

Parent Bulletin

3rd October 2025

What a busy and exciting time it has been at Trafalgar! A big thank you to all the families who joined us yesterday for the Years 8-10 Activities Week launch event. It was wonderful to see so many of you and over the next few days students will be bringing home their choice booklets to start planning their week of experiences.

We are really looking forward to welcoming families and visitors to our Open Evening next week. A reminder to any students who are helping on the night to speak with Mrs Argyle in advance. Please also note that on the Friday following Open Evening, students will begin the school day a little later, at 9:40am, and should head straight to tutor at that time.

Finally, a gentle reminder that our Chromebook portal closes on 10th October. This will be the last opportunity to order a device until next year, so please do make sure any orders are placed in time.

Stay safe and take care,

Team Trafalgar

First Work Experience Placement Secured!

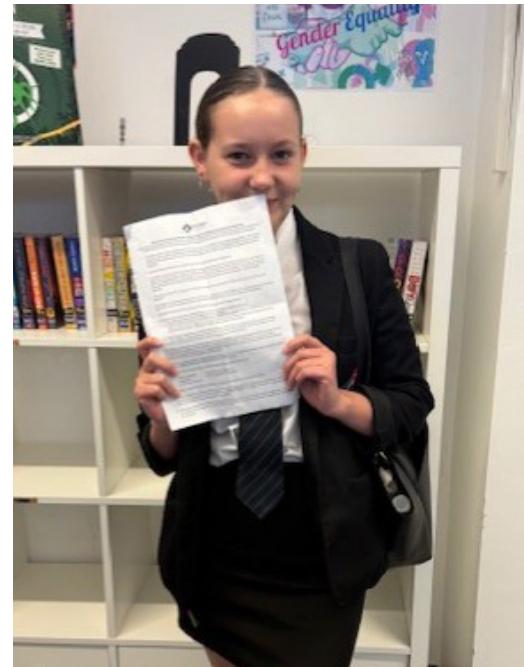
A huge well done to Peyton, who is the first Year 10 student to successfully secure her work experience placement for next May – fantastic work, Peyton!

If you already know what you'd like to do for your work experience, you can collect a WEX form from the library and get it filled in.

We'll be officially launching the Work Experience programme for all of Year 10 in our assembly on the 13th, but there's no need to wait if you're ready.

The next five students to hand in their completed forms will also receive a prize!

If you have any questions, please see Miss Passmore in the library.



Key Dates

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

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

Monday 27th -Friday 31st October - Half Term

Monday 3rd November - Students back in school

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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BMX Star in the Making!

We are delighted to share the fantastic achievements of Bailey, who has recently been excelling in the world of BMX riding.

Over the summer, Bailey took part in the *King of Concrete* BMX competition, where his skill and dedication earned him **3rd place overall** in his category. Building on this success, he then competed at the *Adrenaline Alley BMX Jam* last weekend, where he was awarded *Best Effort* and one of only three cash prizes.



These results are a testament to Bailey's commitment, perseverance, and passion for his sport. While the nature of BMX means he is carrying a few bumps and bruises from the experience, they also serve as reminders of his determination to give his very best.

We are incredibly proud of Bailey's accomplishments and look forward to celebrating his future successes both inside and outside of school.



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!



Year 11 College Application Support Day

On Thursday, we welcomed local colleges into school to support our Year 11 students as they prepared and submitted their college applications. Miss Passmore was truly impressed by how well-prepared, organised and focused our students were throughout the day.

It was fantastic to hear so many of you confidently discussing your Post-16 plans and showing such dedication to pursuing your chosen pathways.



Well done, Year 11 – you were exceptional!

Reading Plus Winner

Congratulations Carla in Year 8, our Reading Plus winner of the week!

Carla chose 'Glow Up, Lara Bloom' by Dee Benson. She thought this diary-style story sounded cool. Happy reading!

Also, well done 9R3 for topping our reading leaderboard!



Leaderboard	
Top Classes - Total Avg. Reading Lessons (SR)	
1.	9R3 25/26
2.	7G1/En 25/26
3.	7G3/En 25/26
4.	7R3/En 25/26
5.	7R1/En 25/26

Don't forget to help your class climb the table by keeping up with your English home learning.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 26



Our guide looks at the risks surrounding EA Sports FC 26 and our top tips to minimise them. This marks the third year since EA left the FIFA licence, and the game is mostly unchanged from last year. While Kick-Off mode is great for playing with friends and Career Mode allows players to fulfil long-term ambitions as a manager or player, Ultimate Team remains the main draw for many players – and it can get out of hand in terms of how much money players can invest.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As was the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviours.

IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.



SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins – something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and mirroring of the real-world skill and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

ULTIMATE TEAM

PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term. If children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.



NEW!

LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reclaiming funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of opening flashy packs with slick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth adding a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.



MONITOR VOICE CHAT

As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to call, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.



Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites – doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/ea-sports-fc-26>

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