

Parent Bulletin

6th September 2024

We're thrilled to kick off another exciting academic year at Trafalgar! A warm welcome to all our families, both new and returning. It's been wonderful to see Year 7 students settling in so well, and there's a real sense of excitement and energy buzzing around the school—despite the unpredictable weather this week!

As we look ahead, please mark your calendars for the Year 11 Curriculum Evening on Thursday 19th September. This event is a valuable opportunity for parents to learn more about what's in store for the year ahead and how we can work together to ensure the best outcomes for our students.

In addition, a reminder for our Year 7 parents: Chromebooks will be ready for collection on Tuesday 10th September. Please ensure your child brings their signed Chromebook lease agreement to school on the day.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead—filled with growth, learning, and memorable moments for all our students!

Take care and stay safe,

Team Trafalgar



Key Dates

Autumn 2024

Thursday 19th September - Preparing for Year 11 Evening

Thursday 26th September - Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening

Thursday 3rd October - Activities Week 2025 Launch Event

Thursday 10th October - Open Evening

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. Please ensure students have a bag. You can find full details of what they need [here](https://trafalgarschool.org.uk/uniform-equipment).



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Extracurricular Clubs for 2024/25

At Trafalgar, we offer a wide range of extracurricular clubs to inspire and engage students in their passions outside the classroom. Whether it's the creative spark of Art Club, the strategic challenge of Chess Club, or the team spirit of Basketball and Football, there's something for everyone.

For language enthusiasts, we have Spanish Cards and Board Games, KS3 German Club, and even a Duolingo Championship. History buffs can dive into the Historical Murder Mysteries or join the History Book Club and Film Club. STEM lovers can explore Robotics, Chemistry, and our collaborative STEM Club. With music, drama, sports, and academic support clubs like Home Learning and Sparx Support, students can find their place, connect with peers, and have fun while learning new skills.

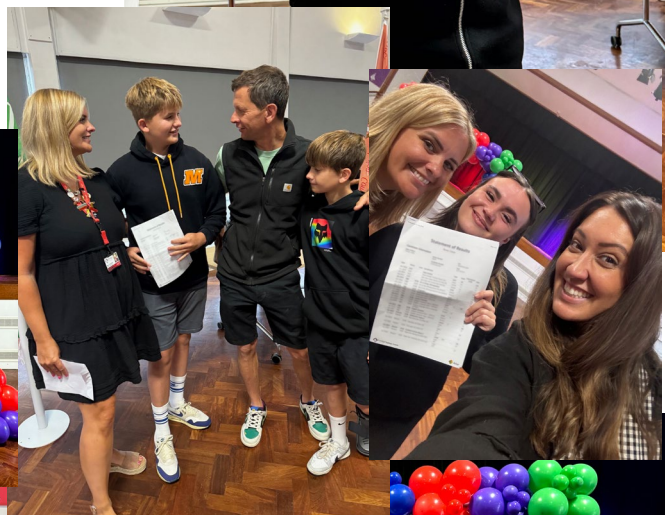
The full timetable of clubs will be shared next week on our social channels, website, and in the parent bulletin, so stay tuned!

GCSE Results: Our Best Progress Yet!

We are thrilled to announce that this year's GCSE results have set a new milestone for our school! Thanks to the hard work and dedication of both students and staff, our students have achieved the best progress we've ever seen. This achievement reflects not just academic excellence but the resilience, commitment, and support within our school community.

Highlights include significant improvements in key subjects, with many students surpassing their target grades. This success is the result of a collaborative effort—teachers going the extra mile, students striving for success, and parents providing unwavering support.

As we celebrate, let's take pride in knowing that our efforts are making a real difference. Well done to everyone!



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Using AI ChatBots for Good

You've probably heard of ChatGPT, the wonder AI chatbot. From writing poems to C.U.s, it seems there's nothing this artificial intelligence can't create! That does, unfortunately, include homework.

ChatGPT's terms of services says users must be at least 13 years old and those under 18 must have their parent or legal guardian's permission. However, between the press coverage and the lack of age verification, it's likely that many young people are using it regardless.

But is it *really* helping with homework? Here are some points to consider if the young person in your care wants to use an AI chatbot.



SOMETIMES AI CHATBOTS ARE WRONG!

This means if someone is relying on them for facts, they might be wrong too. And it might become obvious that they've used AI to complete their work.



CHATBOTS AREN'T ALWAYS UP TO DATE.

ChatGPT knows about the world up until 2021, after that its knowledge is limited.



CHATBOTS ARE BANNED IN SOME PLACES.

If a young person is using chatbots but their school has banned it, they might have to face the consequences of breaking the rules.



EVERY VOICE IS UNIQUE.

Although you can ask a chatbot to create text in a certain way, it's incredibly unlikely that it will sound identical to the user... and even if a young person doesn't think they have a writing style, you can bet their teachers do!



CHATBOTS AREN'T ALWAYS SHORTCUTS

By the time you're finished fact-checking and editing the grammar, you may as well have written it yourself!

Alternative ideas for using AI together

PRACTICE FACT CHECKING

Knowing how to fact check is a very useful skill, both for school and for everyday life. Ask ChatGPT for facts then check them together by Googling, in the news and even in good old-fashioned books!

Being able to tell fact from fiction will also help you and the young person in your care spot fake news and misinformation on social media.

USE CHATGPT TO INSPIRE

Instead of making the chatbot do all the work, use it for prompting ideas. For example, you can give an example of your favourite novel and ask for recommendations of similar books you might enjoy.

I am 14 years old.
My favourite book is the Hobbit.
Can you suggest three novels I might like?

Sure, here are three book suggestions you might enjoy based on your love of The Hobbit:

1. Eragon by Christopher Paolini ...



MASTER THE SKILL OF EDITING

The text produced by AI chatbots usually needs a lot of changing. Practising editing text for spelling, grammar and comprehension could help improve schoolwork.

LEARN ABOUT AI

There's no denying that artificial intelligence like chatbots can be fascinating. How does it learn information? Who made it? Researching this together could even inspire a future career in AI!

STAYING SAFE WHEN USING AI

Make sure the young person in your care knows who their trusted adults are and that they can talk to them if they see something that upsets or worries them online.

Harmful, unhelpful and untrue answers on ChatGPT can be reported by selecting the 'thumbs down' button beside the answer.

Some young people have been using AI for mental health advice. Talk to the young person in your care about what to do if they're feeling depressed, stressed, or upset.

For young people, using AI as a way to get out of homework might be very tempting. If you know the young person in your care is using AI chatbots, talk to them about the *possible risks, age limits* and *alternative ways* you can use AI chatbots together as a *force for good*.

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