

Parent Bulletin



7th February 2025

Welcome to our latest Parent Bulletin. It has been a busy and exciting week here at Trafalgar!

We were delighted to welcome representatives from the University of Portsmouth and Portsmouth Football Club, who delivered an engaging and inspiring careers talk to a group of our Year 9 and 10 students. This was a fantastic opportunity for them to gain insight into potential future pathways and the exciting prospects ahead.

Additionally, Trafalgar recently hosted the second CoPs summit of the year, bringing together students from across the region to collaborate and develop key leadership skills. It was great to see such enthusiasm and participation from all involved.

Our latest PD Day was a challenging but essential experience for our students, sparking important conversations on a range of topics. The day was filled with thought-provoking sessions that encouraged meaningful discussions, and we're incredibly proud of the way our students engaged with the material.

Inside this bulletin, you'll also find information on an upcoming session about understanding AI, run by the Portsmouth Education Partnership. This is a valuable opportunity for students and parents alike to learn more about the growing role of AI in education and beyond.

Stay safe and take care,

Team Trafalgar

Trafalgar hosts CoPs Summit

This week we were delighted to host the Council of Portsmouth Students Summit 2 here at Trafalgar!

The event brought together student representatives from across the city for a day of meaningful discussions, collaboration, and idea-sharing about the future of education and student leadership.

It was inspiring to see so many young people actively engaging in shaping positive change.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to such a productive and insightful summit!



Key Dates

Spring 2025

Thursday 13th February - Year 8 Parents' Evening (virtual)

Monday 17th - Friday 21st February - Half Term

Monday 24th February - Students back in school

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](#).



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PD Day 2 Recap

Last week, we held our latest Personal Development Day, focusing on the crucial topic of personal safety—both online and in everyday life. Each year group took part in tailored workshops covering key issues such as being an active bystander, challenging negative behaviours, crime prevention, and relationship safety.



A huge thank you to Charlie's Promise, Stop Domestic Abuse, Prison Me, No Way, St Giles Trust, Elevate Education, and BearFace Theatre Group for delivering powerful and informative sessions that equipped students with valuable knowledge and strategies to stay safe and support others.

We recognise these topics can be challenging, so dedicated support was available throughout the day to help students process the discussions. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this an impactful and meaningful event!



Invisible Man Theatre perform for our Year 7s

Our Year 7 students recently watched 'Wherever Home Is'; a powerful performance by Invisible Man Theatre Company.

The play was created from over 100 conversations with children of service personnel, their parents, teachers, and school support staff. These real-life stories shaped the performance, offering a moving insight into the experiences of service families.



Performed with depth and sensitivity, 'Wherever Home Is' resonated with our students, encouraging empathy, understanding, and discussions about what "home" really means.



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Portsmouth FC come to Trafalgar for Career Talk



A huge thank you to the University of Portsmouth and Portsmouth Football Club for taking the time to speak with a group of our Year 9 and 10 students about the diverse and exciting career opportunities within the sports industry. From coaching and sports science to marketing and management, students gained valuable insights into the many paths available in this dynamic field. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to learn from professionals who have first-hand experience and knowledge of the industry.

A special thanks to Portsmouth FC's Marlon Pack for sharing his journey in football, offering invaluable advice, and answering students' questions with honesty and enthusiasm. His expression of the dedication, resilience, and hard work needed to succeed in the sports world were truly inspiring. The students left the session feeling motivated and encouraged about their future possibilities. Experiences like these are crucial in helping young people make informed choices about their careers.



Play up Pompey!



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"AI MADE SIMPLE: SUPPORTING YOUR FAMILY IN THE DIGITAL AGE"

Discover how artificial intelligence can transform learning and everyday life for you and your child by joining our FREE webinar series, running in the summer term as part of the "Portsmouth: The Digital City" project.

Within these sessions, you will learn how to harness AI safely, effectively, and creatively at home, whilst also gaining top tips and nuggets of wisdom to empower your family in the digital age.

Each session is tailored to provide practical advice, easy-to-use tools, and insights into how AI can support education, inclusion, and everyday tasks for parents, carers, and children alike.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to stay ahead in the digital world and help your family thrive! Sign up today!



SESSION DETAILS

Session 1: Introduction to AI - What Parents Need to Know

1 Get to grips with the basics of artificial intelligence. Learn what AI is, how it's shaping the world around us, and how your child may already be using it in their everyday life.

Thurs 01.05.2025

17:00 to 18:00

Session 2: Using AI to Support Your Child in English

2

Explore AI tools that can help with reading, writing, and language development. From grammar checkers to creative writing assistants, discover ways to boost your child's confidence and skills in English.

Mon 12.05.2025

17:00 to 18:00

Session 3: Using AI to Support Your Child in Maths

3

Maths doesn't have to be a struggle! Learn how AI apps and platforms can make learning maths more engaging, personalised, and effective for children at all levels.

Thurs 22.05.2025

17:00 to 18:00

SESSION DETAILS

Session 4: Supporting Children with SEND Using AI

4

Discover how AI-powered tools can break down barriers for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Learn about tailored technologies that support communication, organisation, and learning.

Thurs 05.06.2025

17:00 to 18:00

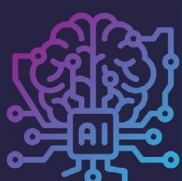
AI for Parents and Carers - Making Life Easier

Mon 16.06.2025

17:00 to 18:00

5

AI isn't just for our children! Find out how AI can help you as a parent or carer, from organising your schedule to meal planning and even improving communication with your child's school.



SIGN UP INFORMATION

Please register for the session (s) by using the form or the link below.

Sessions will be delivered via Microsoft Teams and parents/carers will receive invites to the link once the sign up form closes.

Each session will last 45 minutes with an optional 15 minutes Q&A opportunity at the end.

All sessions will be recorded and will be shared with parents/carers after the event has concluded.

For more info, please email Gemma Gwilliam
(Head of Digital Learning, Education and Innovation)
at info@portsmouththedigitalcity.co.uk

**SIGN UP
TODAY**



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Free Half-Term Activities

Are you looking for fun, free activities to do during February Half Term? Portsmouth City Council are running 6 exciting FREE sessions which include a free nutritious meal for any and all Portsmouth 11-16 year olds. These sessions are at places such as Goals Portsmouth, Pitt Street Skatepark, Flip Out Portsmouth and Peter Ashely Activity Centre.

You can view all the sessions and book onto them by following this link: <https://eequ.org/portsmouthcitycouncilsessions> or by following this QR Code:

FREE
YOUTH
SESSIONS



EPTengagement@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

07901 100537

www.eequ.org/portsmouthcitycouncilsessions



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk for more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fake-news-and-scams>

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