

Parent Bulletin



24th November 2023

Welcome to this week's Parent Bulletin!

A massive thank you to everyone who attended our virtual Year 9 Parents' Evening last night. It was great to see such a large turnout. These events are a vital part of our school community, providing an opportunity to discuss student progress and establish any support needed.

We have had an exciting week with the Sky Bus visit. Year 7 have been loving their sessions with the Sky Ambassadors and we reckon there are some future TV producers and broadcasters in our Trafalgar School family! You can see more photos from the week inside.

The deadline is approaching for Year 10 students to secure their private placements for Work Experience next May. Next week they will take part in the Big Interview, which will give them more skills and confidence to help with this process. Please remind all Year 10s that their application forms must be handed in by Monday. If students need any extra help or guidance please encourage them to see Miss Passmore in the library or email WEX@trafalgarschool.org.uk.

Don't forget that next Friday (1st) and Monday (4th) are INSET days and school will be closed to students.

Stay safe and take care,

Team Trafalgar

Student Heads of House for 2023/24

Introducing our Student Heads of House and their deputies for 2023-24!

Well done to everyone who applied and congratulations to our new team.

We can't wait to see what you'll do this year as you lead your respective Houses!

#studentleadership #aspiration



Key Dates

2023

Wednesday 29th November - PD Day 2

Friday 1st December - INSET Day (school closed to students)

Monday 4th December - INSET Day (school closed to students)

Thursday 7th December - Year 11 Parents' Evening

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. You can find details of what they need [here](#).



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Sky Up Academy Tour comes to Trafalgar

Our Year 7 students have had a fantastic week with the Sky Up Academy Studios. They had to prepare pieces for TV, learning about the planning and pre-production processes and then got to watch their finished pieces.

They created campaigns to encourage people to make small environmentally friendly changes. These were fantastic sessions, with students learning about branding and how to ensure a message is explicit. They learnt about different roles and opportunities available in tv production, with students choosing roles of strategist, writer, creative and producer during the process.

This has been a fantastic experience that we would like to thank Miss Passmore for organising as well as Sky Up Academy for the brilliant opportunity. Students were able to develop foundational digital skills by having hands-on experience with sky technology, whilst gaining insight into creative and technical careers.



Humanities Department Update

Year 7 Mary Rose Trip

Year 7 had an amazing visit to the Mary Rose museum for a tour, workshop and visit to the new 4D cinema!



The museum got in touch to share how fantastic our students were and that they: *"asked some really fantastic questions of the team."*

Thank you to Mrs Davies!

Incredible Homework!

Year 8 have been making some incredible WW1 project homework!



Year 8 Geography

Year 8 geography have been investigating immigration, with a focus on why people leave Mexico to try to get into the USA. This class were asked to use all their research to produce a creative piece of work on the topic. They loved that their work space was their tables!

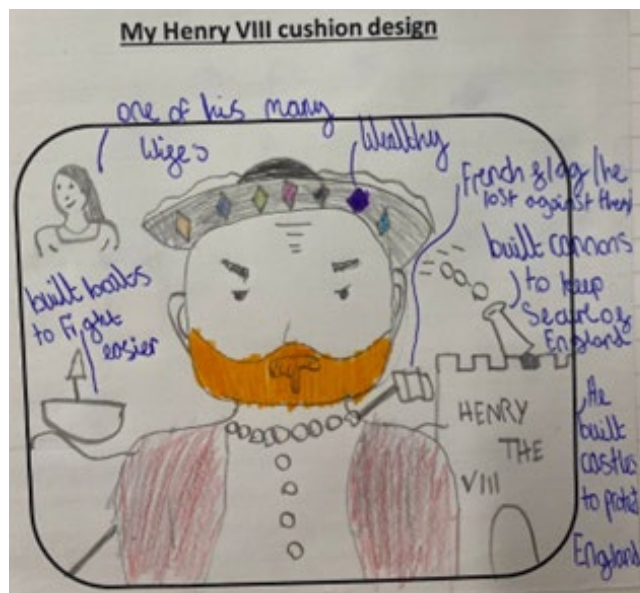
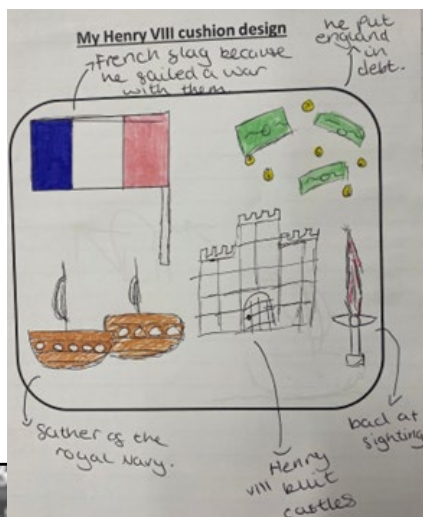


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Year 7 History

Year 7 have been building on their knowledge from the Mary Rose museum. One fun activity included designing Henry VIII cushions!



Remembrance Service

A big thank you to Miss Arnold, Freya and Lisa who represented our community by laying a gorgeous wreath on Remembrance Sunday, at a service with the Mayor. Thank you to all.

Job opportunities at Trafalgar School

We are currently recruiting for the following roles to join our fantastic team here at Trafalgar:

- Subject Leader: Music
- Teacher of Humanities
- Subject Leader: Geography
- Teacher of Art, Design & Technology
- Site Manager

If you, or someone you know, would be great for any of these roles then visit our website to find out more and apply!



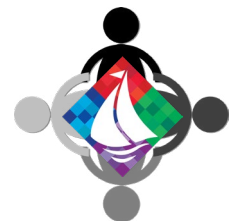
Community Circles

Monday morning's check-in question in our community circles this week was:

"Which clubs are you going to try this week?"

Tutors were on hand to give more information on clubs, especially as there are now more lunchtime clubs on offer than ever. Particular favourites were Film Club held in the English department on Wednesday lunchtimes and Trampolining Club after school, also on a Wednesday. Benefits cited were getting to mix with students from other year groups, and the relaxed atmosphere that allows staff to get to know students better and vice versa. In other words, a brilliant opportunity to build and maintain relationships, which is what we're all about! Does your child/children attend after school clubs? Ask them what they'd like to try and look out for our daily instagram posts showing what is on offer.

#extracurricular #joinin #teamtrafalgar



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WINK

AGE RATING
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

POTENTIAL FOR GROOMING

Wink accounts can't be made private – so when a young person uploads images and shares their social media usernames, it's easier for potential groomers to stalk and locate them online. The fact that children prioritise having an abundance of friends is also a concern: they're more likely to accept someone just to build their friend count – possibly including users with sinister intentions.

ACCIDENTAL OVER-SHARING

Many young people don't consider privacy when they choose to share their social media usernames on their Wink profile. This allows other people to connect with them on multiple platforms, strengthening their online presence and reputation. Some children post photos which reveal aspects of their personal life to other users – showing their house, school, friends and family, for instance.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many popular messaging apps contain profiles featuring profanity, nude or semi-nude photos and users openly looking for a "wife" or "hook ups". Users can send messages anonymously, which engenders a sense of power and freedom. Children often engage in inappropriate behaviour more willingly when it's anonymous, even if it's not the sort of thing they would take part in normally.

Wink is a messaging app which allows children to connect and communicate with other users. In a similar style to Tinder, Wink uses the swipe method for browsing profiles and accepting or declining them. Once two users have accepted each other by swiping on one another's profile, they can then communicate and play games online together. The fact that Wink allows children to share photos, personal information and their location with other users has caused significant concern.

CYBERBULLYING

Being anonymous online provides some users with an incentive to bully others through toxic private conversations. Anonymous bullies can send hurtful messages or pressure young people into sending inappropriate content. Being a victim of cyberbullying can result in children becoming depressed and showing low self-esteem. If your child is exhibiting these signs, it's time to step in.

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Wink encourages repeated engagement through signing in daily, making connections, building up a message 'streak' and publicly sharing stories. The reward is 'gems', which allow users to connect with more people, play games and edit their profile background. This can lead to children spending an excessive amount of screen time on the app, which of course can be detrimental to their health.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

If you do decide to allow your child to have a Wink account – or you find that they already have one – it's vital to talk to them about how to use the app responsibly and keep themselves safe. You could also consider exploring Wink yourself and becoming familiar with the app before letting your child download it, as there are no security settings or parental controls that can be put into place.

OFFER YOUR SUPPORT

While it's not always easy to talk about inappropriate content with your child, it's crucial that they understand the impact of sending or receiving it. They also need to feel that they can speak to you about it without worrying about consequences. Emphasise that, if your child receives any messages that make them feel uncomfortable, they can block the sender and report them to the app.

BE WARY OF SHARING

It's important that your child stays aware of what they're sharing online. Remind them about the importance of not posting personal information like their full name or which school they go to. Many users share their other social media account details on Wink to build their friend count, but we would recommend advising your child not to give strangers multiple avenues to contact them.

DISCUSS LOSS OF OWNERSHIP

It's essential that young people understand that once content goes online, the sender no longer has any control over where it will end up. While your child may feel like they can trust their online 'friend', that person is still a stranger. Even sharing one inappropriate image, for example, could then be used as leverage – as their 'friend' threatens to release it publicly unless the child sends more.

BALANCE SCREEN TIME

Before having a chat with your child about screen time, ask yourself if you're being a positive role model. Get your child thinking about how much time they spend on the app: is it healthy? Is it affecting their offline relationships with people? Is it impacting their mood? If so, you could suggest some activities you can do together which aren't so reliant on digital technology.

BE CAUTIOUS OF NEW CONTACTS

Remind your child that not everyone online is who they say they are, and some users have harmful intentions. If someone on Wink is asking them lots of personal questions or suggests meeting up in real life, these are definite red flags. Encourage your child to ask for help if they're unsure about a particular profile. Remember, the app has a block button: your child shouldn't be afraid to use it!

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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