

# Parent Bulletin

6<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Welcome to this week's Parent Bulletin!

It's been a lively and productive week at Trafalgar. Our Year 11 students have made a fantastic start to their mock exams, demonstrating great focus and effort throughout. Keep up the excellent work as you move into the second week.

Yesterday, our Year 7 students took part in a Portsmouth-wide Guinness World Record attempt for the Largest Reading Lesson — an unforgettable experience shared with thousands of pupils across the city. You can read more about it inside this bulletin.

A big thank you to all the Year 7 parents who attended Parents' Evening this week. We really appreciate your time and ongoing support.

A reminder to Year 9 students and families that our Options Evening takes place this Thursday, offering valuable guidance as you prepare to make your subject choices for next year.

Yesterday's World Book Day celebrations also brought plenty of fun and colour to the school! Staff dressed up as some of their favourite book characters, and students had the chance to guess who they were and vote for their favourite individual and department costumes. Be sure to check out the photos and results inside this newsletter.

Stay safe and take care,

**Team Trafalgar**



## Key Dates

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March** - Year 11 Mock Exams

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March** - Year 9 Options Evening

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March** - INSET Day - school closed

## 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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## A Song for Portsmouth

We're so proud of our talented students from Trafalgar School who represented our school at the 100th Year of Portsmouth Celebration.

Together with students from Admiral Lord Nelson School, they recorded and performed a special song celebrating the rich diversity of Portsmouth. This fantastic project, organised by the brilliant Portsmouth Music Hub and supported by the Portsmouth City of Languages team and the Solent Language Network, showcased the power of music and language to bring young people together.

Their confidence, collaboration, and enthusiasm truly captured the spirit of our city — unity through diversity.

Well done to everyone involved, and a big thank you to Portsmouth Music Hub for creating such an inspiring opportunity. You did our school and our city proud.



## Trafalgar Students Take Part in City-Wide Reading Record Attempt

On World Book Day our Year 7 students joined more than 11,000 pupils from schools across Portsmouth at Fratton Park to take part in a city-wide attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the Largest Reading Lesson (multiple venues).

The event, organised by Portsmouth Creates as part of the city's 100-year celebrations, was hosted by Blue Peter's Abby Cook and was led by Sunday Times bestselling author Dan Freedman.



Our students represented the school brilliantly throughout the morning — demonstrating excellent behaviour and enthusiasm during this memorable celebration of reading. A huge well done to everyone who took part!



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# World Book Day 2026

From 'Where's Wally?' stripes to Peter Pan's green tunic, the magical world of Wicked to the sweetly chaotic Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, our staff pulled out all the stops for World Book Day.

Corridors were briefly transformed into storybook scenes as students tried to spot Wally, dodge the Wicked Witch and identify which teacher had become Willy Wonka for the day.



The costumes sparked plenty of smiles (and a few double-takes), helping to celebrate a love of reading in true Trafalgar style.



## Year 9 Options Evening

We are excited to invite Year 9 students and their families to our GCSE Options Evening on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March, from 6:00 - 7:30 PM in the Main Hall.

This in-person event is a fantastic opportunity to learn about the options process and make informed decisions for the future.

Throughout the evening, you will:

- Gain a clear understanding of how the GCSE options process works
- Speak with teachers and subject leaders for expert guidance
- Receive an Options Booklet packed with key information
- Get prepared for Tutor RAP meetings at our Annual Review Day on 24<sup>th</sup> March

Choosing the right subjects is an important step in shaping future success, and we are here to support you every step of the way.

**YEAR 9  
OPTIONS  
EVENING**

**12<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
6:00-7:30pm**



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HAVANT AND WATERLOOVILLE FOOTBALL CLUB

# ACADEMY TRIALS

At Havant and Waterlooville Football Club we are proud to have a partnership with Havant & South Downs College (HSDC) post-16 education option linked to the development pathway of the Football Club. Our HSDC Academy team is based off-site at the South Downs Campus with all the education offerings provided by the College.

Our long-standing partnership with Havant and South Downs College allows students the opportunity to represent Havant and Waterlooville FC for fixtures in The National League Under 19 Alliance, playing home fixtures in the stadium at Westleigh Park

**WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup>  
APRIL**

**15:00-17:00**

**WESTLEIGH PARK, PO9 5TH**



**SCAN TO REGISTER**

“ THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE FOOTBALL CLUB AND THE COLLEGE CREATES AN EXCITING, HIGH-PERFORMANCE PATHWAY FOR ANY YOUNG PLAYER WHO WANTS TO PUSH THEIR GAME TO THE NEXT LEVEL. COMBINED WITH OUR STRONG ACADEMIC COURSES FROM LEVEL 1-3, STUDENTS GET THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS. IT'S A POWERFUL COMBINATION OF TOP QUALITY EDUCATION AND A COMPETITIVE FOOTBALL PATHWAY INTO THE SENIOR GAME. ”

SAM GAME, HEAD OF FACULTY HSDC



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# Spring Term Parent Support Series

## Free Parent Webinars

Join us and Elevate Education for FREE 60- minute webinars designed to help you support your child's studies at home.

Scan the QR code to register



### In the Spring Term, we'll cover:

- 1. How to Help Your Child Improve Their Note Taking**  
- 13<sup>th</sup> January @6:00pm (GMT)
- 2. How You Can Make Technology an Ally (& Not the Enemy!)**  
- 27<sup>th</sup> January @6:00pm (GMT)
- 3. How You Can Help Improve Your Child's Memory**  
- 10<sup>th</sup> February @6:00pm (GMT)
- 4. How You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Exams**  
- 3<sup>rd</sup> March @6:00pm (GMT)
- 5. How You Can Support Your Child During Exams**  
- 17<sup>th</sup> March @6:00pm (GMT)



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

### 1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

### 2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

### 3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

### 4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authority and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.

### 5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

### 6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

### 7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

### 8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like PolyIno and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

### 9 RECONNECT

There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

### 10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

## Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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