



# Trafalgar School **NEWS**



- + **Students visit Lille Christmas Market** + PD Day 1
- + **Celebrating Student Achievement**
- + Year 8 WWI History Workshop + **Careers Experiences**
- + Celebrating our best GCSE results yet!



# Trafalgar School NEWS

## Welcome from the Executive Head



Welcome to our Christmas newsletter, the last of our regular communications for 2024; and it has certainly been a successful and enjoyable year so far. I take pride in times such as these to reflect on all the achievements and accomplishments of our students, of which there have been so many in just one term.

Some particular highlights for me have been; those representing Trafalgar School at the city Remembrance Service, students receiving their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh awards, amazing performances at our school productions, our sporting teams competing against other schools in competitions (very successfully!) and the festive enjoyment of our Year 7's on the annual trip to the pantomime!

Our end of term celebration is back at The Mountbatten Centre for the first time in a year after now their roofing works have been completed. I am excited for our Year 7 and 8 students who have never experienced one of our whole school assemblies there and just how special it feels to all be together to celebrate the successes and achievements of members of our school community, students and staff!

I wish you all a wonderful, warm and very happy Christmas with your loved ones.

**Mrs Copeland**  
**Executive Headteacher**

# GCSE Results 2023

## Our Best Yet!



We are delighted to share that this year's GCSE results mark a new milestone for our school. Through the hard work of students, staff, and parents, our school has achieved its best progress ever!

Key subjects saw impressive improvements, with many students exceeding their target grades. This success highlights the dedication of teachers, the determination of students, and the invaluable support of parents.

This fantastic achievement reflects the strength and resilience of our school community. A huge well done to everyone involved—your efforts are truly making a difference!



# LILLE CHRISTMAS MARKET 2024

This term, Trafalgar students enjoyed a memorable day in Lille, experiencing the culture and traditions of northern France. The trip was a wonderful mix of learning, discovery, and festive fun.

The day began with a classic French breakfast at a local café, where students tried freshly baked croissants and soaked up the atmosphere of French café culture.

The group then visited Bruno's Bakery – La Boulangerie D'Escouilles. Here, they learned about traditional French bread-making, practised baking techniques, and even picked up some new French vocabulary. It was a hands-on experience that combined creativity with cultural learning.

In the afternoon, students explored Lille's famous Christmas Market. Among the festive stalls and sparkling lights, they enjoyed the holiday atmosphere and gained insight into French seasonal traditions.

This trip was a fantastic way for students to broaden their horizons, connecting with another culture through food, language, and festive traditions. Lille provided a valuable and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.





# Year 8 Students Step Back in Time with World War 1 Workshops



Our Year 8 students took part in some engaging World War 1 workshops earlier this term, led by historian and educator Mike. These sessions offered a hands-on experience, bringing history to life beyond the classroom.

Mike shared an impressive collection of genuine World War 1 artefacts, including two guns used in the battles of Passchendaele and the Somme. Exploring these items up close gave students a deeper connection to the events they've been studying, making the realities of the Great War feel vivid and real.

Students were captivated by the personal stories and historical context Mike shared, sparking meaningful discussions about the war's significance and impact.

We're delighted to have provided such a memorable learning opportunity, helping our students gain a richer understanding of history.

# Honouring Remembrance Day 2024



In November, Stacey and Amelia represented our school with pride at the annual Remembrance Day service. The ceremony brought our community together to honour the sacrifices of those who served, reminding us of the importance of reflection and gratitude.

Later in November, the entire school observed a two-minute silence, creating a powerful moment of unity and respect across the campus. This act of remembrance allowed students to reflect on the sacrifices made by previous generations and the importance of these values in our lives today.

Stacey and Amelia stood alongside veterans, families, and community members, demonstrating our school's core value of respect. Their participation highlights the importance of remembrance and reflects our commitment to fostering gratitude and responsibility within our community.

We are proud of Stacey, Amelia, and all our students for honouring this significant occasion with thoughtfulness and respect.

# PD DAY - ASPIRATION

At Trafalgar School, we believe education goes beyond the classroom. Personal Development Days are an important part of our approach, helping students develop skills and experiences that prepare them for the future. Here's a look at what each year group achieved on the day:

## **Year 7: Teamwork at Fort Purbrook**

Year 7 ventured to Fort Purbrook, where they took part in team-building activities designed to improve communication, problem-solving, and collaboration. The day was packed with challenges that encouraged students to work together and build trust. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to strengthen friendships and learn the value of teamwork in a fun, active setting.

## **Year 8: Business and Enterprise Challenge**

Year 8 tackled the Unloc Business and Enterprise Challenge, a hands-on programme that encouraged them to think creatively and work as a team. Students were asked to solve real-world problems, develop innovative ideas, and present their solutions confidently. It was a great way for them to practise critical thinking, teamwork, and communication skills in a business-focused environment.

## **Year 9: CSI Day**

Year 9 took on the role of detectives during our ever-popular CSI Day. They learnt about forensic techniques such as fingerprint analysis and evidence gathering as they worked together to solve a mock crime. The mystery of who "murdered" Mr Dudley (who, thankfully, made a miraculous recovery!) had students fully engaged, using their problem-solving and analytical skills in a practical and exciting way.

## **Year 10: The Big Interview**

Year 10 stepped into the world of work with The Big Interview, where they had the opportunity to practise their interview skills with real employers. Students were coached on how to present themselves professionally, gaining invaluable feedback and advice. This year's event was our most successful yet, with many students impressing the professionals and gaining confidence in their abilities.

## **Year 11: Exam Preparation and College Readiness**

For Year 11, the day focused on preparing for the next steps in their academic journey. Students took part in exam booster sessions to refine their revision techniques and build confidence ahead of their GCSEs. They also attended college preparation workshops, which provided useful advice on applications and helped them feel more prepared for life after Trafalgar.

It was a productive and rewarding experience for all involved, and we look forward to seeing the impact of these activities as our students continue to grow and achieve.





# Celebrating Excellence: Matilda published in *The Scholar*!



We are thrilled that Matilda's work has been published in this year's edition of *The Scholar*, an academic journal showcasing outstanding pupil achievements from The Scholars Programme, run by The Brilliant Club.

The Brilliant Club partners with schools and universities across the UK, helping students gain insight into university life and preparing them for competitive admissions. Through the programme, students work in small groups with a university researcher, exploring topics beyond the curriculum and developing academic skills. The programme concludes with a 2,000-word assignment, graded using university standards, with the best work nominated for publication.

Matilda's exceptional final assignment earned her first-class recognition and was one of just 30 selected for publication from over 21,000 participating students this year. This is an incredible achievement, and we are so proud of Matilda for her hard work and success. Well done, Matilda!

# Jess and Eloise Shine!



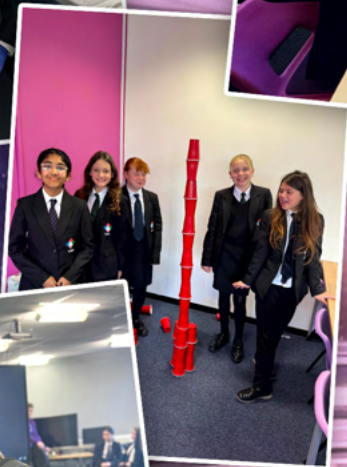
We are proud to celebrate the achievements this term of two outstanding students, Jess and Eloise.

In October, Jess competed in the 5km Great South Run, running alongside elite athletes and achieving a personal best. She finished as the 11th female and even started the race alongside two-time Olympian 'Thommo' in his final race.

Later in October, Eloise excelled in her Kickboxing grading, earning her full orange belt and topping her class with the highest score.

Congratulations to Jess and Eloise for their hard work and success—you've made us all proud!

# PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE



This term, Trafalgar School students have embraced a range of enriching experiences, from university visits to exploring careers in STEM and Performing Arts.

Year 9 Performing Arts students visited Portsmouth University's cutting-edge Centre for Creative and Immersive Extended Reality (CCIXR), exploring technologies like Motion Capture and Virtual Production to see how creativity and innovation shape modern arts.

Year 10 students attended a Women in STEM event hosted by Airbus, touring facilities and learning about diverse opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and maths.

Year 7 students joined Portsmouth University's Transition Mindset Day, experiencing campus life, exploring higher education pathways, and meeting inspiring role models.

Health and Social Care students toured the Dental Academy, gaining hands-on experience with dental tools and exploring careers in oral health.



Year 11 students prepared for their next steps with guidance from college representatives, while Careers Adviser Nancy is available every Friday for ongoing support.

Finally, our new partnership with JETS and the BLUE Skies Project will help students develop leadership, teamwork, and employability skills, unlocking STEM-related career opportunities.

These experiences showcase Trafalgar's dedication to inspiring students and broadening their horizons.

# SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

## **KS3 Girls' Football**

Our KS3 girls' football team shone in their league match against ALNS, claiming a brilliant 3-1 victory. Their teamwork and determination stood out, supported by Year 10 student and Britannia Sports Captain, Petal, who has been an inspiring coach and role model. With her guidance, the team is going from strength to strength.

Football club attendance has soared, with nearly 30 girls now participating regularly. New players of all experience levels are welcome to join on Mondays after school, from 3 to 4 pm.

## **Year 7 Boys' Football**

Year 7 boys' football has had an incredible start, attracting over 40 enthusiastic players to training sessions. The team recently played their first match against Kings' School in Winchester. Although they didn't win, their passion and determination was remarkable for a group playing together for the first time.

## **Year 8 Boys' Football – Hampshire Cup**

Our Year 8 boys showed great resilience in their Hampshire County Cup match against Cams Hill. The game ended in a thrilling penalty shootout, narrowly losing 7-6. Despite the result, the team displayed outstanding sportsmanship and effort. We are immensely proud of their performance and look forward to seeing their continued progress.

## **Year 8 and 9 Netball Festival**

Netball club has been thriving this term, with excellent attendance from boys and girls across all year groups. The club runs on Tuesdays after school from 3 to 4 pm.

Our first city-wide netball tournament, hosted by Trafalgar School, was a huge success. Competing against Priory, ALNS, and TPA, our girls dominated the competition, winning all their matches with outstanding teamwork and determination.

- Trafalgar v ALNS: 6-1
- Trafalgar v TPA: 7-0
- Trafalgar v Priory: 8-1

Eva N was the tournament's top scorer, and Claudia C was awarded Player's Player for her brilliant contributions. Well done to all involved!





***From our family to yours,  
Merry Christmas.***