



Parent and carer newsletter

October 2025

Welcome from the Head of College

Dear Families,

The start to the year is always a busy one at Treloar's and this year in particular. We've welcomed a lot of new starters to the college and getting them settled into their new routines in college. For those returning this time of year often represents a change as well, maybe of class, of course, or staff working with them.

Please do keep in touch with us so we can work with you and your young person to ensure any changes are successful.



You'll see in these pages a plethora of activity from assessing the accessibility of Heathrow airport to celebrating the staff that work with our students, the success of some of our alumni and achieving Makaton friendly status!

We hope you have an enjoyable half term when it arrives and look forward to welcoming students back on the third of November.

All the best,

Ben Bastin
Head of College



<u>Dates for your diary</u>	Autumn Term 2025
Fri 24 October	End of half term 1 (including ALTON COLLEGE) College closes 3.30 pm Houses close at 3.30 pm
Mon 27 – Fri 31 October	Half term holiday for staff and students (including ALTON COLLEGE)
Sunday 2 November	Weekend residential students return to houses 2.00 pm onwards
Mon 3 November	Start of half-term 2 (including ALTON COLLEGE) Day students and weekday residential students return 9.00 am
Friday 19 December	End of half term 2 (including ALTON COLLEGE) College closes 2.00 pm Houses close 3.30 pm
Mon 22 Dec – Fri 2 Jan	Christmas Holidays

Save the date:



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

Dear parents and carers,

As we celebrate AAC Awareness Month this October, we take this opportunity to reflect on the critical role that Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) plays in safeguarding the well-being of children and young people at Treloar School and College.



For students who are non-verbal or have complex communication needs, AAC is not just a tool—it is a means of communication with the world, and a basis of their safety, autonomy and dignity.

At Treloar's, around two thirds of students are non-verbal or require AAC to support their communication. This emphasises the significance of AAC tools and skills in our daily practice and makes it a top safeguarding priority.

Why AAC matters for safeguarding

Communication is at the heart of safeguarding. A student's ability to express discomfort, raise concerns, or simply say "no" is fundamental to protecting their rights and well-being. When a young person cannot rely solely on spoken language, they must be provided with reliable, accessible and consistent communication methods that empower them to be heard—in every situation.

To achieve this, our multi-disciplinary teams have developed and continue to refine systems that ensure every student has a voice. These systems are embedded across all areas of school life, from classroom settings to personal care routines, and are tailored to meet each individual's unique needs.

Developing student voice: Beyond words

As we mark AAC Awareness Month, we celebrate the voices of all our students—spoken, signed, symbol-based, or through high-tech devices. Central to this is the concept of student voice: giving students choice, control and a sense of agency.



Students assess Heathrow Airport

At the beginning of September, Treloar's Supported Internship students visited Heathrow Airport Terminal 5 as part of our Let Me In initiative.

The interns spent the day conducting an accessibility assessment, exploring the passenger journey and considering how accessibility could be improved for both travellers and staff.

It was a fantastic opportunity and the students did a brilliant job providing lots of useful feedback for the Heathrow team.

College awarded Gold Award

What a fantastic start to the new academic year! We are proud to announce that Treloar College has once again been awarded the Skills Builder Gold Award!

After achieving Gold in both 2023 and 2024, this recognition places the college among a select group of schools and colleges across the country that are leading the way in building students' essential skills for life and work.

About Skills builder platform

In 2022, Treloar College started a partnership with Skills Builder, a global movement of employers, educators, and impact organisations working together to support individuals in building their essential skills.

Read more on our website:
<https://www.treloar.org.uk/news/2025/09/06/skills-builder-gold-award-treloar-college>



Treloar's on BBC Radio 3

Back in June, we had the pleasure of welcoming Philippa Perry and Anna Horsbrugh-Porter from BBC Radio 3 for a special visit with our Music Therapist, Cressida Lindsay, and Assistive Technologist, Dean Hall to see first-hand how we support students with 1:1 music therapy.

The visit has been featured in Philippa's BBC series called How Music Heals which was aired on BBC Radio 3 on Tuesday 24 September.

In the episode of 'When Speech Isn't Possible', psychotherapist and author Philippa joins Cressida's therapy session with school students.

You can listen to it here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002jj36>



National Teaching Assistants' Day

On 26 September, we celebrated our incredible Student Support Assistants, Health Care Support Workers, and Midday Assistants.

Every day, they go above and beyond to support students and staff across our campus. They play a vital role in creating an inclusive, nurturing environment where our students can learn, grow, and thrive, ensuring that therapy and care are fully integrated into their personalised programmes.

In our weekly assembly, we celebrated and recognised the incredible impact these staff members have on our students' lives.





We are Makaton friendly!

We are thrilled to announce that Treloar's has achieved Makaton Friendly certification from the Makaton Charity. To celebrate the Speech and Language Team organised a sing and sign event for everyone to join in and perform 'Celebration' together to celebrate in the Jowett Centre.

Becoming Makaton Friendly is about more than just communication—it's about creating welcoming, inclusive environments where everyone feels valued, understood, and empowered to participate.

At Treloar's, we have 7 Makaton Tutors providing support and training to our 800+ staff. We ensure that Makaton is used to support communication as part of our commitment to accessibility and inclusivity. There are regular Makaton workshops for staff, Makaton groups and we celebrate and highlight a Makaton sign of the week. Treloar's also has a Sing and Sign team which posts regular videos on YouTube!

Links:

https://makaton.org/TMC/TMC/Makaton_Places/Makaton_Friendly.aspx

<https://www.youtube.com/@treloareducation8412>

Job Shop: Students explore work experience opportunities

Sixth Form and College students had the chance to connect with staff from across Treloar's during our Job Shop event. This was an opportunity to explore a diverse range of internal work experience opportunities.

This year saw even greater engagement, with more departments offering exciting and meaningful projects. These opportunities are designed to help students develop essential skills, boost their confidence and independence, and prepare them for future careers, whilst also fostering stronger collaboration across the organisation.





Hello Yellow: World Mental Health Day

Supported Interns get to work

This years' cohort of Supported Interns have all started work in their new external placements.

We have 4 interns and they will be completing placements at Goldfinch Books, Alton Library, Northgate, Enterprise, Pure Gym, Everyone Active Farnham and Southampton airport.

Treloar's Supported Internship programme is a one-year programme aimed at students whose intended destination after Treloar's is to find employment, self-employment or voluntary work, part-time or full-time.

We continue to develop links with a broad range of employers to offer personalised work placements to meet the individual needs of each student. All students are appropriately supported by Treloar's staff to attend work experience as required.

We are always looking for more local businesses to provide work experience placements and Supported Internships for our students.

If you would like to find out more information about how to get involved, please contact Mary Menzies.

Students in L9 brought sunshine and smiles to Hello Yellow Day by running a fantastic fundraising stall in support of Young Minds.

With a yellow-themed tombola, a bake sale, a cake raffle, and fun games led by Vanessa (Head of Counselling), the event was a huge success! Thanks to everyone's generosity, we had amazing tombola prizes, delicious biscuits and cupcakes, and a stunning yellow cake decorated with butterflies.

Students and staff joined in with enthusiasm, filling the college with yellow clothes and a caring atmosphere. It was a wonderful reminder of how we can come together to promote positive mental health and support one another.





New classrooms promote inclusive environment

Over the summer break, our Skills for Life (SfL) classes underwent a significant upgrade.

The new classrooms have been designed with inclusion at their core. Sensory areas form a key part of the learning environment, including playing a vital role in meeting the diverse and changing needs of our students. A larger and fully equipped classroom has been designed to better accommodate their students and enhance their learning through improved resources and adaptive support.

Learn more by visiting our website: <https://www.treloar.org.uk/news/2025/09/23/new-col-lege-classrooms-promote-inclu-sive-learning-environment>

Students take part in portrait photography exhibition 'This Abled World'

In September, Oliver Schooneveld, a photography student from Holland, visited Treloar's. As part of his project called 'This Abled World', he came to the UK to capture life with disability.

Based with Employability and Vocational Class, Oliver has been capturing portraits of the group, for an exhibition. 'Everyone is so happy, there's a lot of joy' at Treloar's.

Oliver has felt inspired by his time at Treloar's and wishes there were more places like Treloar's.

The exhibition of portraits was on display in Alton at the Freedom from Expression Gallery.





AAC Awareness Month 2025: Innovation, inclusion and advocacy in AAC

October is AAC Awareness Month—a time to shine a spotlight on the transformative power of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). For individuals with complex communication needs, AAC is more than just technology—it's a vital lifeline that empowers them to communicate, connect and engage with the world around them.

At Treloar's, almost two thirds of students are non-verbal and/or require AAC to support their communication. Our team of clinicians, including speech and language therapists, occupational therapists and assistive technologists, work together to find the best solutions that meet the individual communication needs of each student.

Read more on our website: <https://www.treloar.org.uk/news/2025/10/09/aac-awareness-month-2025-innovation-inclusion-and-advocacy-aac>

Mental Health Awareness: a poem by college student, Delali

You don't have to hide
you don't have to hide
and keep it all inside
the pain isn't all yours to bear alone
the friend you need will be there
This world is sometimes cruel
but they will be with you whatever
the weather
You don't need to even say a word
there will be a secret code as there
is between friends and the chance
to talk whenever you need to
so just know you are loved even
when you don't feel loved
and there is joy in the little things
and your friends will help you along
the way
so you don't have to hide your
struggles
and it doesn't need to be a puzzle





College students at the Dummer Fair

College students worked hard to create Christmas products to sell at the annual Dummer Fair.

On 9 October, 3 college students attended the fair: from greeting customers to handling sales, they proudly represented Treloar's while building communication and customer service skills.



New student careers information

We have a new Student Careers section on our website with a short selection of resources to help start conversations and explore early next steps for your young person. At Treloar's, careers means more than paid work—we support personalised pathways into supported employment, volunteering, further education, supported living, and community life, tailored to each student's strengths and aspirations.

Please take a look:

<https://www.treloar.org.uk/student-careers-programme>



Successful transition from Treloar College to future living placement

Our Progress and Transition Team works collaboratively with families, students and external stakeholders to prepare young people for life beyond Treloar's.

In July 2025, the team said goodbye to James—our former student who attended Treloar College for 3 years; during his time with us, he made great progress not only academically, but also with his communication and independence.

From the outset, James and his family had a clear transition aim: to move into a future living placement that could meet his complex health needs while enabling him to live with peers and access meaningful community activities.





College students at the opening of bocchia courts

Some Treloar's students were invited to attend the grand opening of Alton College's new bocchia courts.

This event was attended by Alton Town Mayor Cllr Annette Eyre and East Hampshire District Cllr Emily Young.

The students played several rounds of bocchia with the guests, with the Mayor's blue team winning 4-3!

The event highlighted the importance of inclusivity at the college and its commitment to students of all physical abilities.

Success of former students in Seoul

In September, Great Britain's bocchia squad took part in the Seoul World Cup.

Former college student, Sophie Newnham won gold in the BC4 Pairs together with Stephen McGuire. It was the first World Cup gold medal for Britain in the BC4 Pairs event since 2018.

In the individuals, our former student David Smith OBE won silver while Sophie added bronze to her collection.

Photo credits: Bocchia UK





Staff profile: Meet Sarah, Deputy Team Leader on Gauvain House

Sarah joined Treloar's 9 years ago as a bank member of staff. This gave Sarah an opportunity to see if she liked the role. She loved it so much she went onto become a full-time member of staff employed as one of our classroom technicians.

In the classroom Sarah has learnt and developed so many different skills. Including how to support young people with complex communication, using high- and low-tech devices. In addition to supporting young people with complex medication routines, feeding needs and managing individuals' postural management needs.

Sarah has recently been promoted to a senior role on the residential house as a Deputy Team Leader. She supports students with all aspects of their daily life from getting up, getting to college and their evening routines, including different activities and clubs they may like to attend. Sarah's role includes supporting staff to ensure the shift runs smoothly on the house.

Watch Sarah's story on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYTshug9SWI>

Commitment to Excellence Award

Would you like a member of staff to be recognised for:

- going the "extra mile" in their work with students, parents or other stakeholders?
- being particularly kind and inclusive when working with students?
- consistently demonstrating excellence in their work?

... then please let us know by sending an email to quality@treloar.org.uk

Submit nominations by the end of the day on Friday 19 December.



News from the Fundraising Team

Treloar's launches 'Supportive Spaces' campaign to transform its Gloucester House residential building

Treloar's has launched a major fundraising appeal to renovate Gloucester House. The Supportive Spaces campaign aims to raise £780,000 to create a modern, accessible space without limits, that meets the evolving needs of our students.

Thanks to a generous donor, our contributions will be matched pound for pound up to £100,000, doubling the impact of every gift.

"Gloucester House is more than a building—it's a place where our students find independence, confidence, and community," said Vicky Beeks, Gloucester House Manager.

For more information or to donate, visit our Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/treloarsgloucesterhouseappeal>



News from the Fundraising Team

Treloar's awarded £15,000 grant for Sensory Room

We were excited to be invited to attend the launch of the TELUS Community Fund which announced £1 M in donations for local causes.

We were honoured to be nominated for a grant by Tom Marriage, parent of one of our students—to support the refurbishment of Treloar's sensory room—and we are thrilled to share that we were awarded £15,000!

This generous funding will have a meaningful impact on the well-being and development of so many of our students, and we are deeply grateful for the support.

Tom Marriage said: "I am proud to work for a company that puts social purpose at the heart of everything we do. Amazing to be part of an organisation that proves business success and social impact can go hand in hand."

This success is a fantastic example of what can be achieved when our Fundraising Team and parent community collaborate. Together, we are making a real difference.

If you are a parent and have a child at Treloar School or College and would like to explore how your company might get involved in supporting us, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Fundraising Team—we would love to hear from you!

Celebrating the Life of Michael Campbell MBE DL

We were sad to hear the news that Michael Campbell former chairman of the Treloar Trust (1993–2002) and Patron, died peacefully at home on the 23 September aged 82.

Michael enjoyed the outdoors, sailing and powerboats, and wanted our students to experience sporting activities especially water sports and sailing. He set up the Campbell Sports Foundation which supports our students to take part in a whole range of sporting activities. Over the years, our students have gone sailing, taken part in Wet Wheels boat trips, flight simulator and taster flights, boccia, seated-skiing and swimming galas.

To recognise Michael's commitment to Treloar's, our independent adult living service named Campbell Court after him. Campbell Court is a community of self-contained ground floor flats located adjacent to Treloar's campus offering supported independent living to young adults aged 18–35 years.

There will be a private family funeral and a Memorial Service will be held in Winchester Cathedral, date to be confirmed.

World-renowned Luxmuralis to illuminate Mansion House with Treloar's

This November, Treloar's students will take centre stage at Mansion House for an exclusive fundraising evening celebrating creativity and inclusion.

Beyond the Frame is a one-night-only immersive art experience in collaboration with visionary projection artists Luxmuralis. The Mansion House's historic walls will be brought to life with moving images, light, and sound, immersing you in a thought-provoking sensory experience.

Alongside Luxmuralis's acclaimed installation, Life, which explores the wonder and complexity of life, guests will be captivated by a never-before-seen projection celebrating the extraordinary artwork of Treloar's students.

The 5-minute projection, created by Luxmuralis, will showcase up to 50 pieces of artwork, highlighting the creativity and incredible talent of the students.

"These pieces were created by students from our Skills for Life and Skills for Independence groups, who selected art as their chosen subject. They explored a wide range of techniques, including lino plate printing, marbling, sponge painting, and creating cyanotypes, to bring their ideas to life."

Gemma, Art Teacher, Treloar's

Guests will also have the chance to explore a student art exhibition, with a selection of pieces available for bidding in the charity auction. All proceeds will go to Treloar's.

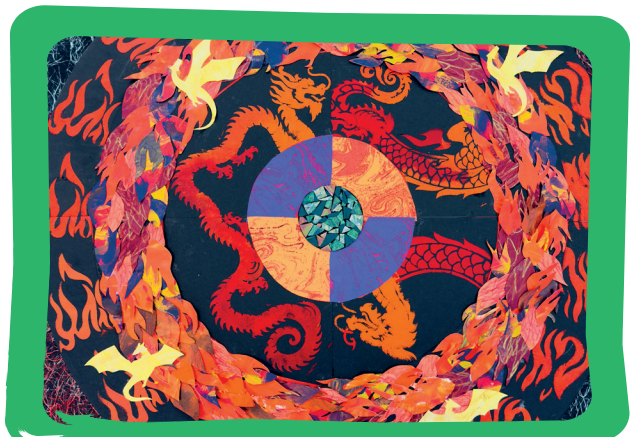
Event details:

When: Friday 21 November 2025

Where: Mansion House, London

Tickets: £100 per person (includes wine and charcuterie)

Tickets are limited and available at www.treloar.org.uk/events or by emailing events@treloar.org.uk



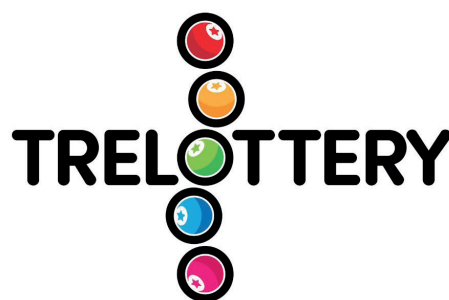
Share the Trelottery:

Support Treloar's in a fun way!

Did you know that by joining the Trelottery, you can help raise vital funds to support everything that makes Treloar's such a special place? From specialist equipment to enriching experiences, every entry helps us go the extra mile for all our students.

Each play makes a real difference:

1 entry per week = £5 per month
2 entries per week = £10 per month
It's a fun way to support Treloar's;
and there are cash prizes to be won every week!



Already playing? Thank you! Please help us spread the word by sharing the Trelottery with friends and family who may like to take part. A small monthly contribution really does help us do more for the young people we support.

Join or share here: <https://www.treloar.org.uk/trelottery>

The Christmas countdown has begun!

We are delighted to unveil the Treloar's Christmas Shop for 2025.

This year's collection includes:

- A wonderful range of Christmas cards, featuring 2 original designs by our students
- Advent calendars, stationery, and gift wrap—perfect for getting a head start on your festive shopping



Browse the full collection and start your Christmas shopping today:

<https://www.charitycardshop.com/treloars>

By shopping with us, you're helping fund opportunities for our students.