



**Parent and carer newsletter**

**May 2025**

# Welcome from the Head of College

Dear Families,

We've had a relatively brief but jam packed half term which you'll see in these pages.

We're preparing for the end of the year which includes even more fantastic events but also readying students for transition. As you know around a third of the college progress on each year so we'll be supporting their transition efforts but we'll also be preparing to welcome a whole new cohort from September. There will be a few class moves to support students progression within college.



Please take a look at the training sessions we're offering to families and sign up by emailing into the office.

We wish you a great half term and look forward to our return on the 2nd of June.

All the best,

Ben Bastin

Head of College



<u>Dates for your diary</u>	<b>Summer Term 2025</b>
Friday 23 May	End of half term (including ALTON COLLEGE) College closes 3.30 pm Houses close at 3.30 pm
Monday 26 - Friday 30 May	Half term holiday for staff and students (including ALTON COLLEGE)
Sunday 1 June	Weekend residential students return to Houses 2.00 pm onwards
Monday 2 June	Start of half term (including ALTON COLLEGE) Day students and weekday residential students return 9.00 am
Monday 7 July	ALTON COLLEGE inset day
Wednesday 9 July	End of half term for ALTON COLLEGE students only
Tuesday 22 July	End of half term College closes 2.00 pm Houses close 3.30 pm



# Parents/Carers Training and Workshops 2025

To book your place on any of the sessions below or to express your interest in a future session, please email: [school.office@treloar.org.uk](mailto:school.office@treloar.org.uk)

<u>Date</u>	Training and workshops
<p>Date: 9 June 2025</p> <p>Time: 10.00 am – 11.00 am</p> <p>Delivery: Face to Face and online via Teams</p>	<p><b>E Safety Awareness for Parents/Carers</b></p> <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To look at how your children/young people use the internet</li><li>• To raise your awareness of online safety and the current risks</li><li>• To provide guidance on online safety and privacy for your children</li><li>• To answer any questions you might have</li></ul> <p>Presented by: Hannah Hunt, Assistive Technology Manager Hazel Wark, Assistant Head of College</p>
<p>Date: 25 June 2025</p> <p>Time: 10.00 am – 10.30 am</p> <p>Delivery: Teams</p>	<p><b>Six rights of medicine administration – how to ensure medicines are safe for use</b></p> <p>Aims of the session are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be able to list the 6 rights of medicine administration</li><li>• Learn where the 6 rights come from</li><li>• Be able to identify common pharmacy errors</li><li>• Name 4 sources of support for troubleshooting</li></ul> <p>Presented by: Claire McManus, Lead Medicines Management Technician</p>



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<u>Date</u>	Training and workshops
Date: 1 July 2025  Time: 11.30 am – 1.00 pm  Delivery: Teams	<b>Mental Capacity and Decision Making</b>  Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gain an understanding of the Mental Capacity Act</li><li>• Understand what can be done to support student's decision making</li><li>• Understand legal routes that can be used to make decisions on someone else's behalf</li><li>• Gain an overview of how we support students at Treloar's to provide them with the skills, tools and strategies to enable them to make decisions</li></ul> Presented by: Ben Baxter, Head of Safeguarding and a Member of our Speech and Language Team

## Seeking participants - research survey

### Do you have a sibling with learning disabilities?

Zoe Starkie (PhD student: University of East Anglia) would like you to take part in a survey about your experiences. This survey is for anybody aged 11 years old or over (including adults) who has a sibling with learning disabilities, and for parents of siblings.

Click on the following link for further information:

[Adult sibling/parent survey](#)

[Young sibling/parent survey](#)

Zoe is also conducting interviews with siblings (aged 11-15 years old) and parents. If you are Interested in taking part, contact Zoe Starkie at [z.starkie@uea.ac.uk](mailto:z.starkie@uea.ac.uk). This postgraduate research is funded and ethically approved by the University of East Anglia. Ethics application number: ETH2324-2458.

If this is something that you may be interested in taking part in, please contact the individual carrying out the research, as they do so independently of Treloar's.

# Updates from Ben Baxter, Head of Safeguarding at Treloar's

## Webinars for parents and carers

Dear parents and carers,

Not all parents/carers feel confident or knowledgeable when it comes to talking to their young people about relationships and sex.

Effective sex education helps to equip young people with the skills and confidence to empower them to make informed and well-thought-out decisions that are right for them around relationships and sex.



You can find out more about how to support your young person by reserving a spot for a webinar in February: <https://www.letstalkaboutit.nhs.uk/professionals/network-and-training/events/event-details?ocurrenceID=32>

## The hidden meanings of emojis in digital communications

The recent Netflix series Adolescence brought to life the devastating consequences of harmful online interactions, and highlighted how the warning signs (in the form of emojis) are easily missed by adults. People of all ages use emojis in their digital communications. In addition to adding humour or emphasis to messages, for some communities and peer groups, these symbols can form a language of their own. This is particularly true of young people and teenagers, who sometimes use emojis as a code to disguise their true intentions from adults.

Please read more here: <https://smoothwall.com/resources/the-hidden-meanings-behind-emojis>

## Working together to safeguard children

Working Together is a key piece of government guidance that sets out how all agencies should “work together” with children and families to promote safeguarding and welfare of children. It governs everything from Child Protection arrangements to Early Help – a key change that some families may notice is that Local Authorities no longer have to allocate a social worker to oversee Child in Need support. Some students and families may see greater use of family support workers and similar roles undertaking this, however the legal entitlement for support remains the same. Please see this [new illustrated guide for parents and children](#).

# International Nurses Day

International Nurses Day is celebrated on 12 May every year. It's the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth and an international celebration to mark the contribution nurses make to society.

To show our appreciation to Treloar's Nursing and Healthcare Team, we invited them to join school assembly and take part in some fun games.

The first game was a memory game to challenge the nurses to select equipment for an imaginary new student as fast as possible memorising a list and working in team of three. Next up was an obstacle race to test speed and balance skills.

To finish off there was a competition to distribute medication across the hall as fast as possible, using pretend medication / coloured ping pong balls and a cardboard box strapped round the waist. The winning nurses had to jump and wiggle until all the ping pong balls were distributed across the hall.



Alongside the fun, students shared how nurses help them during their school life.

Some of the student comments were:

"Nurses help me to feel happy."

"Nurses help you feel better."

"Jim makes you laugh and tells lots of jokes."

"Nurses help give you the right meds and help look after you."

"Nurses help you feel good."

Treloar's healthcare team are on duty 24/7 and today was a lovely opportunity to thank them for everything they do to help keep our students safe and well.





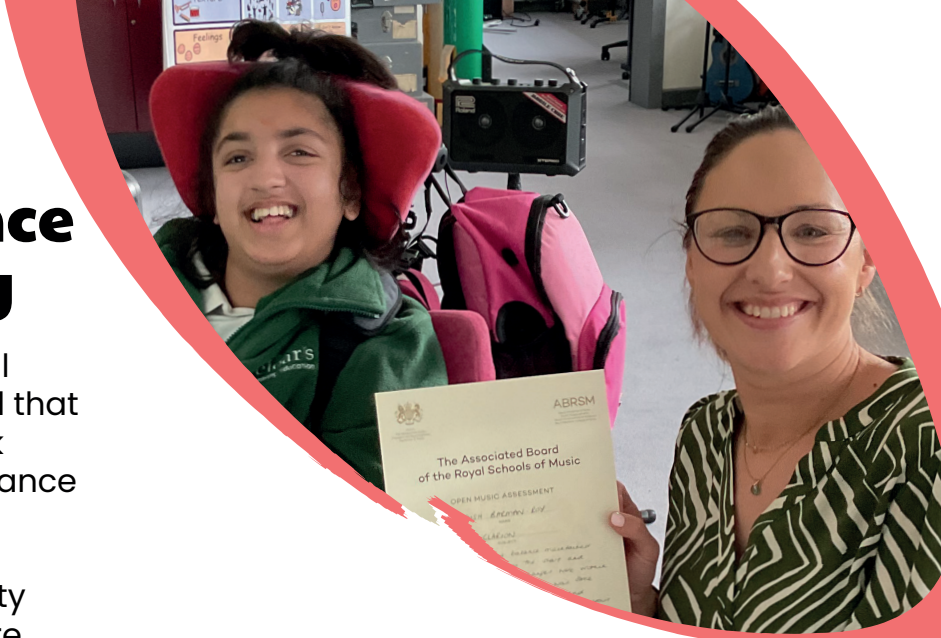
# The importance of community

In May, we celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week, and that week, we were excited to talk about the power and importance of community!

It's a safe, positive community that helps us all in taking care of our well-being. Having strong connections with other people and supportive communities helps us thrive. And this is really crucial at Treloar's: students join the school community at different ages and stages within their own learning and growing up journey. That's why we do our very best to meet everybody's needs.

College student, Amirah said: "Being at Treloar's has made a huge impact on my confidence and self-esteem, I feel so much more independent and I feel like I can do a lot more things on my own."

Find out more about the things that make Treloar's so special by visiting our website: [www.treloar.org.uk/news/2025/05/12/mental-health-awareness-week](http://www.treloar.org.uk/news/2025/05/12/mental-health-awareness-week)



## ABRSM Open Music Assessments

We were delighted to take part in the ABRSM Open Music Assessments with 5 students performing to assessor, Sophie, on the Clarion.

The Clarion is a game-changing musical instrument that's expressive like traditional instruments but also highly accessible. Earlier in the term, we also had 5 students singing for their assessments.

It is very recently that the Clarion can be assessed alongside traditional instruments, and we are proud to have been included in the the pilot scheme for this with ABRSM and Open Up Music.

We look forward to all our budding musicians being able to be assessed by ABRSM in the years to come.





## Robyn's story

Robyn joined Treloar's 2 years ago, and has had a life changing journey after an operation at the age of 13 turned her world completely upside down.

Robyn said: "Treloar's is more than just a school—it's a place that gives young people with disabilities the support, education, and independence we need to live our best lives. I started Treloar's back in 2023 and honestly it's been one of the best decisions in my life. Before coming to Treloar's, I had zero confidence and hardly left the house because I had awful anxiety and stress levels. But Treloar's has helped me immensely."

Watch Robyn's film on our YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/ODdS2D-QFrbs?feature=shared>

## Freddie's story

At the age of 6 months, Freddie was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 1, a life limiting condition. His parents were told he might not make his second birthday. Since joining Treloar's, Freddie has gone from strength to strength. For Freddie's family it's been life-changing.

"We cherish every single thing that he does, for us the future looks positive and he's our little super hero."

Chris, Freddie's dad, said: "If Freddie hadn't come to Treloar's, I genuinely don't think he would have been in school, I don't think he would have achieved half as much."

Watch Freddie's film on our YouTube channel: [https://youtu.be/jMk\\_s66FDyU?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/jMk_s66FDyU?feature=shared)





# Accessible music innovation

At Treloar's, we are committed to ensuring that every student will have access to appropriate technology to enhance and support their education and independence.

With our in-house Assistive Technology Team, we are able to provide our students with solutions not available to them elsewhere. The team, together with our occupational therapists, work towards finding different ways to aid students with their mobility, communication and education.

One of the latest requests for the Assistive Technology Team was a request for a violin mount and adaptations.

## Adaptations to make playing the violin accessible

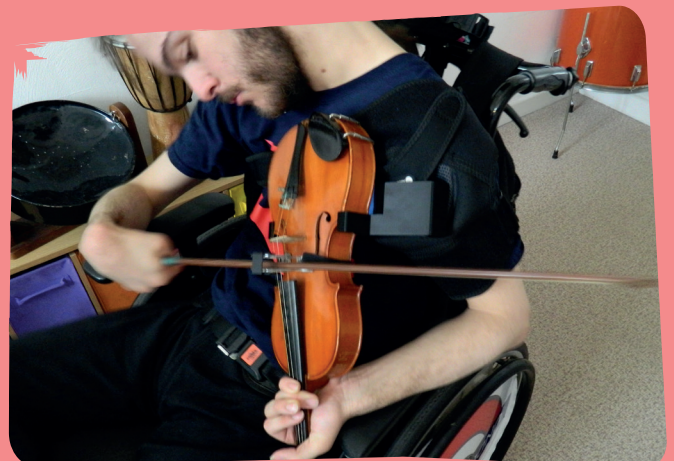
Treloar's Music Therapist, Cressida Lindsay, approached the Assistive Team asking to explore adapting the violin used in the Music Department. The idea of introducing the violin to Treloar's students originally came from the Director of Music, Jocelyn Watkins. She noticed that one student particularly enjoyed the experience and wished to play independently, despite some movement limitations.

During the initial assessment, Dean Hall, Assistive Technologist, met Cressida and the student to discuss requirements, with 2 main aims being: to secure the violin onto the student's arm and to help



them keep the bow on the strings long enough to create a sound. All adaptations had to be easy to use and quick to fit to ensure maximum inclusivity.

Visit our website to find out more: <https://www.treloar.org.uk/news/2025/05/19/accessible-music-innovation-treloars>







## Heathcoat Cup successes

The Heathcoat Cup Crawley is one of many regional Boccia events across the country.

In March, 4 students from school and 1 from college attended the Heathcoat Cup's qualifying event at Crawley.

As a result of podium finishes, students Ben and Harry took to the courts in Nottingham for the Heathcoat Cup Finals. Both players played well with Ben taking the silver medal in the BC2 classification.

A huge congratulations to all the participants!



## Evie performs with the National Open Youth Orchestra

On Saturday 10 May sixteen brilliant young disabled and non-disabled musicians from the National Open Youth Orchestra took to the stage at Poole Lighthouse and performed beautiful new pieces commissioned for their thrilling mix of acoustic and electronic instruments, including the Clarion accessible instrument.

Among the sixteen musicians was Treloar College student Evie who has been performing with NOYO for a few years now.

Evie said: "It's the second concert of the year so far. Playing for an audience is just so rewarding, and it feels so good knowing that we're bringing joy to so many people. Being a part of such an incredible organisation is just the most amazing experience."

You can watch the performance here: <https://noyo.org.uk/watch/>  
Visit our YouTube channel to find out more about our musicians: <https://www.youtube.com/@Treloars100/>



# Building confidence with Exclusive Networks

Treloar's is delighted to announce a new partnership with Exclusive Networks UK, a leading cybersecurity specialist, in a shared mission to empower physically disabled young people and foster stronger community ties both locally and nationally.

This exciting collaboration is rooted in shared values and a passion for creating inclusive opportunities. With Exclusive Networks UK based close to Treloar's in Alton, the connection is deeply personal and driven by a genuine commitment to making a meaningful impact.

Martin Ingram, CEO of Treloar's, shared his excitement:

"Partnering with Exclusive Networks is a wonderful opportunity for us. Their support will help us continue providing education, care, and independence to our students. We are grateful for their commitment to making a difference to the lives of physically disabled young people."

Read more on our website:

<https://www.treloar.org.uk/news/2025/05/02/treloars-announces-new-partnership-exclusive-networks-uk>



## New mud kitchen for the forest school

Volunteers from Aramark spent a day at Treloar's helping to renovate the Forest School area ready for the summer term.

Aramark have been incredible partners with Treloar's supporting our annual Christmas Fair, providing work experience placements for College students and regularly giving up time to help support our students. On this visit their task was to clear the paths and repaint the equipment in the forest school. They also did some planting ready for the Plant Sale and had a tour of the campus with Treloar's students. Best of all they donated a new mud kitchen for the forest school, which is sure to be popular with our younger students.





# Tech for good with EXN Footy!

Working with a locally based technology company, Exclusive Networks, students have been getting to grips with digital marketing and social media. The marketing team at Exclusive Networks have developed a workshop programme for our students. The 3-workshop series has included topics such as cyber security, social media content and an introduction to AI. The workshops were developed initially to help students provide media support for a charity football tournament at Alton Football club, where 30 businesses tested their football skills in a hotly contested day of action.

On the big day, complete with their press passes, students took photos, conducted pitch-side interviews

and wrote up match reports, as well as providing much needed cheer-leading duties for Team Treloar's!

Mary Menzies, Employability co-ordinator at Treloar's said: "we were really impressed with the students, they worked very hard in the workshops and got some great interviews and photos on the day of the match. It was a fast-paced event, and it was a great help to have the students support. The event raised over £35.000 for Treloar's and we are really grateful for the role Treloar's students played in this."





## Creating calm: The power of atmospherics sessions in Treloar's immersive room

In a world that can often feel overwhelming, especially for our students with complex needs, creating a space of calm, sensory balance and emotional safety is not just beneficial—it's essential. This year we have introduced Atmospherics into timetables for our students on our Sensory and Interactive pathway.

Atmospheric sessions use light, sound and scent to create a calming, therapeutic space. Our new immersive room has meant these sessions really do come to life. The use of the immersive room has meant students are offered:

- Predictable, low-stimulation setting that reduce sensory overload
- Opportunities for choice and

control, empowering students to engage at their own pace

- Non-verbal communication tools, such as music or light cues, that foster interaction without pressure
- Emotional grounding, helping students feel safe and further develop connections with familiar adults

The sessions have been highly successful and we have observed increased focus and engagement and clear responses from students showing their increased ability to self-regulate in a calm environment.

	Colour	Positives
	White	Wholeness, pure, positive
	Blue	Restful, calming, harmonious
	Purple	Dignified, selflessness
	Green	Balance, peace and hope
	Orange	Wariness, pessimistic







## Gloucester House Appeal

We're thrilled to announce an exciting opportunity that will **DOUBLE** the impact of all donations – thanks to an incredible gift from one of our supporters.

We have launched a brand-new match funding campaign (where every pound donated is doubled) to help transform one of our school residential buildings, Gloucester House.

Learn more about the project from House Manager, Vicky:

"Gloucester House is a wonderful place that means that disabled children can access education at

Treloar's if they do not live locally and helps us to support families better through providing essential respite breaks. As the needs of our students become more complex, we must adapt and make sure our buildings offer the very best in supportive spaces. With your help, we plan to completely reconfigure an entire wing of the building, creating 8 larger bedrooms to accommodate essential medical equipment and give our students the very best experience."

Every pound donated will be matched (our total match funding pot is £100,000) which means gifts will go twice as far in creating a safe, welcoming and engaging environment for children and young people at Treloar's.

Please help us with the campaign by spreading the word and following our progress:

<https://www.treloar.org.uk/gloucester-house-appeal>





## Celebrating funding our 40th ceiling hoist!

During the last three years, we have taken on the epic challenge of replacing and refurbishing the ceiling track hoists throughout Treloar's campus. These hoists help us to safely move students within classrooms, learning areas, and residential houses.

Thanks to charitable donations, we are now celebrating replacing our 40th hoist as part of the refurbishment programme. The hoist systems shorten the duration of the lifting and transfer action, promoting greater independence and comfort for students.

"The increasingly complex care needs of students mean hoists are an absolute necessity for safely manoeuvring students within their classrooms and learning areas and in the residential houses. Having hoists available in each room plays a huge role in unlocking the potential in students and enabling them a greater level of independence, choice and comfort."

Clare Bradford, Joint Head of Physiotherapy at Treloar's.

Thank you to everyone who has played a part in this important refurbishment.

### Is fundraising inclusive?

The simple truth is that fundraising isn't always inclusive, yet, as a charity, we rely on challenge events such as skydives, firewalks and running events to help us raise essential funds for Treloar's to make it the very special place that it is. As we develop our fundraising plans for the year ahead, we would love to include some new events that students, their families and disabled people locally can take part in, if they chose to.

The first event we are featuring is the [Superhero triathlon series](#) - this is an exciting event that was founded by Paralympian, Sophie Warner. It is a super inclusive triathlon event and celebration that takes place during the summer break at Dorney Lakes in Windsor. If you would like to hear more about how you can get involved in this inclusive and family friendly event please get in touch.

"Treloar's is one of my favourite places. I would love the Superhero Series to be a part of the fundraising programme there"  
Sophie Warner, Paralympian

We always value your fundraising ideas and suggestions about how we can support your children and young people better, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at [fundraising@treloar.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@treloar.org.uk) if you would like to hear more about our plans or have ideas you want to share.



# Business without barriers

We are on a mission to create a business community that really understands inclusion. Working alongside our student internship and work experience colleagues, the Fundraising Team is launching a new business club.

**Do you know a business or an individual who would like to support us?**



Business without Barriers is a subscription-based business club, that aims to bring together like minded organisations who want to improve their inclusive employment practices. Our ambition is that this network of businesses will support Treloar's by volunteering onsite, mentoring students, providing work experience and internship opportunities, and ultimately employing more disabled people.

Please help us to build this network by sharing the opportunity with your professional networks, friends and family.

Contact Andy Brown at [andrew.brown@treloar.org.uk](mailto:andrew.brown@treloar.org.uk) for more details or visit: <https://www.treloar.org.uk/treloars-business-club>

## Fundraising events calendar 2025

Wednesday 4 June	Treloar's Golf Day, Old Thorns, Liphook
Saturday 19 July	Skydive, Salisbury
Thursday 11 September	The Lady Mayoress's Bottomless Brunch, Mansion House, London
Wednesday 8 October and Thursday 9 October	The Dummer Fair, Basingstoke
Friday 21 November	Beyond the frame: An immersive art experience with Luxmuralis, London

Explore our exciting events on our website and find the perfect way to get involved: [www.treloar.org.uk/events](https://www.treloar.org.uk/events)