

Parent Bulletin



28th March 2025

As we approach the final weeks of term, there's plenty happening at Trafalgar!

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Easter Performance, and to the talented students who took part. The evening was a fantastic showcase of the incredible talent we have at Trafalgar, and we are so proud of all our performers.

Well done to our Duke of Edinburgh students who recently took part in their practice expedition. Their teamwork and resilience was truly impressive, and we also extend our gratitude to the staff who gave up their weekend to support them.

For Year 7 parents, thank you to those who attended the Year 7 Camp meeting earlier this week. If you missed it, a recording is available, and we've included key details in this edition of the bulletin.

A reminder that RAP meetings are taking place next week. Students are only required to attend for their appointment time and do not need to wear uniform on the day. These meetings are an important opportunity to review progress and set targets for success.

With just a few weeks left of term, let's keep up the momentum and finish strong!

Team Trafalgar

Hot Chocolate with the Head

Well done to Jayden who enjoyed a hot chocolate with Head of School, Miss Pearse.

Jayden proved himself an outstanding member of our local community by helping a member of the public who was in great need.

We are so proud of Jayden's actions and demonstrating the community value in our own neighbourhood.

Well done Jayden!



Key Dates

Spring 2025

Tuesday 1st April - RAP Meetings (school closed to students)

Friday 4th April - Celebration Assembly - normal finish time

Monday 7th - Friday 18th April - Easter Holidays

Monday 21st April - Bank Holiday (school closed)

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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Year 7 Camp 2025 - Essential Information

This week we held our information evening for the Year 7 camp taking place during Activities Week 2025. If you were unable to attend the meeting there is a recording available on our website, but here is some of the key information.

Key Information

- R Band – Camping Monday 23rd June –Wednesday 25th June
- G Band – Camping Wednesday 25th June –Friday 27th June
- Non camp days: in school activities include circus skills and UNLOC Challenge Day
- Coach transport to and from Trafalgar School. Students will need to meet at 8.45am on their day of camp and will be dismissed on return day at 1.45pm.
- Students and parents will need to discuss dietary requirements and tent sharing requests during RAP meetings on Tuesday 1st April
- All food will be provided at camp except for lunch on the first day (unless students are FSM)
- Students can bring their own snacks or cash for the tuck shop



FAQs

What if my child is anxious about being away from home?

Rest assured we have plenty of support available. If you have any questions, please schedule a meeting before RAPs on 1st April. Attendance during activities week is mandatory.

Can my child bring a mobile phone?

Yes, however there will be times they will not be permitted use such as during the day and during activities. Please note there will be no electricity sources for charging devices.

What will sleeping arrangements be like?

Tents will be grouped in boys and girls camps. Staff tents will be close by and students will be made aware of their closest staff member. Students can name a few friends they'd like to share with in their RAP meeting– the final confirmation will be shared before the trip.



How will you ensure my child gets their medication(s)?

Can my child bring non prescription medications (for example, antihistamines or paracetamol)?

All medication (prescription and non-prescription e.g paracetamol) is to be handed to staff during drop off on Day 1. If there are any changes to your child's medical information, please update this with student services. First aid kits will be held centrally by staff.

How can I contact you with further questions?

Activitiesweek@trafalgarschool.org.uk



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Inspiring STEM Careers: A Visit from the British Army

Last week, students had the fantastic opportunity to take part in an exciting STEM careers session delivered by the British Army.

The event, designed to highlight the many opportunities available to women in STEM-related roles, saw female soldiers visit the



school and share insights into their careers and the diverse paths available in science, technology, engineering and maths within the Army.

Students engaged in hands-on activities, tackling STEM challenges and core skills tasks, providing them with a real-world glimpse into the exciting possibilities within these fields.



Reading Plus Leaderboard

Congratulations to 7G2 for topping the Reading Plus Leaderboard for a fifth straight week!

Leaderboard	
Top Classes - Total Avg. Reading Lessons (SR)	
1. 7G2/En (2024/25)	67.6
2. 7R3/En (2024/25)	53.1
3. 7R1/En (2024/25)	51.9
4. 7G1/En (2024/25)	42.4
5. 8G1/EN (2024/25)	41.6

This week's individual winner is Anousha. She chose 'The Fowl Twins' by Eoin Colfer as her reward from the Library Book Vending Machine.

Happy reading Anousha! You've earned it!

If you would like to win a free book this could be YOU next week!

The programme will be set to the level that is correct for you, so get reading on Reading Plus and enjoy the results!

If you have any questions, see Mr Jenner in the Library.



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Premier League Experience for Gracie & Hunni!

We are thrilled to share that two of our students, Gracie and Hunni, were given an incredible opportunity to visit the Wolverhampton Wanderers' training ground as a reward for their outstanding work on a social action project with Pompey in the Community.

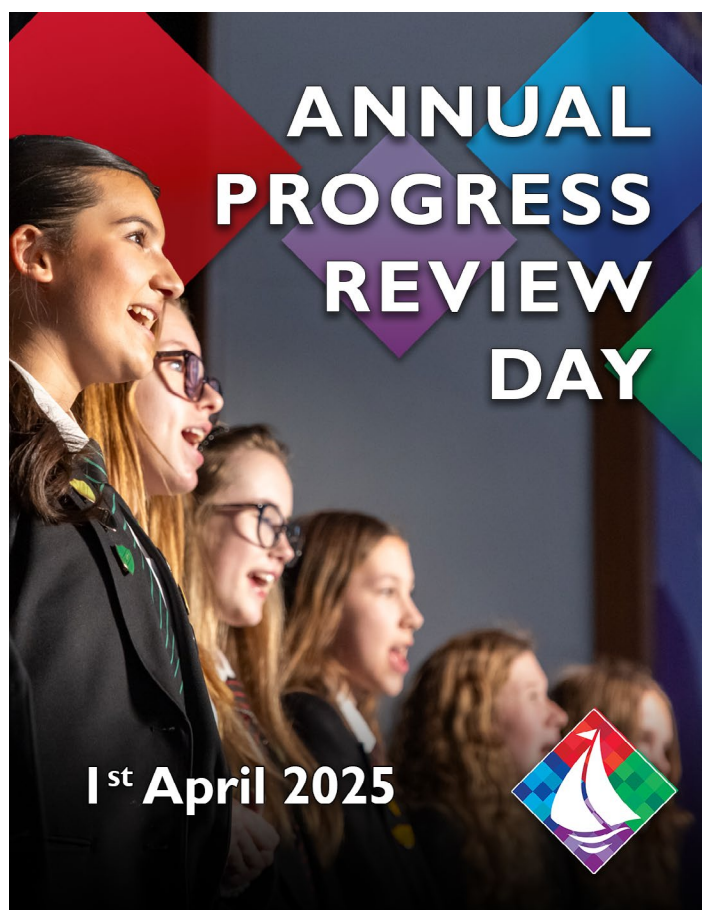
As part of their visit, they participated in an exclusive training session led by Premier League coaches, gaining valuable insights and skills from top professionals. Immersed in a professional football environment, they experienced firsthand the standards of elite-level training. Throughout the experience, they represented our school with pride and dedication, showcasing their commitment and passion.

This fantastic opportunity was well deserved, and we are incredibly proud of their dedication to making a difference through their project. Well done, Gracie and Hunni!

A huge thank you to Mr Ball for being such a dedicated Wolves fan and agreeing to accompany them on this trip!



Annual Progress Review – Book Your Appointment Now



Our Annual Progress Review will take place in person on Tuesday 1st April, giving you the opportunity to meet with tutors to discuss your child's progress, set targets, and complete a Raising Achievement Plan (RAP) to support their learning. Year 9 students will also select their option choices during this time.

Appointments are filling up quickly, so please book as soon as possible by visiting <https://trafalgarportsmouth.schoolcloud.co.uk/>.

While we aim to accommodate your chosen tutor, some appointments may be reassigned to ensure all parents can attend.

We encourage all families to take part in this important event.



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Feeling Creative?

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

WEEK A TUESDAYS

- STUDIO PHOTOSHOOTS
- OUTDOOR PHOTOSHOOTS
- PHOTOSHOP EDITING
- PAPER EDITS
- PHOTOBOOKS/SCRAPBOOKING



Here are some of our exciting new art clubs on offer!

STITCH AND STYLE CLUB

ART 4

STITCH WITH US!

EVERY TUESDAY
WEEK A 3-4PM

LEARN HOW TO GET CREATIVE
WITH TEXTILES

SKETCH

club

Run by the Creative Collective

LUNCHTIME
ART 3

Every Wednesday

SKETCH, DOODLE AND LEARN NEW DRAWING SKILLS!

CRAFTY CREATIONS

MONDAY
WEEK B
3.00-4.00
Art1



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about BLUESKY SOCIAL APP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With an App Store rating of 17+ & Google Play rating Mature

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real name.

TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE

Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more unpleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant environment Bluesky is currently known for.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The 'advanced' Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even rude posts.

ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a nicer place for everyone.

LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a popular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to official domains, with users' handles linking to other sites; while this isn't widely used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.

KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much; it's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unsavoury. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/bluesky-app>

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