

Parent Bulletin

25th September 2026

It has been another busy and successful week at Trafalgar, with students continuing to demonstrate the positivity, commitment and ambition that make our school community so special.

This week, our Year 10 students attended the Careers & Apprenticeship Show at the Mountbatten Centre, where they explored a wide range of post-16, apprenticeship and career opportunities. It was fantastic to see students engaging with employers, colleges and training providers as they began thinking about their future pathways.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Live Well Trafalgar event on Thursday. The evening provided an excellent opportunity for students and families to access advice, resources and support from a variety of wellbeing organisations. We are grateful to all of the professionals and partners who gave their time to support our school community.

A reminder to Year 7 parents/carers to book an appointment for our upcoming Meet the Tutor Evening. These appointments provide an opportunity to discuss how your child is settling into life at Trafalgar, celebrate successes and address any questions you may have. If you have not yet booked your slot, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible via School Cloud - please see the instructions sent out via Class Charts.

Until next week!

Team Trafalgar

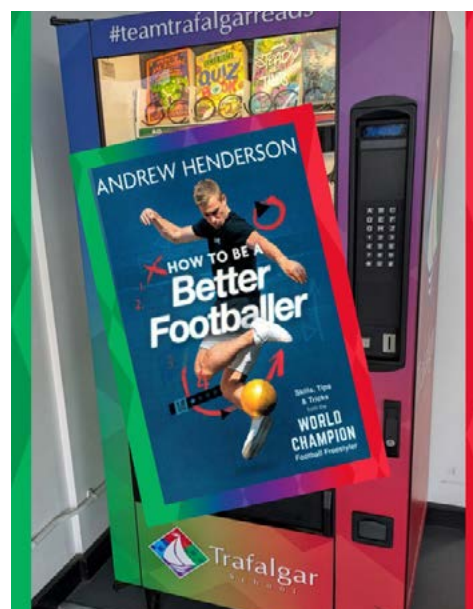
Reading Plus Winner of the Week!

Congratulations to Aydan in Year 7, our Reading Plus winner of the week!

Aydan chose football skills and tricks guide: "How to be a Better Footballer" by Andrew Henderson. We hope you are enjoying learning some new tricks Aydan!

Well done 9R1 for topping the leaderboard for another week!

Don't forget, you can help your class climb that leaderboard and be in with a 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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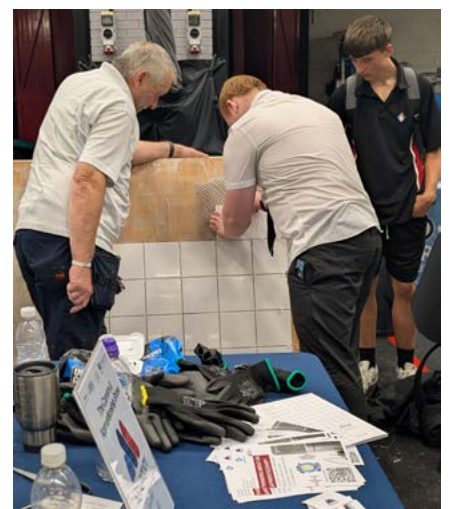
Careers & Apprenticeship Show 2026

Our Year 10 students attended the annual Careers & Apprenticeship Show at the Mountbatten Centre this week, where they had the opportunity to explore the many exciting pathways available after secondary education.

The event brought together more than 50 employers, further education colleges and training providers from across the region, giving students and their families the chance to learn about a wide range of career, apprenticeship and post-16 education opportunities. Throughout the afternoon, students spoke directly with industry professionals, asked questions about different career routes and gained valuable insight into the skills and qualifications needed for future success.

Events such as this play an important role in helping young people make informed decisions about their next steps, whether that be further education, apprenticeships or employment. It was fantastic to see our students engaging confidently with exhibitors and taking the initiative to explore the many possibilities available to them.

We would like to thank the organisers and exhibitors for delivering such a valuable event and helping to inspire the next generation as they begin to plan for their futures.



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, Waterloooville, PO7 8AA Saturday, 7 November 2026 (10:00 AM – 1:00 PM) South Downs Campus – College Road, Waterloooville, 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

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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8th October 2026

6:00 - 8:00 pm

OPEN EVENING

Refreshments will be available to purchase on site

- Hear from our Acting Headteacher
- Explore our facilities
- Learn about our curriculum
- Meet our students
- Chat to the Senior Leadership Team

Guided tours on 12th, 14th & 16th October - Book via our website



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DISCORD

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE RESTRICTION
13+
(with a 17+ app rating on app stores)

Launched in 2015, and with over 90 million daily active users, Discord has become one of the main ways gamers communicate – with text, voice, and video chat helping people connect around shared interests. For many young people, Discord can be a useful way to talk with friends, join communities, and explore hobbies. However, like any online platform built around communication, it also carries risks around strangers, inappropriate content, spending money, and time spent online. This guide looks at what parents and educators need to know.

A CHANNEL FOR EVERYTHING

While Discord is strongly associated with video games, it also hosts communities for almost anything you can imagine, such as books, music, influencers, cooking and sport. Some large servers focus on popular games like Minecraft or Fortnite, but many are private, invite-only spaces where friends or communities with shared interests can chat across phones, computers, and gaming consoles.

REAL-LIFE DISTRACTION

Like many social platforms, Discord can become a real time-sink. Although it does not rely on endless scrolling in the same way as some apps, constant messages, group chats, and voice channels can keep young people engaged for long periods, especially in larger servers. As Discord is closely linked to gaming, it may also increase the time they spend playing games.

STRANGER DANGER

Users can choose to stay within private servers with only people they know, but joining public servers will most likely bring them into contact with strangers. Many users are just friendly enthusiasts, yet others could have harmful intentions, including grooming, extortion, or radicalisation. In these types of environments, anyone can claim to be another teenager, which can make it harder for young people to judge who is safe to talk to.

A HARASSMENT RISK

There is also a risk from people a young person already knows in the real world. Bullying in the real world can continue online, and Discord servers can make this feel more intimidating, especially if someone uses anonymous or multiple accounts to carry out threatening behaviours. Because Discord works across computers, phones, and gaming consoles, unwanted contact can follow young people into online spaces that should feel safe and private.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

This huge amount of choice can help young people “find their tribe”, especially when they have niche interests. However, because users can create servers around almost any topic, younger users may still encounter unsuitable or distressing content. Even in spaces linked to child-friendly games, Discord cannot directly control every conversation, image, or video shared by other users.

A MONEY DRAIN

Discord is free to use, but users can still spend real-world money on it. This may include Discord ‘Nitro’, a monthly subscription that unlocks customisation features and larger media uploads, or purchases through the ‘Shop’ for profile cosmetics and game-related items. Small purchases can add up quickly, especially if spending controls are not in place.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE FAMILY CENTRE

Parents and carers should make use of Discord’s ‘Family Centre’, which gives an overview of a younger user’s activity while respecting their privacy. Messages are not shared, but adults can view an activity feed and receive weekly email summaries. Discord says this is designed to support conversations about online behaviour, rather than be about constant monitoring.

CHECK, TALK, REPORT

Review Discord’s privacy settings together, including who can send them friend requests or private messages. Use this as a chance to talk to them about strangers, privacy, and personal information, making sure young people know to question suspicious behaviour, such as requests to keep conversations secret. Show them how to block and report these kinds of users and reassure them that asking for help will not get them into trouble.

MANAGE TIME ONLINE

Agree clear expectations around when and how Discord can be used, especially during homework, bedtime, and family time. Encourage young people to turn off unnecessary notifications and leave servers that feel overwhelming. If Discord is mainly used alongside gaming, discuss healthy limits for both activities so that schoolwork, sleep, and offline friendships are not affected.

REVIEW SPENDING CONTROLS

Talk openly about paid features such as Discord Nitro, profile cosmetics, and in-game purchases. Make sure the young people in your care understand that digital items still cost real money. Check payment settings on the device they use, avoid storing card details where possible, and consider adding approval requirements for purchases, particularly for younger or more impulsive users.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom’s Guide, The Evening Standard, and The New Statesman.



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See full reference list on our website



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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.



inspiringfutureteachers.org/hisp
teachertraining@hispmat.org



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