

# Parent Bulletin



9<sup>th</sup> October 2026

Welcome to this week's Parent Bulletin.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to all of the students who volunteered their time to support our Open Evening last night. Whether helping in departments or guiding families around the school, they were exceptional ambassadors for Trafalgar. The feedback we received from prospective families was overwhelmingly positive, and our students did themselves and the school proud. Their enthusiasm, confidence and willingness to share their experiences helped make the evening a great success.

Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome our Year 10 students and families to our Preparing for Year 10 Information Evening next week. The event will outline the opportunities and support available throughout the year ahead, including work experience, college taster events, careers guidance, alumni engagement and our careers fair; helping students make informed decisions as they begin to consider their post-16 pathways.

Inside this week's bulletin, you can also read a recap of our recent Belgium trip, where a group of Year 8 students visited a range of historical sites and experienced Belgian culture firsthand. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of history beyond the classroom while creating lasting memories with their peers.

Until next week!

## Team Trafalgar

## Hot Chocolate with the Head

Each week, students are nominated by staff in recognition of their positive attitude, outstanding effort, exemplary behaviour, kindness towards others, or for demonstrating our school values in action.

This week's nominee is Roman!

Roman has been nominated by three members of staff for demonstrating exceptional independence, resilience, and personal growth during the Belgium residential. He approached the trip with a consistently positive attitude, showing respect and enthusiasm throughout. Roman fully engaged with the activities, embraced new experiences and made a real effort to connect with others.



Recognised by three members of staff, we would like to congratulate Roman on being a fantastic ambassador for the school. He was a real credit to himself and the Trafalgar community. Well done, Roman! #HotChocFri

## Key Dates

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October** - Preparing for Year 10 Information Evening 6:00-7:00pm

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October** - Half Term

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** - Students back in school

## 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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# Year 8 WW1 Battlefields Trip

Our Year 8 students enjoyed an unforgettable journey through the battlefields of the First World War, bringing their classroom learning to life and deepening their understanding of one of history's most significant conflicts.

Students began by paying their respects at Tyne Cot and Langemark, making stark comparisons between Commonwealth and German cemeteries and reflecting on the enormous human cost of war. The trip included visits to some of the most important sites on the Western Front. At Vimy Ridge, students explored the impressive Canadian National Memorial and ventured into the tunnels that the Allies used to move through enemy lines. At Passchendaele, they discovered how families were evacuated, how the war developed through the three Battles of Ypres, and were able to empathise with soldiers as they experienced life in the trenches.



Students also visited Essex Farm Cemetery, where they discovered the story behind John McCrae's famous poem, 'In Flanders Fields'. A particular highlight was attending the moving Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres. Standing silently as the bugles sounded provided a poignant and memorable moment of remembrance that will stay with students for years to come.



The trip was not all solemn reflection, however. Students also enjoyed exploring the local area, including a visit to the famous Leonidas Chocolate Shop, where they sampled and purchased delicious Belgian chocolates.

Throughout the visit, students demonstrated exemplary behaviour, curiosity, and respect. The experience provided a valuable opportunity to connect with history in a meaningful way, helping them appreciate the sacrifices made by previous generations while creating lasting memories with their classmates. It was truly an inspiring and educational trip that will be remembered for years to come.



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# Preparing for Year 10 Information Evening

As students begin to look ahead to Key Stage 4 and beyond, our Preparing for Year 10 Information Evening will provide valuable insight into the opportunities available throughout the coming year.

Parents and students will gain an overview of what Year 10 holds, including key careers and personal development experiences such as the Big Interview, the Apprenticeship Bus visit, and the use of Unifrog to help students explore careers, pathways, and future aspirations. We will also share information about our planned work experience programme, college taster events, opportunities to speak with former students about their pathways and experiences, and a careers fair designed to help students explore the wide range of post-16 options available to them.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students and families to understand the exciting opportunities ahead and begin planning for future success.



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



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# Reading Plus Winner of the Week!

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

Evelyn has been really focusing her time on Reading Plus in the hopes of winning! She was tempted by many of the books in the Book Vending Machine but in the end, she excitedly chose puzzle collection 'Murdle Junior' by G.T Karber. We hope you enjoy the puzzles Evelyn!

Also, well done 8G2 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.

| Leaderboard                                   |      |
|-----------------------------------------------|------|
| Top Classes - Total Avg. Reading Lessons (SR) |      |
| 1. 8G2/En - 26/27                             | 11.1 |
| 2. 8R2/En - 26/27                             | 10.8 |
| 3. 8R4/En - 26/27                             | 10.8 |
| 4. 7G3/En - 26/27                             | 10.3 |
| 5. 9R2 - 26/27                                | 8.8  |



## BAE Systems Apprentice Open Evenings

Students and families are invited to explore exciting future career opportunities at BAE Systems through their upcoming Apprentice Open Evenings at HM Naval Base Portsmouth. These events are open to students aged 14 and over and provide an excellent opportunity to learn about apprenticeship pathways in engineering, digital technology, radar systems, manufacturing, business, and planning.

Visitors will have the chance to meet current apprentices, engineers, digital specialists, and business professionals, gaining first-hand insight into what it is like to work for BAE Systems. Students can discover how apprenticeships combine practical experience with professional development while contributing to technologies and services that support the UK's defence sector. Opportunities are available from age 16+, making this a valuable event for young people beginning to consider their post-16 options.

Places are limited and advance booking is essential. As the event takes place on a working defence site, all visitors will be subject to security clearance and will need valid photo identification. Under-18s must be accompanied by an adult. Families interested in attending are encouraged to book early to avoid disappointment.

### Open Evening Dates

[Tuesday 3 November 2026, 6:00pm to 8:00pm](#)

[Wednesday 4 November 2026, 6:00pm to 8:00pm](#)

**Registration closes at 6:00pm on Wednesday 14 October 2026, or earlier if all places are filled.**



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# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## CONNECTING CHILDREN WITH NATURE

Spending time outdoors plays a vital role in children's health, happiness, and development. This guide explores why nature matters, the barriers families may face, and practical ways to help children reconnect with wildlife and the outdoors. Here we highlight simple activities, creative ideas, and safe approaches to encourage exploration, confidence, and a lasting love of nature in everyday life.

### 1 TIME OUTSIDE MATTERS

Evidence shows that time in nature can benefit children's mental and physical health, learning, social development, and overall wellbeing. Nature does not need to be rare, grand, or far away to matter. Common, small, and local spaces can offer valuable opportunities too. Despite competing demands on children's time, many say being in nature makes them happy.

### 2 UNDERSTAND THE BARRIERS

Children's outdoor play has reduced significantly in recent generations, with independent play and roaming also becoming less common. Reasons can include alternative play options, worries about safety and risk, fewer suitable play spaces, busier roads, and increasingly structured routines. Understanding these barriers helps adults respond with practical, realistic ways to make outdoor time easier and more appealing.

### 3 TAKE ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE

Children can benefit from being in natural spaces even when engaging with nature is not the main activity. Think about everyday pursuits that could be moved outdoors, such as reading, playing cards and board games, arts and crafts, hide and seek, exercising, eating, or chatting. Involve children and young people in creating their outdoor space – for example, an upturned box can become a table, while cushions wrapped in strong bags can make temporary outdoor seating.

### 4 USE TECHNOLOGY POSITIVELY

Too much screen time can be unhelpful, but technology can also support nature connection, particularly for older children and young people. They can use a camera to document the wildlife they find, create art projects, or record natural sounds. Apps can help identify birdsong, plants, insects, or stars. Older children and young people may also enjoy citizen science projects, where their observations contribute to real environmental research.

### 5 CREATE MINI ADVENTURES

Green spaces are brilliant for exploration, adventure, creativity, and problem-solving. Adventures can be small and local, such as hunting for insects, looking for natural colours, or spotting patterns. They can also be bigger, including hill walks, den building, rock pooling, or watching the sunset. These experiences can create moments of awe and leave lasting memories.

### 6 BUILD NATURE AT HOME

Even small spaces can help children connect with nature through play and creativity. Seeds can be grown in windowsill boxes or hanging baskets, while herbs, strawberries, flowers, and cherry tomatoes often thrive in containers. Bird feeders, nest boxes, and insect hotels can support local wildlife. Indoors, garden magazines, leaves, and natural textures can inspire imaginative art, storytelling, and play.

### 7 EXPLORE FURTHER AFIELD

Holidays and weekends can offer children and young people the opportunity to visit country parks, nature reserves, waterways, woods, and the coast. These places may create memorable "Wow!" moments, such as rock pooling, exploring forests, pond dipping, or simply visiting somewhere new. Local activity centres may also offer taster sessions in canoeing, climbing, or archery, helping children and young people try outdoor activities safely.

### 8 ENGAGE OLDER CHILDREN

Teenagers may be less interested in adult-led activities designed for younger children. They often respond better to challenges, independence, skill building, and meaningful responsibility. Wildlife surveys, photography, outdoor cooking, whittling with safe tools, den building, or conservation tasks can feel more purposeful. Allowing controlled risks can support confidence, judgement, and a stronger connection with nature.

### 9 NOTICE LOCAL NATURE

Natural spaces enable unstructured play and exploration. Adults don't need specialist knowledge to help children enjoy nature and wildlife. Start by noticing what can be heard, smelled, and seen in a garden, school grounds, local park, or on the way to the shops. Encourage walking at a slower pace, looking for birds, leaves, insects, clouds, colours, and patterns, so that nature becomes part of daily living.

### 10 MANAGE SENSIBLE RISKS

Taking certain small risks in nature can in fact be valuable for children. Getting wet, muddy, or even stung by a nettle can help them understand the consequences of nature, cope with discomfort, build confidence outdoors, and assess situations more safely in future. Adults can support them in these moments by setting clear boundaries, supervising appropriately, teaching safety, and preparing children for all sorts of weather and natural spaces, while still allowing their curiosity, independence, and resilience to grow.

### Meet Our Expert

Kate Whitehead leads on Connecting Children with Nature for Natural England, the government's adviser for the natural environment. With a background in ecology and sustainable development, and a passion for education, Kate works to facilitate between the environmental, education, and health sectors, collating research and best practice to support schools to unlock the multitude of benefits nature can offer.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website



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