

Treloar's

Parent and carer newsletter

October 2026

Welcome from the Director of Education



Dear Families and Carers,

It has been a busy and positive start to the new academic year, and I have really enjoyed seeing students settle back into college life, as well as welcoming those who have joined us for the first time. We are also looking forward to welcoming more students over the coming weeks as they begin their placements with us.

As you will see throughout this newsletter, there has been a wide range of activity across college and in the wider community. From internships and work experience to residential opportunities, community learning, fundraising and student-led activities, students have had opportunities to develop their skills, confidence and independence.

Please remember to log in to the Parent Portal to see more of what your young person has been involved in. Should you experience any difficulties accessing it, please contact the admin office at School.Office@treloar.org.uk.

This half term has also brought some exciting recognition for Treloar's. Our Teaching and Learning Framework has been shortlisted for a NASS Innovation Award, recognising the work taking place across college and school to continually develop teaching and learning. We are delighted to have been shortlisted and will find out the outcome next half term.

In mid-October, we welcomed an external review team to college. Their initial feedback highlighted strong relationships, ambitious expectations, personalised learning and a clear focus on independence and preparation for the future. It was particularly good to hear students speak so positively about their experiences and the difference college has made to their lives and future opportunities. We look forward to receiving the full report and using the feedback to continue developing what we offer.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the experiences, opportunities and achievements from across college this half term.

All the best,
Lisa Bond
Director of Education

Dates for your diary	Autumn Term 2026
Monday 26 – Friday 30 October	Half term holiday for staff and students
Sunday 1 November	Termly weekend residential students return to houses 2.00 pm onwards
Monday 2 November	Start of half term 2 Weekly residential and day students return directly to college at 9.00 am.
Thursday 17 December	End of half term for HSDC Alton Campus only.
Friday 18 December	End of half term 2 (including ALTON COLLEGE) College closes 2.00 pm Houses close 3.30 pm
Monday 21 December – Friday 1 January	Christmas holidays





Updates from Sally Nissen, Head of Nursing and Healthcare



Immunisations: In light of last term's flu and chickenpox outbreaks, please take the opportunity to review your young person's immunisation record and ensure that all recommended vaccinations are up to date – please speak with your GP if not. Please tell the Health Centre about any new immunisations so our records are up to date: HCAdmin@treloar.org.uk #01420 547450

Meningitis B: MenB disease is a serious bacterial infection which can cause meningitis, blood poisoning, and sepsis. It progresses very quickly and can be fatal. Some young adults aged between 17 and 25 years old can get free NHS MenB vaccinations this year. They are recommended to help protect those at highest risk from MenB disease.

Free NHS MenB vaccinations are available if your young person was:

- Born between 1 September 2007 and 31st August 2008, or
- Born on or after 21 July 2001 and are starting university for the first time in autumn, or
- Born on or after 21 July 2001 and are starting some residential further education colleges for the first time in autumn 2026 as a residential student

When you go for your vaccinations, staff may ask which of these groups you are in. Please have your offer of a college or university place with you to show them – Treloar's is an eligible residential further education college.

More info here: https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/getting-free-nhs-meningococcal-b-menb-vaccinations/

Again, please do let us know on HCAdmin@treloar.org.uk #01420 547450

Emails to Health Centre team: Our nurses and dietitians can receive 100s of emails each day. It helps us prioritise if your email subject heading shows the student's full name, and the main reason for emailing such as 'Paddington Bear weight gain.'

Changes to some prescribing arrangements for Farnham Dene patients: Responsibility for prescribing bowel and continence products (excluding continence pads and medicines) has now transferred to the Surrey Appliance Prescription Management Service, provided by Bullen Healthcare, so our medicine team will no longer order or check stock levels.

Updates from Sally Nissen, Head of Nursing and Healthcare

To ensure your young person has the supplies they need while at school or college, we ask that deliveries are arranged to your home address and that sufficient supplies are sent in with them. Please liaise with your young person's team leader as to what stock is needed. If you have any questions or concerns about prescriptions, deliveries, or supplies, please contact Bullen https://www.bullens.com/



Parents / carers training and workshops

To book your place on any of the sessions below or to express your interest in a future session, please email: school.office@treloar.org.uk

Life Beyond Treloar's: Q & A, Autumn Term

Date: 12 November 2026
Time : 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Delivery: Online via Teams

This will be a 'Question and Answer' session on how to prepare for life beyond Treloar's, providing you with the information you need to know, hints and tips on how to access the services you need, and the potential challenges you and your child/young person may face.

This session will be co-hosted by our Transition Team, along with a former parent to gain first hand advice based on their personal experiences.

Presented by: Members of our Transition Team and a former parent.

Transitioning from children's services to adult services including navigating the system when applying for CHC funding

Date: 9 December 2026
Time : 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Delivery: Online via Teams

An informative session delivered by Boyes Turner Solicitors on transitioning from Children's Services to Adult Services and navigating the Continuing Healthcare (CHC) funding process.

The session will cover key legal and practical considerations, helping parents and carers better understand what to expect and how to advocate for their young person's needs. Time will be set aside at the end of the session for questions and discussion.

Presented by: Boyes Turner Solicitors and members of the Transition Team

Future Fest: For all parents of students in Year 9 and above

Date: 12 February 2027
Time : 9.30 am – 2.30 pm
Delivery: Onsite: Pike Hall, Jowett Centre and Social Club

Future Fest is Treloar's annual event where young people and families can meet a range of organisations and providers who may support post Treloar's.

Parents and carers, particularly of students in Year 9 and above, are encouraged to attend to explore potential future options, access information and advice, hear from former students and parents, and connect with other families in a dedicated parent and carer area.

Parents / carers training and workshops

Information, advice and guidance (IAG): Careers information

Date: 1 March 2027
Time : 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Delivery: Online via Teams

Join our Careers Leads, for an online session introducing Treloar's Careers Programme and the Gatsby Benchmarks.

This sessions will take place during National Careers Week in March, alongside a programme of activities taking place on site for our students.

Our Careers Programme is designed to support every student to move forward with confidence—whether that's into further education, volunteering, community life, supported employment, residential or supported living. Discover how we help your young people build independence and plan for their future pathways, and how important your role is to your young person's journey.

The session will include time for Q&A and sharing practical resources.

Life Beyond Treloar's: Q & A, Spring Term

Date: 22 April 2027
Time : 5.30 pm – 7.00 pm
Delivery: Online via Teams

This will be a 'Question and Answer' session on how to prepare for life beyond Treloar's, providing you with the information you need to know, hints and tips on how to access the services you need, and the potential challenges you and your child/young person may face.

This session will be co-hosted by our Transition Team, along with a former parent to gain first hand advice based on their personal experiences.

Presented by: Members of our Transition Team and a former parent.

Finding a personal assistant for my child / young person

Date: 8 June 2027
Time : 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Delivery: Online via Teams

As your child or young person moves towards adulthood, having the right support in place can be key to achieving greater independence, accessing community opportunities, and reaching their personal goals.

This session will provide practical guidance on finding, recruiting and employing a Personal Assistant (PA), including where to advertise, what qualities to look for, and how to ensure the right match for your young person's needs and aspirations.

Presented by: Members of our Transition Team



Capturing new skills in Sony photography workshop

College students participated in a photography workshop, part of Sony's Kids in Focus initiative, which aims to inspire creativity and develop technical skills through hands-on learning.

As part of its support for the Kids in Focus programme, Sony generously donated seven ZV-E10 vlogging cameras to Treloar College, giving students access to professional-quality equipment.

During the workshop, students learned the fundamentals of photography and videography, with Sony staff providing expert guidance on camera functions, techniques and creative approaches. Through practical activities, students gained valuable experience and developed new digital and creative skills.

The session gave students the opportunity to work with professional-grade cameras, learn from industry experts and explore a variety of photographic genres, including portrait, action and street photography.



Raising awareness of mental health

College students took part in Hello Yellow, the annual awareness campaign led by YoungMinds, which shines a light on the importance of young people's mental health.

Students organised a tombola and biscuit sale to raise awareness of the campaign and highlight the importance of looking after mental well-being.

In the college art studio, students explored the connection between colour, mood and emotion. Guided by tutor Gemma, they experimented with yellow and orange tones using stencils, pastels, paint and printmaking techniques.

The result was a collection of vibrant creations that brought a bright, late summer vibe to the studio.





Job Shop

College students from the Employability and Vocational pathways met with staff from across Treloar's at the first of three Job Shop events, discovering a wide range of internal work experience opportunities.

The Job Shop is designed to help students develop transferable skills that can be used in many different settings. Through work experience placements across Treloar's, students can practise communication, teamwork, time management and problem-solving while building confidence, independence and workplace awareness.

Opportunities in departments including Marketing, Fundraising and HR give students the chance to experience different working environments, broaden their skills and gain practical experience that will support them in a variety of future education, employment or life opportunities.

Natspec Games

Treloar College welcomed students and staff from specialist colleges across the South East who joined us to take part in the NATSPEC Games 2026 - inclusive sporting activities.

During the day, students were encouraged to try out many different accessible sports and activities including boccia, fencing and cricket.

We were joined by students from Orchard Hill, Syon Manor College and Horizons College.







Shaping accessibility at Westminster Abbey

College students from the Let Me In Team started the academic year with a very special invitation to complete an accessibility audit for the Learning Team at Westminster Abbey.

The Learning team guided the students through the main visitor route through the Abbey to demonstrate the experience for wheelchair users.

Throughout the visit, the students asked thoughtful questions about accessibility, from navigating the historic site in electric wheelchairs to the availability of charging facilities. After all, a long day in London is much less enjoyable when a power chair runs out of battery.

Using their observations and notes from the day, the students will now produce a detailed report for Westminster Abbey, highlighting what works well and providing recommendations to further improve the experience for disabled visitors.







Autumn through the senses

Students from the Skills for Life pathway enjoyed a sensory autumn experience, discovering seasonal sounds, textures and natural materials through interactive activities.

Across four sensory stations, students listened to autumn sounds, explored tactile resources and got creative with leaf printing.

The session encouraged communication, choice making, sensory exploration, creativity and active participation, while helping students develop their understanding of the autumn season.



Students contribute to new research on inclusion

College students have contributed to a ground-breaking research report on inclusion published by national education organisation, Natspec.

Treloar's was one of 10 specialist further education colleges across England and Wales that participated in the research. The research investigates what inclusion means in the context of specialist FE colleges like Treloar's, from the perspectives of learners, where all the learners have special educational needs and disabilities.

The young people consulted for this report make it clear that they feel highly included in their specialist colleges, where they are learning separately from their non-disabled peers. For them, inclusion is not about where they learn but about the quality of their learning experience. Inclusion comes from feeling that they belong, that they have agency, access to appropriate expertise and a supportive peer group with similar needs and life experiences.

Find out more on our website: www.treloar.org.uk/news/2026/08/21/treloar-college-students-contribute-new-research-inclusion

Evie's experience performing at the BBC Proms

This summer the National Open Youth Orchestra made their debut at the BBC Proms festival, performing with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales at Bristol Beacon.

The BBC Proms concert featured music by Vivaldi, Florence Price, Oliver Cross, Michael Betteridge and Charlotte Harding. Alice Farnham was the conductor, Niamh Moriarty, the narrator, and former student, Alessandro Vazzana, the Clarion soloist.

Student Evie plays Clarion with NOYO and she told us about her experience of performing: "Honestly, it was just the best experience. Knowing that I was making history as part of the world's first disabled-led orchestra at our Proms debut was just amazing. Words cannot describe just how much of an honour it was to be able to perform at the BBC proms at Bristol Beacon."

Read more on our website: www.treloar.org.uk/news/2026/08/28/evies-experience-performing-noyo-bbc-proms-festival





Gaining independence through eye gaze technology

College student Luke agreed to be filmed to show him using eye gaze technology with his AAC to give commands to the Neater Eater. This new skill gives him greater independence and control over meal times. He is proud to show off his new skill and inspire other students to try the new access method.

"I feel happy using my eye gaze Neater Eater. It gives me great independence as I can feed myself which makes me feel proud as this is a new skill I can use on my AAC."

This achievement is an example of how the multi-disciplinary team around Luke have supported him to develop life skills he can use beyond Treloar's. Louise Spicer, Occupational Therapy Technician worked together with speech and language therapists to help Luke develop the skills to use this new access method.

Find out more on our website: www.treloar.org.uk/news/2026/07/31/gaining-independence-through-eye-gaze-technology



Good luck to the Supported Interns

Treloar's Supported Interns have started their placements this month.

The students will be doing their placements with Exclusive Networks, Northgate, Wagamama and Marwell Zoo.

Treloar's one-year Supported Internship Programme is one of the projects that gives students practical experience of the workplace, knowledge, skills and planning tools which will enable them to make informed decisions and choices about future, paid or unpaid, employment. Over the course of the placement, we see students gaining confidence in their abilities, finding their voice and learning valuable skills which will support their future choices.

Treloar's is always keen to speak with any employers who may be considering supporting our students in any way, through work experience placements or internships. Our Supported Internship Programme is very flexible to suit both employer and student. Treloar's will fully support the employers throughout the process.

If you would like to find out more information about the Supported Internships Programme and how to get involved, please contact TransitionTeam@treloar.org.uk

Students help make the Dummer Fair a success

Students were proud to represent Treloar's at this year's Dummer Fair, where they took an active role in preparing and selling a range of products to visitors. From helping to make items in advance to serving customers on the day, students worked hard to ensure the event was a success.

One of the highlights was the fantastic communication skills demonstrated throughout the day. Students confidently greeted customers, answered questions, handled sales, and enjoyed plenty of friendly chat with visitors. Their enthusiasm and sense of humour helped create a welcoming atmosphere and showcased the confidence they have developed through enterprise activities.

The event provided a valuable opportunity for students to build their customer service, teamwork, and independence skills in a real-life setting. We are incredibly proud of how well they represented Treloar's and the positive impression they made on everyone they met.





Breast Cancer Awareness at Treloar's

On Thursday 15 October, students could attend a breast health session organised by the Health Centre.

Rebecca Reynolds (Senior GP) discussed breast health, explaining the importance of breast health and how our students can check themselves, and what to do if concerned.

On Friday 23 October, students celebrated Wear It Pink day. This awareness event was run by staff and students from the Skills for Life pathway, who put together a small cake sale, a sweet shop, a pink tombola and a raffle.

In the lead up to the event day, students talked about breast health in their classes to raise awareness.







AAC in everyday life: Today, tomorrow and beyond

Just before the half term, students and staff celebrated AAC Awareness Week, with the theme "AAC in everyday life: Today, tomorrow and beyond".

As part of the celebration, students created "The tree of AAC" in the Jowett Centre. This display explored how AAC has developed over the years, highlighting how communication supports and technology have evolved over time.

Throughout the week, students and staff were adding a leaf to the branches of the tree, sharing their thoughts on what they would like AAC to be able to do in the future.

Calling all aspiring musicians!

Professional French horn player Georgina Spray is looking to speak with disabled and / or neurodivergent young musicians (aged 11-26) who aspire to a career in musical performance.

As part of her PhD at Birmingham City University, Georgina is exploring the barriers young disabled musicians face on their musical journeys. Participants must:
- be aged between 11 and 26 years identify as d / Deaf, disabled and / or neurodivergent
- be proficient in playing a musical instrument

Interested in finding out more? Complete the Expression of Interest form here: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=VeArfoqCI0W15b-d62ZOXhStcJB-ePPJBj7VCOruz-t0ZURTRCNU5WNEE5QjZIQkY4WlRZMExYU004My4u

The deadline for completion is Friday 30 October 2026.

For further information, contact georgina.spray@mail.bcu.ac.uk

News from the Fundraising Team

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 2026.

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
- A selection of gifts featuring student artwork: a beautiful floral cotton bag, candles and notecards featuring two original student designs

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.

News from the Fundraising Team

Charity Padel Tournament



Join us at PadelStars Southampton on Saturday 21 November 2026 for a special day of padel and fundraising in support of Treloar's. The event will be a fantastic opportunity to enjoy some friendly competition, meet fellow padel enthusiasts.

With Men's, Ladies' and Mixed tournaments, there's something for everyone, with a cash prize up for grabs for each winning pair.

Every player will also receive a goody bag worth £100, packed with products from a fantastic selection of brands.

www.treloar.org.uk/events/charity-padel-tournament

Treloar's Christmas Fair 2026



Join us for an afternoon of festive fun at Treloar's!

Date: Friday 11 December 2026
Time: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Location: Treloar's, Holybourne, Alton, GU34 4GL

What to expect

- Explore our student stalls with handcrafted goodies and an array of holiday gifts
- Participate in our annual hamper raffle, offering a chance to win from an assortment of hampers
- Enjoy delicious festive refreshments!

Please note that some stalls will only be accepting cash.