

Trafalgar Newsletter

9th December 2022

Welcome to this week's edition of our Parent Bulletin!

We are now one week out from the end of term and there is lots of festive excitement to look forward to next week!

Students will be having their House Christmas Dinners next week, there are house celebration assemblies where students will receive subject awards for outstanding performance this term. We also have our Christmas Concert on the 15th, where lots of our talented students will be showing what they have been working on this year. Then it all culminates in our end of term Celebration Assembly, where the whole school community will come together to celebrate and see in the holidays with plenty of games, awards and fun (and probably the odd toilet paper snowman)!

Take care and stay safe,

Team Trafalgar

From our social media

Keep up to date with everything going on here at Trafalgar School with our social media accounts:

Facebook: @TrafalgarSch

Instagram: @TrafalgarSch

Twitter: @TrafalgarSch



Key Dates

Thursday 15th Dec - Christmas Concert

Friday 16th Dec - Celebration Assembly/
Christmas Jumper Day/12:30pm finish

Tuesday 3rd Jan - First Day Back

Tues 3rd - Fri 6th Jan - SLT drop in (8:30am -
8:50am)

Mobile Phones in School

Please remember that students are not allowed to use their mobile phone in school for safeguarding reasons. Whilst we understand that students use their mobile phones to communicate safe arrival at school etc, please remind your child that on arrival to school, mobile phones should be turned off or on silent.

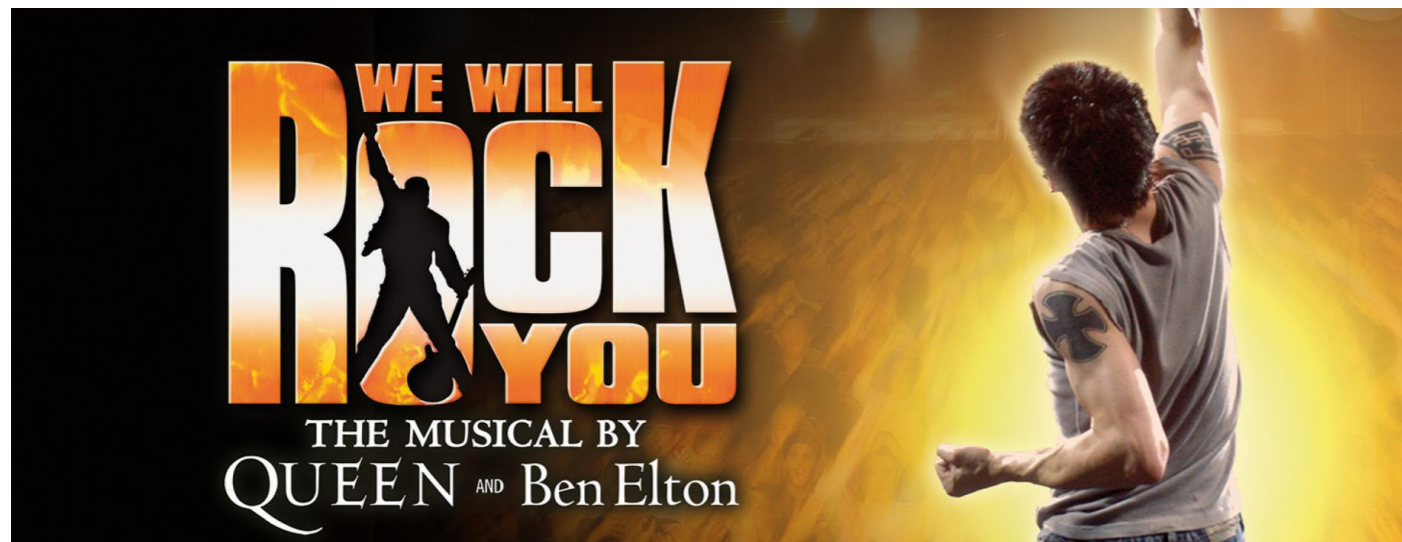


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Performing Arts Department Update

School Production 2023



After the roaring success of last year's production, "School of Rock", we are excited to reveal that our production for 2023 is the Queen musical, "We Will Rock you"!

We held our auditions earlier this term and students were excited to see the cast list as it was posted outside of the Drama studio. Rehearsals are already underway and we will be showing short pieces from it at our Christmas concert next week!

Carol Singing

This week we took some students to Cascades to take part in some carol singing. This was to raise money for the Rotary Club and the students spread festive cheer to all the shoppers as they passed by. Well done!



Wizz - The Safeguarding Risks of Social Networking Apps

What is the Wizz App?

Wizz is a free social networking app that enables users to chat live online with strangers from around the world.

It features a swiping system in users can browse through profiles to choose someone to chat with, similar to popular dating apps for adults, such as Tinder.

Although the app is free, there are paid subscriptions available.

Key Features of Wizz

- Users are grouped by age category.
- In order to reply to messages, users must accept message requests.
- Wizz contains multiple chat options, including a group chat function for friends and voice chat.
- Friends can be selected based on their location, age, gender, and interests (e.g. sports or gaming).



What Are Social Networking and Friend-Finding Apps?

In today's hybrid online-offline world, it seems we are more digitally connected than ever. However, many people still feel a greater sense of isolation in the offline world.

One study found that a staggering 95% of young people feel lonely, with just over one in 10 describing themselves as chronically lonely.

It's no wonder then that many are turning to an easily accessible option to try and connect with others.

Filling the gap present in popular social media platforms, friend-finding and social apps focus more heavily on one-on-one connection and direct conversations.

Apps like Wizz raise safeguarding concerns over interactivity with strangers, exposure to inappropriate content, poor age verification systems, and more.

What Are the Risks of Wizz?

Age Verification

For age verification, Wizz uses Yoti's facial scan verification process. By using a device's camera, Yoti scans for particular features that indicate a user's age. You can learn more about Yoti and age verification in our recent article.

Although using Yoti is generally considered to be more effective, it is not 100% foolproof.

On Wizz, frequent in-app prompts encourage users to add more content (e.g. share more photos). This could make a young person feel pressured and result in them sharing more photos and information than they ordinarily would have.

Invasive and Pressuring Features

There have been reports that users on Wizz have received messages from users they have previously blocked. This raises concerns over how trustworthy their blocking system is.

Data Collection Ambiguity

The platform describe themselves as the 'data controller' of the personal information users share with them. While they claim they do not use any of a user's sensitive personal data, they also state that they 'may link or combine' that information with a user's in-app experience to make it a more 'personalised and safe' experience. They also state that they do not transfer data to third-party vendors, but have outlined in their Privacy Policy that third-parties do actually receive personal information through 'technology integrated with the Wizz Service'.

- **Talking to Strangers**

As users can choose 'friends' based on age, gender, location, and more, it creates a profile of information and opportunity that strangers may use if they are searching for a specific 'type' of person to target. This is heightened if an adult looking to groom a child or young person is able to bypass the age verification measures.

Top Tips

1. **Try the app.** Before allowing a child or young person to use a friend-finding and social networking app, download it and try it for yourself. First-hand experience will help you think about whether it's appropriate for the child or young person in your care.
2. **Talk about friendships.** Open up a conversation about friendship, loneliness, and whether the child and young person in your care feels they have support and people to talk to. Don't mention friend-finding and social networking apps unless they bring them up first. They might not have heard of them before, and you could just be encouraging their curiosity.
3. **Provide channels for conversation.** Make sure the children and young people in your care know who their trusted adults are and that they can go to them to talk about their feelings, experiences, and concerns. By ensuring they have someone to talk to 'in real life', you're lessening the likelihood they will turn to strangers online for advice and support, which could leave them vulnerable for manipulation.
4. **Support, don't react.** Should the child in your care come to you with concerns or worries about an interaction they've had with someone on an app like Wizz, it's important not to react negatively or overdramatically. This could put them off coming to you in the future. Instead, listen, reassure them that you are there for them, and offer support.
5. **Check safety settings and parental control features.** When you know what apps and platforms the child and young person in your care is using, check that all the necessary safety settings and parental control measures are in place. You can use our Safety Centre to find out more, and also learn how to block and report on the most popular apps and games.



Reporting and Blocking

- When viewing a user profile you want to block, select the three dots.
- To block the user, select '**Block**'.
- To report the user, select '**Report**'.
- Choose from the options available under '**Report this user to moderators**'.

