



The Trafalgar School

at Downton

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Empowering students to be the source of their own success



Top tips for making revision count

No matter how students feel their end of year exams went, now's a good time to encourage them to take stock of their revision techniques. Reflect now on what worked and what didn't and they'll find themselves in a much stronger position next time they have to revise, be that for an end of section test or a public exam.

We always run revision sessions in school as we approach exam time, so hopefully your son or daughter will have told you about these lessons and may even have discussed a newly discovered technique with you?

The new GCSEs have brought an end to continued and controlled assessments – with a few exceptions (in subjects like PE) – meaning the students now all face end of course exams that account for 100 per cent of their marks. There is therefore more material to commit to memory ... and no way around it!

Here are a few tips for students:

- Practice! End of year exams are a really important opportunity to practice different revision techniques.
- Avoid leaving it until your GCSE year to knuckle down and revise for the first time. You might end up with disappointing results, should the method you pick prove less effective than you'd hoped.
- Test out what works well in advance of sitting your public exams. That way, when GCSE time does come around, the revision processes are tried and tested.
- Remember that different techniques work for different people – just because your best friend finds mind maps are the best way to commit information to memory, doesn't mean that method will necessarily work for you.

- Attend any and all revision classes that are available in school. They will help. We promise!
- Think about making a revision timetable. Allocate time in short chunks and share the subjects out equally.
- Try to give an equal amount of revision time to all subjects. It's tempting to focus on the topics you prefer or find easier but the more challenging ones need your attention too.
- Develop a positive and proactive mind set and get the work done!
- Enjoy down time, pat yourself on the back after a good day's revision and get plenty of sleep at night so you're refreshed and ready to go again the next day.

We aim to equip students with the skills they need to retain and recall key information, using proven models and guided revision sessions. It's all intended to help them build the knowledge they need over time.

We've also introduced more informal end of unit tests and we'll be setting structured revision as homework using a combination of teacher-developed revision cards and 'Google Classroom' quizzes, as well as both open and closed book tests.

Our staff team are working hard to teach the students how to revise effectively but there are four things we need each and every student to do in order to help themselves. We call these 'The Four Rs of Rrrrevision'.

Students must:

Really understand what they are trying to learn.

Reduce class notes to manageable chunks of text.

Rehearse with quizzes and questions – don't forget parents can really help with this!

Repeat ... again ... and again.

Good luck everyone!

SCIENCE FAIR 2018

March saw us host the third Trafalgar School Science Fair. The Fair gives students the opportunity to submit science-based projects to be judged by visiting engineers and scientists. Our guests also give presentations to the students and talk to them about their career paths; current projects they are working on; and future developments of which they're aware.

Nearly 40 projects were entered this year, including investigations into the science of creating ice cream and bath bombs, to the physics of circus skills and balloon powered cars.

Dr Clare Harran, Teacher of Science, commented: "I don't think anyone failed to notice Blake Newman's deafening and ingenious project looking at whether arm length affects the loudness of a drum!"

"The highlight of the Science Fair for me is always seeing our students interacting with the guest engineers and scientists. It's a wonderful opportunity for them to hear from, and pick the brains of, a diverse range of inspiring experts."

Judges and Experts

This year STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Ambassadors from DSTL (Defence Science and Technology Laboratory) took time out of their busy schedules to be our judges.

We were also joined by: representatives from Southampton University's Hydro Team who showcased their hovercraft engineering; a team from Bournemouth University who discussed higher education options for students interested in pursuing careers in science; and individuals working in the ophthalmology and engineering worlds.



Last, but by no means least, we were very privileged to have Liz Batten from Soroptimist International (an international volunteer service working to improve the lives of women and girls) at our Fair.

Liz has thrown down the gauntlet to our Year 7, 8 and 9 girls, challenging them to develop a sustainable prototype aimed at improving the lives of women living in poverty in the developing world. Their projects will be entered into our 2019 Science Fair and also into a Salisbury-wide competition (more details of which will follow in September).

Our 2018 Science Fair winners (and their projects) were:

Years 7, 8 and 9:

First - Lilly M-B, 7L (plant growth)

Second - Harvey W, 8P (which heavy metal most affects a petunia)

Third - Sophia S, 7L (do cats have a paw preference)

Year 10:

First - Molly G and Annie D, 10R (sunflower solar tracker)

Second - Nadine M, 10L (synthetic happiness)

Third - Toby W, 10C (internal combustion engines)

Special commendations:

Bertie P, Matthew G and Sam C, 10B (memory)

Luke P, 10C (how does the colour of light affect plant growth?)

Special Mentions for Molly and Annie

"As in previous years, the Science Department and our judges were impressed by the standard and inventiveness of the students' work," finishes Dr Harran. "The judges particularly commented on Molly and Annie's project, deeming it '... [an] amazing engineering project' and adding '... the UK needs engineers like you'.

"Enormous congratulations to all our winners who will be heading to Southampton University Oceanography Department, where they will experience a day's research out on the water – and thanks to the team at Southampton for donating such an amazing prize. We'll let you know how our budding scientists get on!"

Radnor's Year 9 students take 'Couch to 5K' in their stride



'Couch to 5K' is an NHS initiative to get Britain moving. Its intention is to get as many people as possible off the couch and running five kilometres in just nine weeks.

A brave group of Year 9 Radnor students decided they would take on the 'Couch to 5K' challenge in a bid to raise money for Wiltshire Air Ambulance, the nominated charity of Radnor House.

We're thrilled to say that they all battled the elements at the end of last term and completed the run in style. They were greeted to a warm welcome by the rest of their tutor group, who ran a cake sale to support their friends. A really impressive total of nearly £250 was raised.

"Each and every one of the 13 runners who took on the challenge excelled themselves," says Clare Harran, Form Tutor. "Without exception, they trained hard and they remained really committed throughout – even when the weather wasn't on their side. They all ran twice a week in order to build up their stamina and fitness and as a result they absolutely smashed it on the day!"

"Well done to everyone in 9R – we're all so proud of your efforts. Keep up the good work!"

SPORTING TIMES:

An update from the PE team

Things are never quiet in the PE department and the last few months have been no exception.

WHAT'S ON OFFER?

We've increased the range of sports we offer so there are now more options for our students than ever before within their timetabled PE lessons. There's also a broader range of lunch-time and after-school clubs, run every day by our PE team (who seem to have a never-ending and infectious supply of energy and enthusiasm!).

Our aim, as always, is to develop knowledge and understanding of each discipline and to foster a real and lasting love of at least one sport – something that we hope our leavers will take with them into their life after Trafalgar and, hopefully, on into adulthood.

Support for our extra-curricular PE clubs continues to grow and students tell us they attend because they have fun, so we hope we're succeeding in this goal.

As well as the sports you'd expect to see on the list, there are masses of others too. Students can participate in rugby, netball, football, tennis, cricket, athletics and rounders but we also offer badminton, basketball, table tennis and general fitness sessions, amongst others.

Bad weather doesn't stop us either – thanks to our fantastic facilities, we take to the sports hall when the snow's too thick or the rain's too persistent (as it seems to have been pretty regularly in the last weeks and months)! There we run indoor athletics and cricket

sessions, as well as dodgeball, benchball and speedball classes (ask any Trafalgar student if you're not sure what those are!).

FIXTURES

Fixtures have come thick and fast recently. We've been competing in as many sports as possible in order to provide students with as wide a variety of experiences as we can.



Cross Country – we've been taking part in events every couple of weeks since September, fielding both boys' and girls' teams across three age groups (Year 7; Years 8 and 9; and Years 10 and 11).

The English Schools Cross Country Championships were held in Leeds on Saturday 17th March. Our three runners did a fantastic job qualifying, with each going on to compete against the best runners in the country in huge fields of more than 300 competitors. Well done all three of you!

Junior Girls: Olivia Roderick came 27th and Jadey Gristci ranked 141st out of 342 runners.

Inter Boys: Bertie Pettit claimed 78th position out of 339 runners.



Netball – we play netball most of the year, with our two key tournaments taking place in March and November. We’ve enjoyed fixtures against a wide range of local schools, including St Edmunds, St Joseph’s, Godolphin and Leehurst Swan.

Football – this season has seen us play in league matches against Wyvern, Sarum Academy, St Joseph’s and Bishops, amongst others. Our Year 7, Year 8 and Year 10 teams all qualified for the semi-finals of the Area Cup, with our Year 8 and 10 teams making it through to the finals but sadly losing out to Andover’s John Hanson Community School. The Year 11 players beat St Joseph’s in the Plate final of their league matches to claim victory. Well done to everyone involved.

Basketball – this is a new sport for us but we’ve enjoyed a couple of friendlies against Wyvern and St Joseph’s, winning our match against Wyvern. We hope that was the first of many basketball successes to come!

Girls Rugby – Trafalgar’s girls have embraced the opportunity to play rugby with great spirit and enthusiasm and we now have 22 players in our squad. Our Year 10 and 11 girls recently took part in a rugby 7s match against St Edmund’s for GCSE assessment purposes. We hope our girls will have the opportunity to compete in more rugby matches next season.

Indoor Cricket – our U13 Boys, U13 Girls, U15 Boys and U15 Girls will all be taking part in The Cricket Foundation’s ‘Chance to Shine’ tournaments in Chippenham this summer. The Foundation is a fantastic organisation supported by Wiltshire Cricket, which aims to bring cricket back to state schools.

Dodgeball – always a firm favourite across the year groups, dodgeball is great fun but delivers a cracking cardio workout too. The annual Year 8 School Games Qualifier was held on home turf this year and saw us hosting teams from St Joseph’s and Wyvern. Happily, we

won our matches and will now attend the School Games Finals in July. Keep your fingers crossed for the team!

Badminton – Trafalgar teams have taken part in two badminton events in recent weeks. Our boys’ teams from Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 both went to a tournament at Stonehenge School, with the Key Stage 3 team qualifying for the County Finals at Tidworth Leisure Centre in January. The KS4 girls’ competition took part at Avon Valley, where our Team 2 also qualified for the County Finals. Well done both for conquering some stiff competition.

Trampolining – St Edmund’s hosted a competition for local schools, allowing Year 11 students to complete their GCSE PE assessments. Huge congratulations to Lucy Crowley who came fourth in the Novice category and to Rebecca Elliott who took third place in the Intermediate section.

Table Tennis – we entered four teams into a table tennis competition held at Wyvern College and are pleased to report that our Key Stage 4 team qualified in 2nd place and will now go forward to take part in the School Games Finals



Athletics – it was our turn to help organise and run the Salisbury Area School’s Athletics this year and what a great day it was! Held in mid-May at Tidworth Oval Athletics Track, 15 of our student Sports Leaders (all from Years 9 and 10) took on starring roles as finishing line and field event judges.

There was a strong Trafalgar turn-out across the board, with 75 students competing across three age groups – Minors (Year 7), Juniors (Years 8 and 9) and Inters (Years 10 and 11). We’re really proud to report that 17 of our students were placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in their events. A fantastic effort!

1st Place:

- Sam B, 10R – Inter Boys, 800m
- Bertie P, 10B – Inter Boys, 1500m
- Olivia R, 9L – Junior Girls, 300m
- Aidan McM, 9C – Junior Boys, 1500m
- Lewis S, 7P – Minor Boys, Long Jump

2nd Place:

- Sam B, 10R – Inter Boys, Long Jump
- Josh F, 10R – Inter Boys, Javelin
- Olivia R, 9L – Junior Girls, 1500m
- Oli R, 9B – Junior Boys, 300m
- Seb H, 7B – Minor Boys, 1500m
- India B, 7C – Minor Girls, Shot

3rd Place:

- Jazzy G, 10R – Inter Girls, 200m and 80m Hurdles
- Arthur G, 10C – Inter Boys, 100m Hurdles
- Erin D-H, 10L – Inter Girls, Javelin
- Oscar D, 10B – Inter Boys, 400m
- Jadey G, 8B – Junior Girls, 200m
- Aidan McM, 9C – Junior Boys, Long Jump
- Oli R, 9B – Junior Boys, 100m
- Poppy S, 7L – Minor Girls, Javelin
- Sam K, 7B – Minor Boys, Shot
- Adam K, 7P – Minor Boys, 800m




SPORTS LEADERS

As always, special thanks must go to our amazing group of student Sports Leaders, who can choose to help with a variety of sports events that we host for primary schools. They all show exceptional levels of pride in Trafalgar and they are outstanding role models for students within our own school and our feeder schools.

Phil Grant from Longford Primary School sums it up perfectly: “Richard, our sports coach, wishes to thank your students for their excellent sports leadership. We, as ever, were totally impressed with your students. Please convey our thanks to all.”

We couldn’t agree more! They do a wonderful job and the PE team would also like to pass on their gratitude to each and every Sports Leader from Year 8 right through to Year 11.

Phil also kindly added: “... a HUGE thank you for all you do for the local schools ... you and your PE department are held in HIGH regard!” Thanks Phil!



Spotlight on . . . History and Geography

The history and geography departments cover a vast and varied range of material. Each is a big subject in its own right but they are also inter-related in so many ways.

At Trafalgar we are big believers in the interconnectivity of subjects. We try and link them together – and even engage in cross-subject projects – wherever we can. It helps students gain a broader understanding of the topics we study. Our Year 7 trip to Corfe Castle, for example, which focussed on both history and geography, looked at the evolution of settlements as well as the development of the castle itself.

We like to think the popularity of history and geography in our school is down to the engaging way in which they are taught and the fact that they are generally perceived to be fun subjects – both factors which help our students engender a positive attitude to learning and then enables them to make significant and rapid progress. We suspect, however, that the amazing array of trips we offer also has a slight influence!

We have enjoyed a whole host of adventures already this year, from the Battlefields of France and Belgium to the volcanic landscapes of Iceland . . . and there are more to come before we break up for the summer.

Our increasing levels of success tell their own story, with Trafalgar students recording some fantastic GCSE results. You only need to wander along the corridors outside the geography and history classrooms to see the amazing work that's taking place, from an outstanding history exam paper to a stunning GCSE-standard geography essay recently completed by one of our Year 8 students.

In geography an impressive 82.5 per cent earned themselves an A* to C grade at GCSE in 2017. That's all credit to the hard work of each individual learner but also to the efforts of our geography teaching team, led by the ever-enthusiastic Jon Godfrey.



We're helped too by the fact that the geography department includes teachers who are also examiners, marking exam papers from students across the UK. Their detailed knowledge of the way in which GCSEs are being assessed puts us in a strong position to continually monitor and improve the way we teach.

History is a more relevant subject than ever before, equipping students with the skills to draw parallels between the social, political, economic and military issues we face today with those of yesteryear. Isolationism, the flexing of Russian muscle and the rise of extreme politicians are nothing new!

Our subject leader, Mark Whitelock, is a firm believer in immersion and it's a key part of our approach to history at Trafalgar. Our amazing range of artefacts bring the subject to life for our students and we're lucky enough to have everything from Native American arrowheads to World War I and II uniforms in our armoury, bringing a unique, hands-on approach that we complement with trips – all designed to engage students in the history around them.

Mr Godfrey . . . or . . . Iron Man?

You may know him as Mr Jon Godfrey, Subject Leader of Geography ... but he officially became an Iron Man on Sunday 10th June, having completed the Iron Man 70.3 in Staffordshire.

At about 6am, he slipped into his wet suit and swam 1.2 miles in Chasewater Lake; he then cycled 56 miles through the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding National Beauty; and, finally, he finished off with a 13.1 mile run (the equivalent of a half marathon).

Why? A good question. We wondered the same thing!

It's all in the name of a really great cause and one that's close to home in more ways than one. Mr Godfrey is supporting the charity efforts of the Radnor students and he took part to raise money for Wiltshire Air Ambulance. So far, he's raised an impressive £450.



“The highlights of my training included a half marathon in Barcelona (which I completed in one hour 30 minutes) and a two kilometre non-stop swim – an improvement of 1600 metres on my first training swim,” says Mr Godfrey. “I really enjoyed the day – although probably more in retrospect than at the time!”

The Air Ambulance relies almost entirely on public donations and attends, on average, three potentially life-saving incidents every day. Its speed, combined with the crew's skills, really do make a difference between life and death.

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mrgodfrey



We regularly post photographs, announcements, achievements and information about life at Trafalgar on Facebook and Twitter. It's a fantastic way to find out what's going on and may help you decide if you would like to visit and become part of our school family. Do **'like'** us now, we would love to connect!



Photograph taken by Darren House, school Governor, on his way to a Local Governing Board Meeting at school.

Recent trips have taken our students to Cheddar Gorge, Bovington and Portsmouth, as well as further afield to the dramatic landscapes of Iceland and the stunning ski slopes of Courmayeur in north west Italy.

Trafalgar's Year 7 geographers went to Cheddar's limestone gorge in March. Building on their 'Limestone Landscapes' unit, students explored cave features and collected primary and secondary data which they've used to suggest how Cheddar might boost visitor numbers and the turnover of local businesses.

Our Year 7 students also went on a joint geography and history visit to Corfe Castle in Dorset to support their study of the development and positioning of castles during the medieval period. They explored the castle and looked at the geographical features that make its location a good settlement spot.

The Year 11 GCSE geography students spent a valuable day in Portsmouth looking at past and present urban regeneration projects.

A robotics challenge was the theme of the day when a group of Year 10 students went to Bovington Tank Museum. The event, run by Bournemouth University, challenged students to design and build a robot capable of overcoming some of the challenges faced by tanks during World War II. Each team of six designed and built a robot within a given budget and were awarded points for its speed and success in completing the challenges. As is typical of our current Year 10 CT students, the designs they came up with were unique, effective and very impressive.

Our trips to Twickenham were a highlight for rugby-loving students and staff. We were lucky enough to see England take on Argentina and then Samoa ... and even luckier to see England win both matches!

The Year 9 History trip to the Ypres battlefields in Belgium finally went ahead in May (having been

disrupted by the 'Beast from the East') and 64 of our historians enjoyed a very informative and moving trip. We visited Tyne Cot Cemetery, Sanctuary Wood, Essex Farm Cemetery, Memorial Passchendaele Museum, Yorkshire Trench, Hill 60 and Langemark German Cemetery.

July will see our Year 8s visit Portsmouth Dockyard to gain an insight into naval life in the 18th and 19th centuries. They will focus particularly on the Battle of Trafalgar and the lives of the men who fought in Nelson's navy.

This year we have our largest cohort of Year 10 students ever taking on the challenges of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Our practice expedition in the New Forest took place in April, with the assessed expedition in the Pewsey Vale scheduled for July. The 40 students who are participating will walk more than 25 miles in two days, navigating a pre-planned route to the campsite and then to the finishing point. We wish them luck – and dry weather!

Our annual Iceland trip is always a real draw for our GCSE Geography students and this year was no exception with 19 students flying to Reykjavik for a fast and furious four days in this glacial galaxy! We visited key locations including waterfalls, glaciers, geysers, lagoons and even a geothermal power station. Our next trip goes during Easter 2019 – and there are just five spaces left!

Last but not least, this year's ski trip was to Courmayeur in Italy. We had six glorious days of skiing, enjoying some of the best April snow the resort has ever seen. We took 60 students from Years 8 to 11, with the different age groups sharing the experience of learning a new sport (or fine-tuning their abilities) and cementing Trafalgar's family ethos.

Finally, a big thank you to all the staff that organised and attended these trips. It wouldn't be possible to offer such a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities without a great deal of effort and input on the part of our team.

Out and about!



