

# Parent Bulletin



13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Welcome to this week's Parent Bulletin!

It has been a fantastic and celebratory week at Trafalgar. We are delighted that our students have won the Portsmouth Literature Quiz 2026 for the very first time, beating strong competition from schools across the city – you can read more about their success inside this bulletin.

Our Year 7 students, along with the staff who supported them, are also now officially part of a new Guinness World Records® title for the world's largest reading lesson (multiple venues), achieved here in Portsmouth on World Book Day 2026 with 6,715 pupils taking part. It was an unforgettable experience and a wonderful way to celebrate reading together on such a large scale.

Thank you to all Year 9 students and parents who attended our Options Evening and engaged so thoughtfully with the process. Your questions, discussions and careful consideration of future pathways made the evening highly productive and we really value your partnership in supporting these important decisions.

A reminder that we have an INSET day next Wednesday (18<sup>th</sup>) and booking is now open for our Annual Progress Review Day (24<sup>th</sup>); details on how to book appointments have been sent via Class Charts. On this day, students will only attend school for their scheduled meeting with their tutor; they are not required to wear uniform. If parents or carers are unable to attend due to work commitments, students must still attend their appointment so we can review their progress and next steps.

Until next week!

**Team Trafalgar**



## Key Dates

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

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March** - Annual Progress Review Day - students attend meeting with tutor.

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March** - Easter Concert - 6:00pm

## 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](https://www.trafalgarschool.org.uk).



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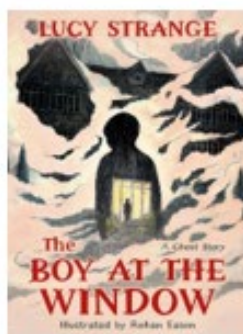
# Trafalgar triumph at Portsmouth Literature Quiz 2026

We are incredibly proud to share that our students have won the Portsmouth Literature Quiz 2026 for the very first time, beating 32 teams from 11 schools in a closely fought competition at Fratton Park.

Since October, eight students – Bella, Diana, Emily, Holly, Khloe, Lucie, Megan and Summer – have been working hard, reading and remembering the details of this year's four books by authors Max Boucherat, E.L. Norry, Lucy Strange and Aoife Walsh, whilst expanding their general literature knowledge.

On the day, they competed in two teams against other schools, the authors themselves and school librarians, facing questions on the books, the authors' lives and wider literature. Both teams performed brilliantly, with the winning team – Bella, Holly, Khloe and Megan – securing first place after a tense tie-breaker answered by Khloe. They also met the authors, had their books signed and took part in Q&As.

As part of their prize, the students received free books for themselves, as well as a fantastic selection of new books for our school, which will be enjoyed by many more Trafalgar readers in the months to come.



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## Reading Plus Winner

Congratulations to our Reading Plus winners! Last week, Year 9 student Milo earned the top spot and chose the graphic novel 'Eternals Vol. 1: Only Death Is Eternal' by Kieron Gillen as his prize.

This week's winner is Year 7 student Freyja, who selected the puzzle book 'Murdle Junior: Curious Crimes for Curious Minds' by G.T. Karber. Happy Reading!

By keeping up with your Reading Plus you stand the chance to win one of our new books from the book vending machine! Which book would you choose?

Also, well done 7G3 for topping our reading leaderboard! Don't forget to help your class climb the table by keeping up with your English home learning.

Leaderboard	
Top Classes - Total Avg. Reading Lessons (SR)	
1. 7G3/En 25/26	65.8
2. 7G1/En 25/26	49.2
3. 8R1 25/26	48.1
4. 7R2/En 25/26	47.5
5. 7R1/En 25/26	44.2



## Year 9 Options Evening

This term we were delighted to welcome Year 9 families to our Options Evening as students begin planning the next stage of their Trafalgar journey into Key Stage 4.

The presentation outlined our ambitious curriculum which is designed to develop successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. Parents heard how Trafalgar offers a broad and balanced range of GCSEs and vocational qualifications, including a strong core of English, Maths, Science, Citizenship and PE, alongside a wide choice of options in Humanities, Languages, Creative Arts, Performance, Technology and vocational subjects.

We talked through the importance of keeping future doors open by choosing a humanities subject and, wherever possible, a modern foreign language, as these are highly valued for post-16 study and university pathways.



The evening also focused on how families can support good decision-making: reading the options booklet together, talking with subject teachers and current KS4 students, and using upcoming RAP meetings with tutors to discuss strengths, interests and longer-term goals.

We want to reassure you that our Curriculum Directors, Subject Leaders and Tutors are all available to answer your questions and to work with you and your child to choose a pathway that suits them and sets them up for success in the years ahead.

# TRAFALGAR WE NEED YOU! Take part in a **READATHON**

We're reading and raising money to get the magic of books and stories to children in hospital.



It's easy! Your family and friends sponsor you to read anything you like and all the money goes to the charity



To pay in sponsorship money or donations, have your family and friends head to [Readforgood.org](http://Readforgood.org) and click on the Readathon Sponsorship button.



Or scan this code here



Starts 2<sup>nd</sup> of March until 27<sup>th</sup> of March!

## Trafalgar let's get reading!



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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)

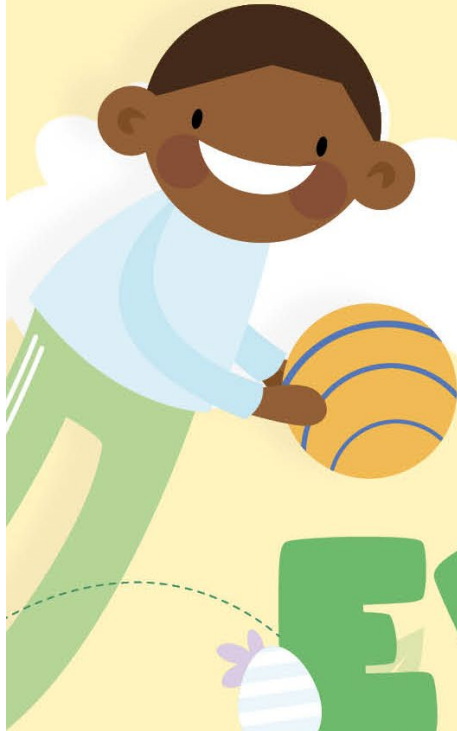




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FamilyLifePompey HAF@portsmouthccc.gov.uk



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# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about STREAMING SERVICES

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Streaming services are platforms that allow users to watch cartoons, documentaries and movies online immediately (often referred to as SVoD: streaming videos on demand). Ofcom reported that children and young adults prefer streaming services to traditional TV. With two-thirds of UK households subscribing to at least one streaming service, parents must understand how to manage screen time, set age restrictions and ensure safe viewing.

### COSTLY

Subscription services can be costly. As the main source of entertainment, most households have at least one streaming platform, and each platform has its own monthly subscription fee. Services are charging more for ad-free viewing, and better quality and resolution; however, there is a cheaper option with adverts. Due to price increases, Netflix and Disney+ reported a sharp increase in users subscribing to their ad-supported tier in 2025.

### ILLEGAL STREAMING

Sharing passwords or using modified Fire Sticks to access streaming content without permission is illegal. Most streaming services have now put measures in place to detect account sharing. When account sharing is identified, platforms will offer an opportunity to pay for an added member or will ask the user to verify who they are.

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most streaming platforms allow users to set up a profile for each family member, with the option of putting specific restrictions in place. These include adding a profile lock or PIN, controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings. Nonetheless, these restrictions aren't foolproof. Content which is rated as suitable for an age group may still include themes, language, or images which children and families find inappropriate.

### EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Excessive screen time contributes to sedentary behaviour and can negatively impact physical and mental health. Ofcom found that 4- to 15-year-olds averaged 2.5 hours per day across all video-sharing platforms, not including gaming. The vast range of content available, combined with features such as autoplay, makes it easy for children to watch for extended periods of time.

### BINGE WATCHING

Features such as autoplay make it easy for viewers – especially young people – to continue watching episodes without a break. This can foster unhealthy and addictive patterns, such as consuming a vast amount of content in one sitting. With binge watching comes a lack of social interaction, lack of physical exercise, and often late nights and sleep disruptions which impact their mental and physical wellbeing.

### HARMFUL STEREOTYPES

Many platforms track viewing habits, time consumed, and preferences, and generate recommendations to encourage your child to keep watching. This results in your child being in a 'loop' whereby they think the 'recommended' shows would be something they would enjoy rather than thinking critically for themselves. This can shape their beliefs, values, and understanding of the world from a young age without even realising it.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### SET UP INDIVIDUAL PROFILES AND ADD PINS

Almost all streaming services allow users to set up individual profiles where each family member can have age restrictions put in place for the content they can view. Adult profiles can be protected through the use of PIN. Keep this private. Use the options of putting specific restrictions in place such as controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings.

### MONITOR AND TALK OFTEN

Discuss with your child what they are watching, find out which programmes are trending, and watch them yourself. Have a little look at their watch history to check the content of what they're watching. Some platforms have been known to recommend or autoplay older or graphic content after a child's movie has been played. While some tv shows or movies may have a suitable age rating, your child may still find the content scary, or it may explore themes you don't want to explore with your child yet.

### TALK ABOUT ALGORITHMS

Talk to your child about how streaming services track what they watch, and base adverts and recommended shows/movies on previous viewing. Encourage them to critically think about whether the recommendations are suitable and how they want to spend their time. Discuss stereotypes with your child and challenge them to think about what they watch and how this may influence their beliefs.

### SET TIME RESTRICTIONS

Many streaming services offer the opportunity to buy movies, or add additional features to your subscription such as sports channels, as well as play games. This can increase the amount of time young people spend sitting idly in front of the screen. Some platforms (e.g. Apple TV+) allow you to set screen time restrictions. If the streaming service doesn't allow you to set screen time limits, set a family rule and stick to it.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator, and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government, comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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