



Parent and carer newsletter

October 2025

Welcome from the Head of School

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back! It's been an inspiring half term, and we're so proud of how well our students have settled into their new class groups, especially those who are new to our school community.

This half term, we've also been celebrating AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) Awareness across the curriculum. A unique example of this is our dance group who have been creating a powerful piece that explores the importance of being heard, a creative and moving way to highlight inclusive communication.

Students in Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4, and Sixth Form have taken part in our Head Student elections. Candidates shared their qualities, ideas, and visions for change, and the outgoing student leaders helped count the votes and announce the results. We're excited to see the contributions our new student leaders will make in the coming year.

We're looking forward to seeing you at Parents' Evening after half term. We know that the most successful outcomes for our students come from strong collaboration between home and school, ensuring a consistent approach to both education and physical well-being.

Wishing you all a restful half term break.

Lisa Bond
Head of School



<u>Dates for your diary</u>	Autumn Term 2025
Fri 24 October	End of half term 1. College closes 3.30 pm, houses close at 3.30 pm
Mon 27 – Fri 31 October	Half term holiday for staff and students
Sun 2 November	Weekend residential students return to houses 2.00 pm onwards
Mon 3 November	Start of half term 2 Day students and weekday residential students return 9.00 am onwards
Friday 7 November	School Parents Day (virtual appts in the morning and in person in the afternoon) bookings open until 2 November 2025 via https://treloarschool.schoolcloud.co.uk/
Friday 28 November	Music Assembly (2 pm): parents of performing students will be invited after half term
Wednesday 10 December	Christmas event for all of KS3 and KS4 Music Options invites will be sent out after half term
Friday 12 December	Christmas Fair and Brass Band and Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 17 December	Primary Nativity performance invites will be sent out after half term
Friday 19 December	End of half term 2 pm School closes 2.00 pm Houses close 3.30 pm
Mon 22 Dec – Fri 2 Jan	Christmas Holidays
Spring Term 2026	
Monday 5 – Tuesday 6 January	Professional development days for all staff (2 days)
Wednesday 7 January	Start of half term 3 Residential students return to houses/school 9.00 am onwards
Friday 13 February	End of half term 3 School closes 3.30 pm Houses close at 3.30 pm

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.

Wacky Races

This term, our primary classes are thrilled to launch “Wacky Races”, an exciting journey into the world of transportation!

Building on our previous learning, students will explore the science, history and design behind different modes of transport and the spirit of competition. Throughout the topic, they will have the chance to build, test and race their own creations, developing key skills such as teamwork, resilience and problem-solving.

To launch our new topic, students took part in a variety of exciting and interactive activities designed to spark curiosity and engagement. It was a fun and energetic start that set the tone for the learning ahead.

Our primary students are looking forward to an action-packed term full of creativity, discovery and fun!



A Generational Tapestry!

Our Key Stage 3 students are embarking on an exciting journey through time with our new topic: A Generational Tapestry!

Through this theme, students are delving into the rich and diverse experiences of different generations, with a particular emphasis on the Windrush Generation. This exploration not only deepens their understanding of British history but also encourages empathy, reflection, and appreciation for the contributions of those who came before us.

To kick off the topic, all KS3 classes participated in a carousel of themed activities. These sessions were carefully designed to ignite curiosity, foster discussion, and bring historical narratives to life in creative and interactive ways. Students expressed how much they enjoyed the activities and how they felt inspired to learn more. We're excited to see how our students continue to explore, question, and connect with the past as they weave their own threads into this generational tapestry.

The session ended with a Q&A: the students excelled themselves with their excellent questions and engagement in both sessions!



Swimming successes

On 3 October, a group of school students proudly represented Treloar's at the annual Swimming Gala in Basingstoke!

Treloar's Swim Squad competed in various races against other schools, showing incredible determination and team spirit. When they weren't racing, they were cheering on their peers with enthusiasm and pride.

A special highlight of the day was receiving medals from the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane – a moment our students will never forget! Kim Smith, Treloar's PE Teacher, said:

"They were all amazing! We are so proud of their effort, motivation and outstanding sportsmanship. What a brilliant day for our Swim Squad!"



New head students voted in

Head of School, Lisa Bond and current student leaders Chloe, Gracie and Ethan spent the morning counting votes for the ballot to elect new Head Students.

The results were close and there were recounts to be sure. The new Head Students were formally announced that afternoon.

The final results were:

Key Stage 3: Zoe and Elin

Key Stage 4: Hannah and Ben

Sixth Form: Charlie and Luna



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, the school community celebrated and recognised the incredible impact these staff members have on our students' lives.





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





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 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.

Poetry Week

Poetry and all forms of literature lie at the heart of the Treloar School curriculum.

Students are provided with opportunities to experience books through technology, reading as a group or for pleasure individually. School students choose to engage with reading words of all forms whether it's through a lively re-enactment of the text or snuggling up with a book of their choice.





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+ expert 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.





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>

Tasty Treats

'Sixth Form Enterprise' has been relaunched this term, leading to a fun and festive session. The Enterprise Team lead the production of items sold at the Christmas Fair.

The students have worked brilliantly together, showing creativity, teamwork, and enthusiasm as they begin planning their products for the upcoming event.



Emotional Wheel

Sixth Form students have launched a mental health project and have been learning about their own Emotional Wheel, exploring different feelings and recognising how emotions can change throughout the day. They also discussed and suggested positive strategies to support their mental health and identified trusted people they can turn to if they ever need help. It's been a valuable and thoughtful start to our project, helping everyone build emotional awareness and resilience.

New student careers information

We have a new Student Careers section on our website with a 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.



Spotlight on the Music Option for KS4

A key feature of KS4 are the wonderful learning experiences on offer in the form of Options.

The concept of Options for KS4 is to enable students to have autonomy over their learning and develop their passions.

The term has got off to a fantastic start! Here are some highlights:

In Music Options group, KS4 students have been studying 20th Century Music and composing techniques.

So far this term we have looked at minimalism and what this means in art, architecture and music. Students have listened and appraised minimalist music, played 'In C' by Terry Riley and started to compose their own piece of music using Garageband to loop sounds.

Next, we will finish our pieces of music and look at composing using aleatoric methods. Students have also been performing music as a group and choosing which parts they want to play (tune, chords, bass line).

It is clear we have some very talented musicians in KS4, and we are looking forward to listening to the pieces of music that have collaboratively created!

Treloar Triathlon

Students across the school are currently taking part in a 'Treloar Triathlon' as part of their Physical Wellbeing sessions. This event helps us celebrate movement, inclusion and the incredible determination of our students.

All students are being supported and challenged to move in ways that are meaningful to them, based upon their individual physical programmes.

We're celebrating all forms of movement, from exercises in standing frames, mats and Acheeva beds to using trikes, MOTOMeds and walkers. Every step, push and pedal counts!

Progress is being recorded both individually and collectively, and we're excited to celebrate the outcome of this challenge in an assembly next term.



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, right now all 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.

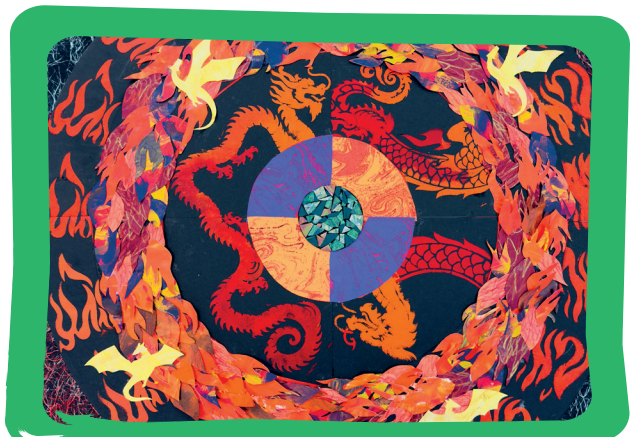
Event details:

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

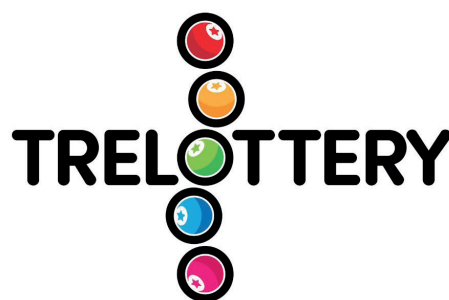


Share the Trelottery: Support Treloar's in a fun way!

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.