



Parent and carer newsletter

March 2024

A letter from the Head of College

Dear Families,

It's been a busy half term at Treloar's. You'll see in the pages of this newsletter how much our students have been getting their voices heard, here on site, in our local community and even with the powers that be in Westminster. We'll be looking further with students about voting and democracy next term with the prospect of an upcoming general election. Ben Baxter also shares updates about registering to vote.



We say goodbye to college tutor Rebecca Payton and wish her well. We are very pleased to confirm that Gemma Butler will be joining Treloar's on the 15 April, as the new Registered Manager for Wessex House.

Gemma has over 10 years' experience caring and supporting a range of individuals, both in adult and children services. Gemma has worked in residential, education and individuals' personal homes and is an advocate for ensuring individuals are as involved as possible in the care they receive, promoting independence, dignity, choice, holistic support and respect.

Gemma joins Treloar's following maternity leave from a Registered Manager post within a residential children's home which specialised in supporting children with social, emotional, mental health needs.

I hope you have a wonderful Easter break and look forward to seeing students again on the 16 April.

All the best,

Ben Bastin

<u>Dates for your diary</u>	Spring/Summer Term 2024
Thursday 28 March	End of half term 4 (including ALTON COLLEGE) College closes 2.00 pm Houses close 3.30 pm
Monday 15 April	Professional development day for all staff (1 day)

A letter from the Head of College

<u>Dates for your diary</u>	Spring/Summer Term 2024
Monday 15 April	Start of half term 5 ALTON COLLEGE students only Students return directly to Alton College at 9.30 am
Tuesday 16 April	Start of half term 5 Residential & Day students return directly to college at 9.00 am
Friday 3 May	College closes 4.00 pm (including ALTON COLLEGE) Houses close 6.00 pm for students that do not board termly
Monday 6 May	May Bank Holiday School, College and ALTON COLLEGE are closed.
Tuesday 7 May	College re-opens 9.00 am (including ALTON COLLEGE) Residential and Day students return directly to college at 9.00 am
Friday 24 May	End of half term 5 (including ALTON COLLEGE) College closes 3.30 pm Houses close 3.30 pm
Monday 27 – Friday 31 May	Half-term holiday for staff and students (including ALTON COLLEGE)
Sunday 2 June	Weekend residential students return to Houses 2.00 pm onwards

Updates from Sally Nissen, Head of Nursing and Healthcare

Infectious diseases

We are aware that measles, chickenpox and flu are circulating in the local communities. Please continue to keep students at home if they are unwell. 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



Students arriving without medicines

Students must have access to their medicines when they need them. Recently we have seen an increase in the numbers of issues relating to students arriving without prescribed medicines, or the correct information to allow us to safely give the right medicines at the right time. For those registered with Farnham Dene practice, we are able to order the stock ourselves due to our links with the GP.

Where medicines are supplied by a different GP surgery or come from home, students will occasionally arrive without them, or without the correct information which means we are unable to administer the correct dose. These issues can put students at risk of either missing doses, or receiving the incorrect dosage of medicines. This can present risk of harm.

We will always seek to put student welfare first and try to resolve problems through communication and cooperation. However, where medicines, or information relating to medicines is not present, this can present risk to students, as well as significant work for nurses reducing the time they have to directly support students with health needs.

Where we have concerns that we do not have sufficient medicine or information to keep a student safe we may require the student to be collected. In such instances we would also likely need to raise this as a safeguarding concern.

We therefore ask you ensure the student has their medicines, or provide information in a timely manner when asked. Please call the Health Centre if you have questions about this, or if you are facing difficulties or barriers in obtaining medicines or information.

Updates from Sally Nissen, Head of Nursing and Healthcare

Blood results and medical records

You may already be aware that there are options for accessing medical records, ordering medicines, and checking test results. A number of mobile apps enable this, including the NHS account. We encourage students or parents to arrange access.

Some GP practices allow people aged 13, 14 or 15 to use the NHS account. It is also possible to access the app on behalf of another.

You can ask the student's GP surgery to register you for proxy access. They will guide you through registration. You'll need to provide identification to the GP surgery so they can confirm who you are and check you are the correct person to act on their patient's behalf. When the surgery has checked your identity and registered you for proxy access, you'll be able to use an option in the NHS App and NHS Website to manage services for another person. You can go to the homepage and select 'switch profiles'.



Updates from Ben Baxter, Head Safeguarding at Treloar's

Promoting the vote

At Treloar's, our value that "we are inclusive" means that we are committed to supporting students to be included as a part of society, not just as a student at Treloar's.

We believe that it is vital that people with disabilities are fully represented and able to have their voice heard as individuals.

A UK General Election to elect the next UK Government at Westminster is expected to take place sometime in 2024.

The right to vote is not just a privilege but a fundamental aspect of citizenship, allowing individuals to actively participate in decisions that impact their lives and communities. Yet, sadly, many young people with disabilities feel disenfranchised or disengaged from the political process. Whether due to physical barriers at polling stations or a lack of accessible information, people with disabilities often face additional hurdles when it comes to exercising their democratic rights.

The right to vote in the UK is open to all adults aged 18 or over, irrespective of disability. Importantly "mental capacity" is no longer considered a legal requirement for voting or voter registration, provided that they are making the decision themselves, and not those who care for or who otherwise make decisions for them.

Registering to vote: Students are able to register to vote from age 16, in advance of being able to vote if they are 18 at the time of an election.

Voter ID is also required now and in the absence of any other valid photo ID can be accessed using the following links:

- <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>
- <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voter-id-forms-and-letters>
(easy read and large print versions available)

Ways to support students to exercise their right to vote:

Voting in person: A person with a disability who wishes to vote in person should be provided with reasonable adjustments to support them, where possible, to vote independently and in secret.



Updates from Ben Baxter, Head Safeguarding at Treloar's

This should include (among other measures) having large print versions of the ballot paper at the polling station, but also considering braille, audible and pictorial versions; polling booths at wheelchair accessible heights and pencil grips to support voters with reduced dexterity – contact your local electoral office if you need any specific adaptations or information.



Where a voter is not able to independently vote they are permitted a “companion” who can support them to vote – provided that the decision at voting is the person’s, not the decision of the companion. In this case provide the presiding officer with:

- A written or verbal declaration from the voter that they can’t vote without assistance
- A written declaration from the companion that they are aged 18+ and have not previously assisted more than one voter with a disability to vote at this election.

If there are any problems or issues you should ask to speak to the “Returning Officer” – the polling station will have their contact details.

Voting by post: A person can apply to vote by post – either for a single election, or for a period of up to 3 years. If you applied to vote by post at the last general election you would need to reapply again.

This can be done at: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote>

If you have applied to vote by post, but forget to post it, you are able to take the form to your local polling station on election day.

Voting by proxy: A person can apply for someone to vote for them. An “[easy read](#)” [guide to this is available here](#).

The application form requests a handwritten signature, however if you are unable to provide a signature (or one that is consistently the same) there is a section to note a waiver so this isn’t needed – contact your local electoral office.

TPA news

Our monthly parent and carer coffee mornings are gaining momentum and we would love to see numbers grow, so please do join us in The Hub on the first Monday of every month for a cuppa and a catch up with fellow parents! There is always a really useful exchange of knowledge and it's lovely to chat to others who truly 'get it'.

Our cake sale on Friday 22 March was a big success and we practically sold out of cakes within an hour! Huge thanks to everyone who contributed in some way, be it by baking a cake, buying a cake or making a donation. Over £200 was raised for the TPA funds which all goes towards gifts and experiences for the pupils.

After Easter, we are planning a Family Walk at Alice Holt Forest which everyone is welcome to join. This will be on Saturday, 4 May (Star Wars fancy dress is entirely optional ;-)). We'll share more information after the holidays. If this is of interest, we will aim to organise more over the Spring/ Summer months and would welcome suggestions for locations for the walks.

Dates for your diary next term are:

Monthly Coffee morning in the Jowett centre:

- Tuesday 7 May (as the Monday is a bank holiday)
- Monday 3 June
- Monday 1 July

Other activities:

- Saturday 4 May: Family Walk at Alice Holt
- Friday 21 June: Summer Cake Sale

Have a lovely Easter holiday all, we hope you enjoy lots of chocolate!

Best wishes from the TPA



Ben campaigning at Number 10

Treloar College student Ben joined Surrey Coalition of Disabled People and travelled to London to hand in a petition to Downing Street. All to show support for the National Federation of the Blind UK. Ben said:

“On Tuesday 20 February I went to London to deliver a petition to the Prime Minister. I went to Number 10 Downing Street with Surrey Coalition and people from the blind community. The petition is drawing attention to the problems with floating bus stops.”

Floating bus stops – what are they? Ben explains: “A floating bus stop is where a cycle lane runs between a bus stop and the pavement. This is dangerous for people with disabilities, such as being blind or partially sighted and wheelchair users, as you have to cross the active cycle lane. Cycle lanes are used by electric bikes, e-scooters and pedal cycles. It is also dangerous for elderly people.



Floating bus stops can be found in London and are proposed to be put into other big cities.”

Ben continues: “Surrey Coalition asked me if I would help to deliver the petition, and I was happy to be involved as I am a wheelchair user, and it affects lots of people. The hope is that the Government will rethink the whole issue so that it is safer. Unfortunately, I didn’t meet the Prime Minister, but we did deliver the petition to a representative.

“It was a great opportunity to visit Downing Street and take part in this project which is so important to our community. I hope that our Prime Minister will take into consideration the hundreds of people that will benefit from the change in policy.”



College students in Westminster

Last month, Treloar College students travelled to a reception at the House of Commons, Westminster to join their peers from specialist colleges across the country to support the launch of the NATSPEC manifesto for the UK general election. NATSPEC is the membership organisation for specialist further education (FE) colleges. Their manifesto sets out some of the policy changes needed to ensure young people with more complex needs are able to access high quality specialist provision.



Treloar's stands with NATSPEC and supports their vision for an effective FE system for learners with SEND, in which learners can access the education and support they need.

During the event, students and staff met MPs at Westminster and talked to them about the importance of quality specialist education and the challenge young people face to attend specialist colleges.

Treloar College students Joe and Hannah met Dr Lisa Cameron MP. Hannah was invited to speak at the event. She used her speech to explain the impact attending Treloar's has made to her life and to show how important specialist education placements are for all disabled young people:

"I have been at Treloar's for 3 years and it has been amazing. They have helped me find my identity and be more independent with my life. I am so grateful to be a student at such

a wonderful college and don't know where I would be without Treloar's. I certainly would not have been able to stand here and make this speech!"

[Read more about the manifesto](#) on our website.





Science Week

Monday 11 March, was the start of Science Week for Treloar School and College students. For the whole week, everyone could enjoy Science-related activities: there was a science show delivered by Damon from Sublime Science who carried out various experiments and Mill Cottage Farm visited us with their farm animals. On Thursday, we saw First Class Falconry with his birds of prey, while on Friday we welcomed Alton College's Space Satellite Programme team.

STEM Fair

We kicked off Science Week with a STEM Fair on Monday morning. A range of visitors came to talk about their jobs in STEM: 2Excel Engineering talked about aircraft maintenance; healthcare specialists shared their expertise on subjects like podiatry, food science and general health. There were also Science lectures from HSDC Alton carrying out various experiments and talking to students about their specialisms and an archaeology display and a talk from archaeologist James.



Animals and experiments

The rest of the week was also full of exciting activities: the Sublime Science show took place on Tuesday and was filled with experiments that were thoroughly enjoyed by both staff and students. On Wednesday and Thursday students had an opportunity to spend time, learn about and even interact with farm animals and birds of prey. On Friday we welcomed guest lecturer, Fiona Pope, from HSDC Alton College. We closed Science Week with a whole school assembly about women scientists and shared highlights from the week.



Lord Mayor's visit to Treloar's

On Wednesday 13 March, students and staff at Treloar's were delighted to welcome the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman Michael Mainelli and The Lady Mayoress, Elisabeth Mainelli together with Masters and Prime Wardens from 35 Livery Companies.

We are honoured to have the Lord Mayor visit every year and the event reflects the enormous respect and affection in which our Founder, Sir William Treloar, and the school and college are held across the City of London.

The day was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all that our students achieve, thanks to the donations and support from the City Livery Companies. The "What Makes You Tick" performance about George Swindlehurst MBE, WWII survivor and Paralympian, was stunning and incredibly moving. Together with the insightful speeches and compelling presentation from Tom Clarke who introduced us to Calum, a former student with complex needs.

During the event the Livery Company Masters and Prime Wardens were introduced to 3 important fundraising priority appeals, including our Hoist Appeal and the amazing opportunity to double your donation with our Electric Bus Appeal.

We were delighted that visitors, students and staff all had an enjoyable day with one attendee



saying:

"Thank you for making us all so welcome today. It was a very moving day and I think we were all especially touched by the dance performance by the young people. I am full of admiration for the amazing work you are all doing."



Staff profile: Running for Treloar's

Being a student support assistant at Treloar's is a highly responsible but also rewarding role.

Once student support assistant, now passionate supporter of Treloar's, Tivon shared with us his experience of working at Treloar's and the reasons behind becoming a supporter and running the London Marathon for Treloar's.

"A huge factor that enables Treloar's to be the place that it is and deliver exceptional, specialised care is fundraising. A donation of any size is massively appreciated and really does go a long way in enabling the level of support provided. I am super excited to be running the London Marathon to raise money for this amazing organisation and would be immensely grateful for any donations."

You can support Tivon and help him raise money for Treloar's by [following the link](#) and donating – every penny counts!

[Read Tivon's profile on our website.](#)



Textile recycling bank at Treloar's

We encourage both staff and students' families to make use of 2 new textile recycling banks on site.

The Textile Banks accept:

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

Locations: Front visitor car park and rear staff car park.



A visit from Lucy Webster

Treloar College students welcomed author, journalist and disability advocate, Lucy Webster for a lively Q&A about her career and her book, *The View From Down Here*. Lucy set out to demystify disability, sharing her experiences of ableism and sexism, sharing her life experiences with unflinching honesty and humour. Her memoir shares the struggles, the joys and the unseen realities of being a disabled woman.

College students were keen to learn more about what inspires Lucy to write, how she carved out a career in journalism, what it's been like to share her memoir, and what advice she would give to her younger self.



Arcana strum trial

Around 50 school and college students were very excited to try a new instrument on Tuesday 19 March, the Arcana Strum (Arcana Instruments).

The Arcana Strum is an accessible guitar 'and empowers anyone to play guitar. The instrument is extremely easy to just pick up and play, providing an uplifting experience suitable and accessible for practically everyone.' It was created for a young student who has a disability and wanted to learn how to play the guitar. It has many features which meant that all students could access it. The students all thought it was excellent and great fun to play!





Bubbly Saturday

Our residential provision offers huge opportunities to develop and embed independent living skills, enjoy social opportunities throughout the day. By working with trained support staff, our students take part in various activities during weekends. On Saturday 16 March, a group of residential students and their support staff, enjoyed playing with bubbles that provided a lot of sensory stimuli to all.

Sensory sport activities

Our college sensory class has been taking part in The Sensory Sport College Competition Programme which is run by Sense charity in partnership with AOC Sport; it provides profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) learners, who may not normally travel to local sports competitions, the opportunity to take part from their own college and at their own level. The students explore textures, use ramps to knock over cones and by the end of each session, they compare their scores with the scores of other colleges, trying to get the highest score in the different competitions.

Overall, the competition provides some structured activities for learners to participate in physical activities and compete against other students from all over the country in a football and tennis style activity.



National Supported Internship Day

National Supported Internship Day is the celebration of supported internships in the UK and is held annually on 27 March.

Treloar's Supported Internship programme is a one-year programme aimed at students whose intended destination after Treloar's is to find employment, self-employment or voluntary work, part-time or full-time.

Last week, our Progress and Transition Team exhibited at Naidex – an event for the Disability Community. There, they met our former student and Supported Intern Eoin. Maria Sherwood, Treloar's Progress and Transition Team Manager, said:

"It was fantastic to reunite with Eoin at Naidex. Eoin completed our Supported Internship Programme at Treloar College the year this was introduced. Eoin developed valuable work experience with employers as part of his internship year, and has now progressed to paid employment. Eoin also developed his independence skills as part of the internship offer and has recently moved to a self contained flat, within his local community."

Maria, who was part of the team who introduced internships to the college, adds:



"I am immensely proud of Eoin and all he has achieved. He has transferred the skills learnt as part of the internship to his life beyond education and fully achieved his aim of placement. Eoin has a can do attitude and is an example of what is possible with hard work and determination."

If you would like to [find out more around our supported internships](#) please contact: transitionteam@treloar.org.uk



What's on at Treloar's



The Treloar's Gala Dinner, Mansion House, London

Tuesday 30 April

Our black tie gala brings you a champagne reception on arrival, a delicious three-course meal and live music from stars of the West End.



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

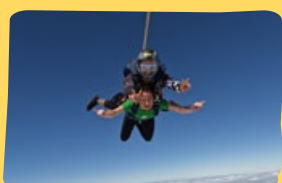
We're back at Old Thorns for another year of swinging success on the greens at our Golf Day!



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 with special guest Alan Titchmarsh.



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**



Treloar's, Powell Drive, Holybourne, Alton Hampshire, GU34 4GL
01420 547477 | fundraising@treloar.org.uk | treloar.org.uk

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