



Parent and carer newsletter

February 2026

Welcome from the Head of College

Dear Families,

Despite the grey and wet start to the year weather wise, Treloar's has been far from dull. You'll see in these pages lots of the exciting things students and staff have been up to. We're immensely proud of students getting involved with the design of local spaces, getting their voices heard and being creative.

You'll see some of our staff successes as well through national apprenticeship week and one of our staff's international impact!



This half term marks the half way point through the year and time has flown! We look forward to welcoming students back from Monday 23 February and keep our fingers crossed so a little brighter weather on our return.

All the best,

Ben Bastin
Head of College



<u>Dates for your diary</u>	Spring Term 2026
Friday 13 February	End of half term 3 (including ALTON COLLEGE) College closes 3.30 pm Houses close at 3.30 pm
Monday 16 - Fri 20 February	Half term holiday for staff and students (including ALTON COLLEGE)
Sunday 22 February	Weekend residential students return to houses 2.00 pm onwards
Monday 23 February	Start of half term 4 (including ALTON COLLEGE) Day students and weekday residential students return 9.00 am onwards
Friday 27 March	End of half term 4 (including ALTON COLLEGE) College closes 2.00 pm Houses close 3.30 pm
Mon 30 March - Fri 10 April	Easter Holidays





Robin Hood steals the show!

We were thrilled to welcome M&M Productions for an incredible pantomime performance of Robin Hood!

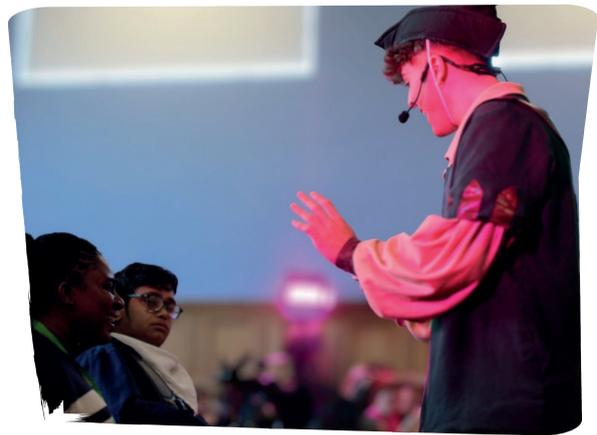
The hall was filled with laughter and excitement as we booed the Sheriff of Nottingham, cheered on Robin, and joined in with the singing and dancing. It was a fantastic experience that brought joy to everyone involved.

From Treloar's to Washington

Lauren, a Student Support Assistant at Treloar College, is preparing for an extraordinary opportunity that will take her advocacy work to an international stage. She has been selected for the Tourette Association of America Youth Ambassadors Rising Leaders Program, a prestigious initiative that trains young leaders to promote understanding and tolerance of Tourette Syndrome.

Next March, Lauren will travel to Washington, D.C., for intensive leadership training before heading to Capitol Hill to meet members of Congress. Her mission: to raise awareness of TS and advocate for improved support for individuals and families affected by the condition.

Read more on our website:
www.treloar.org.uk/treloars-stories/treloars-student-support-assistant-heads-washington-global-advocacy-role





Immersive Polar Night experience

Our Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) team supports students with communication alongside eating, drinking and swallowing needs.

Recently, students in Skills for Life 2 class took part in an immersive Polar Night experience during their in-class SLT session. The structured story format provided predictability and repetition, helping students to engage while exploring visual, tactile and auditory stimuli. The session focused on developing visual attention, sensory exploration, expressing opinions and choice making.

Carefully selected sensory stimuli (including low lighting, visual projections, tactile resources, aromas and soundscapes) encouraged sustained visual focus and supported joint engagement.

Students were supported to communicate their preferences using their individual communication methods, making the experience meaningful and accessible for all.

Journey to space

College students in Skills for Life 1 class had an exciting session filled with movement, stories and imagination. They went on a fun "journey to space", blasting off, exploring different senses and trying out a range of activities along the way. All students worked closely with staff to communicate their thoughts and choices, building confidence through exploration and interaction. Everyday skills like numbers and listening were naturally integrated into the session as part of Treloar's Skills for Life curriculum, making learning engaging and active for everyone.





Treloar's celebrates partnership with HSDC Alton College

Treloar College has a successful and long-established partnership with our local further education college, HSDC Alton. This unique partnership allows our students to access their education alongside their non-disabled peers whilst having their therapeutic and care needs met by the team at Treloar's.

"I really enjoy it because I've made so many friends. I enjoy the mainstream environment and the independence it provides. I never thought I would have this opportunity, but I love it," said Evie, Treloar College student, about the innovative provision offered at Treloar's.

Watch our new film and find out more on our website:
www.treloar.org.uk/news/2026/01/12/treloars-celebrates-partnership-hsdc-alton-college-new-film

Students bring expertise to Alton Football Club plans

Recently, college students visited Alton Football Club to review plans for a new spectator stand. They shared their expertise on designing an accessible space, offering practical ideas to ensure wheelchair users can enjoy matches and support their local club and community.

Following the visit, the students reviewed the architect's plans and, using measurements from their own wheelchairs, made some recommendations on the space needed to comfortably accommodate power wheelchair users and their families in the new terrace design.



Connecting students with employers

We have had a number of employer encounters over the past few weeks: Hampshire and IOW Constabulary, Special Effects, Highwood Group and an independent advocate all delivered inspiring sessions for our sixth form and college students, enabling them to find out more about these different organisations, the roles and develop their knowledge.

As part of a session with Hampshire & IOW Constabulary, our students learned about the role of a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), the equipment used in policing, and the key skills needed, including communication, compassion and problem-solving.

Through interactive discussions, students asked pre-prepared questions and reflected on their learning, helping them build confidence and a deeper understanding of various opportunities.

If you are interested in finding out more around how you can support with offering an employer encounter please contact: transitionteam@treloar.org.uk



National Apprenticeship Week

National Apprenticeship Week (9-15 February) was a great chance to learn more about apprenticeships as they are an excellent option to consider for many young people wishing to start a career.

To mark the week, we shone a spotlight on two of our recently qualified apprentices, based in our Health Centre.

College student Zoe, interviewed Laura, a Pre-registration Pharmacy Technician, and Emma, a Medicines Management Technician, to learn more about their roles and the impact that their apprenticeships have had on their careers and personal development goals.

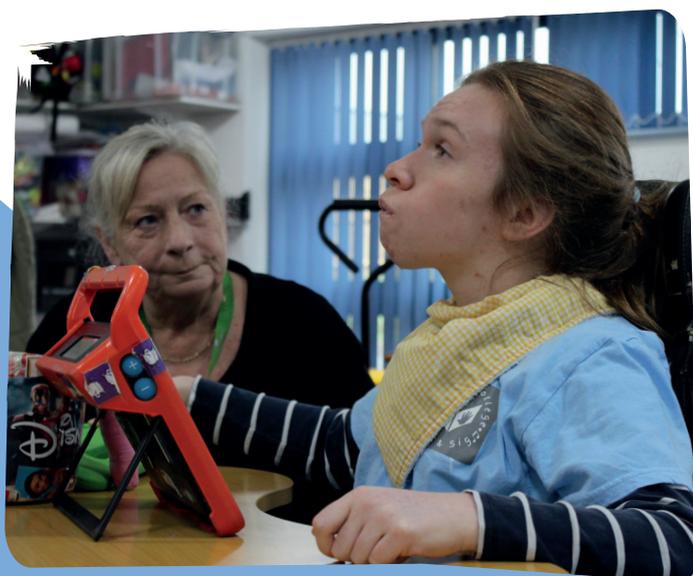
Visit our website to find out more: <https://www.treloar.org.uk/treloars-stories/celebrating-treloars-apprenticeships>

Students collaborate to prepare for a performance

In their recent BTEC lesson, students from the Skills for Independence pathway worked as a class team to prepare for an upcoming performance.

Drawing on their prior research, they came up with creative ideas before identifying the key roles required to bring the performance together.

Each student selected a role that suited their interests and strengths, then worked to develop a clear plan outlining the steps needed to prepare for the final outcome.



Building independence for life in the community

College students from the Skills for Independence pathway are currently looking at building their independence in preparation for going out in the community.

Students use a symbolised or auditory packing list to take responsibility for the items in their bags.

Another part of their 'community skills' learning is to practise in a more familiar environment such as using the immersive room in Treloar's Bradbury Learning Centre to replicate different locations, work on their vocabulary as well as role play and discuss scenarios checking knowledge and understanding.





AAC as a tool for learning and independence

College students from Skills for Independence pathway have been exploring different types of guidance used in everyday life and applying these to real household routines.

In the independence flat on Gauvain House, the students have been developing their laundry skills and creating their own step-by-step guidance to support the process.

As all the students are eye-gaze users, they have also been strengthening their ability to use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) as both an educational and independence tool—adding reminders to their online calendars, using the Internet for research, and accessing Office programs to produce their written work.

We are so proud of the progress they are making in practical skills, digital communication and growing independence.



News from the Fundraising Team

The Treloar's Gala Dinner: 20th Anniversary

Friday 24 April – Guildhall, London

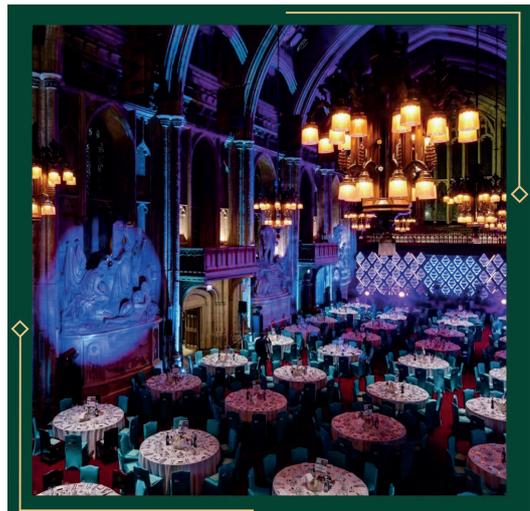
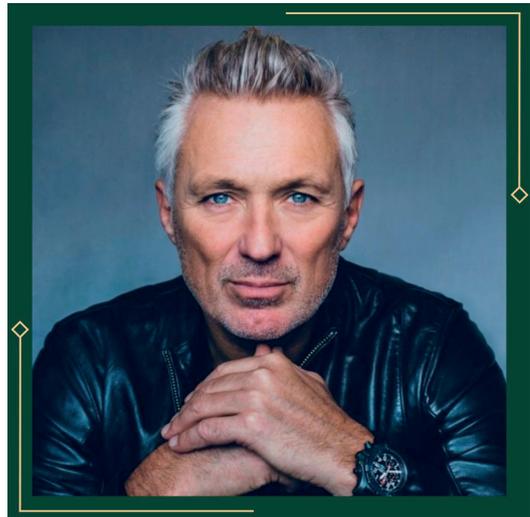
Following its recent success at Mansion House, our Gala moves to the equally magnificent Guildhall London on Friday 24 April 2026 for our 20th Anniversary of the event.

This Emerald City themed black-tie evening will unfold in true style, beginning with a sparkling drinks reception and continuing through to a sumptuous three-course dinner, live and silent auctions and an iconic Back to the 80s DJ set from Martin Kemp!

We'd be so grateful if you could share the event with friends, family and workplaces to help us spread the word and sell tickets. If you or your workplace are able to donate a prize for our auction, we'd love to hear from you.

Tickets: £185pp or £1,850 per table of 10

<https://www.treloar.org.uk/events/treloars-gala-dinner-2026>



News from the Fundraising Team

Parallel Windsor

We're excited to invite Treloar's families to be part of Parallel Windsor 2026, a vibrant festival of inclusivity set along the iconic Long Walk in Windsor Great Park. With no cut-off times, a choice of distances and the chance for students, families and carers to take part, it's a feel-good day that celebrates achievement at every pace, while raising vital funds to support Treloar's students.

There is no registration fee to take part.

Instead, we kindly ask participants to aim for the following suggested fundraising targets, helping to support our vital work:

SuperSensory, 100m and 1K – £100
5K and 10K – £150
Sunday 5 July, Windsor Great Park

Find out more and sign up here: <https://www.treloar.org.uk/events/parallel-windsor-2026>



ABP Southampton Marathon Festival

Get ready for a challenge at the ABP Southampton Marathon Festival 2026!

Taking place on Sunday 3 May, this festive event brings together runners of all levels: from 5K and 10K to Half and Full Marathon, through Southampton's vibrant city streets and scenic waterfront.

There is no registration fee to take part. Instead, we kindly ask participants to aim for the following suggested fundraising targets, helping to support our vital work:

5k: £150
10k: £200
Half Marathon: £300
Full Marathon: £400

Find out more and sign up here: <https://www.treloar.org.uk/events/abp-southampton-marathon-festival-2026>



News from the Fundraising Team



TRELLOTTERY – BIG SPRING DRAW RAFFLE

Fancy a chance to win £1,000 plus a luxury hamper this May?

The Big Spring Draw is TRELLOTTERY's annual raffle – open to everyone.

Every ticket you buy helps provide the extra support, equipment and experiences that make everyday life a little better for children and young people at Treloar's.

Tickets cost just £1 each.

Visit our website to buy your tickets: www.treloar.org.uk/trelottery

Support the TRELLOTTERY to keep providing vital funds.

Treloar Trust is licensed and regulated in Great Britain by the Gambling Commission under account number 8915.

www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk

You must be 18 or over to play.
Underage gambling is an offence.
Full terms and conditions can be found by www.trelottery.org.uk/draw/terms-conditions



 Treloar's

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