

Trafalgar Newsletter

12th May 2023

Welcome to this week's parent bulletin!

For our Year 11 students we are now on exam season eve! Their journey so far has been building to this and, from Monday, their GCSE exam season begins in earnest. We know students have been working hard in preparation for this moment and couldn't be in a stronger position. As a school community we will continue to do all we can to support them, as we are sure you will be doing from home, too!

Monday marks the beginning of another exciting event as Year 10 commence their Work Experience! We are certain that students will have plenty of exciting and rewarding experiences during this next fortnight and we can't wait to hear about their adventures into the world of work when they return after half term. If you or your child have any outstanding questions, please do not 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

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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Humanities Department Update

Geography Home Learning Superstars

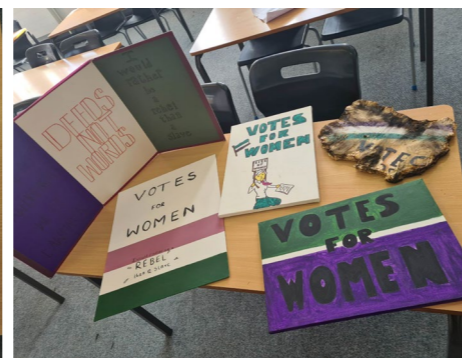


Our students have once again been going above and beyond for their geography home learning; take a look at some of their fantastic creations!



Amazing History Home Learning Projects

Our Year 8 students have also been going above and beyond for their geography home learning, take a look at some of their fantastic creations!



New History Library coming along nicely

Some Year 8 students this half term have used the new books to investigate the life of Sophia Duleep Singh using a range of different resources. One student said that she 'loved using real books to find out about her life, the lesson was fun'

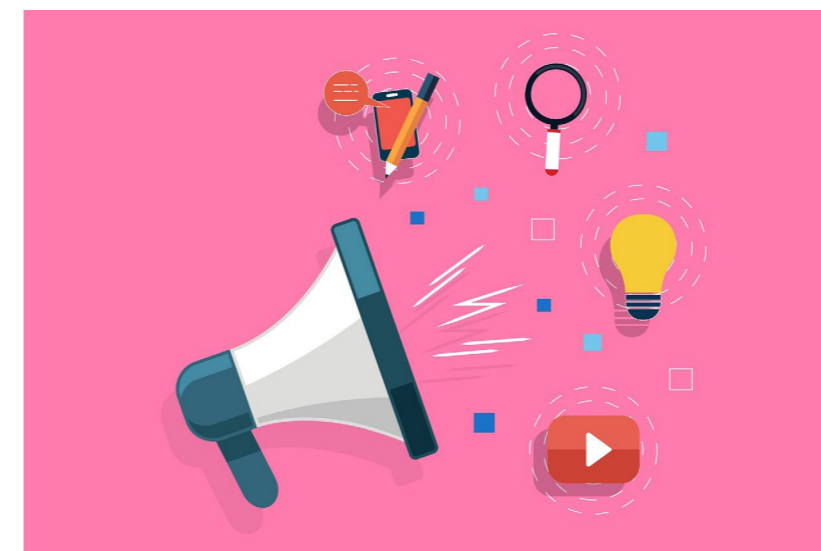


Communication with home

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.

Community Circles Update

Our check-in questions in our Tuesday Community circles this week were '**How was your long weekend?**' and '**Did you watch any of the Coronation?**'.

Quite a few students said that they dipped in and out of the televised King's coronation coverage - the ceremony was 2 hours long after all! Was anyone else nervous when the crowns were being put on? Or was that just me?



Street parties gave local communities the opportunity to be together and celebrate, and at least the weather appeared to clear up by Sunday.

Some students also said how good it was to bring their families together to celebrate, too. How about you? Did you celebrate or just use it as time to be with the ones you love? #joinin #teamtrafalgar

Mrs Argyle

Photo by Chris Boland on Unsplash



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TELEGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION
17+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Telegram isn't new, but it's grown significantly in popularity over recent years, thanks to its secure nature and speedier performance than many of its competitors – including WhatsApp. While Telegram is an excellent app in terms of actual performance, like any messaging platform it brings its own challenges for parents when it comes to feeling confident about children being able to handle their own messaging conversations and contact with the outside world in general. Here's everything that trusted adults need to know about using Telegram safely.

LACK OF AGE RESTRICTION

17+

Telegram has a 16+ age restriction on using the service, while someone is required to be over 17 to actually download the app. Once that's accomplished, however, there's no need to provide further identification. That means there's no guarantee that under 17s aren't using the app – and no way to confidently verify that any other user actually is who they say they are.

POSSIBLE CYBERBULLYING

If your child uses Telegram, they could well be in a group with friends and peers on the app. These groups are managed by admins who can remove the option to post replies – possibly leading to instances of cyberbullying in which the victim has no ability to respond. Messages can be forwarded from groups, too, which potentially opens up images and text being seen by to people they weren't intended for.

UNMODERATED CONTENT

Because Telegram relies on users' self-moderation, it can sporadically become a hotbed for illegal or inappropriate content. In the past, the circulation of this material has led to its temporary removal from the App Store. In fairness, the same can be said of several messaging platforms, but Telegram's features (Secret Chats, for instance) certainly present more issues than the likes of WhatsApp.

PREMIUM COSTS

Telegram is free to use, but it also offers a premium membership (£4.99 per month or £35.99 a year) which increases download speeds, adds translation features, and increases channel and account limits. If your child has access to your Apple ID or Google Pay details, they may be able to sign up for the premium package without your knowledge.

UNAUTHORISED ACCESS

One of Telegram's major selling points is that it's accessible across multiple platforms. Once the app's been downloaded, users can log in from a phone, tablet or computer. This multi-device availability means increased opportunities for someone else to gain unauthorised access (if your child leaves a computer or tablet at school logged into their Telegram account, for instance).

SECRET CHATS

Telegram offers a feature called Secret Chats, which allows for messages which self-delete after a specified period of time. There are instances where this can be useful (journalists often use Telegram to protect their sources, for example), but for young people it can make it extremely difficult to prove that someone has been abusive or inappropriate towards them on the app.

Advice for Parents & Carers

PRIVACY CONTROLS

If your child wants to use Telegram, we'd strongly suggest using the app's built-in privacy settings to restrict who can see when they were last online, their profile photo, and their phone number. This can be set to 'everybody', 'my contacts' or 'nobody'; we'd recommend either the second or third options, depending on how locked down you want the platform to be.

DISCUSS SECURITY

It's important that your child understands the merits of strong passwords and logging out of devices when they're finished – and the benefits of protecting their personal data in general. This could range from relaxed chats and simple tips like "don't send your bank details" to how to set up passcodes for Telegram so your child's chats stay secure when they step away from their screen.

REPORT UNSAFE CONTENT

If your child receives private messages which include content that could be considered illegal, unsafe or upsetting, they can of course block the account responsible within the app itself. Be aware, however, that Telegram won't necessarily take any further action unless this offensive content involved a user-created channel, bot or sticker.

USE THE BLOCK FUNCTION

Users can block spam, abusive, or imposter accounts within the app. Blocking stops that account from messaging your child, or viewing their profile and activity. If the user in question is one of your child's peers or friendship circle, it may be worth bringing it to the attention of their school. Also bear in mind that your child can also voluntarily leave a Telegram group at any point if they wish.

PROTECT PAYMENT METHODS

Apple and Google's storefronts offer family sharing options, but it's also worth double-checking your settings to ensure that a password or two-factor authentication option is set up to prevent any unexpected purchases. If your child does pay for a premium Telegram subscription without your consent, Apple and Google have been known to issue refunds in some cases.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRacon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



PREMIUM ACCESS

NOS National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.telegram.org/> | <https://www.engadget.com/telegram-explained-2022-163035068.html>

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@national_online_safety

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