**Letter to potential applicants from the current Pastoral & Spiritual Guidance Coordinator**

*Thank you for considering this vital and totally fulfilling post.*

*I have been chaplain at Treloar’s for nearly 5 years and it is the best role I have ever held.*

*As chaplain to all, those of any faith or none, students, staff or parents, my main priority is to be pastorally available, whether that be in a classroom, an office, the corridor or the chapel.*

*There are a number of fixed activities in my role including contributing to Monday Assemblies with a short ‘Thought for the Week’, helping out and leading main school Friday assemblies and seasonal assemblies in School and College. Leading small services for students and staff in the chapel and welcoming class groups for teaching sessions.*

*One of my main areas of work has been the establishment of a Christian Union. We now have more than 20 students on role and on average 10/15 usually attend. The group provides students with opportunities to deepen their spirituality as well as exploring difficult questions. We meet in the chapel, where, as result of a kind donation by a Christian charity, a large flat screen and computer have been installed which very much enhances all aspects of our worship and activities.*

*Treloar chapel is a very special place and is used on a daily basis. Its multiple uses include prayer, worship, a quiet chat and a place to retreat and reflect. When we sadly experienced the death of four current students in one term it became the focal place for remembrance and supporting those in grief. Each year we set up a week of prayer activities in the chapel which have proved popular with many pupils and have sometimes been combined with a visit to Winchester Cathedral.*

*Numbers wanting to go to church on a Sunday have grown. A group of students regularly attend the Harvest Church in Alton and some have also enjoyed going to Andrew’s Endowed School and Holy Rood Church for Church at 4 (a family service). In addition we have a small gathering of students in the chapel on Friday lunchtimes and staff on Monday mornings.*

*Sadly with a significant number of students living with life limiting conditions, a large staff body (800) and vulnerable families, my work often involves supporting people through death and bereavement. As well as devising Memorial services, I have devised and deliver, with the Head of Counselling, a course on ‘Loss, Grief and Bereavement’ but mostly again it is about offering comfort by just listening and being with.*

*When I was ordained as an Anglican priest I never envisaged working as a school chaplain but as soon as I visited Treloar’s my heart sung and I realized that this is a place where the Kingdom of Heaven breaks forth on a daily basis.*

*If you want to talk informally about this role I would welcome your call or visit.*

*Revd. Lynn Power*

