

Parent Bulletin

3rd November 2023

Welcome back!

We hope you all had a rested half term break and are excited for the term ahead. Now Halloween is out of the way we can tentatively begin to talk about Christmas, but first up for our Year 11s, mock exams!

Over the next two weeks our Year 11 students will be completing their first set of mock exams in preparation for the final set in the summer. Students have been having mentoring with their tutor and should have a revision timetable in place by now. These mock exams are a great benchmark to then know how hard they need to work ahead of the real thing. If we all work together as a home and school community, then we are sure that the students will smash these mocks!

Our Year 9 Parents Evening is coming up on the 23rd November. These events are a great opportunity to learn how your child is progressing and discover ways we can work together to support them in achieving the best grades they can. Information will be sent out nearer the time regarding how to book your appointments with your child's teachers.

Stay safe and take care,

Team Trafalgar

Hot Chocolate with the Head

This week's hot chocolate goes to Daisy!

Daisy has been nominated for Hot Chocolate with the Head today in recognition of her kindness and demonstration of our core value, Community.

With October being Mental Health Awareness month, Daisy has decided that she would like to raise money for Young Minds and to do so, has taken the time to buy a range of sweet treats to sell to students at break and lunch.

Well done, Daisy!



Key Dates

2023

Monday 6th November - WEX Information Evening (virtual)

Thursday 9th November - Presentation Evening

Thursday 23rd November - Year 9 Parents Evening

Wednesday 29th November - PD Day 2

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](#).



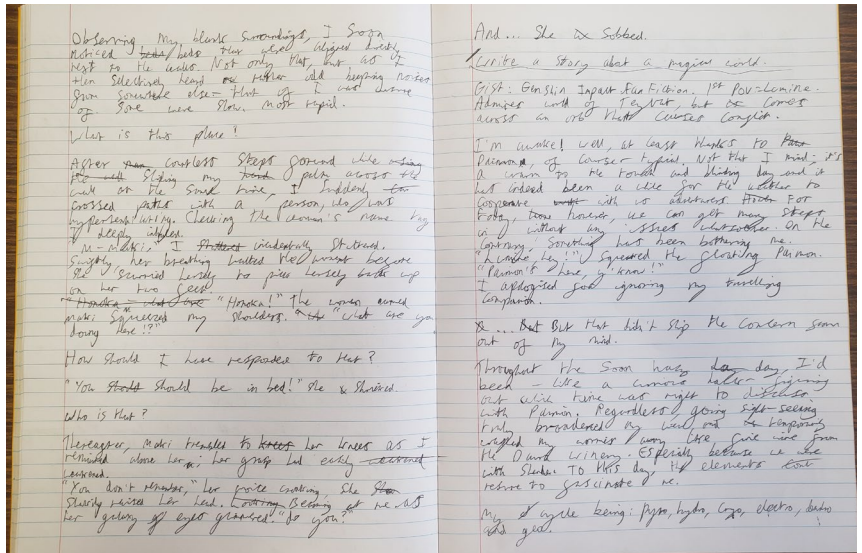
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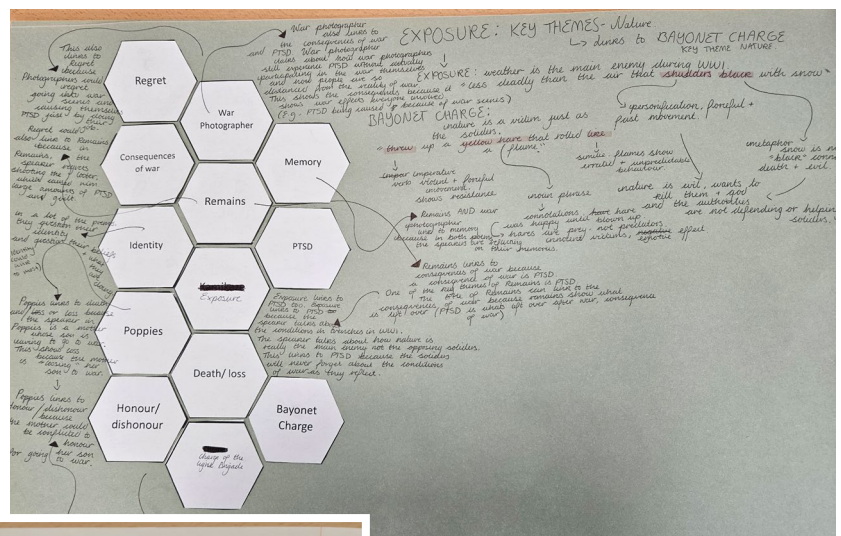
English Department Update

Year 11s are practising for their upcoming language mock exams, which focus on creative writing. This student was so keen to hone their writing skills, they requested a second prompt in addition to their creative story writing to do so. This is exactly the kind of exemplary effort that will pay off in their GCSE's-good luck!

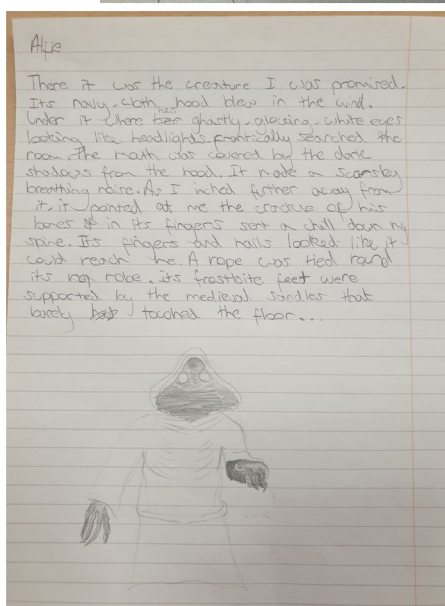
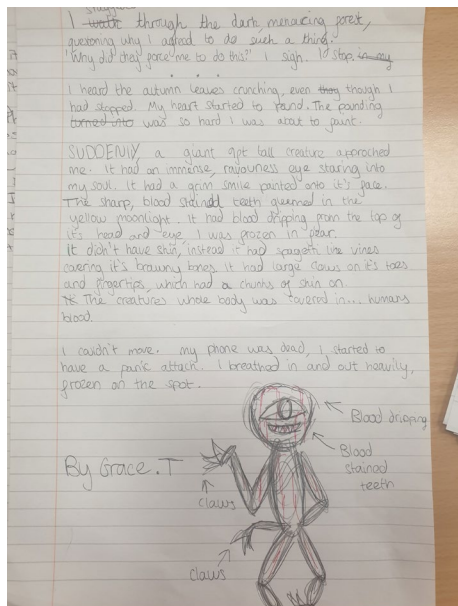
Year 8s continue to sharpen their literacy skills during their Lexia homework; each week, the student who completes the most minutes gets a star on Miss Sawicki's wall of fame and a praise shoutout in front of class.



In Miss Kemp's class, Year 10 students did revision with Hexagons based on the conflict cluster of poetry. Well done to this student for their outstanding connections between themes!



In Miss Newell's class, Year 7s got to practice their gothic writing skills in a one-off Halloween themed lesson. Here are just a few of their fantastically terrifying creatures!



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Job opportunities at Trafalgar School

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

- Teacher of Physical Education
- Teacher of Art & Design Technology
- Student Services Assistant
- Learning Support Assistant

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



Extra-Curricular Timetable for this Half-Term

Our extra curricular timetable has been updated for the new term, with a whole host of lunchtime clubs now available also.

Victory led the way last term for extra-curricular club attendance, who will come out on top this half term? Encourage your child to attend as many clubs as they like to help their house earn more points!

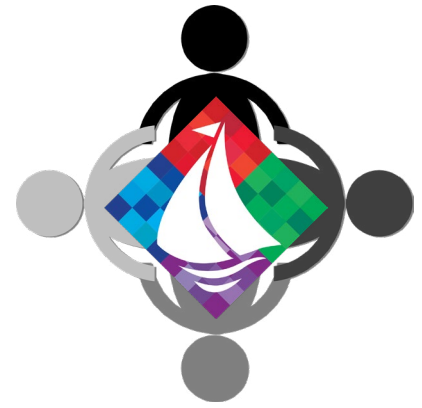
	Lunchtime	After school 3-4pm
Monday	Film Club (EN1) The Language Lounge- EAL Club (LA3) Games Day (LRC)	DofE Bronze Club (Sc8) Girl's football (Gym2) Basketball (Gym1) Monologues and Manuscripts (Drama Studio) Home Learning Support (Canteen)
Tuesday	Art and Photography Club (Art 2) Quiet Reading Time (LRC) Maths Board Game Club (Ma3)	Minecraft Club (IT1/2) Eco Club (Hum1) LEGO Robotics Club (Sci2) Netball (Astro) UNLOC Debate Club (EN2) Year 7 and 8 boy's football (Field) Trafalgar School Newspaper Club (EN7) 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 Support - SENECA, CREST projects, Intervention (Sc1) History Club – KS4 focusing on local history (Hu1)	Science Club (Sci1) Year 9, 10 and 11 boy's football (Field) Trampoline (Gym2) 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) 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)

Community Circles

In this week's community circles this week we were discussing punctuality. As a school we give high challenge to all students. However, this is always followed by support. On Friday, we reflected on the question:

“What impact does being late have on our school community?”

We recognise that sometimes, unless people understand the impact of their actions, they don't always understand the need for change. Answers included disruption to learning, embarrassment for the person being late, and the teacher having to re-explain tasks. How did your child answer? Let us know how we can support if there are ever issues with punctuality - we're here to help!



#teamtrafalgar #joinin

Careers Corner

**Open Afternoon - Message from
ASC Portsmouth**

**When: Saturday 4th November
1-4pm**

**Where: Andrew Simpson Centres
Portsmouth, Eastern Road, PO5 3LY.**

Are you looking for a career a little less ordinary? Join us at ASC Portsmouth to find out more about our NCFE Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport and Physical Activity (Outdoors), delivered in Partnership between Andrew Simpson Centres (ASC) and Gosport and Fareham Multi-Academy Trust (GFMAT).

During the afternoon, you will have the opportunity to meet the teaching and instructing team, get more information about the course and curriculum, as well as the opportunity to get out on the water and try some of the sports taught!

This year, we have been excited to deliver the course based out of ASC Portsmouth, offering more opportunities than ever to young people in the local area and beyond.

To express your interest, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the friendly centre team on 02392 663 873 or email us on portsmouth@andrewsimpsoncentres.org

**YOUR CAREER
PATHWAY**

**INTO THE MARINE AND
MARITIME INDUSTRY**

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**NCFE LEVEL 3 EXTENDED DIPLOMA IN SPORT
AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (OUTDOORS)**

OPEN AFTERNOON
4 NOV
1-4 PM
ASC PORTSMOUTH



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



In October 2022, the enormously popular social media network Twitter was purchased by tech tycoon Elon Musk. That sparked a host of changes to the platform – not all which have been received positively by its fans. The alterations have continued with each passing month, many of them raising online safety concerns among the 530 million users of Twitter (now rebranded as simply X). With further adjustments reportedly in the pipeline, X has attracted more than its usual share of controversy and caution in recent times.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A BLOCK ON BLOCKING

X has announced plans to remove its blocking feature. Previously, this stopped other users from viewing your profile or sending you direct messages, while also hiding their posts from your feed. Only this latter function will now remain. The decision has been criticised by some members, who feel that blocking (in its current form) protects them from X users who promote denial and hatred.

LIMITED REPORTING FEATURES

X offers a premium membership, with some functionality (such as controlling who can view and reply to your posts) increasingly being made exclusive to those who pay the subscription fee. Several commentators have speculated that X could one day become an exclusively paid-for service, with access to accounts being revoked for anyone unwilling or unable to take out a subscription.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many of X's less age-appropriate posts can feature anything from extreme political views to pornography. While accounts marked as 18+ are restricted from non-members, it's still fairly easy to stumble across this material accidentally. X's new 'For You' page also shows content from accounts that a user *doesn't* already follow – meaning that almost anything could end up on a child's feed.

VERIFICATION FOR SALE

Historically, Twitter's moderators granted account verification: certifying someone as authentic by placing a blue tick next to their username. One of X's earliest changes was to place verification behind a paywall; this caused the number of celebrity impersonators to rise and left no way to distinguish, say, a legitimate influencer from a copycat fake account seeking to exploit other users.

Advice for Parents & Carers

PROTECT PRIVACY

Unsavory characters may try to gain access to a young person's X account – either to view their posts and gather information on them, or to completely take control of it. To minimise risk, ensure the account has a strong password and enable the 'Protect Your Posts' feature (via the account settings), so that strangers can't view your child's posts without first being approved as a follower.

DON'T RISE TO THE BAIT

To gain more views and followers, some X users post deliberately inflammatory comments on sensitive topics such as race, sexual orientation and gender issues. Many young people could find this upsetting. Emphasise that, if your child encounters someone spreading hate on X, it's best not to give that person what they want: an argument. Ignore them, mute their account and move on.

STAY ALERT FOR IMPOSTERS

Make sure your child understands that X's blue ticks no longer guarantee the identity of anyone on the platform. While it might be exciting if a celebrity liked your child's post, it could just as easily be an imposter with malicious intentions. If your child's not 100% sure that an X user actually is who they claim to be, advise them to err on the side of caution and avoid interacting with that account.

ONLY FOLLOW TRUSTED ACCOUNTS

Using the 'Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees has come from accounts they've chosen to follow; this should reduce the chance of them inadvertently being exposed to harmful, violent or explicit content. Show your child how to report another user's account if, say, they're behaving inappropriately by spreading misinformation or offensive opinions.

BE READY TO TAKE ACTION

If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a hack, you could consider deactivating their account entirely. Recently, X's safety features have been criticised for allegedly failing to protect users' wellbeing – so if your child is being subjected to abusive messages or similar mistreatment on the platform, it might be prudent to remove them from X altogether.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



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