



1st December 2023

Welcome to our latest Parent Bulletin. We are now finally in December and the countdown to Christmas is officially on!

Wednesday saw our students take part in PD Day 2, with careers fayres, little entrepreneurs and big interviews, along with stock market trading; there was lots of excitement and aspirational conversations going on.

Our Year 10 students were one of the strongest groups to take part in the Big Interview yet, with some fantastic feedback. Students turned up smartly dressed and there were some nerves, but these turned into happy buzzing faces after they had completed their interviews, and we couldn't be prouder of them. There is still time for Year 10 students to secure their private placements for Work Experience next May. If students need any extra help or guidance with finding a placement, please encourage them to see Miss Passmore in the library or email WEX@trafalgarschool.org.uk.

A massive well done to our KS4 Performing Arts students who took place in their exam showcase last night. This required them to perform their pieces in front of an audience, and the students absolutely smashed it! Everyone was very impressed by the quality and standard of their performances.

Please remember that Monday (4th) is also an INSET day and school will be closed to students.

Stay safe and take care,

Team Trafalgar

Trafalgar Christmas Card Competition 2023

The Art Department needs students to design this year's Trafalgar Christmas card!

It must include:

- The Trafalgar School logo
- Links to Christmas, for example: holly, Santa, reindeer, presents, the north star, snow, tree, baubles, tinsel, the nativity etc...

They should take time to consider their layout and make sure they are filling the page. Entries need to come to Miss Sturgess in Tech 2 by Tuesday 5th December!

The winner's design will be digitally created by our school's Digital Marketer and be the official Christmas Card of Trafalgar School that is sent out to our partners!



Key Dates

2023

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

Thursday 7th December - Year 11 Parents' Evening (virtual)

Wednesday 13th December - School Christmas Concert

Friday 15th December - Celebration Assembly - 12:30pm finish

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](https://trafalgarschool.org.uk).



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MFL Department Update

We are delighted to share the latest updates from our Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) department. Starting this month, our Year 9 students will be participating in Pen Pal Exchanges, a unique initiative designed to enrich their language learning experience. Keep an eye out for updates as we continue to enhance the MFL experience for our students!

SPANISH

Our students have been embracing language learning with great enthusiasm, and we are proud to recognise our home learning heroes who have shown exceptional dedication. In addition to this, a huge congratulations to Megan who has been appointed for 'Linguist of the Month' in Spanish!



FRENCH

We also want to acknowledge and celebrate our French home learning heroes—students who have shown exceptional dedication and resilience in French.

A special congratulations to Christabel for being appointed as the 'Linguist of the Month' in French!



We are also thrilled to share the success of our students during their French Directed Improvement and Reflection Time (DIRT) in class. DIRT has become a pivotal moment for our students to refine language skills, receive targeted feedback, and engage in personalised learning.



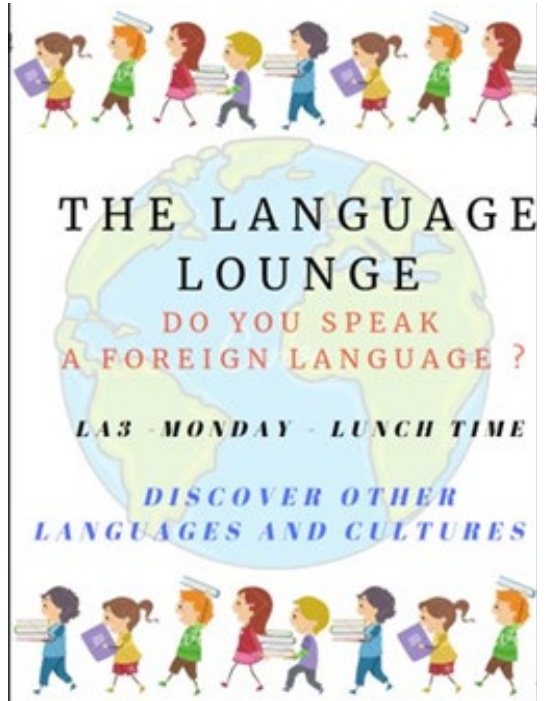


Students have worked collaboratively in groups and created a mind map by tackling exam questions in French.

MFL CLUBS!

We're excited to announce the launch of the Language

Lounge - an MFL club that occurs every Monday in LA3. This is an opportunity for students to gather, explore languages and share cultural experiences. Come and be part of the Language Lounge MFL Club!



Job opportunities at Trafalgar School

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

- Learning Support Assistant
- Teacher of Art, Design & Technology
- Subject Leader - Geography

If you think 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

This week all tutor groups across all houses signed the anti-bullying charter.

Monday's check-in question was **"Why do we sign the Antibullying pledge?"**

As a school, we recognise that conflict is inevitable; whether it be a falling out within a friendship group, or due to a difference of opinion. It is why we intervene early into the life of such problems and use restorative conversations in order to prevent it getting bigger. However, never have we, or will we ever condone targeted, repeated harassment of any person or group within our community. Students were passionate about having their opportunity to sign their name in a pledge to stand with staff to proactively tackle bullying.

Many students said they'd experienced bullying in their life or had witnessed it elsewhere and its damaging impact on mental and physical wellbeing. Being relational is acknowledging impact, but also understanding that actions do have consequences.

How did your child/children answer? **#joinin #pledge #teamtrafalgar**



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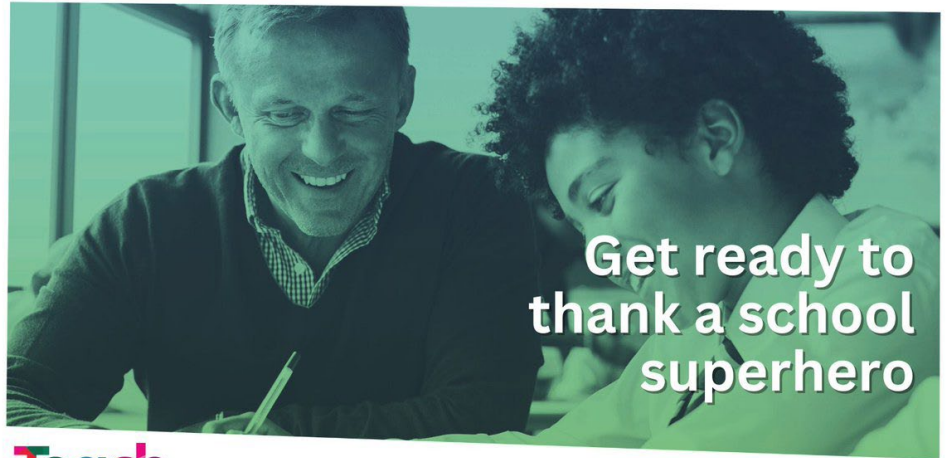
Teach Portsmouth - Thank a school superhero

Message from Teach Portsmouth

Tell us who has gone above and beyond at your school

We want to know who has supported your family Portsmouth's school superheroes deserve our praise for going above and beyond for children and young people.

Share your words of thanks and we'll pass this onto your school as part of a special printed document at the end of the year.



Teach
PORTSMOUTH

You could:

- Say thank you to a teaching assistant who supports your child on a 1-2-1 basis
- Praise a school teacher who has helped your child overcome challenges
- Applaud a head teacher for providing strong leadership in your community
- We would encourage you to choose staff who still work at the school to ensure your messages can reach them at the end of the school year.

To share your message, complete the form below. It's as simple as that. The deadline for all messages is **Wednesday 14 February 2024.**

[Thank a school superhero form](#)

Terms and conditions apply

- One entry per person.
- Entries must be for Portsmouth schools only.
- Each entry must be for a named person only.
- If this individual is part of a team, the team can be included in the message only.
- If a specific name isn't given, the entry may be removed.
- Your message will be shared alongside other messages as part of a printed document which may be displayed in school for all to see.
- Your personal details (including name and child's details) will not appear on the printed document.
- Each school will receive one version of the printed document to be displayed.
- Once your message has been submitted, we will not contact you, unless for a specific reason.
- We will not share your name with the school.
- We may contact you about being featured as part of wider promotion for the 'thank a school superhero' initiative to increase awareness.



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7 Top Tips for Supporting Children to EXPRESS THEMSELVES SAFELY ONLINE

The past year has left many children feeling uncertain and worried. So Children's Mental Health Week 2021 has adopted the theme of 'express yourself'. It's not necessarily about being the best – but instead encouraging young people to relish the joy of being 'in the moment' and loving what they do. So whether they're into music, art, photography, film, drama or dance, here are our top tips for helping your child to express themselves safely online.

1 Celebrate their Identity

Celebrating who children are and reminding them of their uniqueness has a huge impact on their confidence and self-esteem. This week, remind them of what you love about them. You could revisit some photos and videos on your phone or computer of special times you've shared. Chat about the importance of finding time to do what they love: underline that it's an important part of who they are.

2 Promote Their Passions

It's different for all of us, but every child has something which ignites their passions and brings them joy. Perhaps they love music and you could introduce them to a music-making app? Or if they enjoy taking photos or making videos, use this week to set a photography or video competition at home, with some fun categories.

3 Support Their Interests

Some children seem to know instinctively what interests them and what they enjoy doing; others can be less decisive about hobbies. Spend some time this week sharing their interests and doing something connected to it together. You could make a short Lego film to post on your Instagram, a vlog about baking that you share with relatives, or just play with them on their favourite video game.

4 Help Them Help Others

Some children love to express themselves through activities which help others. Perhaps your local area's Facebook group has a community project that your family could get involved with – even as a one-off; it doesn't have to be a long-term commitment. Depending on your child's age, you could introduce them to online fundraising (such as sites like JustGiving, for example) and how it can make a difference to less fortunate people.

5 Enable Emotional Expression

Children sometimes need help in articulating how they're feeling and in beginning to understand how to manage their emotions. A safe, healthy way for your child to explore their feelings is to let them conduct an activity – like listening to a story, or creating some art – and discuss with them afterwards how it made them feel. There are lots of stories available on YouTube, while Audible is streaming children's audiobooks free of charge while schools are closed. YouTube also has a plethora of fun art tutorials (if you log in on adult's account, remember to adjust your settings first to block inappropriate content and stop potentially unsuitable material auto-playing).

6 Let Them Stay Connected

The online world is a fantastic space for staying in contact with those who we can't be with right now. Young people are often very comfortable using social media to express themselves and stay connected by sharing their ideas, thoughts and feelings with friends. But bear in mind that most social media platforms require a child to be at least 13 before they should access it (WhatsApp is 16). Remind your child that, while it's OK to express who we are on social media, they should still always think before posting – and that their self-worth is never measured by their number of likes, friends or followers.

7 Coach 'Safe Sharing'

As part of expressing themselves, your child may want to share something online that they've created – like a funny video, a sketch, a meme or a dance. If they're too young to have their own social media, you could use your own account to share it with selected people who you trust. Emphasise the importance of only sharing content with people that your child knows well, like family and friends. This type of conversation is also useful for introducing young people to the risks and challenges that can come when expressing ourselves to a wider online audience of strangers.

Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



About Children's Mental Health Week

Around three children in every primary school class has a mental health problem. Many more struggle with challenges from bullying to bereavement. Now in its seventh year, Children's Mental Health Week shines a spotlight on the importance of young people's mental health – and it's never seemed more relevant than it does in 2021.

Find out more at www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk