



The Trafalgar School
at Downton

newsletter | ISSUE TWO 2016

Empowering students to be the source of their own success



Our Awesome Alumni

SARAH-JANE HARRIS

The Trafalgar School at Downton (2004- 2009)

Q. What was the highlight of your time at The Trafalgar School?

Performing as Fantine in the school's version of Les Misérables was such a proud moment for me – I have a keen interest in the performing arts, and loved taking part in as many extra curricular opportunities as possible! The big school productions felt amazing to be a part of, and were always run so professionally.

In a similar vein, I have fond memories of the 'Arts Weeks' at the end of the summer term, where the school houses would learn together for a week before 'competing' in drama, dance, art and music in a big festival-style performance at the end.

Q. What/who was your favourite subject/teacher?

I loved English at school, and was lucky enough to be taught by Mrs Borrás, who was a wonderful and inspiring teacher who made you feel like you wanted to do your best. Mr Bennett also deserves a special mention – it was he who helped me in GCSE chemistry and convinced me that if I tried hard, I could definitely get the grades needed for medical school, which helped me to validate my dream.

Q. What GCSE results did you get?

2 A* grades in Double Science; 9 A grades in Maths, English, English Literature, English Media, RE, French, Spanish, Geography, and Statistics; 2 B grades in Drama and ICT.

Q. Where did you go next?

I studied A levels at Brockenhurst College, achieving: 'A' grade in AS English Literature, 'A*' Grade in A level Biology, 'A' grade in A level Chemistry and 'B' grade in A level Psychology.

Q. What are you doing now and what was your career path?

I have just graduated from Brighton and Sussex Medical School with a 'Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery'

degree having achieved distinctions in my final exams in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics and Child Health, Medicine and Surgery.

Q. What advice would you give to your Year 7 self?

Don't panic! You will do well, and you will make friends. I've made friends for life from Trafalgar, and had some really memorable times at the school.

Try to have fun along the way, do your homework on time, and don't worry as much as I did! In addition, there is always help or a friendly face if you need it, whatever the problem may be. Don't be afraid to ask if you're having any trouble!

Q. What advice would you give to our Year 10/11 students thinking about their careers and future?

Definitely get some work experience if you can in things you are interested in. My journey into a career in Medicine started with a week's placement at Salisbury District Hospital. Sometimes you only realise you like something (or really don't!) if you've experienced what life would be like in that career.

Be kind to yourself. It sometimes feels as though you have to decide right now on what to do with the rest of your life. In reality, you really don't. Some idea of where you might like to end up is helpful, but don't panic if you don't have it pinned down just yet. You have time. Enjoy the journey!

Also, I would say that if you want something badly enough, you can achieve it. I was told regularly throughout college that my GCSE grades might not be high enough for medical school, and that I would struggle to achieve the grades needed at A level. It's all too easy to let those comments put you off, but try to take them as a challenge instead. Prove people wrong. Work hard. Achieve more than they thought was possible. You can absolutely do it if you set your mind to it!



ScratchJam for primary school visitors

In July, we hosted our first ScratchJam for our cluster primary school Year 5 children. They worked earnestly and creatively in our Computational Thinking (CT) department on a project designed to provide challenge and enjoyment for children who have an interest in coding.

Students worked in pairs to create a game or story, based on a given theme. Teams were given a sheet of coding challenges that they could either concentrate solely on, or build into their story or game. Every completed challenge, demonstration of creativity or good sportsmanship earned ‘Hokens’ – our coding currency. At the end of the day, students spent their Hokens on an array of rewards and they all left with a ‘Get Coding!’ book that is supported by the ‘Young Re-wired State’ group with online activities and challenges. The top three students also got a BBC MicroBit! Everyone left with something for their efforts.

The Scratch programming language, developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, (MIT) in the United States, was designed specifically to enable the younger student to learn to code through exploration, just as they do in other subjects. It is a visual language available for free and runs on most computers – there is even a tablet version. For more information: www.scratch.mit.edu

Many believe that ‘Year 8 is too late’ to start programming and luckily many primary schools in the area have recognised this. At Trafalgar we build on this and offer opportunities in web development, game creation, physical computing (including robotics) and App development. The UK has a very proud computing heritage; from developing the mathematics underlying all binary computers, to developing the first programmable and universal computer, to inventing the World Wide Web. Our goal is to demystify computing for everyone and to help the next computing pioneers reach their potential.



Smooth Transition

Here at The Trafalgar School we know that if students move to secondary school in a smooth and supported way, then settling into their new school life will be quick and easy. From this great start, academic success and solid friendship groups are achieved quickly and are long-lasting. We provide a comprehensive timetable of events from subject days to sporting events to our primary school friends, designed for them to get to know us in a relaxed and enjoyable way. Due to our growing popularity, this year we welcomed 283 students to our school, from 26 primary schools in the area to our transition events. We also supported and welcomed 29 ‘in year transfer’ students from other schools across all year groups. It is particularly pleasing when students join our school successfully, developing both their academic abilities and the skills and attributes required for success in the future.

Moving on to 6th form from secondary school can present challenges too, and we work with our students to ensure a smooth move on to A level study and beyond. We are developing closer bonds with local 6th form providers like Salisbury 6th Form College and universities like Bath Spa, Bournemouth and Portsmouth. We deliver key skills training such as interview techniques and we exploit initiatives like Speakers for Schools, who provide inspirational speakers for schools across the country.

You can find out more about our transitions programme by visiting our school website at: www.trafalgarschool.com/admissions/brilliant-club#

Speakers for Schools is a UK charity launched in 2011 by journalist and broadcaster Robert Peston to provide state secondary schools and colleges with talks from a range of industry leading professionals, public figures and academics, free of charge. You can find out more by visiting: www.speakers4schools.org/about-us/





History project turns personal

During their studies about WW1, Year 9 were given the opportunity to look into family members who served in the conflict. Ben from Year 9, Clarendon House shared a number of medals from a relative who saw action in France. The medals identified the soldier as C F Andrews from Nomansland and were accompanied by two photographs and a wallet. One photo of Charles Andrews in his uniform was punctured by three small holes, which corresponded with a number of holes in the wallet. Ben informed the class that these were the holes made by the shrapnel balls that killed his relative. There was also a photograph of the original grave cross that was erected by Charles' comrades before it was replaced with the universal headstone, which remains today. The final artefact that Ben shared with his class and teacher was the Death Plaque for Charles Andrews. A unique item that would have been passed to the next of kin.

Using the information provide by Ben, Mark Whitelock, Subject Leader of History was able to provide the family with further information. This included the original grave registration documentation that pinpoints the grave as well as the inscription chosen by the family – 'he gave his life for his friends'. A link to Mark's research: <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/lifestory/58175>

Ben's family was delighted and moved by the enthusiasm Mark Whitelock demonstrated with this research.

Dear Mark

I would like to thank you for the work you put into finding out information for Ben T, regarding his great great uncle, Charlie Andrews (WW1).

It was very moving to hear all that you'd found out and Ben went off to the Belgium trip with much more understanding of the implications of the war. Ben's grandfather, Charlie Andrews (named after his uncle) was very moved and appreciative of the information. Although he had researched his uncle's memorial, there was information you provided that he didn't know. There is a strong possibility that Ben will go on a coach trip with his grandparents to the war memorial next year.

Jo Williamson

Mark Whitelock replied:

The objects that Ben brought into school were incredible. It was such a poignant experience to hold the artefacts that your family has obviously cherished for so long, thank you for the opportunity.

It is lovely to hear that Ben and his grandparents may visit the grave next year, I am sure that it will be an emotional journey.

Regards

Mark Whitelock

Subject Leader of History



Melissa Hill



Claire Westmore



Hannah Finnie

Celebrating Art at the Trafalgar School

Our school has always had a strong reputation for the Arts. Our students are talented and the teaching is strong and challenging! We want to stretch our students in all areas of the curriculum and Art is an important part of this, from an academic and personal development point of view. We wanted to share some of this year's GCSE students responses to the themes of: Natural Forms and Identity.

Students draw their inspiration from the world around them, visits to art exhibitions and sculpture parks such as Roche Court. They have worked with a variety of media, surfaces and styles. Lynne Sykes, Subject Leader for Art, commented, "Each year our Year 11 GCSE students impress me with the variety of media that they use and the exceptional quality of their final pieces. This year has been no exception!"

Jack Grannell who used a car door as his canvas commented, "I didn't know until I started this course that I could actually work on any surface and that gave me the inspiration to use the car door, which I got from a scrap yard!"

Each year we renew our reception area with our outgoing Year 11 artwork. We hope you enjoy seeing it when you visit.



Emily Sack



Rachel Parsons



Lucy Chalk



Billy Johnson



Kate Feltham



Rachel Parsons



Sophie Bisdee



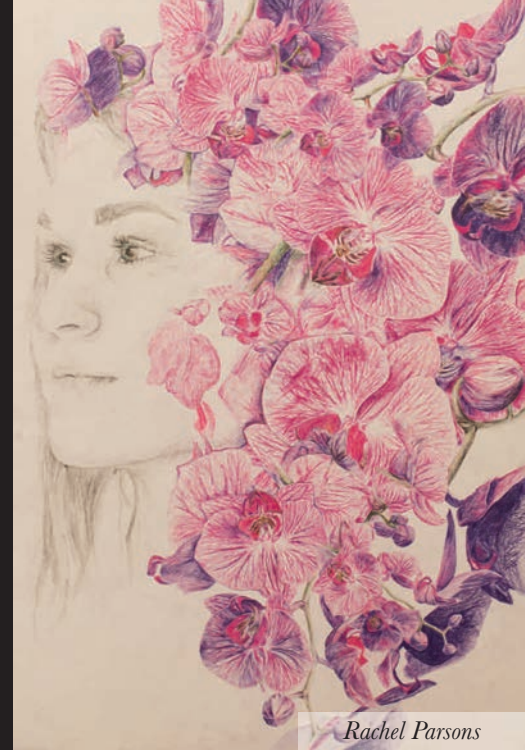
Jack Grannell



Daisy Lucas



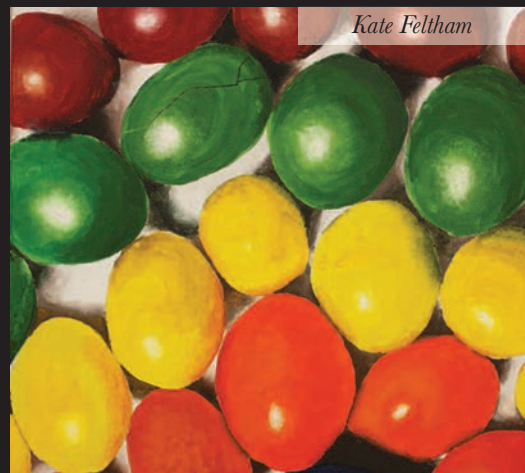
Claire Westmore



Rachel Parsons



Billy Johnson



Kate Feltham

School Council Empowering Students



The School Council has been revamped in order to allow students to have more say on school issues and for them to have greater impact. The key change has been around the size of the meetings and a rebalancing of student representation, so that younger students have a bigger voice. Previously up to fifty students and all Year 11 prefects took part.

Year group representatives are voted in by their fellow year group students. The Council meets up to six times per year with the Head Girl, Head Boy and their deputies.

In order to maintain participation levels for students, and add to our Student Voice activities, there are also House based councils. Representatives meet with teaching staff and have an opportunity to provide feedback on the teaching and learning in a specific subject area.

Our aim is for the students to feel empowered and have a real impact. Members of the council have met with Chef Dave from the restaurant to discuss brand and menus and a sub-group are looking at raising funds for the music department. Daily notices and updates are now displayed outside Student Services an example of student voice being turned into an action.

Florrie Rosa, Year 7: "Previously the meetings could be dominated by older students but this format feels fairer and we get more chances to discuss our views and represent our year group."

Primary Cluster Day – Languages

In June, students from our cluster primary schools descended on The Trafalgar School at Downton, full of expectation for our language cluster day. We organised students into groups of twenty so they could immerse themselves in the language and culture of all six countries which were on offer. These were: France, Spain, Germany, Russia, Venezuela and Italy. Each student had a booklet for the day in which they noted down their key learning, including facts about the countries and important phrases. The aim of the day was for students to identify the similarities and differences between the languages they experienced, as well as to order something to eat and drink, ask the way or buy a souvenir. All very practical skills and all had great fun!



Alumni Craig Ball's Got Talent

One of the highlights of this academic year has been watching, and of course supporting, one of our ex-students Craig Ball take part in ITV's Britain's Got Talent. Craig studied at our school from 2004 to 2008 and was a popular student amongst his peers and staff. He was particularly well known for his cheerful, positive attitude to life. His passion has always been performing. In Year 7 he played Fizzy in Bugsy Malone and further up the school he was the Artful Dodger in Oliver. He achieved an A grade in Drama GCSE before going to Brockenhurst College to study Performing Arts.

We were delighted to welcome Craig back to school in May during the audition process. He performed in front of current staff and students and gave them an inspiring talk about the importance of following your dreams and staying true to your goals. He chatted to a lot of the students afterwards, signed autographs and, of course, agreed to some celebrity selfies.

We are so proud of Craig and the young man he has grown into. We wish him well with his future plans to find voice-over work.



Deputy Headteacher Rachael Faulkner said, "We've all got behind Craig as a school, so have our friends and all of our families – we're just really proud of him."

Chris Ball, Craig's Dad, is extremely grateful to the school for its help in getting him where he is:

"Just a huge thank you to The Trafalgar School at Downton. I know he had some good years there and they brought a lot of good out of him."

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Our largest ever group of Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award students have successfully completed their final expedition. Thirty seven Year 10 students in seven groups hiked the 22 miles from Devizes to Great Bedwyn, navigating completely independently and being totally self-sufficient during the two day expedition. The teams had fantastic views over northern and central Wiltshire as they navigated their way along the ridgeline, taking in famous landmarks like the Alton Barnes White Horse and 'Giant's Grave'. Since signing up to the Award in July of Year 9 these students have developed a variety of life skills including: basic first aid, map reading, self-reliance and team building skills.

Katie Jarman said, "This is an amazing experience which I will never forget. Our team worked well together and we managed to stay on time and on track all weekend long!"

Joe Osment : "I have learnt so much. Our navigation is so much better than when we started last autumn. We didn't think we would get to the finish – but we did, and didn't even get lost!"

Students had already completed the physical and skills section of the award and volunteered locally for six months. Some examples include: helping at the Youth Club in Downton, volunteering at the warehouse for The Trussell Trust and assisting at a variety of Scouting and Girl Guiding groups.

Jon Godfrey, leader of Duke of Edinburgh Award at Trafalgar said, "This group of students should be really proud of themselves. To have so many teams out being so successful, is a testament to the amount of work and commitment shown by the students and staff involved in supporting them. I am very grateful to all the staff who support our students with this process, who do so voluntarily and with great humour. Well done everyone!"

Transporting students safely to a better education

We recognise that choice is very important to parents when it comes to choosing the right school for their children. Supporting these choices can be challenging if the right transport and infrastructure is not in place. In response to this need and the growing demand for places at our school, we provide a highly efficient fleet of shuttle buses which collect children from a wide catchment area including: Wilton, Pitton, Salisbury City, Bishopdown, Old Sarum, Fordingbridge and Alderholt.



The Trafalgar School student shuttle buses provide home to school transport for students who choose to come here from outside of the school's admissions area. Our buses are fully licensed and insured and our goal is to provide everyone with a quality daily service. Safety is of paramount importance. Vehicles are serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements by a local garage that in addition, carry out formal safety checks five times per year. With our high maintenance standards, driver vetting and training programme, we pride ourselves on being one of the safest and most cost effective modes of transport available locally.

Our buses are a familiar sight in Salisbury and the surrounding area and are greatly valued by parents and students.

If you have any questions regarding the Trafalgar School shuttle bus services, please contact: John Foster, School Business Manager; 01725 550305, sbm@trafalgar.wilts.sch.uk

South West Junior Chef of the Year Competition

Congratulations to Ben Tupper, Abbi Perry, Rebecca Maule and Tilly Russell for winning the opportunity to represent the school in the South West Junior Chef Of The Year Competition. The four were chosen for their commitment and creativity in cookery. Rebecca was selected by the judges to represent our school at the semi-finals at Trowbridge College on June 16th. Rebecca, who was one of the youngest in the competition, cooked her heart out and made a technically difficult ricotta and spinach ravioli. The judges commented on the quality of her hand-rolled pasta.

Louise Goodwin, Teacher of Food Technology, said, "I am so proud of Rebecca, she is a natural in the kitchen and is obviously keen to push herself."

Sport

The PE department has been busy with a very varied array of activities for our students to take part in and benefit from. It's been another hectic year for our Year 10 Sports Leaders for example who, with the support of staff, organise and run the cluster primary events. These experience days are really enjoyed by everyone who takes part and provide an essential taste of what Trafalgar has to offer for local primary school students. Jo Holden, Subject Leader for PE said, "Staff from the primaries are always impressed with the way our students conduct themselves and say they are excellent role models for their students. They lead with confidence and are fair and decisive when officiating!"

In other news . . .

Girl's Touch Rugby Going Strong: Lilly Mills, Grace Mills, Izzy Bush, Daisy Farmer, Gabby Griffiths, Lolla Browning, Jazzy Gristci, Erin Durston-Hillyer, Abi Andrews and Ellie Galpin, did themselves and the school proud by winning the School Games qualifier held at Salisbury Rugby Club. They won the tournament and were undefeated during it. Paul Oakley, PE teacher said, "The girls showed an exceptional work rate and hunger to win! Bring on the finals!"

Top Coding from Trafalgar Students

At the end of June, Bournemouth University ran their annual Secondary ScratchJam! This is an annual coding competition hosted by the universities STEM Outreach team. Students from around Bournemouth, Poole, Hampshire and Wiltshire compete to create a game or animated story around a given theme. Students are judged on their coding abilities, creativity, artistic creations and teamwork.

We fielded five teams of two coders against seven other schools.

Our cool coders were:

Olivia Augustin, Scott Cousins, Charles Dix, Ellesha Hatch, Jake Mamone, Senna Panizzo, Yasmine Read, Roman Renner, Jack Tilley, Ben Wheeler-Osman.

All teams worked incredibly hard and demonstrated the highest levels of maturity and independence as they developed their ideas together. The

quality of coding by all competitors was very impressive. Roman and Olivia walked away with the top prize for their innovative "Jungle Photographer" game but all teams produced their best in all respects and deserve our recognition. Well done!

Year 8 Enjoy Language Day at Southampton University

In June, our Year 8 students had the opportunity to visit Southampton University for a special Language Day designed to develop skills in the language they are already studying, and to provide a taster in other languages on offer at the University. On the day, students took part in a competition to promote 'techno clothing' in the language they are studying in school.

Congratulations to Samby and Erin who were winners in the French and Spanish categories!

Prom Night!

At this time every year we say goodbye to our outgoing Year 11s. It's a time for mixed emotions for students and staff; always sad to say farewell, but also excited for what the future holds. We celebrated our time together at Prom, which this year took place on July 1st at Hamptworth Golf and Country Club. The evening was a fitting goodbye to a great year group who will be truly missed.

Top Marks for #Team Trafalgar

The Salisbury Journal held its inaugural Education Awards, in July 2016. All winners were as a result of nominations from the general public and were voted for over a ten-week period.

Bill Browne, Publisher of the Journal, said: "Our hope is to highlight the many examples of excellence that exists in all corners of education in this region".

Winners were announced at a gala event on Friday, July 8th, which our school duly covered on Twitter and Facebook. The Trafalgar School won in all the categories it was nominated in. We are very grateful to parents, students and friends of the school for voting for us.

#Winners: Caroline Baldwin, our longest serving shuttle bus driver, collected our 'Best Innovation Award' for our Shuttle Service.

The 'Best Secondary School Teacher' award was picked up by our Transition Coordinator, Debbie Ford, and despite only being here since September 2015, Alastair Barker won the Science & Technology Award for his innovations in Computational Thinking.

We are thrilled and proud of these outstanding achievements!

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 love to connect!



Clockwise from top left: Alastair Barker, Debbie Ford and Caroline Baldwin collect awards at the Salisbury Journal Education Awards; Rebecca Maule through to the semi-finals of the South West Junior Chef of the Year; Prom Night; Girls Touch Rugby Team; Language Day at Southampton University; Roman and Olivia win the Secondary ScratchJam Competition.

Please let us know what you think about our newsletter. If you have any feedback about it, or have any questions about its content please email us at newsletter@trafalgarschool.com. For general enquiries please contact School Reception on 01725 550300 or visit www.trafalgarschool.com.