

Parent Bulletin

12th January 2024

Welcome to our latest Parent Bulletin!

In this edition you can learn about what our maths department have been up to, including an important update to Year 11 Maths Home Learning ahead of their exams later this summer. Also, with the new year and those resolution still fresh in our minds, there are some helpful tips for managing your child's screen time.

With the colder weather setting in, students are encouraged to bring appropriate coats with them to stay warm when travelling to and from site and at break times. Please remind students that this doesn't mean they can wear their coat instead of a blazer, as this is a required part of our uniform. In this edition of our bulletin you can also see the updated list of all our lunch and after school clubs; another great way to stay warm in these winter temperatures!

The month of May might seem a while off, but before you know it, it will be work experience time again for our Year 10s! Before the holidays we extended the deadline for finding private placements until the 19th January, with the final deadline for all placement forms being submitted by 2nd February. Several students are yet to secure a placement and it is vital they do so to ensure they get the most from this opportunity. If students need any extra help or guidance with finding a placement, please encourage them to see Miss Passmore in the library at the earliest opportunity or email WEX@trafalgarschool.org.uk.

Stay safe and take care,

Team Trafalgar

College Open Events Coming Up

For our Year 11 students, here are some upcoming dates of open events at local colleges this term:

- Fareham College - Wednesday 28th February, 4-7pm
- City of Portsmouth College - Wednesday 28th February, 4:30-7:30pm
- HSDC South Downs - Thursday 29th February
- Eastleigh College - Monday 4th March, 4:30-7pm
- HSDC Havant - Wednesday 6th March
- City College - Thursday 21st March, 5-7pm



Key Dates

2024

Thursday 8th February - PD Day 3

Monday 12th - Friday 16th February - Half Term

Tuesday 22nd February - Year 8 Parents' Evening

Thursday 14th March - Year 9 Options 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](#).

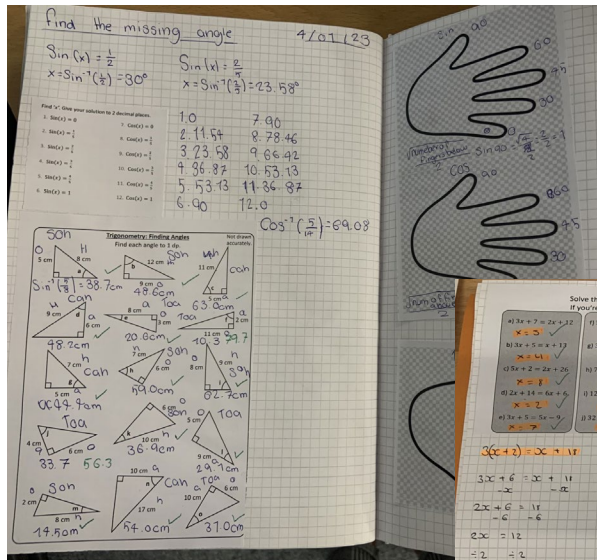


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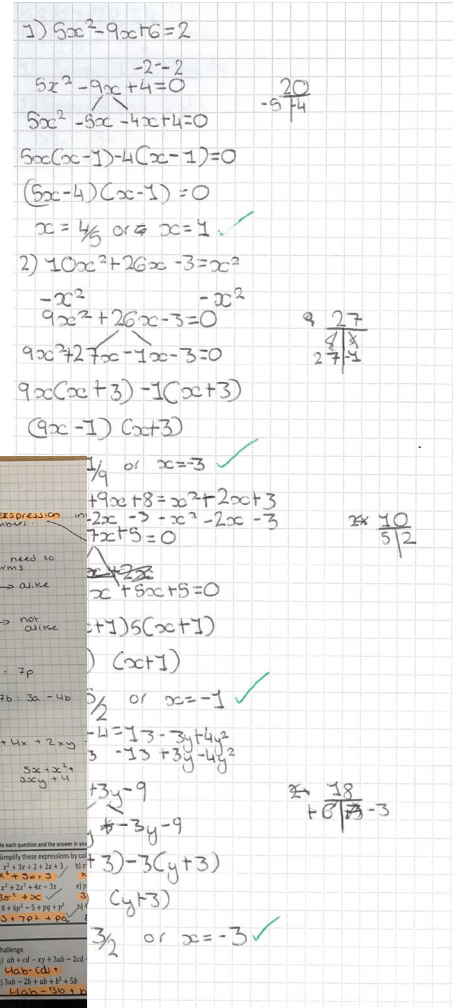
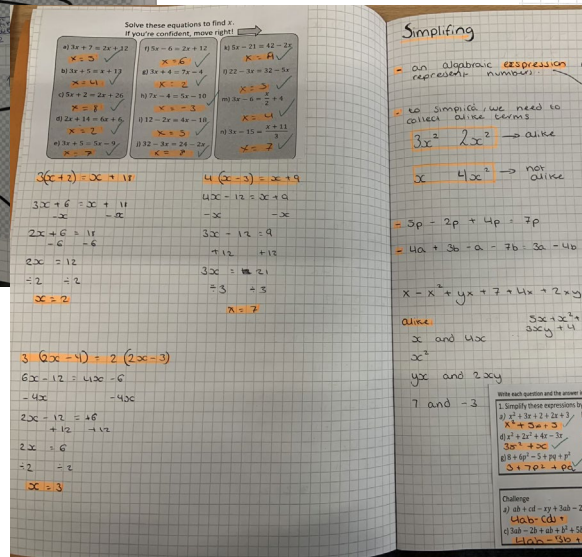
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Maths Department Update

In Maths this term Mrs Smith's Year 10s have been solving quadratics by factorising. (*far right image*)



Miss Nutbrown's Year 9 students have been learning about Trigonometry and how to find the exact values of Trig without a calculator. (*left image*)



Meanwhile her Year 10s have been learning about how to expand brackets and simplify algebraic expressions. (*right image*)

Year 11 Home Learning Update:

In the build up to both the next set of mock exams, and the GCSE exams in the summer, we are changing the format of home learning for Year 11.

Instead of being set compulsory Sparx work each week, this will instead become optional. In its place, students will be bringing home a mini practice paper each week. This will give the students the necessary exam question practice that we feel they need to help support them in preparing for their GCSEs. They will be expected to return this paper to their teacher each week. If a student fails to return the paper on time, then they will be given an extension of one day in which to return the paper without any further sanctions being set.

We would also like to encourage the students to keep using Sparx. If they get stuck on a question in the paper, they can use the 'Independent Learning' section in Sparx to search for the topic they are struggling with and watch the support video that goes along with it. They can also use Sparx to complete some XP work or the optional Home Learning task that will be set by the class teacher each week and links to the work being covered in lessons.

Sparx is an incredibly valuable resource that gives students access to an online teacher 24 hours a day. Please support and encourage your child to use it for revision.

Revision Guides:

We have a stock of revision guides/workbooks and sets of practice papers that can be paid for via student services or Parent Pay. The Complete Revision Guide and Workbook costs £6 and the set of practice papers cost £3.25. Once paid for at Student Service or on Parent Pay, the resources can be picked up from Mrs Parsons in Maths 6.



Extra-curricular Timetable - Spring 2024

	Lunchtime	After school 3-4pm
Monday	Film Club (EN1) The Language Lounge- EAL Club (LA3) Games Day (LRC) Musicals on Mondays (Drama) Basketball Y7/8 (Gym)	DofE Bronze Club (Sc8) Basketball (Gym2) Boxercise (Gym 1) Trampoline (Gym2) Monologues and Manuscripts (Drama Studio) Home Learning Support (Canteen) UNLOC Debate Club (EN2)
Tuesday	Art and Photography Club (Art 2) Quiet Reading Time (LRC) Maths Board Game Club (Ma3) Trafalgar School Newspaper Club (EN7) Basketball Y8/9 (Gym)	Minecraft Club (IT1/2) Eco Club (Hum1) LEGO Robotics Club (Sci2) Netball (Astro) Girl's football (Astro) Year 7 and 8 boy's football (Field) Sparx Support (Ma6) Year 7-9 Book Club (Library) Home Learning Support (Canteen) MFL Film club Year 11 Maths Intervention (In Maths rooms) DofE Silver Club (Sc8)
Wednesday	Chess Club (LRC) Games Day (LRC) Science Fun (Sc1) History Club (Hu1) Cinema Club (Drama) Film Club (EN1)	Science Club (Sci1) Year 9, 10 and 11 boy's football (Field) Rugby (Field) Table Tennis (Gym 1) Whole School Play (Drama Studio) Whole School Production Band (Invite only- Music Room) Dance Live (Dance Studio) Year 10 Art, Photography and Food Prep Coursework Enrichment (Art 2 Week 1) Year 11 All art subjects Coursework Enrichment (Art 2 Week 2) Year 11 Food Prep Culinary Skill Workshop (Food Tech Week 2) Board Game Club (Library) Home Learning Support (Canteen)
Thursday	Cipher Challenge (Ma3) Basketball Y8/9 (Gym) Quiet Reading Time (LRC)	Home Learning Support (Canteen)
Friday	Reading+ Home Learning (EN4) Games Day (LRC) Reading Leaders (Week 2) (LRC)	Home Learning Support (Canteen) Year 10 and 11 Performing Arts Curriculum Workshops (Invite only) Year 10 & 11 PE Curriculum Enrichment (invite only) Sports Leaders (Week 1 only) (Gym 1)

Job opportunities at Trafalgar School

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

- Learning Support Assistant
- Deputy Senior Art and Design Technology Technician
- Trust IT Operations Manager
- Trust Chief Finance Officer

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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Top Tips for... MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

BUY MILK

GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



DEVICE BOX

The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national_online_safety

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