

Treloar's

Parent and carer newsletter

October 2026

Welcome from the Director of Education



Dear Parents 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 school life, as well as welcoming those who have joined us for the first time.

There has already been so much to celebrate this half term. The opening of our new Primary Hub has created a new space for our primary students to eat, play and learn, with classes already using it to bring learning to life through topic launches and wider curriculum activities.

Another highlight was our Limitless Festival, delivered in partnership with Newbury Velo and British Cycling. Students took on slalom courses, tight turns, time trials and skid circles, as well as virtual road races and mountain bike trails using our MotorMeds bikes and immersive room. Importantly, the day encouraged students to experience cycling as more than therapeutic activity, developing new skills, confidence, independence and, above all, the enjoyment of taking part. We were also delighted to welcome para-cyclist Felix Barrow, who shared his own journey with students.

RE Week also provided students with opportunities to explore different beliefs, cultures and values. Across the wider curriculum, we have seen some lovely examples of student leadership, including student-led fundraising, student leader nominations and many individual achievements across school.

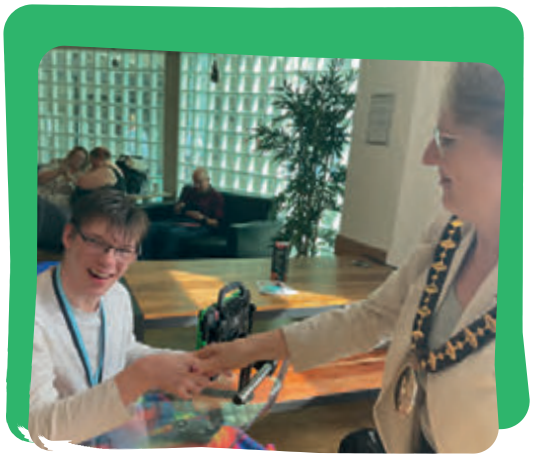
Please remember to log in to the Parent Portal to see more of what your child has been involved in. Should you experience any difficulties accessing it, please contact the admin office at school.office@treloar.org.uk.

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 School and College to continually develop teaching and learning. We are delighted to have been shortlisted and will find out the outcome next half term.

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

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 residential students return to houses 5.00 pm onwards
Monday 2 November	Start of half term 2 Weekly residential and Day students return directly to school at 9.00 am.
Friday 18 December	End of half term 2 School 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



Welcome to The Primary Hub

At the beginning of September, primary students celebrated the launch of their new learning space, The Primary Hub, by meeting with members of our Facilities, Catering and IT Teams to find out more about the different jobs involved in bringing the project to life.

Through thoughtful questions and conversations, students learned how a range of people worked together to transform the space from an idea into reality.

This exciting experience not only helped students feel a sense of ownership and pride in their new environment, but also encouraged them to think about the many different roles and skills that contribute to a successful school community.



Bones, bodies and senses

To launch their new exciting Funny Bones topic this term, primary classes took part in a range of fun and engaging activities to introduce their learning and help them settle into Treloar's new Primary Hub.

Students enjoyed dressing up, exploring X-rays and identifying different body parts on a skeleton, while discovering what bones look like and how they help us move and grow. They also explored a Funny Bones reading tuff tray, where they used story props, characters and themed resources to develop their communication, imagination and early literacy skills. They followed a sensory trail, using their senses to taste, touch, smell and observe a variety of interesting stimuli, helping them understand how their senses support everyday experiences.

The students showed excellent teamwork and enthusiasm during a game of skeleton skittles, counting and comparing scores to see who knocked down the most skittles. Through these hands-on experiences, they began to develop their understanding of how to keep their bodies healthy and strong, while celebrating what makes each person unique.





Journey into the world of “What?”

This half term, KS3 launched their new topic, “What?”, the first in our question-word curriculum.

Students became investigators for the day, exploring mystery objects, uncovering hidden images, analysing magnified photographs and examining a range of occupational therapy equipment.

The activities were designed to encourage curiosity, communication and exploration, providing opportunities for students to ask questions, share ideas and develop their understanding of the world around them. It was fantastic to see students demonstrating confidence, engagement and teamwork as they began their learning journey into the world of “What?”.



National Poetry Day

To celebrate National Poetry Day, students enjoyed exploring a range of poems in our immersive room. These poems were chosen by both staff and students. Students then shared their thoughts and ideas about features of the poetry, which poems made them laugh the most, and why they liked or did not like each poem. Inspired by what they had explored, students then had a go at creating their own poems.







An Employer Encounter: Turning passions into careers

Treloar School students attended an Employer Encounter delivered by Ross and Jay Chapman, the brothers behind creative agency Rubber Duckers.

Ross and Jay spoke about their journeys from education into the workplace, sharing how they turned their interests into career opportunities and offering students an insight into working in the creative industries. They encouraged students to think about how their own interests, skills and aspirations could help shape their future career paths.

To finish the session, Ross shared practical tips for taking great photographs using a smartphone and iPad, inspiring students to experiment, be creative and use photography as a way to express themselves.

The talk gave students a first-hand insight into the opportunities available in the creative industries, showing how pursuing one's interests and passions can lead to exciting opportunities.



Bringing the Bayeux Tapestry to life

KS4 drama class has been using the Bayeux Tapestry as the starting point for their Drama Option and has had a fantastic time exploring the story, the women who told it and how we can tell it ourselves.

The students have been thinking about the choices actors and directors make to help an audience understand a story. For example, how can we show that we are galloping into battle? What movements or actions would work best? The class has really enjoyed trying out different ideas and seeing how their choices can change the way a story is told.

The students will be developing their own dramatic retell of the Bayeux Tapestry and are excited to share this with the wider school community later in the term.



Building friendships through play



As we make the most of the last of the summer sunshine, students have enjoyed spending their lunchtimes outdoors, socialising, building new friendships and reconnecting with familiar friends. The playground has been filled with laughter, conversation and lots of opportunities for socialising, helping everyone feel part of our school community.

There have been many memorable moments throughout this half term. Students particularly enjoyed joining in with a lively follow the leader conga line, taking part in energetic games of soft ball tag and exploring the excitement of our bubble machine and wands. Our scavenger hunts encouraged teamwork and problem-solving, while sensory stories provided engaging and immersive experiences for everyone to enjoy.

One of the highlights for many students was a trip to the fairground immersive story. There was great excitement as students explored the sights, sounds and sensory experiences of the fairground. Many particularly loved the chance to feel and smell the soft, fluffy texture of the candyfloss and the chance to take the wheel of the dodgems, sparking imagination and plenty of laughter.

It has been wonderful to see students developing confidence, making new friends and creating happy memories together. We look forward to many more exciting experiences and opportunities for fun throughout the year ahead.







Celebrating Student Support Assistants

School students celebrated National Teaching Assistants' Day with a special assembly recognising the fantastic contribution our student support assistants make every day.

There was plenty of laughter as they took centre stage for a series of entertaining games, as we celebrated the invaluable support, encouragement and care they provide to our students.





Swim Squad shines at the Swimming Gala

Treloar's Swim Squad took part in the Special Schools Swimming Gala in Basingstoke on 2 October.

The students competed in the 20m freestyle, 20m backstroke and 40m backstroke. A fantastic effort from all three! They were also awarded participation medals by the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane.

Our students were fantastic ambassadors for Treloar's, demonstrating hard work, teamwork and collaboration with other schools. Their efforts made such a positive impression that Basingstoke Blue Fins are keen to work with us to make a future Treloar's School Gala a reality!

Well done, everyone!







Tour de Treloar: Inspiring a love of cycling

Students enjoyed an incredible day of cycling activities delivered in partnership with Newbury Velo and British Cycling as part of their Limitless Festival programme.

The event encouraged students to see cycling as more than therapeutic input, helping them build confidence, develop new skills and experience the enjoyment, independence and well-being benefits that cycling can offer.

From slalom courses and tight turns to time trials and skid circles, students embraced every challenge with determination and enthusiasm. The action continued indoors too, with students clocking up miles on MotorMeds bikes while taking part in virtual road races and mountain bike trails in our immersive room.

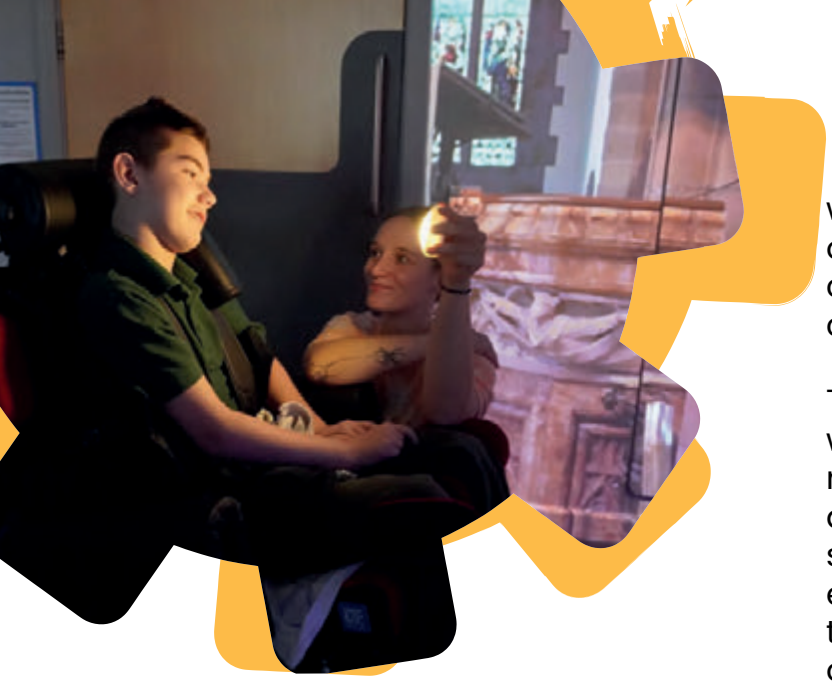
We were also delighted to welcome para-cyclist Felix Barrow, who shared his inspiring journey and showed students how sport can open doors, build confidence and create new possibilities.

With encouragement, expertise and support from British Cycling, Paracycling and Newbury Velo, we created opportunities for students to challenge themselves, celebrate their achievements and experience the joy of cycling.









RE Week

During RE Week, students made links between faith and our PHRSE theme of 'Finding calm and asking for help' through a range of immersive, sensory and creative experiences.

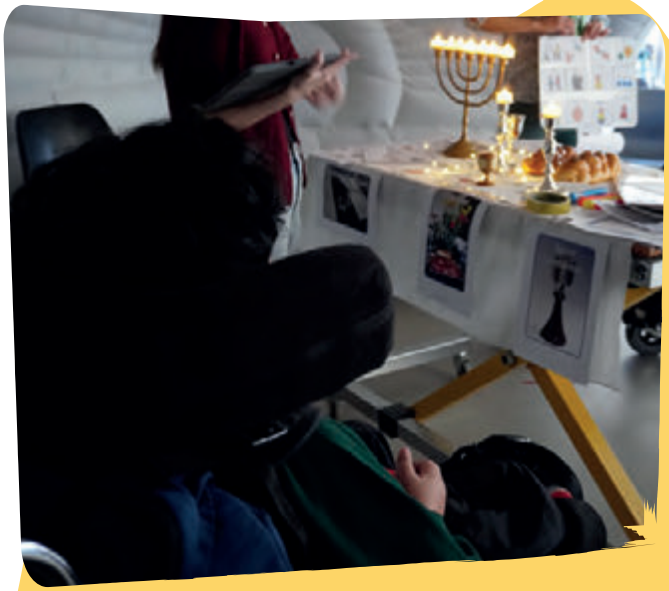
Learning about Christian and Jewish beliefs and practices provided opportunities for students to reflect on well-being, consider what helps them feel calm and supported, and understand the importance of seeking help when needed.

Students explored faith and well-being in a variety of ways, including a 360° church experience, sensory activities, a Shabbat role-play, outdoor reflection activities focused on the concept of Shalom (peace), and a collaborative poetry workshop with Ricky Tart, a music and poetry specialist.

Through music, sensory experiences, discussion, role-play and creative expression, students considered what helps them feel safe, calm and connected, while developing an understanding of how different faiths and communities find meaning, comfort and connection.

The week helped students identify what helps them to feel calm, recognise sources of support around them, and develop strategies they can draw upon in everyday life. It also encouraged them to reflect on the importance of relationships and community, while appreciating both the distinctive features and shared values of different faith traditions. A particular highlight was the creation of a collaborative poem celebrating the many ways we support ourselves and one another through challenging times.

This theme will continue throughout the term as students further develop their understanding of well-being, resilience, self-advocacy and the importance of seeking support when needed.





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

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 was sent to your personal email to support the implementation of this in September.

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.