



Parent and carer newsletter

May 2026

Welcome from the Head of School

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you can imagine, this half term has been particularly busy, with staff and students demonstrating high levels of flexibility as timetables have adapted to meet changing needs. While this has presented challenges, we are hopeful that we will be able to share whole-school events next half term with families in meaningful ways, for example remotely. We will ensure to keep families updated about decisions as these will all be subject to health and safety considerations.



Importantly, these changes have not halted the creativity across the school. From performances and dance projects, to outdoor learning, arts-based activities and curriculum events, students have continued to engage enthusiastically and express themselves in imaginative and inspiring ways.

Please remember to log in to the Parent Portal to see more of what your child has been up to. Should you experience any difficulties accessing it, please do not hesitate to contact the school office for support at School.Office@treloar.org.uk.

We hope the half-term break brings some sunshine and time to rest and recharge. We look forward to welcoming students back Monday 1 June.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Lisa Bond
Head of School



<u>Dates for your diary</u>	Summer Term 2026
1-5 June	Arts Week
Monday 1 June	Start of half term 6 Residential students return to houses/school 9.00 am onwards
Thursday 9 June	School photos
Friday 10 June	School Parent Day
Thursday 25 June	School Sports Day
Wednesday 1 July	School Prom
Wednesday 22 July	End of half term 6 School closes 2.00 pm Houses close 3.30 pm





Underwater adventures

Primary classes had a fantastic start to our new topic, 'Down at the Bottom of the Sea'.

The students travelled through an "underwater" tunnel decorated with ribbons, fish and jellyfish. They enjoyed a range of hands-on activities, including exploring shells, sand and sea creatures in sensory trays, creating their own ocean-inspired artwork, and working together on a large Rainbow Fish collage, with everyone adding their own unique contribution.

The students made ocean sounds using drums and took part in sea creature bingo, where they had lots of fun learning and practising new sea creature names. Throughout the activities, we shared a clear message about looking after our seas and rivers. One particular highlight was working together to remove "litter" from the sea in the tuff tray, helping students begin to understand how we can care for the ocean and why recycling is important.



Who are you?!

Key stage 3 kicked off their new topic 'Who are you?' with an exciting carousel of hands-on activities exploring what makes us, us!

From investigating the seven major organs and exploring skeletons, to discovering how our senses help us understand the world. Students also created their own fingerprints to explore individuality, and identifying body parts on screen in the immersive room.

A fantastic start to a topic all about identity, anatomy and what makes each of us unique!



Exciting new Key Stage 4 Options inspired by Student Voice



Last year, our annual Options student voice activity was undertaken to explore new and relevant Key Stage 4 options for 2025–26. As a direct result of this consultation, E-Sports was introduced, reflecting students' interests and the growing importance of the digital and gaming industries. The addition of this option has enabled participating students to further develop technology, communication and problem-solving skills in a modern and engaging context.

Building on the continued success of our student voice activities, this year's consultation with current and future Key Stage 4 students has led to the introduction of additional options for 2026–27 that reflect their passions, talents and ambitions.

As a result, Drama and Horticulture have been added to the Key Stage 4 Options Programme.

Drama provides students with opportunities to develop confidence, creativity and communication skills through performance, while strengthening teamwork and self-expression.

Horticulture offers a practical, hands-on learning experience focused on plants, sustainability,

gardening and the environment, helping students to develop responsibility and practical life skills.

Students should feel proud that their voices are directly shaping the opportunities available to them and their peers. We look forward to seeing students embrace these exciting new pathways.



Students take a lead role in a project about environment

On 1 May, school students and staff were presented with a film as part of the AIR-ART project.

The AIR-ART team is Ricky Tart (musician, videographer and poet) and Professor Ian Williams, from the University of Southampton supported by school children and school teachers. The work is based on the premise that children's authentic and diverse voices should be heard and their views embraced.

The video our students have taken a lead role in is unique in both its content and level of participation. Memorable songs, jokes and animation explain photosynthesis, the carbon cycle, and the relationship between carbon dioxide concentration, oxygen production, and environmental pollution.

The AIR-ART project was funded via a joint grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

We are so proud of our students' involvement! They represented their peers and were positioned as presenters of science and holders of knowledge.



The 19 minute video was shared in our school assembly, and the response from students was striking. Given the current emphasis on SEND inclusion and representation, it feels even more special.





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 our 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."



Treloar's celebrates Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday



Sir David Attenborough celebrated his 100th birthday this month. His 70-year broadcasting career has undoubtedly changed our understanding of life on Earth. He is the world's most celebrated naturalist, and it is his curiosity and storytelling that have shaped how many of us think about the planet and the natural world around us.

An inspiration to generations of zoologists, environmentalists and teachers, his legacy continues to influence learning today. Drawing on that same spirit of curiosity, within music lessons, students explored Attenborough's technique of using a specialist microphone to listen to trees and capture the sounds of transpiration.

Transpiration is the movement of water through a plant and its evaporation from leaves, stems and flowers. While often taught in theory, this activity allowed students to experience it in a direct and sensory way.

The activity brought together learning across the curriculum, connecting science and music through hands-on exploration. It also shows how complex ideas can be made meaningful and accessible through practical and creative approaches.

Students described what they heard in their own words from a "babbling brook" to "a mountain stream flowing over pebbles" linking scientific understanding with creative expression.

Set in the Outdoor Learning Centre, this work reflects the same sense of curiosity about the natural world that has inspired so many through Sir David Attenborough's storytelling, and shows how that influence continues to shape learning at Treloar's.





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>



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>





National Dance Day

We celebrated this year's National Dance Day with our school and sixth form students who have been working incredibly hard in rehearsals, preparing a powerful dance piece to share with other local schools as an addition to the Alton Arts Festival.

Students have designed their costumes, created props and collaborated to bring an imaginative journey to life. The performance takes us from a haunting forest, where a "monster of silence" represents loneliness and unheard voices, into vibrant birds of paradise, soaring freely in a world where communication and expression are celebrated.

Every move has been choreographed by the students themselves, reflecting their emotions, ideas, dreams and aspirations. This is more than just a performance, it is their story.

We can't wait to see them shine on stage!





Student stories: Reggie

Meet Reggie and his parents, and learn about their journey to Treloar's.

Reggie joined Treloar's in reception class. For his family, the impact has been life-changing.

Reggie loves school. There's an incredible support team at Treloar's, and everyone's helped him develop his confidence. Dad Nicholas highlights being able to access music lessons: "He's developed a huge passion."

Nicholas sums up the difference Treloar's has made to family life: "It's given us confidence in what can be achieved, it's allowed us to be parents again."

Watch Reggie's story by visiting our website: <https://www.treloar.org.uk/treloars-stories/reggie>



Student stories: Aish

Meet Aish, and learn about how life in Treloar's Sixth Form and residential provision supports her growing independence.

Treloar's was recommended to Aish's family by a therapist. From their very first visit, something felt different. Mum Debs recalls: "Aish knew, in her heart, that Treloar's was the place she wanted to be."

Now in Treloar's sixth form. Aish is thriving. Her tutor Hannah says: "She comes in everyday with light." With the support of a skilled, multi-disciplinary team, Aish has grown in confidence, independence, and self-belief.

Mum adds: "We see a huge change from when she joined to where she is today."

Aish has a residential placement and stays at Gloucester House where she is learning to be more independent which will help her in her future.

Watch Aish's story by visiting our website:

<https://www.treloar.org.uk/treloars-stories/aish>



Mobile phone and smart technology device: Guidance and rationale

The Department for Education (DfE) has strengthened its expectations regarding the use of mobile phones and smart technology devices in schools. Updated statutory guidance (February 2026) states that schools should be “mobile-phone-free environments by default, with any exceptions being rare and clearly defined.” <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phones-in-schools/mobile-phones-in-schools>

There are several key reasons to support this:

- To reduce distraction and improve learning
- To support student well-being and reduce anxiety
- To reduce bullying and safeguard students
- To improve behaviour across school settings

At our school, students and staff have worked together to consider what this guidance means for our unique site and community and how this already builds upon our mobile phone guidance. We are preparing our site and stakeholders for further changes for September, this includes preparing and supporting students understanding.

Mobile phones will continue to be allowed on site, but for school

students they must not be used, seen or heard during the school day (9am-4pm). Phones should be:

- Switched off
- Stored securely in bags or designated storage
- Not accessed until the end of the school day

There are designated areas where mobile phone use is permitted for:

- Sixth Form students
- College students
- Staff

Visitors to the school, including parents, governors and contractors, are also expected to follow our mobile-phone-free expectations during the school day. Mobile phones should be kept out of sight in school areas and only used if directed to an appropriate, non-student space by a member of staff

Our priority is to ensure expectations are:

- Clear
- Consistently applied
- Effectively communicated to students, families and staff

As with everything we do we will make reasonable adjustments to accommodate student needs. If you have any queries about adjustments please contact the school office.

Please can we ask for your support to promote the benefits of this. Further guidance will be sent to your personal email to support the implementation of this for September.

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>

