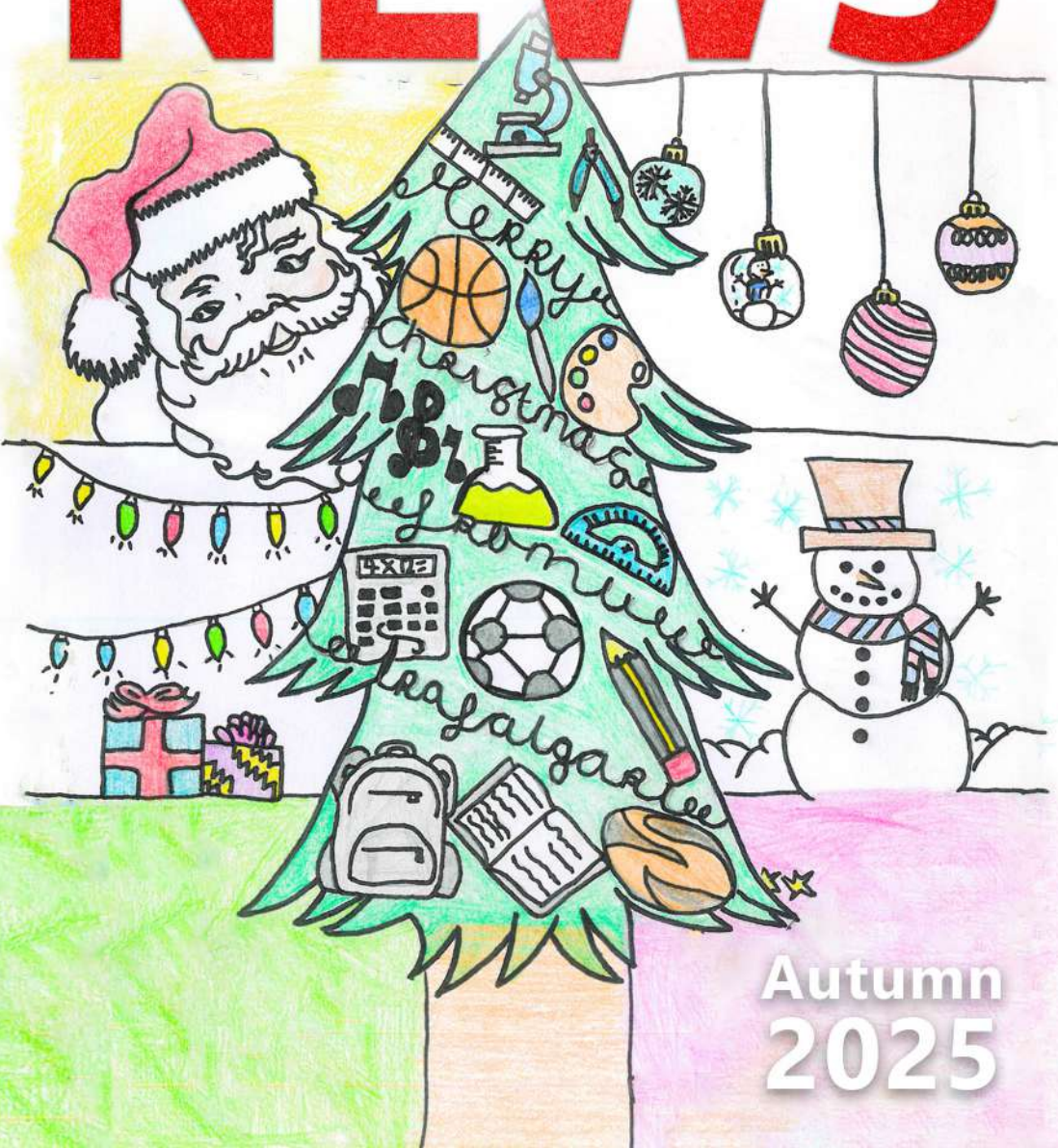




Trafalgar School NEWS



Autumn
2025



Trafalgar School NEWS

Welcome from the Executive Head



Welcome to our Christmas newsletter, the last of our regular communications for 2025, and it has certainly been a successful and enjoyable year so far! I take pride in times like 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 Christmas concert, and the festive enjoyment of our Year 7's on the annual trip to the pantomime!

I am thrilled that our students' attendance to school continues to improve on last year, meaning they get to experience more of our wonderful lessons and resources. I know they have certainly been enjoying the new and improved quad area and additional food service point!

Our end of term celebration is being held at The Mountbatten Centre on the last day of term and I am excited for our Year 7 students, who have never experienced one of our whole school assemblies yet, to see 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 2025

Our Best Results Ever!



This past summer, we were proud to celebrate this year's GCSE results, which marked the best performance in our school's history. Our students achieved outstanding progress, setting a new benchmark for success at Trafalgar. These results reflected not only academic excellence but also the resilience, determination, and commitment that define our school community.

Across key subjects, results rose to new heights, with many students surpassing their target grades and excelling beyond expectations. These accomplishments were the product of a true team effort — students working with dedication, teachers providing exceptional support, and families offering encouragement every step of the way.

Looking back, it remains a moment for the whole school to celebrate. We could not be more proud of what was achieved together — well done to everyone!

Lille Christmas Market 2025

We were delighted to take students to Lille on 28th November for a day of cultural and linguistic immersion. Below, Miss Desbiens, our French trainee teacher, shares her personal account of the trip:

"Bonjour! I was thrilled to be able to participate in the school's trip to Lille on the 28th of November. It was a very rewarding experience, both for me as a PGCE trainee and especially for the students who joined us. As a French woman, and someone who studied in Lille last year for my master's degree, I was looking forward to observing how students would react and respond to the city.

I am delighted to say that I was impressed with how well they adapted to a full day in diverse, authentic French-speaking environments. For a first experience with a trip led by our school, it was quite an enlightening one. I would like to thank Trafalgar and the supervising teachers for such a beneficial opportunity. School trips are such a great learning experience — culturally and personally — for students, particularly when it comes to language learning. Getting to engage with real, everyday French is invaluable for their development, especially when done through such fun activities!

The students were lucky to begin the day with a nice French breakfast in a lovely restaurant in Calais; I had missed the fluffy bread we were given with a nice apricot jam! Then, we had the great opportunity to learn how to make such bread with a passionate boulanger in his bakery in Escoeuilles. The students were very enthusiastic and showed a great grasp of French while answering his questions.

I was happy to guide them through the variety of viennoiseries available in the shop. It was heart-warming to see them enjoy the different cakes and pastries — mille-feuille, beignet, pain suisse, chausson aux pommes — which they were curious enough to buy and ask for in French! I was delighted to see them embrace the novelty around them and speak as much as they could in the foreign language.

Lille was very nice, despite the English-like weather, and the students had a blast in Sephora, on the Ferris wheel, and at the Christmas market."





Return of the Pack



A huge thank you to the University of Portsmouth and Portsmouth Football Club for coming in to talk to our Year 8 and 9 students about the many exciting careers you can have in the world of sport. Whether you're interested in coaching, sports science, marketing, or even running a club, students got to see just how many different jobs there are in this fast-moving industry.



We'd also like to give a special thank you to Portsmouth FC's Marlon Pack for sharing his football journey. He spoke honestly about the dedication, resilience, and hard work it takes to succeed, and he answered students' questions with real enthusiasm. His story was inspiring and encouraged everyone to think about what's possible for their own futures.

Opportunities like this are so important in helping young people explore new ideas and make confident choices about their careers.

Honouring Remembrance Day 2025



In November, our school community came together to mark Remembrance Day with reflection, respect, and gratitude.

A special thank you goes to Holly and Grace, who represented our school at the Remembrance Parade in Guildhall Square. It was a deeply moving service, and both students embodied our core value of respect.

On the Remembrance Day, the whole school paused at 11 a.m. to observe the two-minute silence. Students showed great maturity during this moment of reflection, taking the time to consider the sacrifices made by others.

Throughout the week, tutor sessions centred on the theme of remembrance. Students explored war poetry and listened to some of our service children share personal experiences and reflections on what remembrance means to them. These thoughtful discussions helped bring history to life and encouraged everyone to reflect on the importance of honouring those who have served.

It was a meaningful week for our whole school community, and one that continues to resonate as we reach the end of term.

Stepping into History – Belgium Trip 2025



Back in October, our History students had the remarkable opportunity to step back in time during an unforgettable visit to the WWI trenches in Belgium.

Walking through the preserved dugouts, students experienced firsthand the conditions soldiers faced more than a century ago. Guided by powerful stories of the men who lived and fought on the front line, the visit brought classroom learning vividly to life. Moments of quiet reflection, combined with thoughtful discussions, helped everyone gain a deeper understanding of the human experiences behind the Great War.

The trip was a tremendous success — a day filled with learning, perspective, and deep respect for those who served. A heartfelt thank you goes to our wonderful students, whose curiosity and exemplary behaviour made the day memorable, and to our dedicated staff for shaping such a meaningful experience.

History truly came alive, and the impact of this journey continues to resonate months later.



Celebrating Student Achievements 2025



As the year comes to a close, we are thrilled to celebrate the incredible achievements of our students, whose talent, dedication, and passion have shone across sports, cooking, and beyond.

In September, Betty-Mae made headlines at the Barum Box Cup, a prestigious international boxing competition. Facing a skilled Irish opponent in the final, she secured a first-round stoppage to claim the gold medal. Her focus, skill, and determination make her success truly inspiring.

Also in September, James completed a competitive 10-week chef course run by Fareham College in partnership with the Royal Navy. Selected as one of just 10 students from 75 applicants, he impressed throughout the programme. The course ended with a special evening where James and a fellow chef prepared a three-course meal for parents, teachers, and Royal Navy guests. Graduating as one of the top chefs, he received a professional chef's knife set and offers from culinary schools to continue his training.

In October, Bailey showcased his BMX skills with remarkable results. He earned 3rd place at the King of Concrete competition and then took home a Best Effort award and a cash prize at the Adrenaline Alley BMX Jam. Despite a few bumps and bruises along the way, his commitment and passion for the sport have been exceptional.

We are immensely proud of Betty-Mae, James, and Bailey. Their achievements highlight the talent, dedication, and determination that make our school community so special — and we can't wait to see what they do next.



PD DAY - BE READY

In November, students across all year groups took part in our first Personal Development (PD) Day of the year — a day designed to build confidence, spark curiosity, and strengthen the essential skills they need to thrive both in and beyond school.

Across the curriculum, students immersed themselves in a wide range of activities, including creative workshops, entrepreneurial challenges, forensic investigations, interview preparation, and post-16 guidance. Every session was crafted to help them grow, explore new interests, and prepare for the opportunities ahead.

Year 7 enjoyed uplifting sessions with '*Positively You!*' exploring communication, resilience, and creative learning. Year 8 embraced entrepreneurship during their UNLOC Enterprise Day, developing innovative thinking and problem-solving skills. Year 9 stepped into the world of forensic science through a CSI-themed experience, featuring a talk from a University of Portsmouth Forensics professor and hands-on analytical workshops.

Year 10 focused on their futures with The Big Interview, taking part in employability workshops before completing interviews with professionals from a range of sectors - many students arriving dressed to impress in their smart workwear. Meanwhile, Year 11 refined key English, Maths, and post-16 skills through bespoke small-group sessions and heard inspiring advice from Trafalgar Alumni.

November's PD Day showcased the power of meaningful, purposeful learning. With new experiences and strengthened skills, our students are more prepared than ever to face future challenges, truly embodying what it means to be ready.





'Real Talk'

Trafalgar Alumni students coming in today to talk about 'Life Beyond Trafalgar'!



'Shakespeare Unlocked'

'Beyond the Throne'

#niceprops

Year 11 taking part in their 'Aim Higher' workshops today



BLUE SKIES 2025



This October, our new Year 8 cohort kicked off their journey with the Blue Skies Project; an exciting partnership with JETS that supports students in developing teamwork, leadership, and employability skills over the next three years.

Their first off-site session in November took them to the National Air Traffic Services (NATS) Control Centre, where they gained a fascinating insight into how NATS manages the safe passage of hundreds of thousands of aircraft every day. Students explored the challenges of air traffic management on a global scale and were introduced to Project Bluebird, an innovative system using artificial intelligence to detect and prevent potential conflicts in flight paths.

The highlight of the day was an interactive simulation where students monitored aircraft on the same flight path, adjusting routes and maintaining safe vertical separation to avoid collisions. Alongside this, they participated in team-building challenges, including a blindfolded exercise that tested communication, leadership, and collaboration.

It was a fantastic day of learning, problem-solving, and fun — and our students represented the school brilliantly. We are thrilled to continue supporting this cohort through the Blue Skies Project and look forward to watching them grow, develop, and achieve over the coming years.





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