Parent Bulletin

20th November 2026

Welcome to another Parent Bulletin.

Firstly, congratulations to our Year 11 students, who have now completed their mock examinations. We have been incredibly impressed by the maturity, resilience and determination they have shown throughout the examination period. We hope the experience has helped students build confidence, celebrate their successes and identify areas to focus on as they continue their journey towards the summer exams.

We would also like to thank all parents and carers who attended our Year 9 Parents' Evening this week. Your continued support and engagement makes a real difference, and we appreciate the opportunity to work together to support students as they build towards their options choices later in the year.

Away from the classroom, it has been another busy week at Trafalgar. From sporting successes and enrichment opportunities to careers and personal development activities, our students continue to represent the school with pride and demonstrate our core values in a wide range of settings.

We would particularly encourage parents and carers to take a look at this week's safeguarding feature regarding Grand Theft Auto VI (GTA VI). With the game receiving significant attention following its release and carrying an 18 age rating, the article provides useful information to help families make informed decisions and have conversations with young people about online safety and age-appropriate content.

We hope you enjoy reading this week's bulletin and celebrating the many achievements, opportunities and successes across our Trafalgar community. Until next week!

Team Trafalgar

Inspired by Zanzibar? Discover Kenya 2028!

Following the success of our recent Zanzibar expedition, we're excited to launch our next African Adventures opportunity for students currently in Years 7-9.

Join us at our Kenya 2028 Launch Meeting to find out how students could experience an unforgettable adventure, support a local school community, and enjoy an incredible safari experience.

- Wednesday 2nd December
- 6:00pm
- Trafalgar School

We look forward to seeing you there!



Key Dates

Tuesday 24th November - PD Day 1
Friday 27th November - Lille Market Trip
Monday 30th November - INSET Day (school closed)
Tuesday 1st December - AW 2027 Deposit Deadline

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.

Trafalgar Football Teams Make Winning Starts to the Season



It has been a fantastic start to the football season for our Year 7 and Year 8 teams, with both sides securing impressive victories in their opening fixtures.

Last week, our Year 8 team travelled to Castle View Academy for their first match of the season. After falling behind early on, the team showed great character to respond, with Nelson scoring twice to turn the game around. Further goals from Arjan and Dacey helped the team secure an excellent 4-1 victory. Congratulations also go to Brogan W, named Players' Player of the Match, and Nelson Q, who received the Manager's Player of the Match award. We are especially proud that the match report was written by Year 8 students Thomas C and Lennie C, showcasing their enthusiasm both on and off the pitch.



This week, our Year 7 team began their season with a Portsmouth Cup fixture. The boys made a strong start, taking an early lead and working hard throughout the match to earn a convincing 6-2 victory. The win sees them progress to the next round of the competition. A special mention goes to Mason, who scored his first hat-trick for the school.

Congratulations to all of our players on two excellent performances. We look forward to following both teams' progress throughout the season.

Apprenticeship Information Webinar for Parents and Carers

Is your child considering an apprenticeship after school or college? Parents and carers are invited to attend a free webinar, "So Your Child Wants an Apprenticeship", hosted by the Solent Business Growth Service in partnership with the Solent Careers Hub.

The session will take place on **Tuesday 24th November, 6:00pm-7:00pm** and will provide an overview of apprenticeships, the opportunities available, how parents can support their child, and the chance to ask questions during a live Q&A session. We encourage any families interested in apprenticeships to take advantage of this informative session.

Further information and registration details can be found here:

https://businesssolentevents.evolutive.co.uk/event/details/1463887/-So-your-child-wants-an-apprenticeship

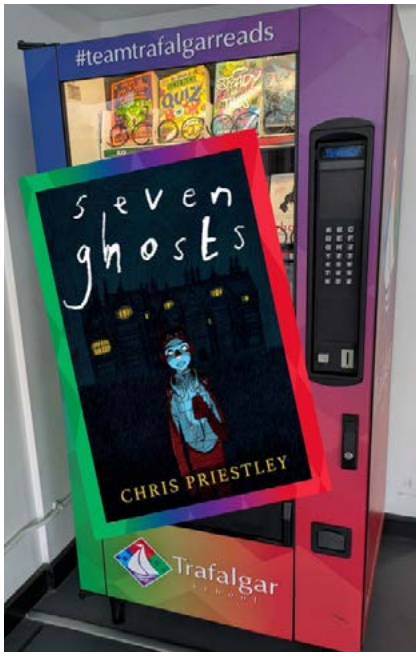
Reading Plus Winner of the Week!

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

Amelia enjoys getting lost in a great fiction book and has chosen 'Seven Ghosts' by Chris Priestley. This suspenseful horror story is full of mystery, making it an excellent choice for anyone who enjoys a few chills along the way. We hope you enjoy it, Amelia!

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.



PD Day 1 - 24th November 2026

On Tuesday 24th November 2026, students will take part in our first Personal Development Day, themed around our school rule, "Be Ready".



These days form an important part of our curriculum, providing students with opportunities to develop valuable life skills, careers knowledge and personal development through workshops, talks and practical activities led by specialists and external partners. The timings of the school day, including break and lunch times, will remain unchanged.

What students will be doing:

- Year 7 will take part in a Wise Up! Team Building Programme and workshops exploring what it means to be a member of our school community. Students should wear their Trafalgar PE kit and bring a coat.
- Year 8 will participate in an Enterprise Day with UNLOC, developing business, finance and marketing skills before pitching their own start-up ideas. Students should bring their Chromebook fully charged.
- Year 9 will take part in a CSI Forensics Day, investigating a crime scene, analysing evidence and learning about careers in forensic science and policing.
- Year 10 will take part in The BIG Interview, working with local employers to develop interview skills, career readiness and workplace professionalism. Students should bring their Chromebook and attend in professional business dress.
- Year 11 will take part in a programme of English, Maths and Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) workshops, designed to support GCSE preparation and personal development. Some students will also complete MFL speaking mock exams or attend targeted vocational support sessions.

Throughout the day, students will be encouraged to demonstrate our core values of Resilience, Aspiration, Community, with staff nominating students for values awards that will be celebrated later in the term.

SKILL
Youth Skills

KGV FOOTBALL

motiv 8
life chances for young people







FREE SESSIONS FOR YOUNG PEOOPLE
DISCOVER NEW SPORTS, IMPROVE YOUR FOOTBALL SKILLS, AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS IN A FUN AND SUPPORTIVE SETTING. WHETHER YOU'RE A BEGINNER OR ALREADY ACTIVE, OUR TEAM WILL HELP YOU GROW IN CONFIDENCE AND ENJOY BEING PART OF SOMETHING POSITIVE.

School Year Groups
7 - 11

Every Monday
Starting 23rd November
4pm - 5pm &
5:15pm- 6:15pm

King George V Playing Fields
PO6 3AF

Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL

Motiv8 Portsmouth, Unit 2 & 3 Cumberland Gate, Cumberland Road, Portsmouth, PO5 1AG
Portsmouth@motiv8.org.uk
Motiv8 South - Portsmouth
023 9283 2727
motiv8.org.uk

shcg.ac.uk/vlevels

Scan to attend

Vocational



Academic

You can choose both

South Hampshire College Group

Fareham College

V Level + A Level Information Evening

Fareham College 17:30 – 19:00

Wednesday 2 December 2026

Wednesday 13 January 2027

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 GRAND THEFT AUTO VI

Grand Theft Auto 6 (also stylised as GTA VI) has been one of the most highly anticipated games of this generation, following GTA V, one of the best-selling video games of all time. Set in the fictional state of Leonida, including Vice City, it follows criminal partners Jason and Lucia as they become embroiled in a wider conspiracy. Although GTA VI is intended for adult audiences, its enormous popularity means that younger people may still encounter gameplay footage online or express an interest in playing it.

AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 18

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXTREMELY VIOLENT CONTENT

GTA VI is rated PEGI 18 for a reason. Players may encounter weapons like guns, knives and explosives, with violence portrayed in highly realistic ways. As in previous GTA games, players may also encounter violence involving vehicles and other characters. The game is categorically not for younger audiences, with blood, gore, and intense violence clearly identified in its official content

SENSITIVE SOCIETAL TOPICS

Like other games in the Grand Theft Auto franchise, GTA VI uses satire to explore aspects of society and contemporary culture. Its exaggerated characters and situations are fictional and may be intended to challenge or mock particular attitudes rather than endorse them. Younger viewers, however, may struggle to recognise this context and could misunderstand jokes, stereotypes, or social commentary without guidance from a trusted adult.

TALKING TO STRANGERS ONLINE

GTA Online, the multiplayer experience associated with GTA V, allows players to communicate with others online. GTA VI has been announced as a single-player experience at launch, so the same in-game chat risks should not yet be assumed. Children may still discuss the game through other online platforms potentially encountering strangers, inappropriate language and adult themes.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

Throughout GTA VI's storyline, drugs and alcohol form part of the game's criminal world. The official content rating identifies the use of both, while Rockstar's character descriptions reference drug runners and dealers. Earlier titles also showed substance use affecting how characters see and move around the world. Younger viewers may struggle to understand these portrayals in the context of a fictional crime story, particularly without guidance from a trusted adult.

NUDITY AND SEX

Relationships and sexual themes feature in GTA VI, while previous GTA titles have allowed players to visit strip clubs and solicit sex workers. It should also be recognised that GTA VI's graphics aim to be realistic, meaning depictions of nudity and sexual content may be explicit. Official ratings confirm nudity and strong sexual content, although details of specific scenes should not be assumed from earlier games.

OPTIONAL IN-GAME PURCHASES

As with its predecessor, GTA VI includes optional in-game purchases that use real-world money. While these purchases are not necessary to play the game, the appeal of additional content may encourage some players to spend more. Younger players may not fully appreciate the cost or how quickly small payments add up.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental controls can block age-restricted games, but they won't remove GTA VI's adult themes from elsewhere online. On PS5, go to Settings > Family and Parental Controls > Family Management, select the child and choose your restrictions. On Xbox Series X|S, use Settings > Account > Family settings, or the Xbox Family Settings app, to manage age restrictions and screen time.

LIMIT ACCESS TO BANK DETAILS

Limiting access to banking details helps prevent accidental or unauthorised purchases. Avoid storing payment details on a child's account and require approval before spending. On PS5, parents and carers can set a monthly spending limit through Family Management. On Xbox Series X|S, the Ask to Buy feature can request adult approval for purchases, helping children and young people understand their real-world cost.

COMMUNICATION RESTRICTIONS

On PS5 and Xbox Series X|S, parental controls can restrict voice chat, messages, friend requests, and communication with other players. Parents and carers can limit interactions to approved friends or prevent communication altogether, depending on the available settings. These restrictions are especially helpful for reducing children's exposure to strangers, inappropriate language and adult themes through console chats or other multiplayer games.

MAKE THIS A CONVERSATION

Even if a child is not playing GTA VI, they may still watch gameplay clips, livestreams or trailers shared by friends and content creators. It's important to talk openly with children about why GTA VI has an adult age rating and discuss its violence, crime, strong language, sexual themes, satirical lens, and other mature content. Ask what interests them about the game and what they already know. Talk about the difference between fictional behaviour and real-world consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 12+ years as a journalist, editor and social media expert. He's travelled the world playing video games and working with publishers and developers to fine tune their audience messaging. When he's not gaming, he can be found watching horror and sci-fi movies, TV series, listening to music or deciding which world marathon to plod around.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

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