

Parent Bulletin

18th September 2026

Thank you to all of our Year 11 students and parents/carers who attended our 'Preparing for Year 11' Evening last night. It was fantastic to see such a strong turnout and to begin working together to support students through this important year.

This week also sees the launch of our Week B Enrichment Programme, with a wide range of clubs and activities available for students to enjoy. We encourage everyone to take a look at the timetable in this bulletin and get involved in something new.

A reminder that our 'Live Well Trafalgar' event takes place on Thursday 24th September. This is a fantastic opportunity for students and families to access wellbeing support, resources, workshops and advice from a range of specialist organisations. We hope to see many of you there.

You'll also find information about the Reading Plus Start-Up Challenge, as well as the latest College Events Calendar for Year 11 students who are beginning to explore their post-16 options.

As always, we continue to be impressed by the positivity, commitment and ambition shown by our students. Every opportunity taken, whether in the classroom, through enrichment, or by planning for the future, helps build success.

Until next week!

Team Trafalgar

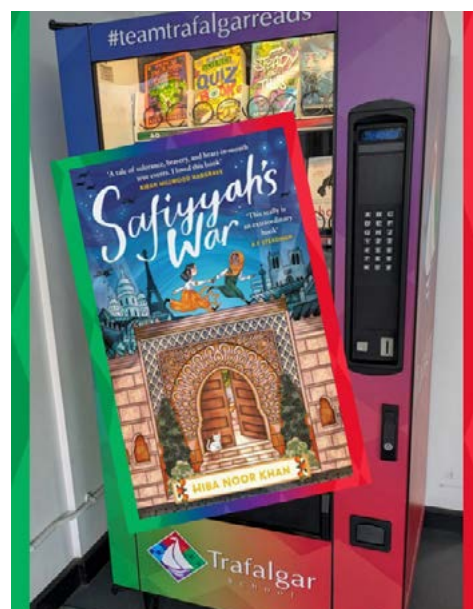
Reading Plus Winner of the Week!

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

Khloe loves reading and she chose historic fiction novel 'Safiyyah's War' by Hiba Noor Khan. We hope you enjoy this gripping and courageous story!

Well done 9R1 for topping the leaderboard for a second week!

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

Monday 28th September - AW 2027 Launch Event
17:30-18:30

Thursday 1st October - Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening

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

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 continue 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 B timetable can be found below. 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 B	Lunch	After School
Monday	Choir - Music Room	Year 7 - Axiom Maths (invite only)
	Formula 1 LA3 JGO	DofE Bronze (registered participants only) - Sci5
		Year 8 Boys football
Tuesday	KS4 Drama Club (y9 & 10) - Drama	Dance Live - Whole School Welcome - Hall
	Comic creation club (years 7 - 9) - Art 3	Bingo Club - LRC
		Year 11 Enrichment/Catch Up (all Maths)
		Minecraft - IT2
		Netball - all years (ASTRO)
		Rugby - all years (Field)
Wednesday	LanguageNut LA3	Eco-CLub 3 - 4 HU8
	Horrible Histories Yr 7 HU1	Whole School Production (starts in New Year)
	Tintin Club LA4 AKO	Year 10 enrichment/catch up (All ADT subjects) - Art 1, 2 & 3
	Minecraft - IT2	Science/ Chemistry club - Sc2
		DofE Silver (invite only) - Sci5
		Reading Club - LRC
		Year 7 Boys Football
Thursday	KS3 Drama Club (y7 & 8) - Drama	
	Yr 8 Project - invite onlu - HU1	
	Reading Leaders - Library	
Friday	Foreign Film Club NBA LA3	Year 11 Enrichment/Catch Up
	Live Theatre Appreciation Club - Drama	Year 11 SS/GCSE PE/CD/HSC Enrichment/Catch Up
	Year 7 - Lego - Ma8	
	Quiz club - LRC	
	Fun Fridays -Appropriate pc games- LRC	



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Reading Plus Start-Up Challenge 2026

We are excited to be taking part in the Reading Plus Start-Up Challenge, a national competition designed to encourage students to build strong reading habits at the beginning of the academic year.

Over the coming weeks, students are encouraged to complete as many Reading Plus lessons as possible. Schools across the country will be competing to achieve the highest average number of completed reading lessons, with prizes awarded to the top-performing secondary schools.

PRIZES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

1st Place: £150 voucher
2nd Place: £100 voucher
3rd Place: £50 voucher

CHALLENGE DATES

The competition runs until Sunday 8 November 2026, with winners announced on Wednesday 11 November 2026.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

Reading regularly is one of the most effective ways to improve comprehension, vocabulary, confidence, and academic success across all subjects. We encourage parents and carers to support their child by:

- Setting aside regular time for Reading Plus at home
- Encouraging consistent participation each week
- Celebrating progress and achievements

Every completed lesson contributes to our school's overall total, giving us a chance to climb the national leaderboard and compete for a prize.

Thank you for your support, and good luck to all of our readers!

Let's see how far our reading can take us this term!



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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Year 11 - Upcoming College Open Events

Our Year 11 students are now beginning to explore their post-16 options, and the months ahead provide an excellent opportunity to visit local colleges, sixth forms and training providers.

Open evenings and information events allow students and families to learn more about courses, entry requirements, enrichment opportunities and future career pathways. Attending a range of events can help students make informed decisions about their next steps after GCSEs.

The Year 11 College Events Calendar can be found opposite and includes dates for local open events throughout the autumn term. We encourage students and parents/carers to take advantage of these opportunities and begin exploring the pathways that best suit their interests, strengths and aspirations.

View the full College Events Calendar opposite and check provider websites for the latest event information.

COLLEGE EVENTS CALENDAR

2026-2027

COLLEGE	DATES & TIMES
HSDC South Downs www.hsdac.ac.uk	Tuesday, 6 October 2026 (5:00 PM – 8:00 PM) South Downs Campus – College Road, Waterloo, PO7 8AA Saturday, 7 November 2026 (10:00 AM – 1:00 PM) South Downs Campus – College Road, Waterloo, PO7 8AA
HSDC Havant www.hsdac.ac.uk	Wednesday, 30 September 2026 (5:00 PM – 8:00 PM) Havant Campus – New Road, Havant, PO9 1QL Saturday, 7 November 2026 (10:00 AM – 1:00 PM) Havant Campus – New Road, Havant, PO9 1QL
COPC Portsmouth www.city-of-portsmouth-college.ac.uk	Wednesday, 14 October and Thursday, 15 October 2026 (4:30 PM – 7:30 PM) Sixth Form Campus (A Levels) – Tangier Road, Portsmouth, PO3 6PZ
COPC Highbury & North Harbour www.city-of-portsmouth-college.ac.uk	Wednesday, 14 October 2026 (4:30 PM – 7:30 PM) Highbury Campus (Vocational & Technical) – Tudor Crescent, Portsmouth, PO6 2SA North Harbour Campus (Construction & Trades) – Unit 1 Harbourgate, Southampton Road, Portsmouth, PO6 4BQ Thursday, 15 October 2026 (4:30 PM – 7:30 PM) Highbury Campus (Vocational & Technical) – Tudor Crescent, Portsmouth, PO6 2SA North Harbour Campus (Construction & Trades) – Unit 1 Harbourgate, Southampton Road, Portsmouth, PO6 4BQ
Chichester College www.chichester.ac.uk	Tuesday, 6 October 2026 (4:30 PM – 7:00 PM) Chichester Campus – Westgate Fields, Chichester, PO19 1SB Saturday, 7 November 2026 (10:00 AM – 1:00 PM) Chichester Campus – Westgate Fields, Chichester, PO19 1SB
South Hampshire College Group – Fareham and CEMAST Campus www.shcg.ac.uk	Thursday, 15 October 2026 (5:00 PM – 7:00 PM) Bishopsfield Road Campus (Main Campus) – Bishopsfield Road, Fareham, PO14 1NH Tuesday, 10 November 2026 (5:00 PM – 7:00 PM) CEMAST Campus (Engineering & Manufacturing) – 1 Meteor Way, Broom Way, Lee-on-the-Solent, PO13 9FU CETC Campus (Civil Engineering & Construction) – 1 Meteor Way, Broom Way, Lee-on-the-Solent, PO13 9FU

Do you have a passion for reading and want to learn new skills?

You will have the opportunity to:

- Become a reading ambassador, promoting a love of reading
- Recommend books for the library and displays

COME TO THE FIRST READING LEADERS MEETING OF THE YEAR: THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER LUNCH TIME IN LRC

#TEAMTRAFALGARREADS






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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as *Authority* and *Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live*.

5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like *PolyIno* and apps like *Goodreads* for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

9 RECONNECT

There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website



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LIVE WELL Trafalgar



Join us for an exciting evening of activities and workshops led by specialists to support you and your child's wellbeing throughout their journey in school.



**Mental Health
Support**



**Parent & Carer
Support**



**Wellbeing
Resources**



**Wellbeing
Activities**



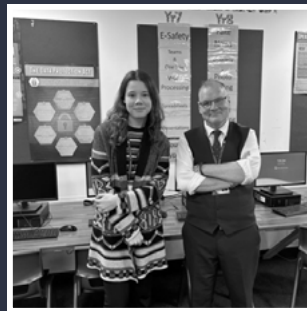
**Workshops &
Information**

**Thursday 24th September 2026,
3:15pm - 5:30pm**



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YOUR FUTURE STARTS HERE! MAKE A DIFFERENCE. BECOME A TEACHER.

ARE YOU CONSIDERING A CAREER IN
TEACHING?

We are hosting in-person information events
at various locations on 15th October.



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