



**Parent and carer newsletter**

**July 2024**

# A letter from the Head of School

This half term has been a celebration and recognition of the hard work and determination demonstrated by both students and staff culminating in the annual school achievement assembly. A huge thank you to the parents and carers that joined us for one of the three assemblies. It was a pleasure to share these achievements with you all.

We have won two extraordinary awards for our commitment to excellence in the fields of literacy and physical education. We won the UK Literacy Association (UKLA) Diversity and Inclusion Award

for the development of our literacy curriculum. The Association for Physical Education (afPE) has also awarded us with their Sports Quality Mark with Distinction for 'demonstrating outstanding commitment to improvement for Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity'.

This term the school showcased the importance of music in our curriculum at the Lady Mayoress's tea party and demonstrated the importance of how music offers an opportunity for students to express themselves and be heard in new ways as well as highlighting the importance of accessibility.

Students' creativity across the school was explored further through a number of art forms during our Arts week. Students and staff were fortunate to work with a number of artists through the Alton Arts Festival.

As we come to the end of the year we say goodbye and good luck to 9 students moving on to Treloar College, we all wish them every success for the future. We also say goodbye to Bobbie who is off to work in a nursery and Kajal who whilst we will see once a week will be pursuing a career as a Visual Impairment specialist. We wish them both well in their future careers. We also say 'see you soon' to Jane who will be heading off on maternity leave at the beginning of September and we look forward to catching up with her soon.

I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support and wish you, our staff and students a well-rested summer break and I look forward to welcoming you back in September. Kind regards,

Lisa Bond

Head of School



<u>Dates for your diary</u>	<b>Autumn Term 2024</b>
Monday 2 - Friday 6 September	Professional Development and Preparation Days for all staff (5 days)
Monday 9 September	Start of half term 1 Staggered start dates for NEW students
Friday 25 October	End of half term 1 School closes 3.30 pm Houses close at 3.30 pm
Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November	Half term holiday for staff and students
Sunday 3 November	Residential students return to houses 5.00pm onwards
Monday 4 November	Start of half term 2



# Updates from Sally Nissen, Head of Nursing and Healthcare

On behalf of School and College Managers, this is a reminder about Treloar's role in medical appointments and hospital admissions.

**Medical appointments** are the responsibility of the student and or family. This is because parents and carers can support their young person with previous medical history and decision making, whereas Treloar's staff cannot.

For students under 18 years, parents and carers are expected to arrange the appointment to suit their availability to collect and accompany the student (or attend the online appointment with them).

**For residential students** over the age of 18, we will only support appointments at the local Alton community hospital. For appointments where decisions need to be made, we ask parents and carers to accompany the student. For appointments out of the immediate area, parents are expected to collect and accompany the student. Online appointments are just as important as face-to-face ones and require family attendance.

**Day students:** We are unable to provide staff support, or transport, for day students attending appointments.

**NHS letters:** Over the past year, we have noticed that the NHS are sending appointments directly to students at Treloar's and parents and carers are sometimes out of the loop. If appropriate, please ask for appointments to also be sent to parents and carers.

**Medical emergencies:** Where there is a medical emergency, we will arrange transport to a local hospital with staff to support the student for a brief period until family members and carers arrive, for example, during the journey and initial assessment. Please note that there are limitations to the scope of practice for Treloar's staff in other settings such as hospitals.

**Support for students in hospital:** We require parents, guardians, or carers to support their young people throughout their stay in hospital and participate in decision making with NHS teams. However, in exceptional circumstances we will endeavour to work proactively with you to support where we can. When ready for discharge, we anticipate that most students will go home to recover further. A reassessment of the student's needs will need to take place prior to their return—the Treloar Progress and Transition Co-ordinator should be your first point of contact.



# Updates from Sally Nissen, Head of Nursing and Healthcare

**Worried about medical appointments or hospital admissions?** For all exceptional circumstances please contact the Treloar Progress and Transition Co-ordinator.

## **Note for September—newly prescribed medicines and medicine changes**

For all new medicines or prescription changes, we need written confirmation from the prescriber before we can make any changes ourselves to the medicines administration record (eMAR). Written confirmation can include: the right hand side of the repeat prescription, a clinic letter, or a recent GP medical printout. Send to: [Medicalsecretary@treloar.org.uk](mailto:Medicalsecretary@treloar.org.uk) before the start of term. Where possible, please send medicine in unopened packaging, with a legible prescription label, within date and with a note to show when it was opened (if liquid or cream). Thank you for your support with this.

## **Infectious diseases**

Thank you for your support in managing infectious illnesses. At this time, we are monitoring for local measles cases carefully. Please follow NHS guidance <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/> and keep students at home when they are unwell.





# Assistive technology workshop for parents

In June, staff from Treloar's Speech and Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy Departments hosted a session for a group of parents and carers to demonstrate how we use assistive technology for a class of primary students who are accessing our Sensory and Interactive Pathway.

For students accessing our Sensory and Interactive Pathway, we have implemented the ImPACTS Curriculum this academic year. A part of this curriculum focusses on the development of Environmental Control Technology (ECT). ImPACTS is a curriculum for students with PMLD/MSI that focuses on communication, cognition, technology, motor skills (fine and gross), personal, social and emotional well-being and engagement. Students have individual targets in each area embedded into which are their EHCP and therapy targets. The learning strands consider physical access, motivational effects, developing independence, switching and communication.

The session showcased how students can use a range of switches to drive their wheelchairs using the Smart driving platform, use a range of programmes on their iPads to activate their



favourite music and access to a range of switch-activated equipment such as a vibrating frog, a fan and a bubble machine. The team explored ways how both home and school can work collaboratively to further this success and develop students' independent participation skills.

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## Treloar's hosts NATSPEC Games

"This was a really cool day!" said one student who took part in the NATSPEC Games in Guildford.

In June, Treloar's had the pleasure of hosting the NATSPEC Games at Surrey Sports Park. Students from specialist colleges across the South East were invited to take part in inclusive sporting activities and celebrate their skills.

It was an absolutely brilliant day with students having the opportunity to try out many different sports and activities, receiving support from Paralympic coaches and disability sport leads.



## General Election Hustings

In June, student governors Archie and Isobel welcomed prospective candidates for East Hampshire to take part in a hustings event for students and staff from both the School and College.

Archie and Isobel invited all the local candidates to attend. They were delighted that four local candidates accepted the invitation and took part in the event.

All the candidates were invited to make a short opening statement followed by student questions. Speaking to the School students in the morning and the College students in the afternoon, they had a full schedule. During lunchbreak all staff had an opportunity to meet the local candidates.

[Find out more on our website.](#)





## Isobel goes paddling

Kayaking is a popular student activity at Treloar's and it wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for the volunteers from Basingstoke and Dean Canoe Club.

Treloar College student Isobel has been practising her skills over the long, wet winter months and was keen to show her family what personal success looks like.

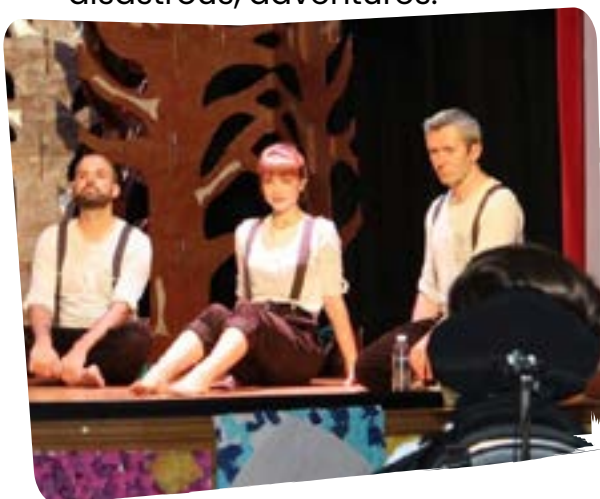
Isobel recently took to the Basingstoke Canal and joined a group of young kayakers, with her family admiring her from the side. On this occasion no one got wet!

## A gift of theatre

A London Livery, The Worshipful Company of Founders, have been delighting our students at Treloar's for over 5 years with performances from Box Tale Soup—an award winning puppet theatre company.

They have very kindly funded performances of Hansel and Gretel, Little Grimm Tales, Alice in Wonderland and most recently Wind in the Willows.

Ratty, Mole, the infamous Toad and Badger brought squeals of delight from the students as they entertained the students, with Ratty and Mole trying valiantly to suppress Toad's short-lived, and often disastrous, adventures.





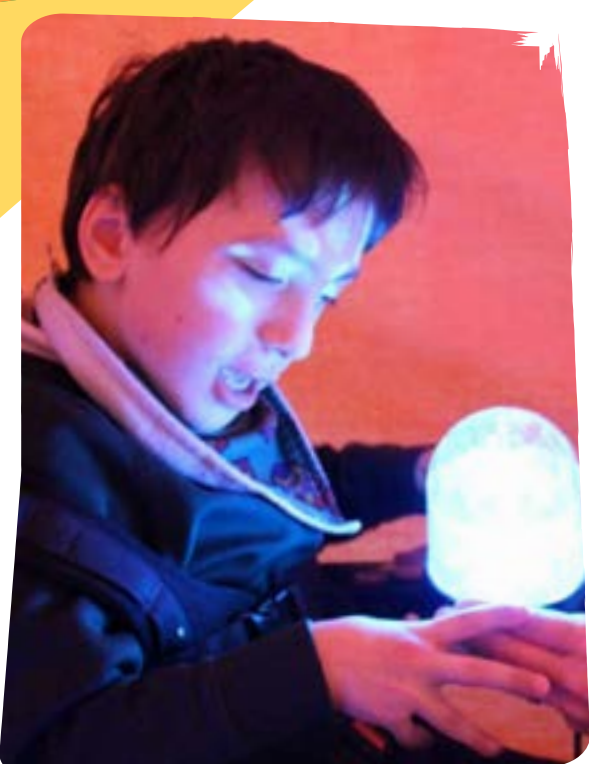
# Lunchtime Club ideas

Primary Student Voice happens once a term and its aim is to prepare our students for the future school students' council meetings.

Primary teachers organise sessions for the students during which everyone has a chance to experience different activities in different contexts. This will help the students with decision making, voicing their opinions and exploring their likes and dislikes.

The theme for June Student Voice was 'Lunchtime Club' and the activities were: board games, play dough, the parachute game, playing instruments, a story massage and a well-being hand massage session.

All students were engaged and had lots of fun during the activities.



## Sea adventures

Whether students are residential or day students, life outside the classroom is an important element of their time at Treloar's. As a specialist school and college for disabled students, we have fully adapted facilities and equipment to enable students to take part in a wide variety of activities both on and off campus.

There is always something going on for students to enjoy, from sports and social clubs to community outings, discos, sports clubs, games evenings and cinema nights.

Just recently, Treloar College student Robyn went sailing for the first time! She said:

"I had such a great time. We went to Portsmouth just for a day trip as it's almost the end of term. I loved driving the boat. Although it was very windy and cold. It felt amazing but I didn't like the big waves as much because it felt like we were going to tip. But I would definitely do it again. It was fantastic!"



## Dance workshops

Thorngrove School from Newbury visited our Primary students to deliver a Dance and Movement workshop.

Students from Thorngrove last visited Treloar's in 2020, just before the pandemic. The 2 schools were initially brought together by a student at Thorngrove School whose sister attends Treloar's.

12 students from Treloar's took part in this wonderful workshop where they discovered the joy of storytelling through dance and movement.







## Workshop with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

We were delighted to welcome 2 musicians, Jenny and Judith, from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in a workshop organised by Participate Coordinator Tom and led by BSO Associate Musician Sam. Students started the morning with a short demonstration of the violin and cello. The students then took part in a conducting workshop by Sam focusing on watching and playing on different beats of the bar as well as looking at playing with varying dynamics. Students played Ave Maria (Bach/Gounod) with the violinist and cellist working hard to keep in time and to follow the conductor. 3 students particularly enjoyed conducting everyone else and making them play long and short notes. Students had the opportunity to improve their orchestral and group playing as well as playing with brilliant musicians.



"The BSO team were so good with the students. They explained what to do really well, fun to listen to and watch.

The activities they did with them were a really good level and accessible for them all. Really lovely to be a part of."

- Primary teacher at Treloar's







## Sports Day

The weather may have been rainy but nothing could dampen the spirits of our students and staff for Treloar School Sports Day 2024.

We are so proud of the way students have pushed themselves to achieve in PE this year: they have all spent time selecting and using different pieces equipment and trying different methods for each and every activity this year to maximise their full potential, and build their levels of self-belief. They were really able to showcase this in our 'Path to Paris' Paralympic themed Sports Day where they all competed in 9 different Paralympic events from boccia to basketball, tennis to fencing and a lot more besides.

Well done to every single student who worked hard to gain points for their team and entering into the true spirit of fun, fair play and competition.







## School prom

July is prom season: staff from all across campus including catering, therapy, dietitians, support assistants and the teaching staff all come together to support the event and ensure that every student looks their best and can enjoy their evening. Student committees are involved in the planning process and choose the menus, decorations and entertainment options.

The school prom began with mocktails in the piazza—a chance for all the students to assemble, enjoying the evening sunshine, and have photos taken with their friends, teachers and families.





# Summer Festival

Through the Sixth Form Enterprise working, students collaborated to design and host a delightful summer festival for the entire school's enjoyment.

Planning was central to this project, with students independently sharing their ideas. The festival featured a range of activities, including diverse art projects, DIY games from Design and Technology efforts, hook a duck, refreshments, hair and face styling, gardening, target games, and, naturally, some enjoyable music.

It was an impressive showcase of their dedication, and it was wonderful to witness the school community coming together to enjoy.



# John Muir Award

The Sixth Form students are studying and striving for the John Muir Award, which inspires individuals from diverse backgrounds to connect with, take pleasure in, protect, conserve natural and wild areas.

In conjunction with their studies, they participated in a workshop delivered by the Gilbert White Education Centre and also designed and mounted an exhibition showcasing their fantastic efforts. The exhibition was a joy to behold, showcasing their dedication and achievements, and it provided an opportunity to share their work with the wider Treloar School community.





# Recycled Bug Haven

At Treloar School, we believe in creativity, inclusivity, and sustainability. For this year's gardening competition, we embraced the theme of bugs and recycling, transforming our garden into a vibrant habitat for handmade (and real!) bugs using repurposed items.

Our students have thoughtfully reused materials from our everyday school life, including shoes, a spinal brace and a leg gaiter, to construct our garden features. These items, once essential to our daily activities, now find new life in our creative garden project.

As part of our Design and Technology lessons, we collectively built a grand bug house. This structure stands proudly at the back of our garden, showing how we can work together as a team. Each student crafted unique bugs to add to this project, using various recycled items, reflecting their individual creativity.

We hope this project shows children's power of imagination and the importance of recycling.



# Punk Chef cooks with students

The Sixth Form and Key Stage 4 students enjoyed a visit from Scott Garthwaite—also known by his TV name Punk Chef, who is a professional Chef and a TV Chef Presenter. He has appeared in several TV cooking shows showcasing sign language with food which has made him one of the first celebrity Deaf chefs to emerge in mainstream television.

During his visit, Scott showcased the importance and enjoyment of independence in the kitchen—a key component of the curriculum in both key stages.

Cooking is crucial in developing independent skills, and Punk Chef provided an opportunity to enhance them further by creating some fantastic dishes. The students were shown how to make Chicken Kiev and a plum and apricot pudding, which they then prepared themselves, thoroughly enjoying the experience.





## 2 awards for Treloar School

July has been a really exciting time for Treloar School—only this month, the school has won 2 extraordinary awards for its commitment to excellence in the fields of literacy and physical education, proving that students' needs, progress and well-being are at the heart of everything the school does.

On Sunday, 7 July, Treloar School was awarded the UKLA (UK Literary Association) Diversity and Inclusion Award for its literacy curriculum. This is a fantastic recognition of the hard work and dedication towards creating and developing personalised and bespoke curriculums which enable Treloar's students to achieve their best and meet their full capabilities. This award is testament to the strong collaboration between Treloar's Speech and Language Therapy Department and the Education team.

Caroline Weighton, Deputy Head of Speech and Language Therapy at Treloar's, and Lisa Bond presented the curriculum to attendees of the UKLA conference held at Sussex University after receiving their award.

Only a few days after, the school received more exciting news from the Association for Physical Education (afPE) about having been awarded the Quality Mark with Distinction for 'demonstrating outstanding commitment to improvement in for Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity'. Sue Wilkinson MBE, CEO of the afPE, said:

"The multi-disciplinary approach to provision is quite remarkable. Every learner has an individualised programme, where Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity (PESSPA) and swimming are central to their school life. The PE curriculum extends beyond the academic and provides students with access and opportunities that enable them to develop and discover their interests and talents."





# Arts Week

For our Arts Week staff and students from across the school and college came together to enjoy an amazing timetable of 5 workshops.

On the first day, students and staff were treated to a Yo Chi and arts workshops. Yo Chi is a specially designed form of exercise combining Yoga and Tai-chi for physical well-being.

On day 2, Reflections of the Lord Mayor Founder and Director Chris Seow and 2 professional artists ran stained glass workshops for the students.



On day 3, we welcomed drummer Matt for some inspiring and energising African drumming workshops. The workshops included call and response, experiencing different rhythms and following the dynamics and tempo of Matt's drumming. One of our school students said that the workshop "made him feel happy and excited and that he had not been to anything like this before."

Day 4 was spent with Maddy Hurlstone, harpist and newly qualified music therapist. Primary

students enjoyed hearing a selection of classic tunes from Disney to Bach. They also had an opportunity to try playing the harp, and performing alongside Maddy using the Clarion.

On the last day, we had the pleasure of listening to film songs performed by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra performers together with BSO Resound musicians.



# What's on at Treloar's

Thank you to Treloar's parents who attended and showed their support at our latest event The Lady Mayoress's Afternoon Tea Party at Mansion House, London.



In aid of  
 Treloar's



## The Dummer Fair

9th & 10th October 2024

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[www.dummerfair.org.uk](http://www.dummerfair.org.uk)

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