

PARENT GOVERNOR REPORT

TRELOAR PARENT ASSOCIATION AGM – 19TH OCTOBER 2018

A very wise person said to me: “You’ll cope because you have to”. And that’s what anyone would do. Calling us “special” or alluding to our great qualities makes us different, sets us apart, and we as parents don’t want that at all.

What makes us different are the mountains that we have to climb for our children. One of those mountains is setting out clearly the aim of their placement here at Treloar’s, to prepare them for adulthood and ensure they have positive and meaningful outcomes to become valued members of society and within their community.

Many of us will find this difficult especially if our relationships with professionals with our Local Area are fragile or broken. We as parents will need to start building bridges to enable us to advocate for our child/young person and drive the process through the PforA pathway options.

The Treloar Governing Board and Trustees also have concerns as to the opportunities that will be available to our children/young person to enable them to reach their Aim of Placement and their desired destination after leaving Treloar’s. Government funding appears to be in favour of young people with Learning Disabilities and not Physical Disabilities.

Therefore, Maria Sherwood, Treloar Transition Manager and I are working closely with the Link Transition Governor to put together a parent guide to support you and your child/young person through this process and to make informed choices.

Not only do many of us have the job of caring for our children but we also have the huge challenge of preparing them for life after Treloar’s whatever that may look. This will be yet another challenge, however as the quote says “you cope because you have to.” How true that is, however this does come as an enormous cost as you will all know and have experienced. It is this that means we do stand apart. No parent of children without disabilities has any idea at all what it is like....None at all.

This is one of the reasons why I became your parent governor, to represent you. To give you all a voice that will be heard at the heart of the governance of Treloar’s. We, who often can’t bear to embark upon yet another climb up another mountain and I often liken the challenges and negotiations I face to climbing Mont Blanc wearing a pair of flip flops...exhausting and precarious!!

My hopes for this coming year:

1. To continue work closely with you the Parents Association and your Committee
2. To ensure that the Preparing for Adulthood Guide from the Progression and Transition team is rolled out to support parents and students.
3. The Guide will empower you to work in co-production with your Local Authority to ensure the best possible outcomes for everyone.
4. To report to the Board of Governor's what is working well and what not so well within school and college. (Next meeting 30th November)
5. To "keeping it real." The Senior Management Team and Board of Governors sometimes need to know what the realities and barriers are for parents and students outside the "Treloar Bubble!!"

My concerns for this coming year

1. Succession planning for the Parents Association, as this will impact on how I find a way of representing the views of parents to the Governing Board.
2. This is not only an issue for the Parents Association but also for the leadership at Treloar's as it will impact upon future OFSTED and CQC inspections.
3. I include this to highlight the importance of the Parents Association as parents can support, inform and guide each other. I speak here as a parent rather than as your parent governor, however it is imperative that my impartial voice as your Parent Governor (representing the whole parent body) is heard by the Governing Body of school/college in order that as parents we make sure we are "keeping it real".

CATHERINE POWELL
PARENT GOVERNOR