

Parent Bulletin



5th January 2024

Welcome to our first Parent Bulletin of 2024!

We hope you had a relaxing break and enjoyed time together with loved ones over the holiday. 2024 marked the earliest return we have had to school in many years and the students have responded brilliantly, making a strong start for the term ahead.

In this latest edition of our parent bulletin you can learn about an exciting opportunity to join our governing board, the latest from our community circles and all the things you could need to know about Roblox.

Before the holidays we extended the deadline for finding private placements until the 19th January, with the final deadline for all placement forms being 2nd February. We still have a number of students yet to secure a placement and it is vital they do so to ensure they get the most from this experience. 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.

Stay safe and take care,

Team Trafalgar

Hot Chocolate with the Head

The first Hot Chocolate of 2024 goes to Zara, Jan, Evie, Ellie, Eva and Sarah!

These students were invited to meet with Mrs Copeland and Miss Pearse to celebrate their successes at our end of term celebration assembly as Top Boy, Top Girl and House Stars.

Well done and keep up the great work!

#HCWTH #aspiration #teamtrafalgar



Key Dates

2024

Tuesday 9th January - Trust Training - Students finish at 12:50pm

Thursday 8th February - PD Day 3

Monday 12th - Friday 16th February - Half Term

Tuesday 22nd February - Year 8 Parents' Evening

Friday 15th March - RAP Meetings - all years (students not 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. You can find details of what they need [here](#).



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Could you be our next parent governor?

There is an exciting opportunity to join our governing board as a parent governor.

The role of the local governing body

The school's governing board is responsible for providing effective challenge and support to the Executive Headteacher and her senior leadership team for the school's educational and financial performance. The board is passionate about education and committed to continuous school improvement to ensure the best possible outcomes for our students.



The role of a parent governor

As a parent governor, you'll work with the board to make sure it effectively carries out the duties referred to above. You'll also play a vital role in bringing a parental perspective to the governing board, but you're not there to speak 'on behalf' of the parent body.

To be a parent governor you should have:

- A strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for children.
- Good interpersonal skills, curiosity, and a willingness to learn and develop new skills.
- The specific skills required to make sure the governing board delivers effective governance.

The governing board is keen for candidates to have skills in the following:

- Education
- HR
- Finance

Expectations of governors:

- Attendance at 8 Local Governing Body meetings a year
- Maintaining confidentiality
- Commitment to training
- Visits to the school
- Term of office- 4 years

How to apply

If you're interested in applying for the role, please complete the candidate form attached to the Executive Headteacher's letter and return to the Clerk to Governors at clerk@alns.co.uk by **Friday 19th January 2024**. If we receive more applications than there are vacancies, a secret ballot will be carried out. We will inform you closer to the time if we must do this.

If you have any queries about this process or would like to find out more about the role, please contact Jo Bennett, Chair of Governors on chairofgovernors@trafalgarschool.org.uk.



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Trust Annual General Meeting – 17th January 2024

Notice is hereby given that the AGM of the Salterns Academy Trust will take place on Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 18.00 hours to transact the following business:

- To receive the Trust annual report and audited accounts
- To elect the Chair and Vice Chair of the Trust Board
- To confirm the Trust's auditors
- Receive an update from the Trust CEO and Chair of the Board
- To respond to any questions submitted in advance by Parents, families, and other members of the community.

We welcome parents, families, and other members of the community to attend this meeting via Zoom, and to submit questions to be answered by the board.

To allow for sufficient time for informed answers to be provided by Trust leaders questions must be submitted no later than 24 hours before the scheduled start time of the meeting.

To register your interest in attending this meeting, or to submit a question to be answered at the meeting please contact clerk@alns.co.uk

Please be advised that recording of the meeting is prohibited.

Community Circles

In Tuesday's check-in circles, students and staff were asked:

'Why do people have new year's resolutions?'

An interesting question that for some required some serious reflection. The end of the year gives us time to reflect on the year before, and for some it helped to refocus their priorities for the coming year. Quite a few students (and staff) said they'd like to get fitter and healthier, whilst some chose to make their goal school based by making sure they made progress in certain subjects, or improve their attendance. Some students shared their successes in terms of badges earned from last year and said that the new year meant they could decide which badges they'd like to earn for the coming term and year. It was lovely to hear about students from different year groups motivating and pushing each other to aspire.

Some chose to not make resolutions, as they felt it was more effective to make regular goals. Do you make New Year's resolutions?

Ask your child/children how they answered. **#joinin #teamtrafalgar #resolutions**



Job opportunities at Trafalgar School

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

- Senior Administration Assistant
- Trust IT Operations Manager

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!



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PE Club timetable - Spring Term 2023/24

Here is the updated timetable for our PE clubs for the term ahead. Any questions please speak to our PE department.

	Lunch time	After school 3-4pm
Monday	Basketball club 7&8 JAL	Trampolining (gym2) EPO Basketball (Gym2) JAL Boxercise (Gym1) SLL
Tuesday	Basketball club 8&9 EPO	Netball (Astro) LNE Year 7 and 8 boy's football (Field) SLL Girl's football (Astro) EPO
Wednesday		Year 9, 10 and 11 boy's football (Field) CFU Rugby (Field) DST Table Tennis (Gym1) JAL
Thursday	Basketball club 8&9 JAL	
Friday		Year 10&11 HSC/CD/SS/GCSE Enrichment Invite only EPO, LNE & DST Sports Leaders (Gym1) <u>Week 1 ONLY</u> JAL

Interested in training to teach?



Inspiring Future Teachers (IFT) is a national School Centred Provider of Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) working through regional partners to offer one-year postgraduate routes to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) with the option to study for a masters level Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE).

Inspiring Future Teachers - HISP Teacher Training is your local hub and aims to provide the opportunity to train to teach in Portsmouth.

Trafalgar School is committed to supporting trainee teachers. We work with a range of both local and national teacher training providers and universities and ensure the highest quality of mentoring and support.

If you are interested in training to teach, please get in touch with our Deputy Headteacher, Miss Raeburn.

We are happy to offer a tour of the school as well as bespoke experience days.



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

ROBLOX

PEGI RATING
7+

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half of children in the USA play it. As a 'sandbox' title, Roblox offers a huge amount of creative freedom: it lets players create their own gaming experiences with the Roblox Studio to build custom levels and games, which can then be shared with other players online. Roblox fosters creative thinking and enjoys a robust online community of fans.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to communicate online (including a group chat facility). This could expose children to risks such as scammers, online predators, harassment, griefer and more. The in-game chat has some filters, but isn't perfect: players can still send harmful messages to others – such as scam links or general hostility – while predators can reach out to children directly.

PUBLIC SERVERS

Roblox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs money. Most Roblox players will instead be on public servers that anyone can join. Servers can host games which focus on all kinds of aspects, including direct player interaction. Some games and servers, therefore, will put children more at risk of contact from strangers than others.

ONLINE DATERS

These are also called 'ODers' and are quite common in Roblox. An ODer is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Roblox community guidelines, but this usually doesn't deter ODers. Some player-built Roblox game worlds have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Roblox is actually free to download and play, but bear in mind that there are some hidden costs. Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game, for example, using real money. People can also buy extra Robux (the in-game currency) to spend on cosmetic items in the game, while it's possible to purchase a private or VIP server.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for your child, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply the appropriate chat filters. The game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.

DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING

Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, toxicity and scam attempts. The game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your child's account.

PRIVATE SERVERS

If your child has some genuine friends to play Roblox online with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, some players could invite other people – who might not necessarily be child friendly – into the private server. If your child is a Roblox fan, it's important to talk with them regularly about who they are playing the game with.

MONITOR SPENDING

If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that you have two-factor authentication on your payment accounts also makes it harder for your child to spend money inadvertently.

DEALING WITH STRANGERS

At some point in their development, your child will need to learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's OK to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger online – will help them understand how to communicate with other people online safely.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/21/2133343/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-joining-virtual-parties-fortnite>
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>