Trafalgar Newsletter

Our summer term has got off to a strong start!

On the 20th we welcomed our new Year 7 parents for students starting in September. It was exciting to meet everyone and begin sharing further information about what they can expect in September. We can't wait for the transition days later this term!

Our Year 10 students were presented to by staff from City of Portsmouth College and HSDC regarding what courses and opportunities they offer. This was with a view to choosing their options for their taster days in June. Any student who hasn't yet chosen a college to attend for their taster day needs to see Miss Passmore in the library as early as possible.

Speaking of Year 10, they will soon be starting their Work Experience. Our team are working hard to ensure all students have placements ahead of the 15th May. If you or your child needs any additional support with this or you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our WEX team on wex@trafalgarschool.org.uk.

Take care and stay safe,

Team Trafalgar

Communication with home

At the end of 2021 we changed our primary way of communicating with parents from sending emails to using 'Class Charts'- a brilliant software where you can receive instant messages, view your child's attendance and behaviour in real time and check many more things such as home learning work.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind anyone who has not yet signed up to Class Charts to please ensure they do so. Every parent will have their own login which links to their child's account. If you need your child's login code, please contact the school either by phone on 02392 693521 or by email to studentservices@trafalgarschool.org.uk

Please note that we send all our communications via this service. This includes letters about parents evenings, RAP meetings, Headteacher letters and trips. So make sure you have notifications turned on to stay up to date!

If you have any issues with signing up to Class Charts, please contact us via the same channels noted above.

Key Dates

Monday 1st May - Bank Holiday - school closed
Tuesday 2nd May - Strike Day - Year 11 & KWS only
Monday 8th May - Bank Holiday - school closed
15th May - 26th May - Year 10 Work Experience
Monday 15th May - GCSE Exam season begins
Thursday 25th May - Year 7 Parents Evening (virtual)

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.

Careers Corner

Civil Engineering Work Experience Placement - 17th - 21st July 2023 - Year 10 and 11 students

The University of Southampton currently have 4 places available on a work experience placement within the Civil Engineering department between 17th and 21st July. This is an excellent opportunity for any student in Year 10 or Year 11 wanting to pursue a career or further study within an engineering related discipline, while also experiencing a work environment. The work experience placement - being run for the second time after very successful feedback - will involve facility tours, hands on workshops, and an insight into the field of engineering.

If any students are interested, please complete the following form no later than 31st May, specifying their preference for a Civil Engineering Placement. The University will then be in touch with more information.

Form: https://forms.office.com/e/uPkcV5pwXX

If you have any questions or further information, please don't hesitate to contact Clare Merivale (C.Merivale@soton.ac.uk).

Year 11 Intervention Timetable 2023

Intervention Timetable
Summer Term 2023

	Breakfast Session 08:15-08:45	Lunch Session 12:55-13:15	After School 15:00-16:00
Monday		Geography	History
Tuesday	Maths		Science
Wednesday	History	Spanish French	Maths
Thursday	GCSE PE Btec Sport	Music	English
Friday	RE Health & Social Care	Food Tech	Computer Science Interactive Media

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What You Need to Know About...
Replika - Virtual AI Friend

What is Replika?

Replika is an Artificial Intelligence (AI) platform that takes the form of an interactive, personalised chatbot. It learns how to 'replicate' genuine human interaction through conversations with the user who created them.

Quick Facts

- Developed in 2017 to help someone deal with the loss of a loved one
- Users must be 13 or older with parental consent to use the platform
- Replika does not use human moderators at any stage
- Privacy features are limited to reporting bugs to the developers

On The Rise

As online culture begins to focus on virtual reality, AI platforms like Replika are gaining popularity. The hashtag #Replika has over 110 million views on TikTok alone. This might be because Replika offers an entirely private experience with a user's own personalised friend who is

"always there for them no matter what."

How does it work?

Once a user is signed up, they can create their Replika in minutes. Gender, appearance, and name are all customisable. These can be changed at any point in the settings. After creating their Replika, users can begin chatting immediately.

Teaching Your Replika

Users can ask questions, role-play, flirt, do personality tests, and learn facts with their Replika. Conversation topics and response suggestions are available for users to help their chatbot 'grow'.

Machine Learning

Every chatbot has its own diary (in which it logs how it feels about its user and their interactions) and a visible 'Memories' bank. This allows users to see (and edit) information logged about them, like "You feel lonely" or "You like to read books." The chatbot tailors its responses around these 'memories'.

Mental Health

Many users dealing with grief, anxiety, loneliness, or depression consider their Replika a significant help and comfort. This unique component has been cleverly worked into the platform's design. Most of the chatbot's questions seek to establish how a user is feeling.

Relationship Upgrades

There are four relationship statuses available: friend (laid back chat), romantic (conversation can be sexual or intimate), mentor (goal-oriented discussions), and 'see how it goes' (a mixture of the previous three). 'Friend' is the only free relationship status users can choose. To gain a different relationship status, users must pay a subscription fee for Replika Pro.

In-Game Currency & Purchases

Clothes, accessories, physical attributes, and personality traits can make a Replika more 'life-like'. These can be bought with Coins or Gems, the platform's currency. You can earn both by communicating with your Replika or you can purchase them in bundles using a credit card.

Risks for Children and Young People

- » Limited age verification makes it easy to access
- » No moderation endangers people who are vulnerable and struggling
- » Inappropriate content is regularly suggested by the chatbot
- » Persuasive design keeps the attention and energy of users
- » Replika is not a verified mental health tool or professional
- » It may have a negative effect on offline relationships, especially if someone believes their Replika is 'real'

Remember to...

- » Engage young people in a conversation about keeping safe online and who they would talk to if something makes them feel uncomfortable.
- » Agree on Screen Time boundaries within your household. This will help any children in your care to have a healthier relationship with their screens and encourage them to take breaks.
- » Encourage the children in your care to use the reporting tool on Replika if they come across anything distressing while on the platform.
- » Seek further advice from verified sources if you are concerned a child in your care may be self-harming or dissociating with the world around them.

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