



# QUEEN'S COLLEGE TAUNTON

An individual education  
with family values







An unquantifiable spirit  
existing within a very special  
community



## WHAT MAKES QUEEN'S SPECIAL?

The spirit and heart of this very special community ensures the inclusion of every pupil across all ages and ability. Commitment to fulfilling the potential of each individual can be found deeply rooted in every member of staff, all of whom share a joined-up approach to each child's personal educational journey. With shared values and educational expertise, the family at Queen's ensures every individual entrusted into the care of the College is nurtured to reach their full potential. Mutual respect and positive attitudes allow children to take informed risks, make mistakes and learn how to learn in a supportive and empowered way. We are proud that, when students leave Queen's, they are well-rounded and fulfilled young adults, ready to take on the challenges of life with a truly global outlook.


The high-standard facilities at Queen's support and enhance the learning environment, whether in sport, the arts, or in the classroom. The learning environment excites intellectual curiosity and promotes the development of skills needed for independent learning. With this in mind, Queen's is proud of the ongoing programme of

investment in facilities. Development plans are supported by staff, parents and Old Queenians alike.

A comprehensive co-curricular programme is run by dedicated and enthusiastic staff. A vast array of opportunities exist and it is the norm to get involved, whether in musical groups, drama and productions, art, sport, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award or outdoor pursuits. The exciting choices available allow creative and individual ways to explore new experiences, develop new talents and grow in confidence. Specialisms are celebrated and fully supported to help individuals be the best they can in their field of expertise.

The school motto "non scholae sed vitae discimus" – "we learn not for school but for life" – is as relevant today as it was when the school was founded in 1843. I would encourage all parents to make a personal visit to experience the unique environment that is Queen's College.

**Dr Lorraine Earps**  
Head Teacher



Our core values run through  
the whole pathway of  
education

## BEGINNING FROM 3 MONTHS...

Children are welcomed into Highgrove Nursery from birth, usually coinciding with the end of maternity leave. Families are able to start with us at any time during the year. We ensure that the transition into nursery is carefully planned and tailored to parental requirements, with the right developmental needs for babies and toddlers at the forefront of all considerations.

During the transition into nursery, key carers build a partnership with parents to develop a trusting relationship. It is important that parents feel confident that their child is in the most caring and professional of hands, giving peace of mind.

Queen's Pre-Prep and Junior School is renowned for excellence in infant and junior education and care. The team at Queen's Highgrove Nursery embrace such standards of education and development, and understand the importance of age-appropriate provision in the very young.

With individual well-being at the heart of all activity, the support and service provided by our Early Years practitioners is second to none.










Individual support at all levels  
nurtures talents

## EACH INDIVIDUAL IS VALUED

“The openness of staff, pupils and parents, combined with the support and care were in evidence within 15 minutes of opening the door to Queen’s” – visiting parent.

We take pride in being a relaxed yet purposeful school where individuals are created. A total continuity throughout the whole educational journey is led by a spiritual heart and a holistic approach within a caring community.

Staff offer individual support at every level and give your child a sense of inner value. This creates an ethos where each member of our community feels able to rely on the other and where success is celebrated.



Inclusive opportunities develop  
character and the confidence  
to try new things

## IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Queen's has a unique spirit embraced by the whole community, with an open approach to respecting all beliefs and sharing values. Individual and collective excellence are promoted and celebrated. From the very young at the start of their educational journey, we support your children in finding their place and taking pride in their actions. As children grow and develop, our link between the Junior School and Senior School ensures a holistic approach to education with shared values and a sharing of academic expertise.

Motivation is high at Queen's, with pupils embracing self-discipline, fellowship and a shared purpose. Central to the School's ethos is the care and guidance from specialist teachers to pupils, the classroom and individual support in tutorials.

Children learn how to learn, and passion for subjects is inspired with the development of skills of rational and independent thought.

We are proud of the achievement of our pupils, and academic results are excellent. However, the commitment to exams is only part of our pupils' success; their enjoyment of academic enquiry, debate and search for explanation are the underlying skills leading to an enriched mind.

The 'thinking skills' used by teachers in the classroom encourage questioning, reasoning and inspire children to push the boundaries of learning while articulating their views.













A warm and inclusive  
community promotes a sense  
of inner value

## FULL OF ENTHUSIASM

With our core values at the heart of a Queen's education and the sense of purpose running through all development stages and ages, resilience and character are built.


Individual development is not so much about being taught, but more about developing learning skills. Children are open to accessing creativity and finding new talents, nurturing those talents and understanding the whole person. Pupils come to

Queen's as children, but they leave as young adults who have independent thinking skills to equip them to develop in an informed way through life.

Queen's prides itself that its young adults are ready to enter higher education or the world of work, with the academic and social skills which will equip them for the new challenges they will face.








Creative and individual ways  
to explore opportunities

## FRIENDSHIPS THAT LAST

Everyone who visits Queen's is struck by its friendly and unpretentious atmosphere, where children of all ages take pride in welcoming all – whether new pupils or guests.

A glance at the lively activity at lunchtime, at a sports match or before a performance, shows that all age groups are comfortable in each other's company. Our younger pupils are inspired by their older peers and our older students look back with fondness and offer mentoring support.

Our ethos means that staff openly contribute as participants rather than teachers in many activities such as the choir and hockey. Lessons are delivered in a conversational and interactive style, encouraging the development of thinking and questioning skills. Much of the learning takes place in discussion-based group work, and can also take place in inspiring locations outside the classroom.



Developing life skills  
to inspire confidence  
in others

## LEADERSHIP QUALITIES

Inclusive opportunities exist throughout the school to develop character and try new things. Children develop an important sense of worth and inner value. Flexibility and the ability to adapt to new demands are all-important skills and, while some children do not aspire to be outright leaders, the same skills of tolerance, defining goals, and organising resources are required whatever the task.

One reason Queen's puts a large emphasis on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme (almost every Year 10 pupil takes part at Bronze level) is the opportunity it provides to develop

leadership skills in small groups. Queen's is one of the leading providers of this award in the South West. In addition, countless other chances arise in the wide range of co-curricular activities on offer at the College, from public speaking to climbing.

Because of the breadth and inclusivity of co-curricular activity at Queen's, many pupils will find the opportunity to help run a team themselves – as independently as possible from the staff coach in overall charge.
















Individuals are created  
and success is celebrated

## CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT


At Queen's we celebrate every pupil's achievement, and the staff take pride in adding value at all levels. Pupils join in, take part, are adventurous and are inspired to reach their potential.

Our sports activities give almost every pupil the chance to play in a team. We celebrate winning and learning from competition, and encourage all to take part and develop skills.

An extraordinary proportion of pupils play in musical groups or sing in choirs – often on an equal footing with staff.

The musical standards are always high and support the success of our drama productions. Such performances often feature a “cast of thousands” because staff know the value to individual pupils of being included in a complex and demanding group project.

Pupils take pride in performing in our state-of-the-art Queen's Hall, seating over 550 guests. The West End would be proud of the performances undertaken and we are proud of pupil successes in national youth theatre, TV and film.



Friendly and mutual  
respect embracing positive  
attitudes

## SEIZING EVERY OPPORTUNITY

Our pupils are encouraged to seize opportunities and take risks. An outstanding staff team is there to coach and support. The range of co-curricular activities is startling; from kayaking in remote Norwegian rivers to choral singing in Italian piazzas. Outdoor pursuits, including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, play a central role in the life of the school. There are many other activities in addition to this, such as equestrian teams and water sports.

Individual specialisms are diverse, fully supported and encouraged, with success achieved by a junior medallist in

Olympic bobsleigh, international representation at hockey, swimming and triathlon, through to one student becoming a Master Scuba Diver.

Of course, not all adventures happen outdoors. Our Sixth Form stage events for charity and many young musicians play in a variety of bands or sing in choirs. Creativity is encouraged and getting involved is welcomed.







NURSERY & PRE-PREP




JUNIOR



SENIOR



SIXTH FORM



Empowering pupils  
in a safe and challenging  
environment

## ONE COLLEGE ~ FOUR SCHOOLS

### **Nursery & Pre-Prep** 0 – 7

Between the ages of 0 and 7, the vital building blocks of any child's education and development are laid. As well as learning number and language skills, children develop a sense of school offering them a wholly encouraging and secure environment. Queen's Highgrove Nursery, Nursery School and Pre-Prep do all this and more; dedicated and expert staff nurture young hearts and minds in purpose-built facilities which are part of the main campus.

### **Junior School** 7 – 11

Our children are developing fast, both intellectually and physically. In the Junior School, independent learning techniques develop and opportunities outside the classroom multiply. New games such as rugby and hockey appear on the timetable and more than two-thirds of pupils are learning a musical instrument. Children are inspired by subject specialist teachers and gain from access to shared values and teaching experience across all schools.

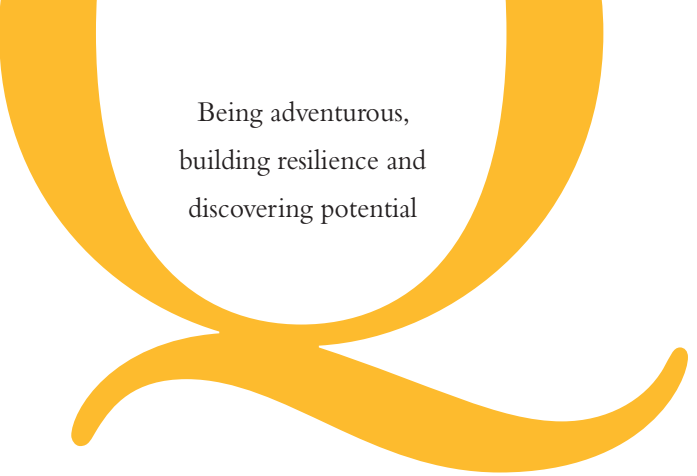
### **Senior School** 11 – 16

Pupils develop confidence as individuals and their personal journey is guided through a plethora of opportunities and experiences. The academic programme reflects this with emphasis on the National Curriculum and GCSE courses. Standards and expectations are high, as is the level of teaching expertise and tutorial support. In sport, in the creative arts and activities, such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, pupils are stretched and challenged.

### **Sixth Form** 16 – 18

Well-rounded young adults are prepared to continue along their chosen pathway with a truly global outlook. Development at this level is about so much more than grades achieved. The maturity to function independently and make well-informed and considered decisions are just as crucial. An outstanding academic programme, combined with a supportive pastoral and social environment gives students a vital edge.





Being adventurous,  
building resilience and  
discovering potential

## NURSERY & PRE-PREP

Queen's Highgrove Nursery and Nursery School are staffed by caring and professional individuals who are experts in Early Years age-appropriate provision. From after maternity leave, babies are welcomed to Highgrove Nursery and transition stages from 0–4 years are carefully planned and in line with parental requirements. The Early Years environment is happy, safe and inspiring, with individual well-being at the heart of every activity.

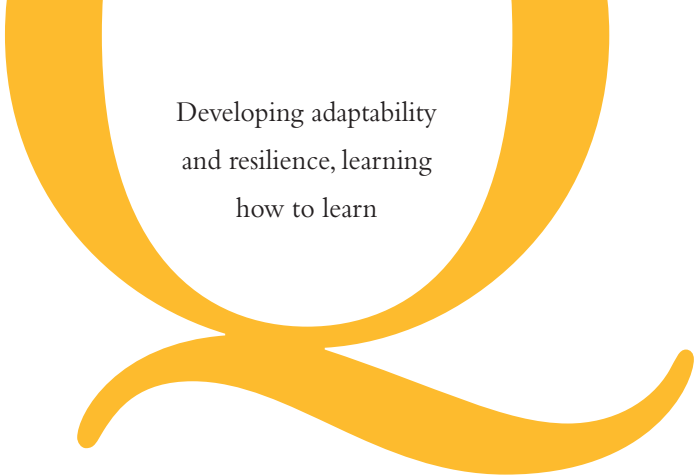
Our exciting Early Years Foundation Stage achieved an 'Outstanding' rating in the latest OFSTED inspection, which recognised the excellent child-centred curriculum we offer, with a high emphasis on outdoor learning through our Forest School sessions.

The dynamic and creative topic-based teaching provides a broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum for all children. Children at Queen's Pre-Prep enjoy a wide range of after-school activities and clubs and the communication between home and school is both frequent and effective. The facilities are outstanding, matching the excellent individual relationships between teachers and children.









Developing adaptability  
and resilience, learning  
how to learn

## THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Much of the emphasis in Queen's Junior School is on breadth of experience, developing a balance of opportunities and a holistic approach to learning. Hand in hand with the children's academic development is a wide and varied co-curricular programme aimed at developing confidence, creativity and individuality.


The majority of pupils play at least one musical instrument. They are encouraged to play and perform with others in choirs, orchestra and many other musical groups. Drama is a focal point within the school, and performances vary from assemblies to musical shows.

Sport is varied and fully inclusive, with most children having the opportunity to represent the school and experience the buzz of

competition and team dynamics. The trips out of school which team sports provide contribute to the camaraderie of pupils and the inspiration gained from the coaching, as do the many educational trips which are a regular part of the curriculum. Their number and frequency is matched only by the regular visitors who bring their experiences into the school – everything from World War II pilots to Senegalese drummers.

Our aim is to produce happy, mature, inquiring children with a wide range of interests. Queen's Junior School gives children the confidence to make the most of every opportunity and prepares them for the new challenges Senior School will bring.





Academic achievement  
is applauded and all success  
is celebrated

## THE SENIOR SCHOOL

Senior School really is at the heart of the Queen's campus. A group of buildings – ranging from elegant 19th century to state-of-the-art science labs – houses the 11-16 age group.

Pupils have access to a broad and interesting curriculum, taught by an outstandingly committed and enthusiastic staff. Some have written internationally recognised textbooks on their subjects, others have vital qualifications and experience in co-curricular activities. Academic achievement is celebrated and so is a wide range of individual successes throughout school life. Pupils are proud of each other and encourage an ethos of reaching personal potential.

The facilities are impressive by any standards. The IT system links over 300 computers to both the internet and the school intranet. Pupils have open access to either the Learning Resource Centre or Senior Resource Centre, depending on age.

All pupils make use of a range of technology to support study. Wifi is available wherever they are on site.

Sporting facilities are equally impressive, with a large sports hall and two Astroturfs – one floodlit – complementing the 30 acres of immaculate playing fields.

Pastoral care is based on a Year Group system and, within that structure, are Tutor Groups. Tutors are responsible for an average of 12 pupils and are easily contactable both within the school and by parents. Each Year Group has a set of day rooms within the school, giving pupils a place to socialise and store books and equipment.

There are also four Houses – named after the founders of Queen's – with students competing against each other in a variety of events and activities throughout the year.











Independent and extended  
learning, developing life skills  
for a global future

## THE SIXTH FORM

At Queen's, our Sixth Form is a school within a school and has a significant identity of which our students are very proud. It is housed within a modern, purpose-built facility with access restricted to Years 12 and 13.


The Sixth Form Centre is a modern senior resource, a social hub with comfortable furnishings and an online area for social networking and informal web browsing. There are relaxed spaces and a café which looks out on to a terraced area and our beautiful playing fields. Students are able to take advantage of a supported independence in the specially designed study rooms – a great preparation for the important next step.

While being able to take advantage of an exclusive facility, the Sixth Form remain a very important part of the main school body through their leadership roles. Our young people learn how to present themselves professionally and act as mentors for the younger years.

Academically the emphasis is firmly on independent learning with a wide choice of A Levels. Teachers see their function as guiding the Sixth Form through their courses, pointing them at the correct reading and web resources. A number of more specialised subjects are provided including courses in Pre-med and Engineering. Students are closely monitored by their individual tutors during their two years in the Sixth Form to avoid the issues which can happen when youngsters fall behind with demanding work schedules. They are able to select their own tutor according to the teacher's subject interest or career specialisms. But it's not all work. Sixth Formers still make up most of the school's flagship sports teams and, in recent years, more than a dozen have gone on to represent their country on the international stage.

By the end of their two-year course, our Sixth Formers leave prepared for the next step in their educational or professional career. Individuals are proud of a wide array of achievements, yet humble, with empathy for those around them.





A supportive family  
environment and the growth  
of independence

## BOARDING AT QUEEN'S

Nearly a third of the pupils at Queen's are boarders who come from a wide range of backgrounds. Boarding life is vibrant and full of opportunities. Its supportive family ethos – whether a closer environment at Junior or a lighter touch at a more Senior level – means that every individual feels at home while away from home. The presence of our boarders gives Queen's a constant energy, with activities seven days a week. Such activity is enjoyed by all, boarders and day pupils alike.

The boarding houses have a distinct identity, of which our boarders are very proud. All are led by knowledgeable and dedicated House Staff, supported by experienced resident tutors. Queen's has a 24-hour health centre on site, ensuring complete well-being for all pupils.

Communication with home is regular and informal. House Parents are available to parents at all times, and children are encouraged to contact home whenever they wish. Site-wide wifi supports the ever-developing methods of communication and is available to all.

There is a true understanding of the demands placed upon our Services families, and Queen's makes every effort to support these changing needs at all levels. Whether children need the flexibility to visit home outside the holidays, or need assistance getting home at the end of term, support is always proactive. Full information regarding boarding at Queen's for our Services families is available from our Admissions Team. Children are welcome to join us for a taste of boarding at Queen's. Occasional and flexible boarding is also available to support our families.







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