Parent Bulletin

13th November 2026

Welcome to this week's Parent Bulletin. We hope you are all well and that students have settled back into the routines of the new half term.

Congratulations to our Year 11 students, who have completed their first week of mock examinations. We have been really impressed by their maturity, resilience and commitment. As the mock exams continue, we encourage students to keep going, maintain their focus and use the experience to build confidence and identify areas for further progress ahead of the summer.

Year 10 students have an exciting opportunity coming up on PD Day: the Big Interview. This will involve mock interviews with real employers, who will come into school to support students in developing valuable interview experience and employability skills. As part of this, all Year 10 students must complete and submit their application forms, which have been sent out via ClassCharts, by Tuesday 18th November. Tutors will be available to support students with this, but we would be grateful if parents and carers could also encourage and support their child to complete their application on time. Please note that this is a compulsory activity for all Year 10 students.

A reminder that Year 9 Parents' Evening is on the 19th November, so please ensure you have booked appointments with your child's teachers on our School Cloud booking system. Further details and information can be found on ClassCharts or our WhatsApp Channel.

Until next week!

Team Trafalgar

Remembering Together

This week, our school community came together to mark Remembrance Day and honour all those who have served and sacrificed.

Students and staff paused to observe the silence, taking time to reflect on the courage, service and sacrifice of those who gave so much. In tutor discussions, students considered why Remembrance remains important today, as well as the values of peace, respect and gratitude.

We are also incredibly proud of the students who represented our school at Sunday's Remembrance Service, demonstrating our core value of respect by joining the wider community in paying tribute to those who served.



Key Dates

Thursday 19th November - Year 9 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 24th November - PD Day 1
Friday 27th November - Lille Market Trip
Monday 30th November - INSET Day (school closed)

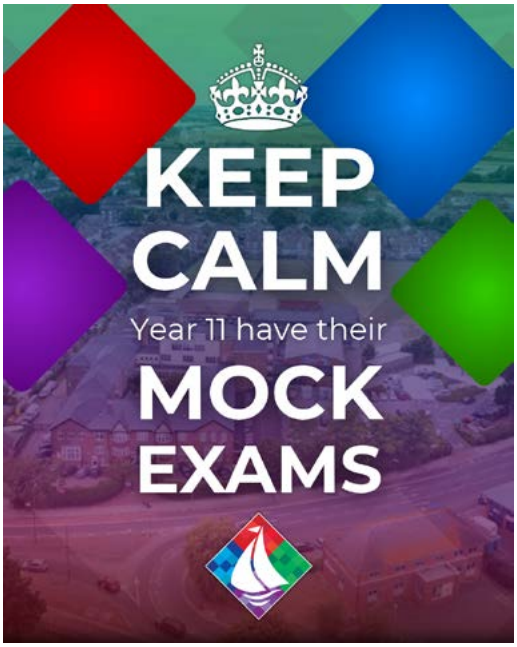
Uniform & Equipment
Please ensure your children have the correct uniform & equipment with them each day. If you require any support, contact your child's form tutor. Please ensure students have a bag. You can find full details of what they need here.

Year 11 Mock Exam Timetable

Well done to our Year 11 students for completing their first week of mock exams. We have been really impressed by their maturity, resilience and commitment.

As the mock exams continue, we encourage students to keep going, remember that the key is progress, not perfection.

Here is the timetable for next week's mock exams:



All am exams start in tutor	**Tutor and Lesson 1 & 2** (8.50- 10.50)	**Lesson 3 & 4** (11.10 - 12.50)	**Lesson 5 & 6** (13.20 - 15.00)
Monday 16 Nov	**Maths (Calculator) 90 mins**		**Science Chemistry 75 mins**
Tuesday 17 Nov	**Computer Science 120 mins**	**Level 1 Functional Skills English Writing** ***(this is your actual exam)***	**Science Physics 75mins**
Wednesday 18 Nov	**French Reading F 45 mins** **French Reading H 60 mins** **French Listening F 35 mins** **French Listening H 45 mins**		**Spanish Writing F 70 mins** **Spanish Writing H 75 mins** **French Writing F 70 mins** **French Writing H 75 mins** **German Writing F 70 mins**
Thursday 19 Nov	**Spanish Reading F 45 mins** **Spanish Reading H 60 mins** **Spanish Listening F 35 mins** **Spanish Listening H 45 mins**		**English Literature Section B & C (ONLY) An Inspector Calls & Unseen Poetry C** **85 mins**
Friday 20 Nov	**Yr 10 CITIZENSHIP 105 mins**	**CATCH UP SESSION**	**Statistics Foundation 90 mins**

Reading Plus Winner of the Week!

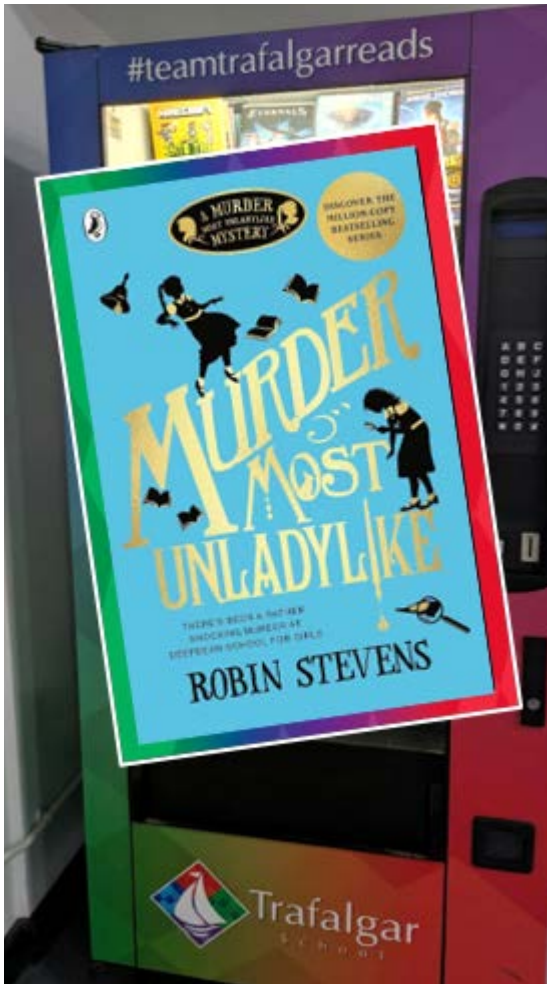
Congratulations to Jessica in Year 9, our Reading Plus winner of the week!

Jessica chose 'Murder Most Unladylike' by Robin Stevens. It is a thrilling mystery about schoolgirl detectives Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong, who investigate a shocking crime at Deepdean School for Girls. We hope Jessica enjoys following the detectives as they solve their very first case. Happy reading!

Also, well done 8R2 for topping the reading leaderboard!

Don't forget, you can help your class climb that leaderboard and be in with chance of winning one of our new books from the book vending machine by keeping up with your English Independent Practice.

1.	8R2/En - 26/27	**23.6**
2.	7G3/En - 26/27	**21.0**
3.	8G2/En - 26/27	**21.0**



Raffle Prize Donations Needed for Team Dance Live Christmas Fayre

Last year, our Dance Live students represented the school brilliantly, competing against schools and colleges with significantly larger production budgets. This year, we're hoping to raise additional funds to help our talented performers create the best entry possible, and give them every opportunity to shine.

As part of these fundraising efforts, we will be holding a Christmas Fayre on the new date of **Saturday 12th December** and we are looking for donations for our raffle.

If you are able to donate a raffle prize, no matter how small, we would be incredibly grateful. We would also love to hear from any local businesses that may be willing to donate a larger prize in exchange for promotional opportunities at the event.

In addition, we are seeking volunteers who may be interested in running a stall at the fayre. Alongside dance performances, a bake sale, and the raffle, we'd love to offer even more activities for visitors to enjoy.

If you can help in any way, whether that's donating a prize, running a stall, or connecting us with a local business, please get in touch as soon as possible by emailing Mrs Matthews (smatthews.trafalgar@salterns.org) and Mrs Jordan (ajordan.trafalgar@salterns.org).

Thank you for supporting our Dance Live students, and helping them make this year's competition their best yet.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ADVERTISEMENTS AIMED AT CHILDREN

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Children are particularly vulnerable to the persuasive effects of advertising because of their still-developing critical thinking and impulse control skills. Children are regularly and passively exposed to advertising online, whether through influencers, paid advertisements, or sponsored content. Although 92% of 12–17-year-olds felt confident recognising online advertising, only 37% correctly identified sponsored adverts in search results.

INFLUENCER MARKETING

Influencers are an increasingly prominent part of children's online experiences, with four in ten 3–17 year olds who watch online videos reporting that they watch influencer content as entertainment. Influencers can appear credible, relatable, trustworthy and aspirational. Although seven in ten 12–17 year olds recognised a paid partnership, some believed products were promoted because influencers liked or thought they were 'cool'.

PARENTAL PRESSURE TO PURCHASE

Children's exposure to online advertising can pressure parents to buy products they see advertised. When told no, children may feel upset, treated unfairly or left out when comparing themselves with peers. With children potentially seeing up to 40,000 adverts a year, parents cannot meet every request. This can lead to arguments and put strain on family relationships.

UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Advertising often focuses on the positive effects of a product, which can create unrealistic expectations among young people. Children may be particularly susceptible to these claims when they do not recognise the persuasive intent behind them. They may be more likely to believe that a cream will 'transform' their skin, clothing will help them fit in, or protein powders will quickly build muscle. Repeated exposure to adverts such as beauty content can normalise unrealistic expectations and create material dissatisfaction or body image concerns.

HARMFUL ADVERTISING

Children can encounter online advertising through games, videos, social media and links, meaning they may see content that is inappropriate for their age. This can include products or messages that influence attitudes towards body image, health or behaviours such as gambling. Repeated exposure to beauty content can normalise adult-oriented beauty routines and psychological pressure.

UNINTENDED PURCHASES

Online advertising can encourage young people to make purchases. Ofcom found that 58% of 8–17 year olds had spent money online, with 27% saying adverts encouraged them to spend and 22% influenced by influencer content. Despite this, a third of the children regretted an in-game purchase, while almost half said they were unclear about what they were buying. This can lead to children spending more than intended or making purchases without fully understanding the cost or product, adding pressure on parents to spend.

LACK OF ADVERTISING TRANSPARENCY

Advertising is not always obvious to children, particularly when influencers promote brands, products or services without clearly stating that it is an advert, or when advertising is embedded within entertaining content and uses positive language. Children may not realise that the adverts are promoting something, making the recommendation seem more trustworthy and more influential.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH CHILDREN HOW TO SPOT ADS

Help children to recognise when content is trying to sell them something. Teach them to look for signs such as '#ad', 'sponsored', 'paid partnership' as well as promo codes or product links attached. Explain to your child that these adverts can be embedded within videos, social media posts, games or influencer posts and are not always obvious to identify. Helping children recognise these advertisements can make them less likely to be influenced by them.

ENSURE PAYMENT DETAILS ARE LOCKED DOWN

Avoid saving your bank card details on children's devices, games or apps wherever possible. This can help reduce the risk of children making accidental or impulsive purchases following seeing an advert. Check the purchasing settings on games and social media accounts and use parental controls or purchase approval settings where possible. Talk to your child about the importance of asking before making a purchase online.

DEVELOP CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

It is important to encourage children to question what they see online rather than automatically believing it. Encourage them to stop and think before clicking. Have them ask themselves, 'Why am I seeing this?' and 'What are they trying to get me to want/buy?'. Remind them that adverts and influencers only highlight the positive aspects of a product. By developing these skills, children will begin to recognise, question, and respond to manipulative marketing practices.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

While it is important to set age restrictions on games and social media, inappropriate adverts can still slip through. Talk regularly with your child about adverts or influencer content they see online. Open communication makes it easier for your child to come to you if they have any questions about products or inappropriate content. It also helps you understand what your child is being exposed to online and where they may need support.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Claire Sutherland is an education consultant and digital safety expert, with a background in primary teaching. She combines her PhD research in cyberbullying with hands-on experience, delivering impactful digital wellbeing workshops and policies for schools across Australia and now in the UK.



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