

Parent Bulletin



29th November 2024

Welcome to our latest Parent Bulletin.

As we head into the festive season, there's been lots happening at school.

Our recent Personal Development Day was a great success. Year 7 went to Fort Purbrook for team-building activities, while Year 8 worked with Unloc on a Business and Enterprise Challenge. Year 9 enjoyed our popular CSI Day, where they learned about detection techniques to solve "Who murdered Mr. Dudley?" (Thankfully, he made a full recovery!). Year 10 took part in The Big Interview, impressing local employers, and Year 11 focused on exam boosters and getting ready for college.

As Anti-Bullying Month draws to a close, our safeguarding tips explores valuable advice on how to support your child if they are experiencing bullying.

Don't forget, our Christmas Fair is coming up on Saturday 30th November. It's always a fun event with stalls, games, and festive treats, so we hope to see you there.

Stay safe and take care,

Team Trafalgar

Well Done, Almonder!

Our Head Boy and Head Girl hosted their first *Hot Chocolate Hangout* of the year this week, celebrating students who go above and beyond in our school community.

The first guest of honor was Almonder, who has been quietly excelling at Trafalgar. As one of our top praise points scorers and a fantastic contributor to school life, Almonder is setting a great example for others.

Well done, Almonder—you've earned it!



Key Dates

Autumn 2024

Wednesday 11th December - Year 7 Charity Disco

Thursday 12th December - Year 11 Parents' Evening

Friday 13th December - Flu Jabs

Wednesday 18th December - Year 7 Christmas Concert

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).



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PD Day 1 Recap

At Trafalgar School, we aim to provide more than classroom learning. Personal Development Days are a key part of this; giving students the chance to build skills and experiences that will help them in the future. Here's what each year group got up to for PD Day 1:

Year 7: Team Building at Fort Purbrook

Year 7 students headed to Fort Purbrook for a day of team-building activities. The challenges encouraged them to work together, communicate effectively, and solve problems as a group. It was a fun and active day that helped students strengthen friendships and learn the value of teamwork.



Year 8: Business and Enterprise Challenge

Year 8 took part in the Unloc Business and Enterprise Challenge, which gave them a chance to think creatively and learn about solving real-world problems. They worked in teams to develop and pitch ideas, improving their critical thinking and presentation skills in the process.

Year 9: CSI Day

Year 9 participated in our popular CSI Day, where they became detectives for the day. Using forensic techniques like fingerprint analysis and evidence gathering, they worked together to solve the mystery of who "murdered" Mr. Dudley (don't worry, he recovered just fine). It was a hands-on way to learn about science and problem-solving.

Year 10: The Big Interview

Year 10 students stepped into the spotlight for The Big Interview, where they practiced their interview skills with real employers. They received feedback on how to present themselves professionally and make a good first impression. This year's event was our most successful yet, with many students impressing the professionals.



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Congratulations to our Big Interview Star Candidates!

As part of the event, we challenged our interviewers to identify standout students who demonstrated excellence in their applications, presentations, and interview conduct. These Star Candidates will be entered into a prize draw for the chance to win a free prom ticket.

A huge well done to Louie B05, Emily T11, Ryan S07, Shukla T08, George V11, Theo S09, Chidinma T11, Bethan T09, Sofia T08, Lisa B07, Connie B08, Fletcher S08, Jack B10, Evie V03, Zachaari B03 for impressing employers with their confidence, professionalism, and preparation. You've done yourselves and our school proud!

Year 11: Exam Boosters and College Prep

For Year 11, the focus was on preparing for their GCSE exams and life after Trafalgar. They attended sessions on exam techniques and college applications, giving them useful tips and guidance to help them succeed in the months ahead.



Campaign to make Oakwood Road One-Way

Following many years of disruption and frustration, 98% of the residents of Oakwood Road have recently voted in favour of the road becoming one-way.

We all believe this will:

- Reduce congestion in Oakwood Road and surrounding roads
- Be safer for your children when walking to and from school
- Promote a calmer start to the day for both parents, children and residents
- Reduce the number of damages to parked and moving cars
- Reduce carbon emissions

The petition was supported by local councillor Russell Simpson, who presented it directly to the relevant council department. We are now looking for support from those who are impacted by the issues in the road to support the campaign.

Following a recent meeting with the Executive Headteacher, Claire Copeland she has given her support, so we are asking for parents and guardians to [click the link and complete the form](#) (no more than 5 minutes of your time required) and support this proposal.

With many thanks

The residents of Oakwood Road

Christmas Dinner 2024

Each house will enjoy a festive Christmas dinner together during the last week of term! On your designated day, students will gather in the main hall to share lunch as a tutor group.

Here's the schedule for each house:

Temeraire – Monday 16th December
Sovereign – Tuesday 17th December
Victory – Wednesday 18th December
Britannia – Thursday 19th December

Students will make their meal choices in tutor sessions next week.

All orders must be submitted by Friday 6th December.

If you have specific dietary requirements, please let your tutor know.

Payment details have been sent via Class Charts.



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Top Tips for Supporting Children Who Are EXPERIENCING BULLYING

In a DfE survey, 36% of parents said that their child had been bullied in the past year, while 29% of secondary school headteachers reported bullying among students. Public Health England states that young people who maintain positive communication with their family were less likely to experience bullying – so it's important that parents, carers and educators know how to talk to children about bullying.

1. WATCH FOR BEHAVIOURAL CHANGES

Children who are experiencing bullying may become quiet, withdrawn, or anxious; however, they may also act on the pain and anger that they're feeling. A shift in attitude towards their existing friends (or not mentioning them any more at all) or alluding to new friendships which seem notably different could also be warning signs. It's important to be alert to such changes and talk to your child about them if they occur.



2. THINK THINGS THROUGH

Before acting, ask yourself if this is the right time and place to address concerns about bullying. Might your worries trigger strong feelings – perhaps from your own experiences – that could discourage your child from opening up to you? You could try discussing what you've noticed with another trusted adult who knows your child well.



3. BE OPEN AND UNDERSTANDING

Try to outline to your child the changes that you've noticed in their body language, appearance, behaviour, or tone of voice – and do so without sounding judgemental. Help them to describe what they're feeling – be it anger, sadness, fear or something else – as accurately as possible. If they say they're "angry", do they mean "enraged" or "frustrated"? This will help them to understand how they're feeling and why.



4. LET THEM SPEAK FREELY

Use open questions and a welcoming tone to encourage your child to talk. Listen closely and summarise what they've said at appropriate points (ideally without interrupting) to demonstrate that you're understanding clearly. Bullying may have undermined your child's sense of control, and they may fear that you'll judge them, overreact or impose consequences – so this conversation can reassure them being honest with you was the right decision.



5. CALL A TIME OUT

A conversation about bullying could leave both you and your child feeling distressed. It's important to recognise this and pause at suitable moments to calm down. Take deep breaths, enjoy a hot drink or even have a cathartic cry. This can reinforce trust, while also helping you both feel that you have control over the situation and the emotions that you're feeling.



6. STAY INFORMED

Make sure you know your child's school's definition of, response to and relevant contacts for bullying. This information should be in their anti-bullying policy, which ought to be available on the school's website. Class teachers or form tutors are usually the first point of contact, though there may be dedicated support teams or key workers to help your child, depending on the specific situation.



7. PREP YOUR CHILD FOR THE RESPONSE

Schools' responses to bullying vary depending on whether they're resolving disagreements and arguments, or addressing unintended verbal or physical harm and so on. It's important to work out with your child whether any harm was intentional, how much control they had over the situation and how often such incidents have occurred. Reporting concerns accurately will get the best outcome for your child more quickly.



8. SUMMARISE YOUR CHILD'S EXPERIENCE

When you contact the school, make sure you've precisely described what your child experienced: what happened; when; where; and who was involved. This will help the school to investigate further, identifying any witnesses, as well as those who were directly involved. It can also help the school to know how your child is feeling and how they'd like the matter to be resolved.



9. LIAISE WITH THE SCHOOL

Any school has a duty to ensure that the members of its community feel safe and included. It's important for children to learn their role in this. The school must determine how best to restore these feelings of safety and respect. It's often best for schools to keep parents and carers informed of any action taken – and for families to avoid taking matters into their own hands.



10. CHECK IN FREQUENTLY

Once the issue has been resolved and the bullying behaviour has stopped, your child may still feel anxious and might find it difficult to rebuild relationships or develop new ones. Parents, carers and the school should all keep an eye on how the child is feeling and acting over the following months. Any relevant information should be shared, so that further support can be planned if necessary.



Meet Our Expert

Bob Basley is the Director of Anti-Bullying Quality Mark-UK, which challenges and supports schools to develop sustainable whole-school approaches to prevent bullying, including working with parents and carers. More than 80 schools in England and Wales currently hold the quality mark.



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Saturday 30th November



An event for all the family to enjoy

Christmas Fair

10:00am - 2:00pm

- * Crafts & Stalls
- * Festive Games
- * Face Paintng
- * Refreshments
- * Raffle
- * Cash only

Free Entry

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