

Trafalgar Newsletter

5th May 2023

Welcome to the latest edition of our parent bulletin.

Last weekend students and staff took part in the practice expedition for their silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. This is the first time the school has run the silver award and the students had a great time, successfully completing the expedition. A massive well done to the students and thank you to the staff who volunteered their spare time to help support our students through this experience.

Year 11 are inching closer to the start of their GCSE exams. Inside this edition is a reminder of the intervention sessions on offer; please encourage your child to attend as many sessions as possible and maximize their use of the support on offer before they start their exams. #everylittlehelps

As mentioned last week, Year 10 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

Parents/Carers - We Need You!

At Trafalgar School, we value your input and would be grateful for your feedback as we plan our priorities for the next academic year.

<https://forms.gle/g7bYb2a35jBvLuqN6>

Many thanks in advance #community
#teamtrafalgar



Key Dates

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)

29th May - 2nd June - Half Term

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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Science Department Update

Year 7

Year 7 have come a long way this year, and we'd like to say well done for completing their physics assessments! This has involved forces, energy, sound, and electricity! Following on from this assessment, our Year 7's now embark on their biology topics where they will learn about cells, reproduction, the skeleton, and muscles as well as food webs and chains!

Year 8

As we continue in our summer term, we say a huge well done to our Year 8 pupils who have just completed their physics assessments where they answered questions about particles, electricity, light, and how energy is stored and transferred! With these topics completed, our Year 8 pupils will now look to develop their biology education, building on their Year 7 foundations to examine plants, respiration, nutrition, and unicellular organisms!

Year 9

Our Year 9 pupils are now fully immersed in KS4 topics and material which includes DNA, cell division, genetics, chemical separation techniques, waves and light! Here all our pupils are making great progress and laying strong foundations for their year 10 and year 11 studies.



Year 10

The science department are ensuring that every Year 10 pupil has a complete understanding of the KS4 fundamentals for each science (Biology, Chemistry, and Physics). All Year 10 pupils are being provided with core A3 principal concept resources and have tailored materials (for example, practice exam style questions) provided to each pupil per lesson. Our Year 10's have been studying cells, microscopy, enzymes, chemical separation techniques, the periodic table and atomic structure, as well as motion, forces, and energy. This will ensure that all Year 10 pupils are strongly positioned to progress and develop their science education as they look towards their final year with us at Trafalgar school, and are ready to excel in science next year.



Year 11

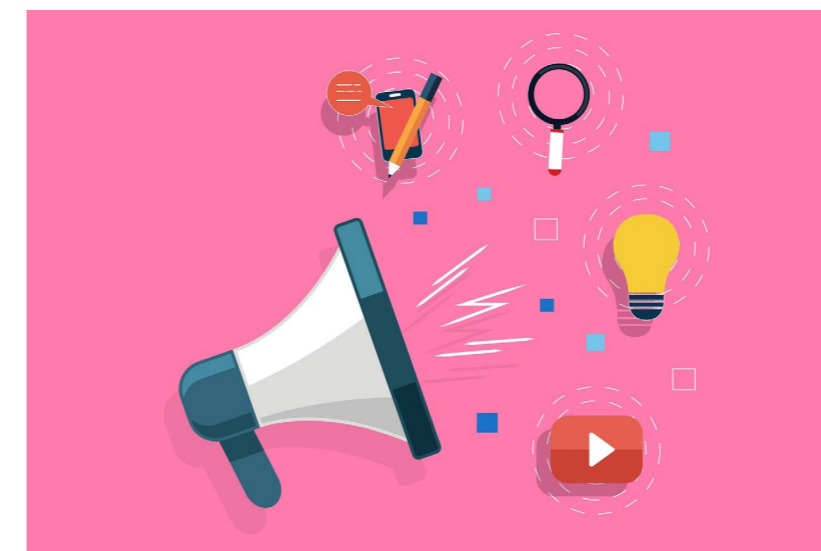
As we look on the horizon, we can now see that our GCSE's are almost upon us, with the first paper (Biology 1) on the 15th May. In our science lessons, our Year 11 pupils continue to revise, demonstrate excellent retrieval knowledge across all three sciences, and apply this knowledge to practice exam questions. All Year 11 pupils should be using the revision resources provided by the science department (including revision mats, practice questions and website links to support their revision with their first science GCSE only 10 days away. Alongside their science lessons, Year 11 pupils should be attending science booster sessions every Tuesday after school as well as, where necessary, using the study space(s) in the Trafalgar School canteen from 3pm to 4pm to revise. We are delighted with how hard the Year 11's have been working in their science lessons and look forward to our pupils demonstrating their science expertise in the coming weeks.

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.

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

PE Department Update

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Last weekend our Duke of Edinburgh students took part in their silver practice expedition.

The students did really well camping, walking and navigating their way through the New Forest.

They will now reflect on their successes and start to plan their routes for the awarding expedition.



Change of date: Our Sports Festival will now take place on the 20th July 2023



Year 8 Football

Mr Swaffer took a group of Year 8 boys to Miltoncross for a 5-a-side football tournament this week.

The students played very well and our two teams made it to the 1st/2nd place play off and the 3rd/4th play off. Our students came away with 1st and 4th place at the end of the tournament!

A fantastic achievement and, as usual, our students conducted themselves impeccably and did Trafalgar proud!

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one app of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

Snapchat is a photo- and video-sharing app which also allows users to chat with friends via text or audio. Users can share images and videos with specific friends, or through a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) visible to their entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose during the pandemic, with many young people utilising it to connect with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivaling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects on the app with people they know, they may still receive friend requests from strangers. Snapchat's links with apps such as Wink and Hoop have increased this possibility. Accepting a request means that children are then disclosing personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features. This could allow predators to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

EXCESSIVE USE

There are many features that are attractive to users and keep them excited about the app. Snap streaks encourage users to send snaps daily, Spotlight Challenges give users the chance to obtain money and online fame, and the Spotlight feature's scroll of videos makes it easy for children to spend hours watching content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's Discover function lets users swipe through snippets of news stories and trending articles that often include adult content. There is currently no way to turn off this feature.

SEXTING

Sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse. While these pictures do disappear – and the sender is notified if it has been screenshot first – users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking pictures with a separate device.

DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat's filters and lenses are a popular way for users to enhance their 'selfie game'. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' filters on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Comparing themselves unfavourably against other Snapchat users could threaten a child's confidence or sense of self-worth.

VISIBLE LOCATION

My Places lets users check in and search for popular spots nearby – such as restaurants, parks or shopping centres – and recommend them to their friends. The potential issue with a young person consistently checking into locations on Snapchat is that it allows other users in their friends list (even people they have only ever met online) to see where they currently are and where they regularly go.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add function helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this feature could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

Snapchat has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: users will receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending, receiving or sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

Talk to your child about what is and isn't wise to share on Snapchat (e.g. don't post explicit images or videos, or display identifiable details like their school uniform). Remind them that once something is online, the creator loses control over where it might end up – and who with. Additionally, Snapchat's 'Spotlight' feature has a #challenge like TikTok's: it's vital that your child understands the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Your child can send Snaps directly to friends, but Stories are visible to everyone they have added, unless they change the settings. If they use SnapMaps, their location is visible unless 'Ghost Mode' is enabled (again via settings). It's prudent to emphasise the importance of not adding people they don't know in real life. This is particularly important with the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchatters to see the places your child regularly visits and checks in. Additionally, it's important to be cautious about Shared Stories as this allows people who are not on your contact list access to the post.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why they are reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

Sources: Status of Mind Social media and young peoples mental health | Life in Lines – Children's Commissioners Report | <https://js.gpoart.snapchat.com/en-US> | <https://norsy.inet/snapchat-report-new/> | <https://www.independent.co.uk> | <https://mashable.com/article/snapchat-status-snap-maps/europe-trust-safety-commissioner-2017> | Young People and Sexting – Attitudes and Behaviour Research Findings from the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com | [@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety) | [/NationalOnlineSafety](https://www.facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety) | [@nationalonlinesafety](https://www.instagram.com/nationalonlinesafety)

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