

Trafalgar Newsletter

9th June 2023

Welcome to the latest edition of our parent bulletin!

Our Year 11 students have only a couple of weeks left now of their exams. They have done brilliantly so far, showing great attitude and commitment towards their exams and booster sessions. We are incredibly proud of them and know they will keep this incredible standard up until their final exams in a couple of weeks. We will then welcome students back for a leavers assembly, followed by a BBQ to celebrate their journey as part of Team Trafalgar.

We welcomed back our Year 10 students after their two weeks of work experience last half-term and it sounds like lots of the students had a beneficial time, with 22 students going on to secure part time jobs or apprenticeships. Well done to you all!

You may notice our logo is a little different this month. As you may be aware, June is Pride month and here at Trafalgar we feel it is incredibly important to create an inclusive environment and raise awareness for students to help build a better community for all. Across this month we will be sharing inspirational figures of the LGBTQ community and celebrating their achievements on our social media, along with assemblies and discussions in our community circle time.

Take care, stay safe and have a great half term.

Team Trafalgar

Pre-loved Uniform Request



We are after donations of any pre-loved uniform that no longer fits so we can recycle them for use by other students.

If you have any items you are able to donate, please take them to our Student Services team.

#community



Key Dates

Friday 23rd June - Year 11 Leavers BBQ/Years 7-10 finish at 2pm

26th June - 30th June - Activities Week 2023

5th/6th July - School Production

12th July - Art Gallery Event

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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Work Experience 2023

Well done to all of our Year 10 students for completing work experience!

The feedback we had from their employers was phenomenal; it was great visiting students on placement and hearing how much they enjoyed it.

The majority of students said it exceeded their expectations and they have learnt a valuable lesson from taking part, learning new skills and growing in confidence.



We especially want to send a massive congratulations to those of you who have been offered an apprenticeship or a job as a result of this experience! That's 22 students who really went above and beyond.

We are incredibly proud of you all for how you conducted yourselves and represented the school. Don't forget to bring your WEX booklet into school to collect your certificate!

A massive well done to all.

Here is some of the amazing feedback our students received:

"Really respectful young man, good work ethic and great sense of humour – happy to have him back for a job!"

"An honest, respectful and incredible young lady. Confident to share thoughts and opinions on tasks – fit in the team really well and no question at all about taking her on! Thank you for sending her our way."

"It has been a real pleasure watching this student's confidence grow. Got on well with all the staff and kids and supporting me with all tasks. Always on time and enthusiastic. Will be missed by us all."



"Great with people, polite and grown in confidence although is very talented already! Would definitely offer an apprenticeship to this student!"

"We couldn't have asked for anything more, we all love her and have offered her a job!"

"We will miss having him around every day, a very polite boy and everyone loves him – we would love him to come back."

"An absolute credit to herself, her parents and her school. Offered a weekend job."



ICT Department Update

In Year 7, pupils are introduced to the basics of spreadsheets, learning key concepts like cells, rows, and columns, along with basic mathematical functions such as SUM, AVERAGE, and COUNT. They then apply these foundational skills in a real-world scenario: creating a spreadsheet model for animal feeding at a zoo.

MY ZOO										
Animals	Number of animals	Food	Cost of food	Total Cost	Number of Packets	Highest Number of Animals	Stock Table			
Tiger	11	Meat	£100.00	£1,100.00	18	11	Meat	1	Meat	Stock okay
Pigeon	10	Seed	£0.50	£5.00	10	10	Seed	6	Seed	Stock okay
Cheater	9	Meat	£5.00	£45.00	9	9				Stock decent
Zebra	7	Grass	£1.00	£7.00	7	7				Stock decent
Macaw	6	Seed	£0.50	£3.00	6	6				Stock decent
Giraffe	5	Leaves	£2.00	£10.00	5	5				Stock decent
Elephant	5	Hey	£2.00	£10.00	5	5				Stock decent
Lion	2	Meat	£5.00	£10.00	2	2				Stock low
Crocodile	2	Fish	£2.00	£4.00	2	2				Stock low
Pig	1	Slops	£1.00	£1.00	1	1				Stock low
Final Cost				£1,695						

Type of food	Total cost of all food	Is the cost okay
Meat	£1,614	Too expensive
Slops	£5.00	
Seed	£45.00	
Hey	£7.00	
Grass	£3.00	
Leaves	£10.00	

For instance, consider Example 1, a screenshot of a zoo spreadsheet one of our students created. Here, pupils have efficiently organized data for different species, feeding times, quantities of food, and dietary requirements. Through this task, they are able to demonstrate their proficiency in data entry and basic data analysis, as well as their ability to manage complex logistical tasks using spreadsheets.

Year 8 sees the progression of these skills, with a deeper exploration of data representation. This year, pupils were tasked with presenting weather data, which provides them with an opportunity to further enhance their data representation skills.

Bangkok (Thailand)													Average temperat...	Average rainfall (...)
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average	Average temp...	Average rainfall...
26	28	29	30	30	29	28	28	28	28	27	26	28.1	30	400
9	30	36	82	165	153	168	183	310	239	55	8	119.8	20	300
8.2	8	8	10	7.5	6.1	4.7	5.2	2.2	6.1	7.3	7.8	6.8	10	100

Montreal (Canada)													Average temperatur...	Average rainfall (mm)
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average	Average temper...	Average rainfall...
-9	-8	-2	6	13	19	22	20	16	10	3	-6	7	30	100
87	76	86	83	81	91	98	87	96	84	89	89	87.3	20	75
2.8	3.4	4.5	5.2	6.7	7.7	8.2	7.7	5.6	4.3	2.4	2.2	5.1	10	25

Lisbon (Portugal)													Average temperatur...	Average rainfall (mm)
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average	Average temper...	Average rainfall...
11	12	14	16	17	20	22	23	21	18	14	12	16.7	25	125
111	76	109	54	44	16	3	4	33	62	93	103	59	15	75
4.7	5.9	6	8.3	9.1	10.6	11.4	10.7	8.4	6.7	5.2	4.6	7.6	10	25

Timbuktu (Mali)													Average temperatu...	Average rainfall (mm)
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average	Average temperatu...	Average rainfall...
22	25	28	31	34	34	32	30	31	31	28	23	29.1	40	100
0	0	0	1	4	20	54	93	31	3	0	0	17.2	30	75
9.1	9.6	9.6	9.7	9.8	9.4	9.6	9	9.3	9.5	9.5	8.9	9.4	20	50

Lagos (Nigeria)													Average temperat...	Average rainfall...
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average	Average temperat...	Average rainfall...
													30	100
													20	75
													10	25

In Example 2, we see a well-crafted graph showing precipitation levels over a period of time. This graph, produced entirely by our Year 8 pupils, demonstrates their ability to accurately interpret data and display it visually in a clear, understandable manner.

Both these examples showcase the pupils' understanding of spreadsheets, their ability to apply theoretical knowledge to practical scenarios, and their progression from Year 7 to Year 8. It is evident that these experiences provide a strong foundation for more advanced study in subsequent years.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WIZZ

AGE RESTRICTION
12+

12+ App Store
Teen Google Playstore

Wizz is a networking app which allows users to connect and chat with other people around the world. Its principle is similar to a dating platform: users have a profile with up to three photos, along with optional interests and hobbies tags. This allows other like-minded people to be recommended in searches. If a user likes what they see on someone's profile, they can initiate conversation through the instant message feature; otherwise they swipe on. The app does use age verification technology when an account is created and groups users by age.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

OVER-SHARING

Immediately after setting up an account, users start receiving friend requests (mainly from the opposite gender). For many young people, this will be exciting and a boost to their confidence. As young people tend to be more trusting online and may believe what others tell them, however, this can lull them into dropping their guard and revealing personal information to strangers.

CATFISHING AND PREDATORS

Wizz uses Yoti, a digital ID system, to verify users' age. The AI only detects approximate age, though – so an older person who looks younger could be grouped with teens (or vice versa). Also, profile pics on Wizz don't have to match the face of the person who did the initial age verification: it would be fairly easy to create a fake account using another person's photos with a made-up name and age.

EXPLICIT CONTENT

During our research, conversations on Wizz very quickly turned sexual. Users frequently suggested 'taking it to Snap' (Snapchat's disappearing image feature can make it conducive to sharing explicit selfies), connecting on other social media, swapping nude or semi-nude pictures, or holding sexual chats. These users created an impression of the platform being sleazy and unsafe for young people.

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INTIMATE IMAGES

It's not unheard of for young people to be coaxed into sending suggestive images of themselves over apps of this kind. Given that Wizz connects users with strangers, who may not be honest about their real intentions, a teenager might conceivably be persuaded to share sexually suggestive selfies by someone who they believed they had a trusting relationship with.

NO PARENTAL CONTROLS

The app claims to provide a secure and inclusive environment, but our researcher couldn't find any parental controls or safety features in evidence. If you report another user for inappropriate behaviour, you are offered the option to block them – but there's no indication as to whether the block has actually been successful, and there was no follow-up contact from the developers.

SECRETS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Wizz sent our researcher occasional 'mystery' friend requests from a blurred-out profile. To discover the sender's identity, users can either watch a video (usually an ad for a game or app) or take out a monthly subscription. Cynics might suggest this could be a way to exploit young people's curiosity into making them pay for the app, and that the 'secret admirers' are bots rather than real people.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK IT OUT

If your child has downloaded Wizz, talk to them about why they like it and who've chatted with. Have they shared any personal details with this person or connected with them on other social media platforms? Refresh your child's memory of the various risks that can arise from engaging with strangers online and get them to consider using a similar app with more robust safety features.

BE SUPPORTIVE

When connecting with strangers on apps like Wizz, seemingly innocent chats can quickly progress to become sexually explicit and lead to nudes being sent. Make sure your child knows to come to you if they're uncomfortable about anything they've been sent or been asked to send. If they've already shared something that they now regret, reassure them that you'll support them no matter what.

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Young people are far more inclined to see the good in others; they often overlook the fact that scammers set up fake accounts on apps like this with the intention of getting money or personal data. Remind them that not everyone online is who they claim to be, how easy it is for someone to create a bogus profile, and why it's vital to think twice about sharing anything on networking apps.

KEEP THINGS TRANSPARENT

It might feel awkward, but regular chats about your child's online life can be beneficial. If they seem suddenly anxious or secretive around their phone or tablet, they may have something they need to get off their chest. You could also consider not allowing digital devices in their bedroom, especially overnight – that's when a lot of the riskier conversations on apps like Wizz tend to take place.

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.



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