

Parent Bulletin

11th September 2026

We have now completed our first full week of the 2026/27 academic year, and it has been wonderful to see how quickly students have settled into school life. There is a real sense of positivity around the school, and we are incredibly proud of the strong start students have made.

This week saw our annual school photographs for students in Years 7, 9 and 11. Despite the weather doing its very best to dampen spirits, students still managed to produce plenty of cheesy grins and picture-perfect smiles. We look forward to seeing the finished photographs!

A reminder to our Year 11 families that our Preparing for Year 11 Evening takes place next week. This event will provide valuable information about the year ahead and how, together, we can support students through this important stage of their education.

Our enrichment programme launches next week, with a wide range of clubs and activities on offer. Parents and carers can find next week's club timetable within this bulletin.

Finally, thank you to the many families who have already joined our growing Trafalgar WhatsApp Channel. It is a great way to keep up to date with important announcements, reminders and highlights from school. If you have not yet joined, details of how to access the channel can be found within this bulletin.

Until next week!

Team Trafalgar

Reading Plus Winner of the Week!

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

Anousha is a very keen reader who enjoys horror and murder mystery books. She chose 'The Nine Night Mystery' by Sharna Jackson. We hope you enjoy this mystery Anousha, Happy Reading!

Well done 9R1 top of the leaderboard at the start of term! 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 all by keeping up with your English Independent Practice.



Key Dates

Thursday 17th September - Preparing for Year 11 Evening

Thursday 1st October - Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening

Thursday 8th October - Open Evening 5:00-8:00pm

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://trafalgarschool.org.uk).



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Clubs Launch Next Week!

Our clubs offer students fantastic opportunities to explore new interests, develop skills, build confidence, and make new friendships beyond the classroom.

With a wide range of activities available, there's something for everyone, whether students are interested in sports, the arts, STEM, languages, academic support, or simply trying something new.

The Week A timetable can be found opposite. We encourage students to take a look at the opportunities available and get involved in the clubs and activities that interest them.

We look forward to seeing another year of high levels of participation, achievement and enjoyment across our extracurricular programme.

See the full timetable on our [website](#).

Week A	Lunch	After School
Monday	Choir - Music Room	Stitch & Style (Years 7 - 10) - Art 4
	Creative Writing Club KS3 SCA EN6	Year 7 - Axiom Maths (invite only)
	Humanities Heroes - invite only - HU1	DofE Bronze (registered participants only) - Sci5
		Year 8 Boys football
Tuesday	KS4 Drama Club (y9 & 10) - Drama	Dance Live - Whole School Welcome - Hall
	Doodles and Drawing (Art 3 - year 7)	Crafty Creations (Years 7 - 10) - Tech 1
		Bingo Club - LRC
		Year 11 Enrichment/Catch Up (all Maths)
		Minecraft - IT2
		Netball - all years (ASTRO)
		Rugby - all years (Field)
Wednesday	Horrible Histories Yr 7 HU1	Science/ Chemistry club - Sc2
	Spanish Board Games SRA LA1	Eco-Club 3 - 4 HU8
	Minecraft - IT2	Comic Creation (Years 7 - 10) - Art 1
	Film Club - En4	Year 11 Enrichment/Catch up (Art, Photog, 3D) - Art 1, 2 & 3
		Whole School Production (starts in New Year)
		DofE Silver (invite only) - Sci5
		Book Club - LRC
		Girls Football - all years (ASTRO)
		Year 9,10&11 Boys Football
		Year 7 Boys Football
Thursday	KS3 Drama Club (Y7 & 8) - Drama	Food Enrichment - Year 11 only FT/Art 2
Friday	Live Theatre Appreciation Club - Drama	Year 11 Enrichment/Catch Up
	Blooket - Ma1	Year 11 SS/GCSE PE/CD/HSC Enrichment/Catch Up
	Year 7 - Lego - Sc3	
	Fun Fridays -Appropriate pc games- LRC	

Trafalgar School WhatsApp Channel

Have you followed our WhatsApp Channel yet? Our official Trafalgar School WhatsApp Channel is now live and provides a quick and convenient way to keep up to date with important school announcements, key dates, event reminders, student achievements and urgent notifications.

The channel complements our existing communication methods, providing parents and carers with another easy way to stay informed about school life.

To follow the channel, simply scan the QR code opposite or [visit this link](#). Once you're following, updates will appear directly within WhatsApp.

Thank you for your continued support.



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership and governance. He works internationally supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance and [Insert NC courses I have written].



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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Jingle All the Way to Lille's Enchanting Christmas Market!

What is included?

- ✓ 1 day trip - £165 per student
- ✓ The Festive Christmas Market Visit
- ✓ Visit the French bakery
- ✓ Sightseeing in Lille
- ✓ Breakfast provided in a French café

Payment details:

- A deposit of **£55** is due by **30th September 2026**.
- A second payment of **£55** is due by **30th October 2026**.
- A final payment of **£55** is due by **13th November 2026**.

Departure



Day and Date of Departure:
Friday, 27 November 2026 (01:15)



Shuttle outwards (subject to availability)

Return



Day and Date of Return:
Saturday, 28 November 2026 (00:30)



Ferry inwards with DFDS Dunkirk-Dover
with **meal vouchers**

Trip Details



50 students



Cost of the trip: £165

Pick-up Point



TRAFALGAR SCHOOL

50 SPACES AVAILABLE ONLY AND PASSPORT REQUIRED
FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT MR KOHLI



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