

# PREP BULLETIN

News from Nursery to Year 6

September 17th, 2021

## EXCITING START TO TERM

By MR HENRY MATTHEWS  
Head of Prep School

At the end of our first full week of the Autumn Term, we certainly have a real sense of normality back in the Prep School.

Our children have thoroughly enjoyed their lessons and clubs as I hope you will see throughout this week's *Bulletin*. Individual music lessons, speech lessons, dance clubs, rehearsals and choirs have all started with great enthusiasm and I have been very pleased to see so many children take up the opportunities available – we are certainly in for a treat when performance time arrives!

I know this will provide invaluable confidence ... and most of all huge enjoyment for our pupils. Once again our School is filled with music and song. This week was my first chance to meet, in person, the Heads and leaders of the MIST (Methodist Independent Schools Trust) group and it is great to be part of such a vibrant, aspiring and warm community.

Sharing our experiences of school life over the past 12 months gave a real sense of being part of a much wider family.

Yesterday (Thursday) we welcomed back our chaplain Mr Aldridge for



■ Continued on page two.

■ Smiley faces in the Prep School playground this week ... it's great to be back!

■ **Continued from page one.**

Assembly and his lessons of honesty and community were well received by our children and staff.

It's great to have Tim with us again and his work will add to the already strong pastoral support we provide for our community.

Thank you to those who were able to stay for coffee this morning – it was lovely to be able to get to know you further and listen to your thoughts on

our School.

Over the past few months, we have seen increased interest in families joining our School.

We have two Open Mornings coming up – Seniors on Saturday, September 25th, and Prep School on Friday, October 1st.

If you have friends or family interested in attending these events please do ask them to get in touch with Vanessa Monks at [vmm@queenscollege.org.uk](mailto:vmm@queenscollege.org.uk)

to book a slot to speak to staff and view Queen's.

Finally, yesterday was National Teaching Assistants' Day and I would like to end by thanking, not only our wonderful TAs, but all those who work in a supporting role within the school.

You are invaluable to our work, thank you for all you do to help us – teachers, children and parents.

I hope you all have a fun and relaxing weekend.

## SCHOOL PHOTOS

Tempest have introduced a contactless service to avoid handing out proofs and distributing orders manually.

To do this, they will need parent contact details so that you can order and pay online and we will be giving them access to this information through their secure portal.

You will have access, and will be able to delete access at any time you choose to do so.

Please view their Privacy Policy by [CLICKING HERE](#) for how they use these details or visit their website for more information by [CLICKING HERE](#).



■ **Prep parents were welcomed to coffee with Mr Matthews today (Friday). There was certainly much to talk about at the end of a busy first full week of term.**



## SCHOOL CALENDAR

September 18th to 25th

	<b>Saturday, September 18th</b>		
9:30 – 11:00	Hockey Girls U11 Training	14:45	Hockey Girls U10B v Wellington Prep (H)
9:30 – 11:00	Hockey Girls U11 Training	15:10	Hockey Girls U11A v King's Hall and Wellington Prep School (H)
10:00	Rugby Boys U11 @ West Buckland Festival		
	<b>Monday, September 20th</b>		
09:00	Year 2 Fire of London Museum Session	8:15 – 10:00	Macmillan Coffee Morning - Prep School parents
	<b>Wednesday, September 22nd</b>	09:00 – 11:00	Nursery School Forest School Session
09:00	Year 1 Teeth and Bones Workshop	09:00 – 11:00	Forest School Reception and Year 1
13:30	Rugby Boys U11 Quadrangular Festival (H)		
13:30	Rugby Boys U10 Quadrangular Festival @ Blundell's Prep School (A)	13:30	<b>Friday, September 24th</b> Hockey Girls U10 Exeter Tournament (A)
14:00	Hockey Girls U10A v Wellington Prep (H)		
14:00	Hockey Girls U11B v King's Hall and Wellington Prep (H)	09:00 – 12:30	<b>Saturday, September 25th</b> Senior School and Sixth Form Open Morning

## First class!

Our Reception children look so smart in their new uniform and we're all very proud of the way they have settled in so quickly.

We were also delighted to welcome their parents to coffee with Mr and Mrs Noad and Mr Matthews on Tuesday.

■ See more Reception class photos on page six.



## New Queen's website prepares for launch

We've been working on a shiny new website for Queen's over the past few months and can't wait to share it with you all.

We hope you will agree that its fresh feel and easy navigation helps to showcase all



aspects and all parts of our wonderful School.

We are currently in the final stages of reviewing and updating content and testing is scheduled to take place from the end of next week.

We are aiming to make the new site live within the next few weeks and would welcome any feedback as we continue to hone and develop the site post launch.

This week we have had a professional photographer in over three days, so look out for some lovely new images featuring pupils from across the whole school.



## Wellbeing Centre is now open

The start of term has seen the opening of our new Wellbeing Centre at Queen's which also houses Learning Support. Prep School children will start using the centre over the coming weeks.

Queen's has adopted a holistic approach to wellbeing and mental health for the benefit of all students, parents and staff.

The centre provides a hub for counselling services, learning support and wellbeing support and training.

The aim is to create an awareness of mental health needs without any stigma or discrimination to ensure all who

access the services can fulfill their potential.

Wellbeing requires just as much work as physical health or academic progress and so it should be at the heart of

everything we do to ensure we equip all members of our community with the necessary skills to navigate the

challenges of modern life.

Each student has a number of adults they can call on to provide the support they need. A Prep School programme will run alongside the Senior School programme, with age appropriate sessions from Pre-Prep through to Year 6.

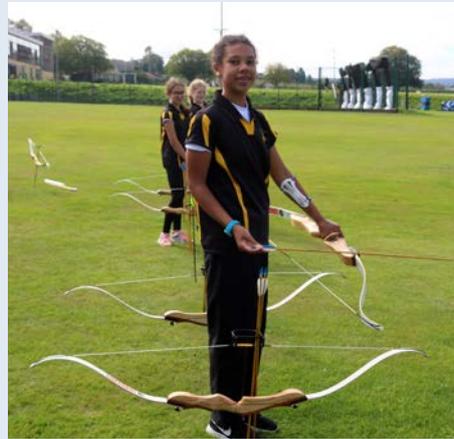


# Year 6 pupils on target with their Outdoor Education



Our Prep School's Outdoor Education lessons are proving a big hit. Pupils in 6PF have been

enjoying archery on the Lower today while the rest of the class were kayaking in the pool. ■ See also page ten.



# Great Fire of London is being investigated by Year 2

Year 2 had great fun sequencing the events of the Great Fire of London. It was wonderful to see the children working collaboratively, using timelines.



# Prep pupils on the run (and swim) in House Biathlon

We held our annual House Biathlon this afternoon (Friday) and there were determined performances from all of the children.

Pupils in Years 3 to 6 competed against each other in a swim and run ... here's some of the action from the Lower.



## Year 4 taking things at place value

Year 4 have been reinforcing their knowledge of place value and had fun using various equipment and even food to show their understanding.



# Our new Reception children are off to a busy start



Reception have settled in so well to life at school. They have enjoyed a variety of different activities and Miss Cash and Mrs Baker are so proud of them.

On Monday, they enjoyed a gymnastics session in PE while yesterday (Thursday) they were off to the outdoor area for Forest School.



# Thanks for your help

Yesterday (Thursday) was National Teaching Assistants' Day and we marked the occasion with break-time cakes. Thanks to them all for the wonderful work they do to support both our staff and children.



## Lunchtime in the lighthouse

Year 1 have made their own Lego baskets and sandwiches for snack time just like Mr Grinling in *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch*.



# Our Nursery children are all having a wonderful time!



Our Nursery School children have been enjoying exploring all the new resources on offer to them during their first week back.



Puddleducks had a busy day on Wednesday while Cottontails had pasta play in the morning and were busy practising their pincer grip to fill and empty the cups.

Both groups of children had a lovely walk to explore the College grounds yesterday (Thursday) morning.

They even asked to take along the magnifying glasses so they could take a closer look!



# We're joining in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Queen's is taking part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support next Thursday, September 23rd.

We will be hosting Prep School parents from 8.15 to 10.15am and Senior School parents from 3.30 to 5.30pm.

Both events will be in the garden of Wyvern House (Mr and Mrs Noad's home) – weather permitting so do bring a coat along with a donation to Macmillan!



We would be grateful for any donations of nut-free cakes and biscuits, home

made or otherwise. Goodies can be dropped off with Mrs Cameron at Prep School reception.

If any parents are free to help with making teas/coffees on the day, for either session, it would be much appreciated. Please email Mrs Noad – [ejn@queenscollege.org.uk](mailto:ejn@queenscollege.org.uk). Any leftover cakes, biscuits etc will be sold to pupils at break next Friday (September 24th) – again with all proceeds to Macmillan.

## Art on show

Head of Art, Mr Philip Dudman, has an exhibition of new work, entitled 'Birds of the Blackdowns', on show from tomorrow (Saturday) as part of Somerset Arts Week.

It will be open from 11am to 5pm for two weeks (not on Mondays and Tuesdays) at The Studio, Sweet Briar Cottage, Blagdon Hill TA3 7SL, opposite Blagdon Green.

All visitors welcome and you may even get a cup of tea!

## SAFEGUARDING

### NETFLIX age ratings

The Netflix channel is popular across all ages but there have been concerns in relation to age ratings and the type of content recommended to viewers.

Like many other services, Netflix uses algorithms to determine what you might like to watch based on viewing history, what you have liked etc.

Since last year, Netflix has been working with the BBFC and all of its content on Netflix is now age-rated to BBFC classification standards. It is the first UK streaming service to accomplish this. To read the parents' guide on how to set up a child account and choose maturity ratings, [CLICK HERE](#).

## QUEEN'S COLLEGE ADVENTURES APPEAL

As part of our continued drive to broaden the opportunities available to our students giving them the chance to challenge themselves and help them embrace the great outdoors, we are launching a major fundraising campaign at Queen's.

The Adventures Appeal aims to enhance our outdoor pursuits' facilities and opportunities for children aged 4 in Reception to 18 in the Sixth Form.

An exciting programme of fundraising events is planned – more details to follow – and we are also looking for people to organise sponsored events and other activities to help us reach our goal.

## 3 AMAZING PROJECTS

There are three amazing projects being planned:

A state-of-the-art Climbing Wall to be installed in the Sports Hall for use by all students.

A new bespoke Adventure Play facility for Prep School.

New Playground Equipment for Reception and Years 1 and 2.

## TO DONATE

Go to our Queen's College Foundation's Just Giving Page: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/adventuresappeal>



Queen's College Foundation have kindly agreed to match fund all monies raised for this appeal.



# Years 3 and 4 parents learn about subjects on offer

Year 3 and 4 parents attended a Curriculum Information Evening in the Birchall Hall on Tuesday. As well as meeting the teachers, the parents were able to see the wealth of resources each subject has to offer including finding out about our exciting Outdoor Education programme which has started this term.

■ The new lessons are going down a storm across Prep School and 5OS are pictured (*below*) during a team building exercise. Mrs Oliver says they were fab!



## Walking the iguana!



Year 3 created some superb dramatic retellings of Brian Moses' poem 'Walking With My Iguana' as the opening to their topic on Performance Poetry.

Both classes were impressed with how clearly their friends spoke and the energy with which they performed the rhythm and actions.



### SPORT: Hockey partnership is under way

If your son or daughter is keen on hockey and wants to improve their skills, then look no further!

Taunton CS Hockey Club now train on our pitches and offer reduced fees for members of the Queen's community.



#### TUESDAYS

6.30 – 7.30 Girls  
U8/10/12/14

#### WEDNESDAYS

6.30 – 7.30 Boys  
U8/10/12/14

#### INTERESTED?

Please email [info@TauntonCS.org](mailto:info@TauntonCS.org) to find out more or sign up to the club

### SPORT: Spectator parking and access to fields

We are looking forward to seeing parents on the sports field in the coming weeks.

We hope to open up the Prep car park (next to the netball court) approximately half an hour before fixtures start and you can access the fields via the pedestrian gate next to the Wyvern Hall, leading down to the archway (above the Queen's Hall).

### SPORT: Hockey training for girls in Years 5 and 6

Tomorrow (Saturday) sees hockey training for girls in Years 5 and 6. It runs from 9.30 to 11am.

We would love to see as many

girls as possible - please direct them to the Astro and pick up will be at the Prep School. Please bring a small, healthy snack and lots of water.

# Keep up to date with all the latest news from Queen's

For all our day-to-day news and information, sign up for the *Queen's College Community* group on Facebook.

We launched the group – as part of our main Queen's page on the social media channel – in May and it now has nearly 800 members.

It's a platform for useful information specific to current members of our



Queen's College Community  
Private group · 766 members

community, including parents and grandparents, students, staff and Old

Queenians.

To join, all you have to do is:

- Click on the *More* tab on the Queen's Facebook page.

- Click on *Groups*.

- Select *Queen's College Community*.

- Tick if you are a Parent/Guardian, Staff, Student, OQ or 'Other'.



## Sunday Fun Days are back!

Our boarders in Cotlake House were bouncing off the walls with excitement for their total wipeout activities on the first Sunday Funday of term.

Thank you to Wellington Bounce On for supplying the equipment.





The forward-thinking independent school creating caring, ambitious and well-educated boys and girls.

- Extensive range of co-curricular activities
- Caring and supportive community
- Strong academic results
- A range of scholarships available
- Family fee support and a generous sibling discount
- Buses available across the region
- No academic lessons on Saturday mornings
- Dedicated to sustainability
- Outstanding creative and performing arts
- 570 seat theatre – the largest in the region



## OPEN MORNINGS

Meet the new Head of College Mr Julian Noad

Saturday 25 September 2021  
Senior & Sixth form (11-18 years)

Friday 01 October 2021  
Nursery, Pre-Prep & Prep (0-11 years)

Contact our friendly admissions team

**01823 340830**

[admissions@queenscollege.org.uk](mailto:admissions@queenscollege.org.uk)  
[www.queenscollege.org.uk](http://www.queenscollege.org.uk)

