



**Parent and carer newsletter**

**May 2026**

# Welcome from the Head of College

Dear Families,

We're now rapidly approaching the last half term of the year. Students have been extremely busy, both on and off site. They have been celebrating our staff, advocating for better awareness of their needs, developing their independence, and demonstrating their creativity.

We will soon be saying goodbye to our leavers for 2026 and begin to induct our new students. Transition has been ongoing for much of this year for our school to college transitions and beginning to welcome those coming to us from other settings.

I want to extend a huge thank you to all the teams supporting those transitions who ensure that whether you are joining or leaving Treloar's, your next steps are positive, and help you to achieve your goals.

Thank you for your ongoing support and I hope you have an enjoyable half term.

All the best,

Ben Bastin  
Head of College



<u>Dates for your diary</u>	<b>Summer Term 2026</b>
Monday 25 - Friday 29 May	Half term holiday for staff and students (including ALTON COLLEGE)
Sunday 31 May	Weekend residential students return to Houses 2.00 pm onwards
Monday 1 June	Start of half term 6 (including ALTON COLLEGE) Day and weekday residential students return to houses 9.00 am onwards
1-5 June	Arts Week
Thursday 25 June	College Prom
Friday 10 July	College Sports Day
Wednesday 22 July	End of half term 6 College closes 2.00 pm Houses close 3.30 pm





## Deaf Awareness Week

During the annual Deaf Awareness Week at the start of May, we raise awareness of deafness and hearing loss. This is a great opportunity to promote inclusion and help our students and staff understand how we can all communicate more effectively.

This year's theme is "Right to understand—Together, we break barriers." It highlights the everyday barriers that deaf people face in society—at home, in education, at work and in the community—and simple actions that can make a big difference.

At Treloar's, around 15% of students are deaf or have a hearing loss. This includes students with mild, moderate, severe, or fluctuating hearing loss. Students may need hearing aids, radio aids or other assistive listening equipment, lip-reading, visual support, or quieter listening environments.

During this Deaf Awareness Week, we would like everyone to take the time to think about inclusive communication, being patient and helping each other.

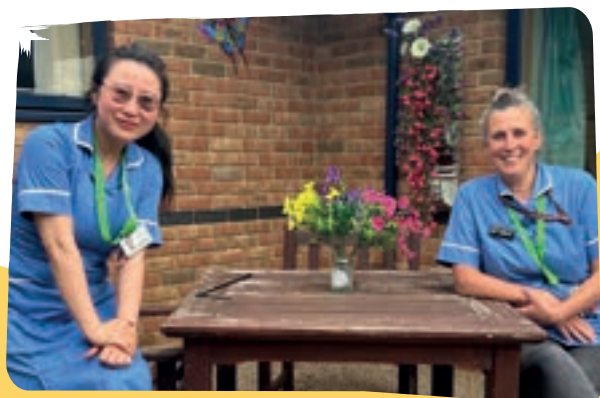
## International Nurses Day

International Nurses Day is celebrated on 12 May every year. To celebrate it, we are shining the spotlight on some of the nurses that work at Treloar's. College student, Abigail interviewed Sara and Fiona, nurses who work on Chivers and Brewer residential houses.

**Sara:** The students are amazing and show so much resilience—they blow me away every day, the staff are so hard working looking after the students and advocating for them and giving them a voice when they may not otherwise be heard. The nursing team is very supportive and lovely to be a part of.

**Fiona:** The nurses and Health Centre at Treloar's play a very important role in keeping students healthy, safe, and supported. We're here to help with medical needs, offer advice, and make sure students feel as comfortable and independent as possible. We also work closely with families and staff to provide the best care for every individual.

Read the whole interview on our website: <https://www.treloar.org.uk/treloars-stories/learn-about-nursing-treloars>





In the coming weeks, two more Treloar's students have auditions for NOYO, so watch this space to see how they get on! We wish them the very best of luck.

## Treloar's students part of the iconic BBC Proms Festival

We are thrilled to share that past and present Treloar's students, members of the National Open Youth Orchestra, will be part of the iconic BBC Proms Festival this year.

The National Open Youth Orchestra will be joined by musicians from the BBC National Orchestra of Wales for three relaxed concerts in Cardiff, London and Bristol as part of the BBC Proms season—under the baton of conductor Alice Farnham.

We are so proud that Treloar's students will be playing with NOYO and given this opportunity to shine and inspire the next generation of disabled musicians.

The National Open Youth Orchestra has always been committed to showcasing the talents of young disabled musicians, and being included in the BBC Proms is an incredible platform to bring their talents to a wider audience, and also to show other young disabled musicians that music and orchestras could be a pathway for them too.





## Unlocking creativity through poetry

College students took part in a poetry workshop led by Jamie Hale, a disabled poet, playwright, director, and multi-disciplinary creative.

Jamie is an experienced mentor and workshop facilitator, with a strong passion for supporting other disabled people to build confidence and explore alternative routes for self-expression.

The workshop was designed to introduce students to a range of poetry forms and approaches, encouraging them to experiment with writing their own poetry in an inclusive and supportive environment.

The session began with students introducing themselves to the group, before moving on to an engaging warm-up activity exploring the different meanings of the word "light."

Throughout the session, students worked exceptionally well together, supporting one another in both group discussions and paired activities. They shared ideas confidently, listened respectfully,

and built on each other's contributions, creating a positive and collaborative atmosphere. Working in pairs encouraged peer support and helped students to feel more comfortable expressing themselves and experimenting with new ideas.

The workshop provided an inspiring opportunity for students to explore expression and creativity together. In doing so, they developed key skills including communication, teamwork, active listening, confidence in self-expression, creativity, and adaptability.

Overall, it was a highly engaging session that highlighted the value of collaboration and inclusive creative practice.





## Treloar College shortlisted in the Tes Awards 2026

Treloar College's Let Me In has been shortlisted for this year's Tes Schools Awards, following a record-breaking number of nominations.

The awards shine a spotlight on the outstanding work taking place across the UK celebrating the individuals and teams making a meaningful impact on pupils, staff and their wider communities.

Each category highlights those who are not only driving meaningful change within their own settings, but also setting a benchmark for the wider sector.

The winners will be announced at a gala ceremony on 19 June at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London.

## College students create lampshade designs for a local company

Porta Romana, a local company, has developed a valued and new relationship with Treloar's, working closely together through volunteering initiatives, charitable donations and collaborative art projects with students.

Recently, Treloar College students were invited to create lampshade designs for Porta Romana UK as part of a competition, with the winning entries being professionally printed and produced as lampshades.

This project provides a valuable opportunity for students to collaborate with an external professional company and to understand how their creative ideas can be developed into high-quality, commercially produced products.

We look forward to continuing and strengthening this partnership.





## Auditions for the National Open Youth Orchestra

We are delighted to announce that two of Treloar's students were selected to audition for the National Open Youth Orchestra at the end of May.

The NOYO Ensembles provide an inclusive environment where talented disabled and non-disabled musicians aged 11–25 can develop their skills at an advanced level, free from the barriers that can often make musical progression challenging for young disabled performers.

One of the students commented: "It would mean a lot for me to join the orchestra. I have been playing for 3 years. I like playing all sorts of music."



# College visits Warner Bros. Studio

Students recently took part in an exciting and enriching trip to Warner Bros. Studio: an experience they carefully planned and organised themselves.

From the outset, the group demonstrated strong budgeting skills, working together to manage costs and make informed decisions about the trip.

In preparation for the visit, students took responsibility for coordinating elements of the trip, further strengthening their planning and time-management skills.

Throughout the trip, they showed growing confidence in communicating with unfamiliar people, including staff and members of the public, demonstrating increased independence in a new environment.

The visit provided valuable opportunities for students to transfer skills learned in the classroom into a real-world setting. They worked collaboratively, supported one another, and continued to build positive peer relationships, contributing to a supportive group dynamic.

For many, the trip also offered the chance to experience something completely new. Exploring the studio sparked enthusiasm,

curiosity, and engagement, making the experience both memorable and meaningful.

Overall, the Warner Bros. Studio trip was a fantastic opportunity for students to develop key life skills while enjoying a unique and inspiring day out.



# Workshops with a BSO Associate musician

The Treloar College Open Orchestra received a special visit from Sam Mason, Associate Musician with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

Sam has worked as a freelance musician specialising in creative education workshops for the past 25 years, devising, implementing and delivering projects with orchestras, institutions and innovative music organisations all over the UK and in Europe.

Sam led the College orchestra through the workshop, the students learned a new piece of music, and improvised and composed on the Clarion thinking about how they wanted their own personality to shine through the music. Sam was brilliant in bringing out the individual potential of each student and enabling them to develop their performing skills.



Sam currently leads the Bournemouth Centre of the National Open Youth Orchestra (NOYO). In all her work, her aim is to inspire and engage, giving young people confidence to express themselves through music and the arts.





decision-making throughout the process.

In addition to preparing and selling their products, students also organised and ran a tombola, further contributing to the success of the event. This provided additional opportunities to engage with visitors and build confidence in a lively, public setting.

Students worked effectively with peers and staff during the event, demonstrating strong teamwork and the ability to adapt to a busy, fast-paced environment. Many took pride in contributing to the sale of items they had helped to make, reinforcing a sense of ownership and achievement.

Their commitment was particularly evident in their willingness to give up free time to support the event. By taking responsibility for tasks such as serving customers and handling payments, they played an important role in ensuring the success of the sale.

Overall, students displayed a positive attitude, reliability, and developing skills in teamwork, responsibility, organisation, and creativity.

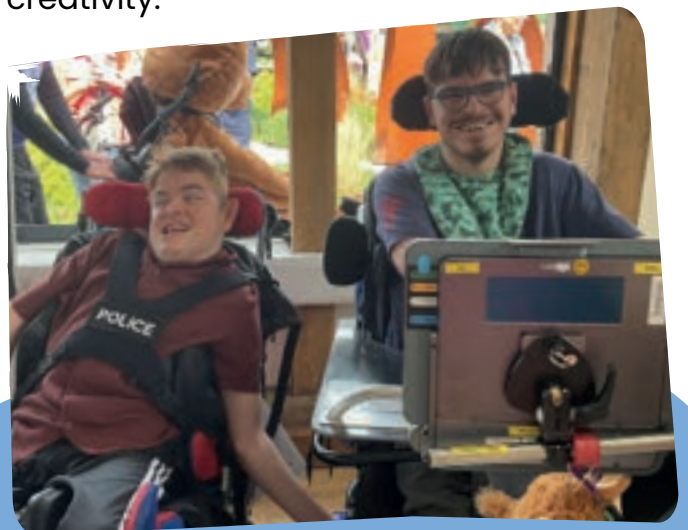
## Developing independence through event planning

Students from Skills for Independence pathway showed excellent engagement and initiative while supporting the recent fundraising plant sale.

Through their involvement, they developed valuable communication skills by interacting with customers, explaining products, and responding to questions in a confident and independent manner.

As part of their preparation, students worked together in cooking sessions to create their own products, including Little Red Riding Jam, a summer fruit jam, and onion chutney.

They collaborated to develop a product name and design a logo, demonstrating creativity, teamwork, and shared



# National Gardening Week

This National Gardening Week, we are celebrating Treloar's love of the outdoors—while also looking ahead to an exciting next phase for our Outdoor Learning Centre.

We are incredibly fortunate to have an on-site Outdoor Learning Centre—a vibrant space, designed to provide an area that can be used all year round. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our funders, we completed a significant programme of construction works across the space last year.

Our students are now able to engage better with an increasing range of outdoor learning opportunities. Outdoor spaces are vital for those who experience multi-sensory processing difficulties in developing their senses and understanding their place in the world. The new Outdoor Learning Centre helps students to explore new sensations, experience the weather and

engage in new tactile activities. This not only enables a more holistic learning experience but also supports overall health and well-being. Some students can also undertake work experience in the greenhouse by planting bulbs, seeds, taking cuttings and enjoying a multi-sensory experience of sights, sounds, smells and touch.

Treloar's tutors have devised a timetable for the area so that it can be used by all school and college classes. The area is also used during the evenings for social time and at the weekends for termly boarders and those students who are on a 38 week provision.

Read more on our website: <https://www.treloar.org.uk/news/2026/04/28/national-gardening-week>





## Student stories: Thomas

Thomas was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy at a young age, making school very difficult for him. He has made a film about the impact attending Treloar's has had on him, including overcoming many obstacles and his anxiety and fears of meeting new people.

Since starting at Treloar College, he is happier, has made friends, and is able to access his education. This has been life-changing for Thomas and his family.

Watch the new film about Thomas and his journey on our website: <https://www.treloar.org.uk/treloars-stories/thomas>



# News from the Fundraising Team

## Parallel Windsor

Sunday 5 July, Windsor Great Park

We are pleased to invite Treloar's families to join us at Parallel Windsor 2026, an inspiring celebration of inclusion taking place along the beautiful Long Walk in Windsor Great Park.

This unique event offers a relaxed, supportive atmosphere with no cut-off times and a variety of distances, making it accessible for students, families and carers

to take part together at their own pace. It's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a memorable day while also supporting the life-changing work we do at Treloar's.

Rather than a registration fee, participants are asked to consider the suggested fundraising targets below. Every contribution helps us continue providing essential education, care and therapy for our students:

SuperSensory, 100m and 1K – £100

5K and 10K – £150

Find out more and sign up here:

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

## Alton Arts Festival: Schools Week and Summer Festival

We're excited as a school to be taking part in Alton Arts Festival Schools Week (1–5 June), where pupils will enjoy a range of creative workshops in school.

The wider Alton Arts Festival returns 3–12 July, bringing music, comedy, theatre and visual arts to Holybourne, Alton and Chawton. It's a 10-day, multi-arts festival with something for the whole family to enjoy.

Tickets are now on sale – explore the full programme here:

<https://wegottickets.com/altonartsfestival>



# News from the Fundraising Team

## Treloar's Charity Golf Day

Thursday 18 June, Old Thorns Hotel and Resort, Liphook

The Treloar's Charity Golf Day 2026 returns to the beautiful surroundings of Old Thorns Hotel and Resort, bringing together supporters, local businesses and friends of Treloar's for a day of sport, networking and fundraising in support of our students.

Set on a stunning par-72 championship course, teams will begin the day with a warm welcome and breakfast before heading out for a shotgun start. Along the way, players can take part in on-course competitions and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere, all while helping raise vital funds for the young people at Treloar's.

The day concludes with a two-course meal, prize giving and opportunities to support further fundraising activities.

We would be very grateful if you could share this opportunity with any keen golfers in your network to help us make the day as successful as possible.

To find out more, book your team or explore sponsorship opportunities, visit: <https://www.treloar.org.uk/events/charity-golf-day-2026>

