

Spring
2026



Trafalgar School

NEWS



Trafalgar School NEWS



Welcome from the Head of School

Welcome to our Spring newsletter!

It has been an eventful and rewarding term at Trafalgar School, filled with moments of pride, achievement, and community spirit. I had the privilege of cheering on our talented dancers at Dance Live at the Guildhall in February. Each year, their performances go from strength to strength, and I was immensely proud of the energy, passion, and dedication they displayed. This year's performance was particularly powerful, as students drew inspiration from local stories and connected their work to Portsmouth 100, making it both meaningful and memorable.

Our second Personal Development Day focused on equipping students with the knowledge and confidence they need to stay safe—physically, mentally, and online. A particularly moving moment was a presentation from Charlie's father, representing 'Charlie's Promise'. His powerful and heartfelt account of the impact of knife crime on his family left a lasting impression on both students and staff. These days provide an invaluable opportunity for students to engage with important real-world issues beyond the classroom.

We were also delighted to see our Year 7 students take part in a Guinness World Record attempt at Fratton Park—successfully! Well done to everyone involved in this fantastic achievement.

As always, our end-of-term assembly was a wonderful occasion, celebrating the many individual and group successes across the school. It is always a highlight to recognise and applaud the efforts and accomplishments of our students.

This term, we also say a fond farewell to Mrs Copeland after nine years of dedicated service. She has played a significant role in shaping what it means to be #teamtrafalgar, and she will be greatly missed. We wish her every success in her next chapter.

Wishing you all a very happy, restful, and well-deserved Easter break.

Miss Pearce - Head of School (and Acting Headteacher)

Dance Live 2026



Earlier this term, our school proudly took to the stage at Dance Live! 2026, with students performing impressively and representing Trafalgar with real commitment and professionalism.

Their original piece, based around the Battle of the Somme, told the moving story of two brothers inspired by Frederick and Arthur Piper from Portsmouth, who lost their lives in the First World War.

The performance impressed the judges with its powerful storytelling and meaningful concept, earning the group the prestigious Concept Award. This fantastic achievement reflects our students' creativity, teamwork and emotional maturity, as well as their ability to bring local history to life through dance in a way that resonated with both audience and judges alike.



Trafalgar Triumphs at the Portsmouth Literature Quiz 2026



A huge congratulations to our talented Trafalgar readers, who achieved the school's first-ever victory at this year's Portsmouth Literature Quiz!

Competing against 32 teams from 11 schools across the city, our students showcased impressive knowledge of authors including Max Boucherat, E.L. Norry, Lucy Strange, and Aoife Walsh. After a closely fought final, Bella, Holly, Khloe, and Megan claimed the top spot in a tense tie-breaker to secure Trafalgar's historic win.

Our second team — Diana, Emily, Lucie, and Summer — also shone throughout the competition, earning well-deserved praise for their teamwork and enthusiasm.

As part of the event, the students met the visiting authors, took part in inspiring Q&A sessions, and even brought home a wonderful prize: new books for themselves and our school library.

This fantastic achievement is a true celebration of reading, teamwork, and determination — well done, Team Trafalgar!



Trafalgar Students Help Set a New World Record!

It's official — our students are record-breakers!

Earlier this term, Year 7 students at Trafalgar School joined forces with pupils and staff from schools across Portsmouth to take part in a citywide reading event for World Book Day. Together, they've made history by achieving a new Guinness World Records® title for the largest reading lesson (multiple venues).

The 40-minute session was led by author Dan Freedman, who inspired thousands of young readers across the city to celebrate the power of stories. Our students took part enthusiastically from start to finish, supported by dedicated staff who helped coordinate the event.

We're incredibly proud that our Year 7s played their part in this record-breaking moment for Portsmouth — one that highlights the strength of our community and love of reading.

A huge thank you goes to Portsmouth Creates and all the partners involved in making this event possible. It's a moment our students will always remember — after all, it's not every day you can say you've helped set a world record!





PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE

Supported by

 Stagecoach
10478



Welcome aboard

Realise have your payment or pass ready.

Accepted: 

Apple Pay, Google Pay, Samsung Pay, Mastercard, Visa, American Express





SHAPING
PORTSMOUTH

APPRENTICESHIP
BUS 2025

10
PORTSMOUTH
1926-2026



Earlier this term, our Year 10 students enjoyed an inspiring careers experience when they took part in our annual Apprenticeship Bus visit as part of National Apprenticeship Week. The event gave them the chance to meet a wide range of local apprenticeship providers, find out more about what apprenticeships involve, explore the different pathways available and learn how to apply.

A particular highlight was welcoming back our former Head Boy, Jake, now an apprentice himself, who spoke to students about his journey since leaving Trafalgar. Hearing directly from a familiar face who has successfully taken the apprenticeship route gave students a powerful, real-life example of where hard work and determination can lead.

Our Year 10s represented the school brilliantly throughout the visit. Their behaviour was exemplary, and we were extremely impressed by the mature way they approached the opportunity – especially the thoughtful questions they asked and the genuine interest they showed in considering their post-16 options.

BLUE SKIES 2026



This term, as part of the STEM-focused Blue Skies Project, a group of our students took part in an exciting programme, which included a visit to Portsmouth International Port, a hands-on workshop at Airbus, and several in-school sessions exploring teamwork and resilience.

These experiences gave them unique insights into maritime logistics, aerospace innovation and transport, whilst highlighting how teamwork, clear communication and confidence keeps complex operations running smoothly.

The port session, titled 'Captain Your Confidence', focused on building students' confidence, communication skills and positive self-talk through interactive activities such as teamwork challenges, short speaking tasks, problem-solving scenarios and reflection exercises.

They also learned about port security procedures and key aspects of port operations, and had the chance to explore the site. Spirits remained high throughout – even during the outdoor elements in changeable weather!



Reading Plus Winners - Spring 2026



Congratulations to all our Reading Plus winners from across the Spring Term!

Your dedication and progress has been fantastic to see, and we hope you're enjoying your well-earned books.

Keep up the great reading, Team Trafalgar!

WORLD BOOK DAY[®] 2026



Staff celebrated their love of reading in true Trafalgar style, joining in the fun of World Book Day with plenty of smiles, stories and shared enthusiasm for books.

#TeamTrafalgarReads

PD DAY - BE SAFE

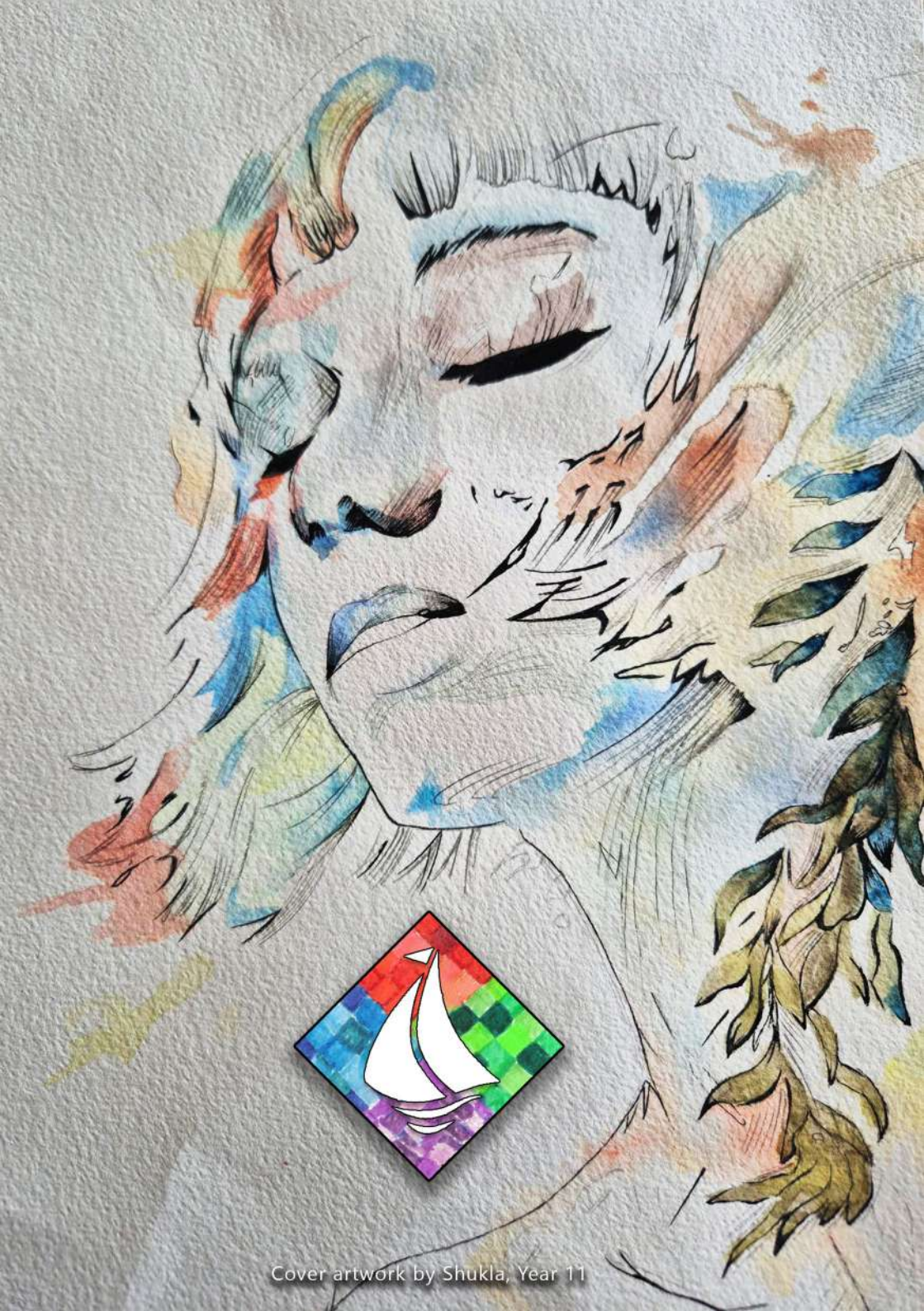
Students took part in a powerful Personal Development Day focused on helping them feel safe, supported and informed as they navigate real-life issues that affect young people today, including healthy relationships, coercion, racism, knife crime, being an active bystander and the impact of language and behaviour on others. Throughout the day, they heard from expert external speakers and charities such as St Giles Trust and Charlie's Promise, who shared real stories and practical advice to empower students to recognise risks and make healthier choices.

Through talks, Q&A sessions, community circles and dedicated reflection time, students were encouraged to think carefully about the decisions they make, how to look out for themselves and others, and where to seek help if something doesn't feel right. Support does not end when the day is over: our pastoral team, tutors and safeguarding staff are always available for a conversation, while spaces such as the library, ARC and Compass offer calm areas for students to regulate and reflect.

By working closely with specialist organisations, including St Giles Trust, Prison Me No Way, Charlie's Promise and Stop Domestic Abuse, this also ensures students and families can be signposted to expert support beyond school, helping them feel more confident, informed and able to make safer and more positive choices.







Cover artwork by Shukla, Year 11