Parent Bulletin

6th November 2026

Welcome to this week's Parent Bulletin. We hope all our students and families enjoyed a restful and enjoyable half-term break, and have returned refreshed for another busy and exciting half term at Trafalgar.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Presentation Evening last night. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements, dedication, and success of our students. We were especially pleased to welcome back so many of our former Year 11 students, who returned to collect their examination certificates and reconnect with staff and friends as part of the celebrations.

This week's bulletin also includes plenty of photographs from our recent Zanzibar trip, which took place over half term. It has been fantastic to see the experiences our students enjoyed during their time away, and we look forward to sharing even more stories, reflections, and highlights from this unforgettable visit over the coming weeks.

A reminder for Year 9 families that Parents' Evening booking slots are now open. Please check ClassCharts or our WhatsApp Channel, for full details and information on how to book your appointments.

We would also like to wish our Year 11 students the very best as they begin their mock examinations next week. These exams are an important opportunity to put their preparation into practice, identify strengths, and gain valuable experience ahead of the summer. We encourage all Year 11 students to stay positive, work hard, and remember that consistent effort and determination are the keys to success.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school community.

Until next week!

Team Trafalgar

Targeting Success

Congratulations to Ezra, who represented his archery club at the weekend in one of the largest archery competitions in the region, the Forest of Bere Crookhorn Shoot at the Mountbatten Centre.



Competing against archers from across the area, Ezra delivered one of his best performances to date, securing an impressive third-place finish and was presented with his medal by his club chairman earlier this week.

What a fantastic accomplishment.
Well done, Ezra!



Key Dates

Thursday 19th November - Year 9 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 24th November - PD Day 1
Friday 27th November - Lille Market Trip
Monday 30th November - INSET Day (school closed)

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.

Zanzibar Adventure Creates Memories to Last a Lifetime

Over half term, a group of Trafalgar students travelled to Zanzibar with African Adventures for an unforgettable experience of cultural exchange, community work and adventure.

During their time away, students worked alongside local children, delivering lessons in mathematics, geography, science, and English, whilst also supporting ongoing development projects at the school. This included helping with construction work, such as laying part of a new school floor, leaving a lasting impact on the community they visited.



There was also plenty of opportunity to experience the beauty and culture of Zanzibar. Highlights included days spent snorkelling in crystal-clear waters, spotting starfish, enjoying a seafood barbecue on the beach, exploring the historic streets of Stone Town, and visiting the famous red colobus monkeys in Jozani Forest National Park.



One particularly memorable moment saw our students teaching local children the Pompey Chimes, with enthusiastic cries of "Play Up Pompey!" echoing across the school grounds.

The trip provided countless opportunities for learning, personal growth, and unforgettable experiences. We look forward to sharing more photographs, stories, and reflections from our students over the coming weeks as they reflect on the impact of this incredible journey.









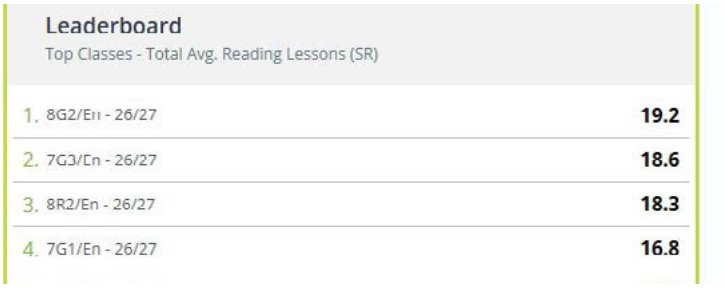
Reading Plus Winner of the Week!

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

Mateusz is an enthusiastic reader who enjoys exploring all kinds of books. Faced with plenty of tempting choices in the book vending machine, he eventually selected 'Last Block Standing' by Nick Eliopulos, one of the popular Minecraft adventure stories. We hope you enjoy your new book, Mateusz!

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.





Raffle Prize Donations Needed for Team Dance Live Christmas Fayre

Our Team Dance Live students represented the school brilliantly last year, competing against schools and colleges with significantly larger production budgets. This year, we're hoping to raise additional funds to help our talented performers create the best entry possible, and give them every opportunity to shine.

As part of these fundraising efforts, we will be holding a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 5th December, and we are looking for donations for our raffle.

If you are able to donate a raffle prize, no matter how small, we would be incredibly grateful. We would also love to hear from any local businesses that may be willing to donate a larger prize in exchange for promotional opportunities at the event.

In addition, we are seeking volunteers who may be interested in running a stall at the fayre. Alongside dance performances, a bake sale, and the raffle, we'd love to offer even more activities for visitors to enjoy.

If you can help in any way, whether that's donating a prize, running a stall, or connecting us with a local business, please get in touch as soon as possible by emailing Mrs Matthews (smatthews.trafalgar@salterns.org) and Mrs Jordan (ajordan.trafalgar@salterns.org).

Thank you for supporting our Team Dance Live students, and helping them make this year's competition their best yet.

Curriculum Walks: See Learning in Action at Trafalgar

We are delighted to invite parents and carers to take part in one of our upcoming Curriculum Walks, offering a unique opportunity to see learning in action across the school.

Led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team, these visits will provide an insight into lessons, our curriculum, and the positive learning environment that underpins life at Trafalgar.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. To book a place, please email info.trafalgar@salterns.org by 13th November, stating your preferred session:

- **Monday 16th November, 9:15am to 10:15am**
- **Monday 23rd November, 9:15am to 10:15am**

For families who are unable to attend on these dates, further Curriculum Walk opportunities will be available in the Spring Term.

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers into school to experience the excellent learning taking place every day at Trafalgar, and to gain a deeper understanding of how we support every student to achieve their potential.



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.

MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones have become a huge part of young people's everyday lives, but new restrictions on their use in schools and proposed restrictions on social media are changing how children and young people can use them. This guide explores mobile phones, their use by young people, what the evidence tells us, the current and future legal position, and what parents and educators should do.

What are the risks?

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The relationship between smartphone and social media use and young people's mental health is complex, and evidence does not establish a simple cause-and-effect relationship. Some researchers and commentators, however, including Jonathan Haidt, author of The Anxious Generation, argue that increased smartphone and social media use may be contributing to poorer mental health and wellbeing among young people.

LEARNING AND ATTENTION

Mobile phones can distract pupils from learning and make it harder to maintain attention and concentration. Research suggests that learning and attention have improved in schools that already prohibited mobile phone use, particularly among pupils with lower prior attainment. Now that the DfE's guidance on mobile phones is statutory, schools should ensure that the whole-school community understands and follows their policy, while monitoring how effectively it is implemented.

HARMFUL CONTENT AND BULLYING

Mobile phones can be a means of extending peer conflict from the community into schools and from schools back into the community. They also provide easy access to harmful and inappropriate content, including content that is sexually explicit, promotes self-harm or eating disorders, or is violent in nature. Exposure to this content can negatively affect children's mental health and wellbeing, potentially increasing the support they require from schools, parents, and support services.

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Ofcom research found that 13- to 14-year-olds spend an average of 4 hours 19 minutes online each day across smartphones, tablets, and computers. However, there is considerable variation between children, with some spending significantly more or less time online. Excessive screen time can contribute to disrupted sleep and fragmented attention, both of which can negatively affect children's mental health and wellbeing.

The current and upcoming rules

SCHOOL BANS

As of 1 September 2026, schools are expected to be phone-free environments by default, with any exceptions limited to specific circumstances. Schools can decide how best to implement this. For example, some may provide secure storage or collect phones at the beginning of the school day, while others may prohibit pupils from bringing them onto school premises altogether. Schools can also confiscate mobile phones in line with their behaviour policy, while searches for prohibited phones must follow the relevant legal requirements.

REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

Schools should make reasonable adjustments where necessary for disabled pupils and may allow exceptions in other circumstances, including where mobile phone use is necessary to support a medical condition or an identified need. For example, a pupil with diabetes may use a continuous glucose monitor linked to their mobile phone to monitor their blood sugar levels. Schools may also make adaptations where mobile phone use provides agreed support for pupils with SEND. Any exceptions should be clearly reflected in the school's policies and procedures.

ONLINE SAFETY ACT 2023 AND 2026 PROPOSALS

Platforms are required to protect children from harmful content and use age checks to prevent children from accessing pornography and certain other types of harmful content. In June 2026, the government announced that it intends to stop social media companies offering services to under-16s. These restrictions are expected to be introduced in spring 2027, but the precise scope and rules have not yet been confirmed.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

While there is ongoing debate about the relationship between smartphones, social media and young people's mental health, there are steps that parents and educators can take to help reduce the potential risks associated with their use:

1. Delay smartphones. Consider waiting until a child is 14 before giving them a smartphone. Where a child needs a device to contact family, a basic phone may be an alternative.
2. Delay social media. Consider delaying access to social media until the age of 16.
3. Support phone-free schools. Parents, pupils, and staff should understand and support the school's approach to mobile phones.
4. Encourage screen-free activities. Promote independent and outdoor play, alongside other activities that give children opportunities to socialise and spend time away from screens.

Meet Our Expert

Mark Emmerson OBE, CEO – City of London Academies Trust. With nearly 45 years' experience in inner-city education, including 26 years in senior leadership roles, Mark was an early advocate for tackling the risks of mobile phones in schools, introducing a ban as headteacher in 2000. He has also served as a national DfE adviser and held local authority roles, consistently driving improvements in pupil outcomes and Ofsted judgements, particularly in disadvantaged communities.



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