

Parent Bulletin

26th September 2025

We have been celebrating the European Day of Languages with a whole week of exciting events, highlighting the importance of language learning and our diverse school community. As the week draws to a close, the message is clear: every language spoken in our school is a bridge to the wider world, a celebration of culture, and a reminder that communication opens doors.

A big thank you to all the Year 7 parents who attended our Meet the Tutor event last night. It was a wonderful opportunity to build strong relationships between home and school, and we truly appreciate your support.

Our Year 10 Careers event at the Mountbatten Centre earlier this week was also a great success, giving students valuable information and insight into future opportunities.

Looking ahead, next week we welcome local colleges into school to help Year 11 students with their college applications. If your child has not yet completed the questionnaire on their Careers Google Classroom, sent by Miss Passmore, please ensure they do this before Tuesday. More information to come inside this bulletin!

Take care and stay safe,

Team Trafalgar

Join Our Governing Body – We Need Your Skills!

Our school is looking for new governors to help guide and support our community. Being a governor is a rewarding way to make a real difference to the education and wellbeing of our children.

We are particularly keen to hear from parents or community members with experience in:

- **Navy or Military** – to represent and support our large community of service families
- **Finance** – to help oversee budgets and strategic planning
- **Health & Safety** – to ensure we maintain the highest standards of care and compliance



Governors play a vital role in setting the school's vision, holding leaders to account, and ensuring every child thrives. Full training and support are provided.

If you are interested or would like to find out more, please contact clerk.trafalgar@salterns.org.

Help us shape the future of our school - your skills can make a lasting impact!

Key Dates

Autumn 2025

Thursday 2nd October - Activities Week 2026 Launch (virtual)

Thursday 9th October - Open Evening 6:00-8:00pm

Friday 10th October - Late start for students - 9:40am tutor

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://trafalgarschool.org.uk).



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European Day of Languages – A Week to Celebrate at Trafalgar School

This week, Trafalgar School has joined millions across Europe in marking the European Day of Languages, culminating in today's grand celebration, Friday 26th September. The event highlights how learning another language is far more than grammar and vocabulary—it is a gateway to new cultures, friendships, and opportunities around the world.

Throughout the week, students and staff have explored the many benefits of speaking more than one language. Learning a language sharpens memory, boosts problem-solving skills, and encourages creativity. Just as importantly, it builds bridges of understanding between cultures and helps us connect with people far beyond our borders. Europe itself is a testament to this linguistic richness, with 24 official EU languages and more than 200 languages spoken in total. The most widely spoken mother tongue is Russian, followed closely by German and French.



Here at Trafalgar, we don't just talk about diversity—we live it. Our community is enriched by students who bring an extraordinary variety of languages and cultures to school life. In fact, around 150 students speak English as their second or even third language, representing a dazzling range of tongues: from Arabic, Bengali and Cantonese to Greek, Gujarati, Igbo, Italian, Japanese, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Tamil, Ukrainian, Yoruba and many more. Each language tells a story and strengthens the global connections we value so highly.

To celebrate, the Modern Foreign Languages team organised lively tutor-time activities, including quizzes, greetings challenges and discussion prompts to get everyone talking. Teachers joined in by opening lessons with greetings in different European languages, sparking curiosity and smiles across classrooms. Meanwhile, our catering team took everyone on a culinary tour of the continent, serving dishes inspired by European traditions: Italian-style cheesy chilli chicken pasta to start the week, Greek chicken souvlaki, a traditional British roast, enchiladas with a nod to Europe's chilli heritage, and today's grand finale—classic fish and chips or vegan sausage.



As the week draws to a close, the message is clear: every language spoken in our school is a bridge to the wider world, a celebration of culture, and a reminder that communication opens doors. Happy European Day of Languages, Trafalgar School!



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Careers Updates - Years 10 and 11

Careers and Apprenticeship Show

On Wednesday, our Year 10 students attended the Careers and Apprenticeship Show at the Mountbatten Centre. The event was designed to help young people explore the wide range of education and career opportunities available after school or college.

With over 50 employers and training providers exhibiting, students had the chance to discover different progression routes in and around the city and gain valuable insights into a variety of industries.

Our students represented the school exceptionally well. It was fantastic to see them so engaged—asking thoughtful questions, considering their futures, and showing real interest in opportunities such as work experience, which takes place next May.



Year 11 – College Applications

Next week, we are pleased to welcome our local colleges into school to support Year 11 students with submitting their college applications.

Students have been sent a link via Google Classroom to select the college of their choice. Appointment times will be arranged and shared with them via Class Charts early next week.

We encourage students who already know what they would like to do, and the course they are interested in, to submit their applications early to help secure a place.

For those who are still unsure, we will arrange a careers appointment with our advisors to explore options and create a clear plan before applying.



Year 11 - College Open Events

As Year 11 prepare for the exciting next steps in their education, we've put together a timetable of upcoming college open evenings.

These events are a great opportunity to explore your options, meet staff and students, and get a feel for life at different colleges.

Make sure to check the dates and times listed below. If you have any questions or need further information, don't hesitate to ask your tutor or visit Miss Passmore in the Library.



College	Dates	Times
City of Portsmouth College Sixth Form Campus 0923 92 383131 www.city-of-portsmouth-college.ac.uk	Wednesday 15th -Thursday 16th October 2025 Please contact the college directly, if you would like to book a 1-1 visit.	4:30 - 7:30pm
City of Portsmouth College Highbury Campus & North Harbour Campus 02392 383131 www.city-of-portsmouth-college.ac.uk	Wednesday 15th -Thursday 16th October 2025 Please contact the college directly, if you would like to book a 1-1 visit.	4:30 - 7:30pm
Havant South Downs College (HSDC) South Downs Campus Havant Campus 02393 879999 www.hsdac.ac.uk	Havant - Wednesday 1st October 2025 South Downs - Tuesday 7th October 2025	5 - 8pm
South Hampshire College Group 01329 815200 https://shcg.ac.uk/	Fareham College campus: Tuesday 14th October 2025	5 - 7pm
St Vincent College www.stvincent.ac.uk 02392 588311	Wednesday 15th October 2025	5 - 7pm
Chichester College www.chichester.ac.uk 01243 786321	Tuesday 7th October 2025	4:30 - 7pm

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTH VIOLENCE

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH VIOLENCE

Youth violence affects one in four children in the UK, but it doesn't have to. When parents, carers, and educators understand the risks, they're better placed to support young people. The right support, mentoring, therapy, and guidance can help young people affected by violence to feel safe, manage conflict, and make positive choices.

WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE COMMIT SERIOUS VIOLENCE?

A recent study surveyed over 10,000 young people affected by violence, asking why serious violence occurs among their peers, such as an assault involving a weapon or sexual violence. The most common reasons given were due to a personal characteristic of the victim e.g., race, religion, sexuality, gender, a gang or school rivalry, and being provoked. While not all young people face these issues, many lack the emotional regulation skills needed to manage provocation.

WHAT ARE SIGNS A YOUNG PERSON IS AT RISK?

Children and young people often express that something is wrong through behaviour rather than words. Be alert to signs such as sudden mood changes, secrecy around friendships, excessive phone use, unfamiliar slang, unexplained injuries, fear of school, aggression, going missing, or substance use. They may also be associating with older peers. These behaviours can indicate underlying issues that can lead to violence.

ONLINE INFLUENCES

Social media plays a powerful role in normalising and escalating violence. Platforms like TikTok and Snapchat can expose young people to harmful content, often shaped by algorithms. Many see violent material that distorts reality, leading to fear and desensitisation. A recent study found 70% had seen real-world violence online, and 80% felt less safe in their communities. Alarmingly, 39% said it made them more likely to carry a weapon. Online conflict can often spill into real life, with serious and sometimes tragic consequences.

WHEN IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

For children and young people in England and Wales, the hours between 4 pm and 8 pm – just after school – carry a particularly high risk for serious violence. This can stem from conflicts that escalate during the school day, online arguments, or simply moving through unfamiliar areas on the way home. Understanding this risk helps us support safer travel and routines. Our recent report found that over one in three young people don't feel safe in the area they live in, and 36% don't feel safe walking the streets.

WHY MIGHT A YOUNG PERSON CARRY A WEAPON?

Young people may carry weapons due to fear, threats, peer pressure, or a false sense of protection. Many young people tell us they feel unsafe and carry weapons 'just in case', while others may be influenced by social media, peers, or criminal activity. Some don't realise it's illegal or may believe it earns respect.

WHERE IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

Violence often happens in certain places. Busy areas like transport hubs carry risk simply because lots of people gather there. Other hotspots, like places linked to drug activity, attract those more likely to be involved in violence. Some areas become risky due to poor supervision, such as under-resourced public spaces. Understanding where violence tends to occur helps us guide young people safely through their communities and advocate for better support and safer spaces.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT STAYING SAFE

Choose a safe moment for the conversation, emotionally and physically. If a child is upset or angry, help them settle before discussing serious topics. Listen actively without judgement, even if what they share is difficult. Avoid interrupting and offer advice when the time feels right. If you're worried, you're not alone; support is available.

AVOID CONFLICT & MANAGE ESCALATIONS

Encourage young people to consider the 'Safe T's' – Trust instincts, Take a breath, and Talk to a trusted adult. When triggered or provoked, they may react from their 'survival brain', unable to think clearly about the consequences. Taking a breath helps calm, and helps them access their 'thinking brain'. Remind them that moments pass, and seeking support from trusted adults builds resilience and safer decision-making.

HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES

Young people can be searched by police or teachers if suspected of carrying a weapon. If found with a knife, they could face arrest and criminal proceedings. A conviction can result in a criminal record. Even being present during a violent assault, encouraging it, filming, or sharing footage can lead to prosecution. Open and honest conversations can help children understand these risks and make safer choices.

REPORT INFORMATION

We all have a role in preventing violence. If a child shares concerns, you can act. For educators, it's important to follow your school's safeguarding procedures. Other adults can report anonymously through Fearless or Crimestoppers, and speak with other parents, the school, or local police through 101. If someone is in immediate danger, always call 999. These steps help protect children and the wider community.

Meet Our Expert

The Ben Kinsella Trust is a UK anti-knife crime charity educating young people through immersive workshops, awareness campaigns, and community resources. Visit: benkinsella.org.uk



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/youth-violence>

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