

Parent Bulletin



12th July 2024

Welcome to this week's edition of our Parent Bulletin! It's been an exciting and eventful week here at Trafalgar!

First and foremost, our Prom 2024 was a spectacular event, filled with glamour, joy, and unforgettable memories. Students dazzled in their finest attire and danced the night away, celebrating their achievements and friendships.

Our Year 10 students had the incredible opportunity to see the renowned poet, Simon Armitage, at the New Theatre Royal. It was an inspiring experience that left a lasting impression on all who attended.

Wednesday evening saw our annual Art Gala, and it was a resounding success! The turnout was fantastic, and attendees were treated to an impressive display of our students' artistic talents as well as delicious canapes made by our food technology students. Thank you to everyone who came to support our young artists.

In other news, the voting for Head Boy and Head Girl has taken place, and we eagerly await the announcement of the results next week. The anticipation is building as our students have cast their votes for the leaders who will represent them in the coming year.

Preparations are in full swing for our 2024 production of Grease! With lots of tickets already sold, the excitement is palpable. We can't wait to see the amazing performances our students have been working so hard on. Doors open at 5:45pm and the show gets underway at 6:30pm.

Stay safe and take care!

Team Trafalgar

Students Inspired by Poet Laureate at New Theatre Royal

Our students had an incredible time at the New Theatre Royal listening to Poet Laureate Simon Armitage!

They study one of his poems in their GCSE anthology, and during the event, he read some of his works, shared his inspiration, and held an engaging Q&A.

What an inspiring experience!

#Poetry #SimonArmitage #Aspiration



Key Dates

July 2024

Tuesday 16th July - Sports Festival 2024

Thursday 18th July - School Production - GREASE! - 6:30pm

Wednesday 24th July - Celebration Assembly - 12:30pm finish

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. You can find details of what they need [here](#).



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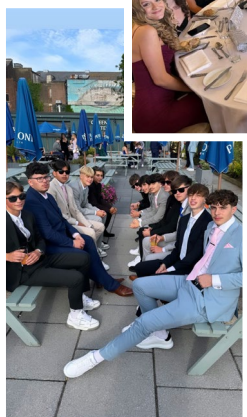
Prom 2024 - Class of 2024 Celebrates

Last night, the Class of 2024 marked the end of their time with Team Trafalgar in a grand celebration at the Queens Hotel. The evening was filled with joy, laughter, and a sense of accomplishment as students and staff gathered to commemorate their journey together.

The festivities began with a delightful meal, where everyone enjoyed delicious food and shared cherished memories. The atmosphere was filled with warmth and camaraderie, highlighting the strong bonds formed over the years.

As the night progressed, the students hit the dance floor, showcasing their best moves and dancing the night away. The energy was infectious, and it was clear that everyone was having a fantastic time.

It was a fitting tribute to the hard work and dedication of the Class of 2024 and a celebration of their future endeavors. #teamtrafalgarforlife



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School Governor Vacancy

Trafalgar School is a beacon school for Relational Practice in the south which means we put the building, maintaining, and restoring of relationships with all members of our community at the heart of everything we do. We work restoratively with students, families and with each other to maintain the strong community culture and our very strong inclusive ethos.

Trafalgar School is looking for committed and enthusiastic individuals to join our Local Governing Body. This is a fantastic opportunity to contribute to the future direction of our school.



About Us:

Trafalgar School is part of the Salterns Academy Trust and is a thriving and inclusive secondary school committed to providing high-quality education and fostering a supportive learning environment. We believe in empowering our students to achieve their full potential, both academically and personally.

Role of a Governing Body Member:

As a member of the governing body, you will:

- Provide strategic leadership and accountability.
- Support and challenge the school's senior leadership team.
- Help to ensure the school meets its educational objectives.
- Help shape policies and make decisions impacting the school community.

We Are Looking For:

- Individuals with a commitment to improving education.
- A willingness to invest time and effort into this voluntary role.
- A diverse range of skills, including but not limited to finance, education, HR, and community engagement.
- Team players who can work collaboratively with others.
- People from all backgrounds who represent the diversity of our school community.

What You'll Gain:

- A chance to make a real impact on the future of young people.
- Insight into the workings of our school.
- Opportunities for personal and professional development.
- The satisfaction of contributing to your local community.

Requirements:

- No prior experience in education is necessary.
- You must be over 18 years old.
- Commitment to attending regular evening meetings up to 10 a year, as well as making school visits and undertaking background reading and training

How to Apply:

If you are interested in this rewarding opportunity, please visit our website www.trafalgarschool.org.uk for more information and to download an application form. Alternatively, you can contact Charlotte Budd, Clerk to the Trust at Clerk@salternstrust.co.uk for further details.

Deadline for Applications: 15 July 2024



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What are social media algorithms? Advice for parents and carers

Article originally from [childnet.com](https://www.childnet.com)

Social media algorithms are one of the tools used by technology companies on the apps, games and websites we use every day. Things such as the videos you watch, links you click, pages you follow or accounts you interact with all help decide what content the algorithms show you.

In this post, we will help answer the questions that parents and carers may have about algorithms and some information about how to help keep your child safe when spending time online.

What are social media algorithms?

An algorithm is a set of rules and signals that social media sites use to show their users the videos, pictures or articles that they are most likely to interact with.



Algorithms mean that no two people on an app like TikTok will see exactly the same content, even if they follow the same accounts or have similar profiles. This is because the algorithms learn from our online behaviour, and make decisions about what content to show us based on lots of different information.

The online behaviour that an algorithm might use includes:

- Liking a video, picture, article or comment
- Subscribing to an account
- Watching a video all the way through
- Skipping a video or stopping it halfway
- Leaving comments or reviews
- Using the share button to send videos, pictures or articles to others

How can algorithms be a positive thing?

Algorithms can help connect you to accounts that you might like based on what you have chosen to like and view. If your child likes to watch videos on a specific topic, like slime, they are likely to be suggested more slime videos along with other videos on similar topics.

Algorithms can also stop us from seeing content we don't want to see, or won't find enjoyable. Lots of algorithms will use their knowledge of a user to avoid showing them content that they weren't interested in before.

They can be useful in keeping content relevant and appropriate for certain age groups, especially if your account uses age restrictions or parental controls. Some algorithms use the watching habits of the user to predict their age. This means that they try to suggest content that is more suitable for them based on this predicted information.

What are the possible risks around algorithms?

Screen time and maintaining a healthy balance

The urge to watch 'just one more' can be difficult to resist when algorithms show videos they know you will be interested in. This can make it harder to take a break and maintain a healthy balance between time on and offline.

A lack of different opinions or experiences

Algorithms show you content that the apps and companies think you will be interested in. This can mean that you are also more likely to see content that matches your own opinions about the world, rather than videos or posts that show a balanced range of views and different perspectives.

Sometimes this is referred to as an 'echo-chamber' and can make people see their beliefs or opinions as more common than they are.

Exposure to upsetting, extreme or unsuitable content

Some social media companies have been criticised for creating algorithms that gradually show people more upsetting or extreme content based on their interests. For example, if a young person looks at a lot of content about animals, an algorithm could start to suggest content showing animal cruelty, neglect or upsetting rescue videos, to them.

In the past these suggestions have also led to children and young people being shown content that promotes harmful behaviour, including eating disorders and self-harm.

Targeted advertising

Based on the content being viewed, adverts are selected that are more appealing to the user. Targeted advertising can be difficult to resist.

When a child is pushed advertising, we know how difficult it can be to deny them of what they want to purchase.

How can I support my child?

Using social media can be an exciting way for your child to communicate with others and see videos, posts and images that they find interesting. However, it is also important to talk openly with them about how to view content safely and what to do if things go wrong.

Practical Tips

Search for accounts with positive and enjoyable content.

By searching, following and interacting with accounts that post positive content that your child enjoys, this can help the algorithms to show them more of that content and make their time online entertaining and valuable.

Always register accounts with the correct age.

Social media apps will use the age of the user to help choose content to show them. Making sure that accounts are registered with the correct age can help stop inappropriate content from appearing on your child's account,

Unfollow or mute accounts that you don't like

'Unfollowing' or 'muting' accounts is another type of interaction that tells the algorithms that you do not enjoy certain content. By 'muting' an account, you make it so that you cannot see what they post, and the algorithm is less likely to suggest similar accounts for you to look at.

Know how to report content on apps and websites

Use our guide on reporting content online to familiarise yourself with the tools for blocking and reporting content on social media.

Follow a range of accounts with different perspectives

This can help prevent the 'echo-chamber' effect of algorithms, as it may help you to be recommended a wider range of content with different ideas and perspectives on important issues.



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