



Parent and carer newsletter

February 2024

A letter from the Head of College

A very belated Happy New Year from everyone at Treloar's.

We've had a fantastic start to the year as you'll see in the pages of this newsletter.

Students have been involved in a huge variety of activities both onsite and offsite. We've had alumni in to speak to students, students out at work and engaging in new activities. As this newsletter comes out, we'll be hosting Future Fest here on site to support our students transition beyond Treloar's.

As a reminder, please can you ensure you contact us if your young person requires time off college. Either via the office or their progress and transition coordinator.

I hope you all have a great half term and look forward to welcoming students back soon.

All the best,

Ben Bastin, Head of College



<u>Dates for your diary</u>	Spring Term 2024
Friday 9 February	End of half term 3 (including ALTON COLLEGE) College closes 3.30pm. Houses close 3.30pm
Monday 12 – Friday 16 February	Half term holiday for staff and students (including ALTON COLLEGE)
Sunday 18 February	Weekend residential students return to Houses 2.00pm onwards
Monday 19 February	Start of half term 4 (including ALTON COLLEGE) Day students and week day residential students return 9.00am
Thursday 28 March	End of half term 4 (including ALTON COLLEGE) College closes 2.00pm. Houses close 3.30pm

Updates from Sally Nissen, Head of Nursing and Healthcare

Measles

Before the introduction of measles vaccine in 1963 and widespread vaccination, major epidemics occurred approximately every 2-3 years causing around 2.6 million deaths each year. Recent outbreaks of measles in some areas of the UK are therefore causing serious concern. Measles spreads very easily – the best protection is to get both doses of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine – it is never too late to have these vaccinations. More information is available here: [Measles - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk) and [Education Hub blog](#).



Flu

We have also been notified that influenza (flu) is spreading in our local community. Please keep students at home if they are unwell. Students should not be accessing face to face education until they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for Covid.

Contact your GP if you have questions about immunisations. Please alert us of any changes to your young person's immunisations status on Medicalsecretary@treloar.org.uk

Support for students who become unwell

As a school and college, we are not the best place for students to stay if acutely unwell, and will seek advice in these situations. We now have improved access to clinical advice – access to dedicated health professional phone lines for NHS 111 and 999, as well as the Clinical Communications Centre at our local NHS Trust, Monday to Friday 0800 to 2200 which provides a clinical advisor and direct access to hospital if appropriate. For less urgent issues, the young person's GP is still the first point of contact and you may be asked to contact them directly.

Student absence for planned surgery, hospital admission or sickness (over 7 days)

Reminder: Please contact your students' progress and transition co-ordinator (PTC) to arrange a reassessment following illness or hospital admission. It is helpful to have as much notice and detail, so we can plan and arrange this as soon as possible. Depending on the circumstances, this may be an onsite reassessment involving members of the multi-disciplinary team (parents/carers are asked to remain onsite) or it may be a phone call.

Farnham Dene Medical Practice

We now have four doctors providing onsite GP services through Farnham Dene: Dr Maddie Triay and Dr Alexandra Streeter de Diego have joined the clinic schedule this month.

TPA news

Hello from the TPA! We hope you're all surviving the winter bugs and enjoying the lighter mornings.

Christmas Raffle

In December, our Christmas Raffle raised over £1000 which contributed to the festive gifts and activities that we sponsored for the students. We were delighted to receive some lovely feedback about how much the students enjoyed their gifts and we would like to say a huge thank you to the staff who bought really thoughtful items and co-ordinated some really lovely activities for our young people. Thank you to each and every single person who donated a prize or bought a ticket - it was fantastic to be so well supported by the Treloar's community.

Pre-Loved Uniform Sale

We still have some pre-loved uniform left in various sizes, please email us at parents@treloar.org.uk if you would like to know what we have in stock.

Upcoming Events

We have a number of events coming up for the rest of this term, all of which are free to join and as always; it would be great to see as many parents and carers participate as possible.

Leap Year Social

Join us on Thursday 29 February at 7 pm on zoom for a fun evening of quizzing and a chance to connect with other parents and carers - look out for more details coming very soon! Email parents@treloar.org.uk for zoom details.

Monthly Coffee Mornings

This term, our monthly coffee morning will take place on Monday 4 March. Join us in the Jowett Centre for a coffee and chat.

Cake Sale

We will be hosting a cake sale on Friday 22 March, and we would welcome any donations of baked goods. (No nuts please)

Join our committee

Do you have some spare time and would like to be more involved in the TPA? We would love to welcome more members to our team so please do get in touch on parents@treloars.org.uk. Also if you have any feedback, thoughts or ideas of future activities, then please do get in touch - we welcome your input!

Have a lovely half term!

From the TPA



Treloar's maintains 'Outstanding' record for school residential provision

We are delighted to report that Treloar School Residential provision has maintained Ofsted's 'Outstanding'.

The Ofsted Inspectors arrived in the last week of term before Christmas. They were lucky enough to experience the full range of Christmas festivities.

The inspector was highly impressed by the commitment and skill of all of the staff that she met. The students were fantastic advocates and were really positive about life at Treloar's. [The full report is available](#) to read online, here's an extract:

"Students thrive at this residential special school. It is a safe, vibrant and inclusive environment that promotes and enables everyone's strengths and abilities. The celebration of individual uniqueness, strong planning and a culture of high aspirations mean that students and their families have life-changing experiences."

The report recognised the effectiveness of our multi-disciplinary teams who provide students with "collaborative and highly personalised support". Students are encouraged to advocate for themselves.

"Students share their wishes and opinions on all aspects of their personal care routines, and staff support them with the utmost respect and dignity."

Julie Bodnar's open and responsive leadership was singled out for praise in the report and the leadership team on Gloucester were viewed as very caring and professional.

"The residential manager is highly visible and has a dynamic vision for excellence. She leads by example and demonstrates an unquestionable commitment and passion to providing the highest possible standards of care for students."

Treloar's Principal Martin Ingram is proud that the hard work and commitment of Treloar's staff and students has been recognised again by Ofsted: "The nature of the support that we provide and the criteria that OFSTED use may change, but the commitment and expertise of everyone at Treloar's to be the very best that we can be, is as strong as ever."

Internet Safety Week

Helen Cronshaw, Treloar's Head of Learning Technology, conducted the eSafety workshop for Treloar's students as part of Internet Safety Week 2024. The session primarily focussed on 3 critical aspects: the risks associated with oversharing online, digital footprint and the potential issues of online friendships.

Students were informed about the potential consequences of revealing too much personal information on various online platforms, including social media and forums. Through real-life examples and interactive discussions, they gained insights into the importance of maintaining privacy and safeguarding their digital footprint. Additionally, the workshop delved into the complexities of online friendships, emphasising the significance of exercising caution when establishing relationships with individuals met online.



Participants were encouraged to prioritize safety measures, identify responsible adults who they could ask for help and advice both at home and at Treloar's as well as learning to employ critical thinking skills to navigate the digital landscape responsibly.

Following the eSafety workshop's emphasis on the risks of oversharing online, students were encouraged to take an active role in promoting internet safety within the school during their Friday assembly. Leveraging a creative approach, they each led a group for a bingo-style activity where peers could actively participate and think about their online activities.

By taking part in the workshop and leading on the activity, the students contributed to fostering a safer online environment within Treloar's.



PE this half term

Visit to Alton College

Our Primary students were invited to a sports session run by Alton College students as part of their sports course.

We had lots of fun playing parachute games and other playground games and can't wait to invite them to visit us at Treloar's later in the year.



“This half term, our amazing students have all been taking part in a Fitness and Movement Unit in PE. They have been learning about the body systems and how they affect exercise and then trying lots of different fitness circuits, Boxercise, and Chairobics exercises, before coming up with their own personal Exercise Programme. Each and every student has embraced this opportunity to choose exercises that suit them alongside a playlist of their favourite music to ensure motivation is kept high.”



Sports Ambassadors

We are really proud of our Sports Ambassadors Xavi and Ben. Both College students have been coming to Option PE to help school students during their Chosen Option Subject.

They have been involved in giving demonstrations and leading warm ups for different sporting activities. Setting out equipment and being in charge of stations during circuits and giving help, support and advice or feedback where necessary.



From Freya Chart,
PE Teacher and Leader of Learning



Transition stories from former students

Our Transition Team invited former students Adam, Tilly and Jonah to take our students through their own transition journeys.

Adam, Tilly and Jonah spoke about how to prepare for the day they leave Treloar's.

[Read more on our website.](#)

Parent Governor campaigning

Treloar's parent governor, Susie Marsh, has shared recently a short video introducing a new manifesto from Disabled Children's Partnership. In the video, Susie talks about the need to ensure that disabled children and young people are at the forefront of the minds of all parties as we head towards a general election.

You can find [the full manifesto here](#).



STEM professionals needed!

Jane Gomershall, SEN Science Teacher at Treloar's, is looking for STEM professionals who would be able to come to Treloar's during our Science Week to talk to our students about careers in STEM.

The event will take place on Monday 11 March at 11.15 at Treloar's.

Please share this information with your friends, family members and colleagues.

For more information, please get in touch with Jane via email: Jane.Gomersall@treloar.org.uk



Boccia and New Age Kurling Tournament

On Tuesday 16 January, a group of 4 School students attended the annual Boccia and New Age Kurling Tournament hosted by the Sports Leaders from Peter Symonds College in Winchester. 6 special schools from Hampshire played New Age Kurling in the morning, followed by [Boccia](#) in the afternoon. The students thoroughly enjoyed the day which not only enabled them to compete externally, but also to socialise with students from other schools.

Hannah's train travel experience

Hannah, Treloar College student, who is one of our current Supported Interns, has been recently working with Surrey Coalition of Disabled People.

Hannah's blog about accessible public transport has been recently posted on the Surrey Coalition's website; it's an account of Hannah's trip to Aldershot and her experience of using the train from Alton to Aldershot.

[You can read her blog post here.](#)



About Treloar's Supported Internships Programme

Launched in 2019, Treloar's [Supported Internships Programme](#) still plays a vital part in the pathway to paid employment for Treloar's students.

[This one-year programme](#), pioneered by Transition Manager Maria Sherwood and Supported Internship Coordinator Charlotte Mills, is a fantastic opportunity to get experience working for an employer.

Accessible skiing

Back at the beginning of term, Treloar College students Hannah and Is travelled to The Snow Centre in Hemel Hempstead and had the opportunity to ski for the first time in their lives! They had such a great time on the slopes, and Is said:

“I couldn’t believe how accessible the activity was – I want to take my family back to have a go too!”



Textile recycling bank at Treloar’s

In February, we are expecting 2 new textile recycling banks to be delivered to Treloar’s. The Textile Banks accept:

- All clothes
- All footwear (paired)
- Curtains
- Towels
- Bed Linen

Locations: Front visitor car park and rear staff car park

The importance of online Autistic communities

Former student Claire has recently written a blog post which was published on the website Neurodiverse Connection. The blog is a Q&A with Claire about the benefits of engaging with online Autistic communities.

[You can read Claire’s blog here.](#)





Sensory class receives a gift

In January, Gordon Dunse, the owner of a coffee shop in Ellisfield, presented a Sensory Light Box to Charlene and Kirsty's class. Gordon hosted a fundraising event before Christmas to raise money to buy the gift for the class.

Future Fest

On 9 February, students, parents and carers met with future living service providers from a variety of sectors—from housing to advocacy services, care organisations and activity providers to universities.

Future Fest is our flagship transition event that provides a very successful and vital information service so that students can begin to investigate options available to them for when they leave Treloar's.

To help guide choices, we've compiled an [online exhibitor directory](#), packed full of information to support our students with their decision making and future plans.



Speak Out Stay Safe

Chris Butler's class was invited to provide feedback for the [NSPCC](#) 'Speak Out Stay Safe' programme.

After the visit, the NSPCC Schools Service Co-ordinator praised the class for their mature approach. They made suggestions about how the resources could be adapted to benefit secondary school students. They discussed the style of delivery, the accessibility of the resources, the use of language and the use of BSL versus Makaton.



Big Schools' Birdwatch

Here at Treloar's, [outdoor learning](#) plays a vital role in the process of learning. Our students enjoy spending time outside their classrooms.

At the start of the year, a College class signed up to take part in RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch. The students kicked off the project with a workshop of making bird feeders which were then hung across the site. The next step is to become habitat explorers, go on a plant safari or find out more about the different animals that already live in Treloar's grounds.



BRIT Challenge

College students, as part of BRIT Challenge, are collecting Easter eggs for the Alton Food Bank and Brendon Care.

If you would like to donate an egg please bring to L6 by the 7 March.



What is BRIT Challenge?

The Brit Challenge has three aims:

- Support student and staff mental health, fitness and well-being and reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness.

- Deliver inspiration to young adults, students and staff, and destigmatise mental health, with the support of BRIT Ambassadors.

- Raise vital funds for local, regional, and national charities.



Supporting the Marketing Team

Over the last term and a half, the Marketing Team has been implementing a new refreshed look for Treloar's. You may have spotted our new recruitment banners, posters, and refreshed Treloar's Today magazine. Across the campus, we'll be updating and replacing signage with our new logo, aiming to be bolder and more accessible with our new typeface. Treloar's students have been involved from the beginning of the project sharing their opinions during the Student Voices conference and taking part in brand workshops with our graphic designer. Treloar College student Delali has been working with the Marketing Team to help update posters around the site. After an introduction to the team and the brand, she started compiling an audit of all the signs and posters that need replacing and making a record of where they are. With the list complete, she has been working with the new templates to create new posters. We hope this work experience project will give Delali an insight into the brand project, alongside an opportunity to learn her way around the campus!



NOYO rehearsal dates 2024

Applications to audition for one of regional NOYO Ensembles in Birmingham, Bristol, Bournemouth, Cardiff or London will open 23 February – 24 March 2024. To get a feel for what it's like rehearsing with NOYO, everyone is invited to visit one of NOYO's Open Rehearsals in February and March 2024.

[To find out more, visit NOYO's website.](#)





Joe releases his first track

Treloar College student and Supported Intern, Joe, released his first music track 'It's just the beginning'. Joe poured his whole heart and soul into this project; he happily shared with us his journey at Treloar's (read the full story on our website) and his plans for the future. Joe said:

"I aspire to become a music producer and desire to share my distinctive musical style with a wider audience. I have already released a song under my artist's

name of 'Ruexonn'. Ruexonn takes its name from the first 2 letters of my last name; it's a nod to my love for genetics and the groundbreaking exon skipping program. Just like how skipping beats alter a rhythm, exon skipping aims to correct genetic abnormalities, offering hope for those with genetic disorders. The song is called 'It's just the beginning' and was released on various music streaming platforms on the 28 of January, which may not be my initial success, but I am feeling hopeful. With each following release, I intend to gain insights from previous works and enhance them for continuous improvement."

You can listen to Joe's song on [YouTube](#) or [Spotify](#).

[Read the full story here.](#)

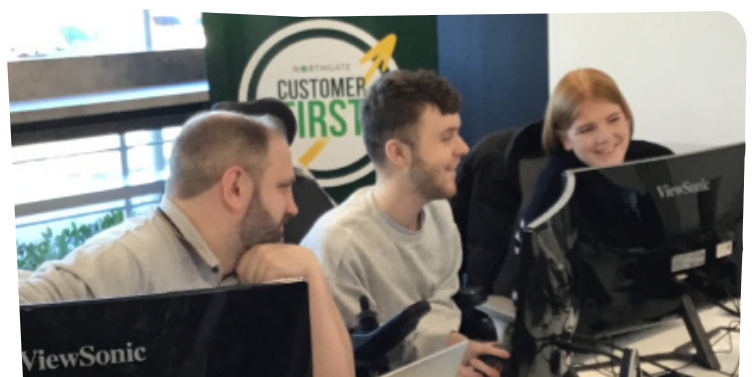
The Employability and Vocational pathway at Treloar's

Being part of the the Employability and Vocational pathway, Joe joined Treloar's [Supported Internship Programme](#) through which Treloar's aims to break the barriers by supporting young people with physical disabilities on their pathway to paid employment. Joe said:

"In terms of the Supported Internship Programme, I am really enjoying it. I like having the freedom it comes with so I can work on personal projects such as

my music. I have the time to run my flat by meal planning, cooking and cleaning.

One of the skills I have learnt is how to budget regarding my weekly food shop. I have always liked the idea of working from home when I leave Treloar's but since starting the Internship, I have enjoyed going out and into the working environments. I like the social aspect of being in an office and also the banter that comes with it."



What's on at Treloar's



Treloar's Gala Dinner, Mansion House, London

Tuesday 30 April

You're invited to a very special evening of dinner, drinks and live entertainment at the stunning Mansion House in London.



Friends of Treloar's Plant Sale, Treloar's

Saturday 11 May

Do you want to spruce up your garden? Browse a wide range of quality plants grown by students at Treloar's.



Treloar's Charity Golf Day, Old Thorns

Wednesday 5 June

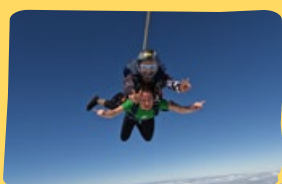
We're back at Old Thorns for another year of swinging success on the greens at our Golf Day!



The Lady Mayoress's Afternoon Tea, Mansion House

Wednesday 26 June

Join us for a special Afternoon Tea Party hosted by The Lady Mayoress of London in the stunning Egyptian Hall at Mansion House.



Summer Sky Dive, Salisbury

Saturday 20 July

Don't miss the experience of a lifetime! Take to the skies for our students with a breathtaking skydive.



The Dummer Fair, Basingstoke

Wednesday 9 and Thursday 10 October

Featuring over 80 stalls, The Dummer Fair is a fantastic opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping or treat yourself!



Spooktacular Halloween Laser Light Show, Treloar's

Thursday 31 October

Join us for a ghoully good time at our spooktacular Halloween Laser Light Show! We hope to see you there!

**Thank you again for your support.
Every gift helps our students
achieve their very best.**

**Scan here
for more
event info**



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