analytical workshops.

Year 10 focused on their futures with The Big Interview, attending employability workshops before completing interviews with professionals from a variety of sectors, many arriving in smart workwear to dress to impress. Meanwhile, Year 11 refined key English, Maths, and post 16 skills through bespoke small group sessions and heard inspiring advice from Trafalgar Alumni.

This week's PD Day highlighted the impact of meaningful, purposeful learning. With new experiences and strengthened skills, our students are more prepared than ever to face future challenges, truly embodying what it means to 'Be Ready'.



Year 11 Intervention Timetable

Please find below a reminder of our Year 11 Intervention Timetable.

These sessions run every day after school from 3:00 to 4:00 pm.

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	History and Geography	Maths	Sociology Comp Science Travel & Tourism (Additional Languages)	Creative Arts: 3D Art Fine Art Graphics Photography Food Prep	Film Studies Health: Sports Studies GCSE PE Child Development Health and Social Care
2	Science	English	Business Ancient History Yr10 Citizenship Online 4-5pm	Languages French Spanish German Lunchtime also available	Triple Science Performing Arts: Dance Drama Music

To support us in closely monitoring and celebrating student engagement in our intervention sessions, staff will now record attendance through Class Charts, awarding them an intervention reward point.

This will allow us to clearly track participation and acknowledge the effort students are putting into attending extra learning sessions. We will continue to work with Curriculum Leaders to use this information to recognise and celebrate students' commitment and progress.

Well done to the following year 11's who are in the top 10 attendees to interventions this week:

Hannah	V08
Wesley	B03
Freddie	S05
Harvey	T07
Alarice	B11
Malika	B01
Dante	S02
Ethan	T08
Georgie	T07
Amelia	B04



Trophy Image by Jessica_Designer from Pixabay

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's Following Feed shows videos from known creators, while the default For You Feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £9.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.



CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.6 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12–15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.



BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.



DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.



READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.



Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of *Wired*, *TechRadar*, *Tom's Guide*, *The Evening Standard* and *The New Statesman*.



See full reference list on our website

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