



QUEEN'S
COLLEGE
TAUNTON

BULLETIN

News from Senior School and Sixth Form

October 8th, 2021



■ Our musicians are pictured with Mr and Mrs Noad ahead of their concert in St John's Church at lunchtime today (Friday).

A BUSY ENGINE ROOM!

We are now very much in the engine room of the term and, indeed, the school year. I continue to be pleased by the academic industry being shown, but also the commitment to a vast range of co-curricular activity, only a sample of which is in this *Bulletin* and on social media. We truly do have a busy and successful school.

A couple of highlights for me this week. Firstly, our first tea party at the Head's house – a chance for Jane and me to get to know our pupils better. This week it was Mrs Halls' Year 7 form and

By MR JULIAN NOAD
Head of College

they were a delight. It was the first of a number of events that are planned with the pupils throughout the year. And, secondly, I write this hot on the heels of a visit to St John's Church to see some of our leading musicians perform a lunchtime concert – their first in a very long time. To say that I was blown away would be an understatement. Quite magnificent and such wonderful ambassadors for Queen's.

Those of you with children in examination years will no doubt be alert to news from Ofqual and their feedback on assessments for next year – [CLICK HERE](#). This has confirmed that examinations will take place in 'normal' format. We await further details and clarification and expect some refinement in due course.

I wrote yesterday with thanks for and feedback on our communications survey. I shared that one suggestion was for a weekly Q&A spot. So,

■ Continued on page two

Two important events in the week ahead at Queen's

■ Continued from page one.

without delay, here goes. 'What is being done to increase the numbers in currently low year groups at Queen's?'

In answer, I share that increased and targeted marketing strategies have been in operation for several months, in particular digital activity. We have invested in additional resources for this area and we are already seeing the benefits of increased attendance at open events and higher levels of applications to join Queen's. A large part of this is more effectively getting the right messages out to the right audiences. While Queen's is fundamentally modest, we are getting better at sharing our pride and many

successes. As a consequence, we are expecting record levels of new starters in 2022, with joiners in all year groups.

There are two events to flag for next week. Firstly, our Sixth Form Open Evening – Thursday, October 14th from 7pm in the Sixth Form Centre itself – which will be an opportunity for current Year 11 (internal and external) to learn more of the excellent offering here at Queen's. If you know of other families who would benefit from this experience, please do point them our way.

Secondly, we look forward to the House Music Festival on Friday, October 15th. This will take pupils out

of classes for the day, to work as a team within their Houses as they prepare to deliver two unison songs: one common to all Houses and one chosen for their House alone. There is much excitement in anticipation and we look forward to an excellent day of bonding through communal singing.

I sign off earlier in the day than usual since Jane and I are heading to Perrott Hill prep school for their Senior Schools Symposium this afternoon. It will be good to meet others and spread the word about all we have on offer here at Queen's. It does also add to this week's Q&A question, doesn't it?

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes, Julian.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

October 9th to 17th

Saturday, October 9th

All Day Gold DofE Canoeists Practice

09:00-13:00 Netball Girls U14A County Tournament (A)

12:30 Hockey U13A v Blundell's School (H)

12:30 Hockey U12A v Blundell's School (H)

12:30 Hockey U12B v Blundell's School (H)

14:00 Hockey 2nd XI v Blundell's School (H)

14:00 Hockey 1st XI v Blundell's School (H)

14:00 Rugby U12A v Brymore Academy (H)

14:00 Rugby U13A v Brymore Academy (H)

14:00 Rugby U15A v Brymore Academy (H)

14:00 Rugby U16A v Brymore Academy (H)

14:15 Hockey U15A v Blundell's School (A)

14:15 Hockey U14A v Blundell's School (A)

14:30 Rugby U12B v Sherborne Prep (Triangular) (H)

14:30 Hockey Sevens U13A v Millfield Prep (H)

14:30 Hockey Sevens U12A v Millfield Prep (H)

14:30 Hockey Sevens U12B v Millfield Prep (H)

14:30 Rugby U13A v Sherborne Prep (Triangular) (A)

16:00 Senior Basketball v Richard Huish College (A)

Thursday, October 14th

14:00 Rugby U18A v Wellington School (H)

18:00-21:00 Sixth Form Open Evening

Friday, October 15th

All Day House Music Festival

Saturday, October 16th

14:00 Hockey U15A v King's College, Taunton (A)

14:00 Hockey U15B v King's College, Taunton (A)

14:00 Hockey 1st XI v King's College, Taunton (H)

14:00 Hockey 2nd XI v King's College, Taunton (H)

14:00 Rugby House Matches (Year 7-13)

15:00 Hockey U14A v King's College, Taunton (A)

15:00 Hockey U14B v King's College, Taunton (A)

15:15 Hockey 3rd XI v King's College, Taunton (H)

15:15 Hockey 4th XI v King's College, Taunton (H)

16:00 Ten Tors Initial Training

Sunday, October 17th

All Day Ten Tors Initial Training

10:00-17:00 *Animal Farm* Dress Rehearsal

Sunday, October 10th

09:00-17:00 Climbing – tbc

Monday, October 11th

Week B timetable starts

15:30-16:30 Years 12-13 Academic Scholars – Maths

17:40 - 18:30 Head's Initial Thoughts

Tuesday, October 12th

15:30-16:30 Years 9-10 Academic Scholars – REP

15:30-16:30 Years 7-8 Academic Scholars – Eng/Hist

Wednesday, October 13th

14:30 Rugby U12A v Sherborne Prep (Triangular) (H)

Our musicians star in lunchtime concert at St John's



Senior musicians gave their first public performance in more than 18 months today with a lunchtime concert at nearby St John's Church today.

As always, the level of performance was extremely high and greatly appreciated by an enthusiastic audience. A great way to return to live music!



Calling Nursery practitioners!

Pop in for a confidential, informal chat with Nursery Manager, Donna Kershaw, and look around our wonderful Nursery.

Thursday, October 14th, from 6pm to 7.30pm.

Opportunities are available to join us and benefits include:

- Three days off per week (full-

time hours over four days).

- Six-seven children per key worker.

- Weekly CPD.

- Friendly, supportive team in a lovely working environment.

Watch our Queen's College Nursery Film by [CLICKING HERE](#).



Tea with the Head

Mr and Mrs Noad are getting to know the students with a series of afternoon tea parties, starting with these Year 7s.



New recruits at Minehead Eye

There were a few new skate recruits for our boarders' latest trip to Minehead Eye on Tuesday evening.



Ready for a REBELLION?

The animals are stirring ... rebellion is in the air. Queen's Theatre Senior Acting Company is in final rehearsals for the season's opening play, George Orwell's *Animal Farm* and it's creating quite a buzz around the College!

The cast is preparing epic political theatre in the style of the legendary German director Bertolt Brecht, and it's going to be spectacular.

With an Expressionistic set and original music by Justin Li, this is bold theatre-making.

But it is making the animals restless? Who knows when the rebellion will come, or what the oppressed masses of Manor Farm will do next?

Get your tickets for what promises to be an unforgettable theatrical event by [CLICKING HERE](#).



Great shot, sir!



Thanks to our IT Manager, Mr Matt Murray, for this stunning shot taken from the Senior School main entrance.

If you have an unusual view of Queen's, we'd love to share it ... please email kab@queenscollege.org.uk

Years 6 and 7 (rock) pool their resources in Torquay

Prep and Senior pupils worked together on Monday as Years 6 and 7 travelled to Torquay for a Science trip. It was led by Dr Ceri Lewis, Professor in Marine Biology at the University of Exeter.

The children learned about rocky shore eco-systems and the importance of our oceans, particularly how they help reduce the effect of human activity on climate change.

Everyone had a great time exploring the rock pools - finding a wide variety of species, including crabs, shrimp,



fish, starfish and sea anemones. The trip concluded with the pupils completing a beach litter pick.



Rehearsals are in full swing for 'Shrek the Musical'



It was another busy morning of rehearsals for 'Shrek the Musical' in the Queen's Hall on Saturday. The show runs from November 24th to 29th and tickets are on sale, via our Box Office, by [CLICKING HERE](#).



Please help us to get growing

If you happen to be a Morrisons shopper, and collect their 'Grow Tokens', please can we ask that you donate them to Queen's College?

If we collect enough, we can earn FREE gardening equipment, seeds, plants and compost for the students to grow fruit, vegetables and herbs in our new kitchen gardens.



Preventing injuries

In A-Level PE, Year 13s are undertaking a unit on injury and injury rehabilitation.



On Monday, the students looked at various injuries including sprains and tennis elbow, then tried out measures to prevent and rehabilitate injury including the use of kinesiology tape and braces.

Hutton's retail therapy

Some of the Hutton boarders had a lovely day out shopping and eating at Clarks Village, Street, on Sunday.



The minibus was full of shopping bags on the return journey!

Our record-breaking LAMDA Speech exam students

Our successful students have been receiving their LAMDA Speech certificates this week.

We had some absolutely fantastic LAMDA Speech exam results, which were taken at the end of last term.

Here at Queen's, we had ten pupils take exams and nine out of ten were awarded Distinction (80% and over)!

- Aria: Distinction (Grade 4 Solo Acting)
- Clara: Merit (Grade 4 Solo Acting)
- Thomas: Distinction (Grade 4 Speaking in Public)
- Millie : Distinction (Grade 6 Solo Acting)
- Lily: Distinction (Grade 6 Solo Acting)

- Isla: Distinction (Grade 6 Solo Acting)
- Falah: Distinction (Grade 6 Solo Acting)
- Prakriti: Distinction (Grade 4 Speaking, Verse & Prose)
- Lucia: Distinction (Grade 6 Solo Acting)
- Osa: Distinction (Grade 6 Solo Acting)

All of the pupils are now looking forward to the 106th Taunton Drama Festival in November, which will take place at Temple Methodist Church.

If anyone is interested in starting lessons, to take LAMDA exams, please email Mr Kirby for more details and information – mak@queenscollege.org.uk

Arty installation

When Mrs Litton tasked two (then Year 10) students with producing a sign for the new 'Book Nook', little did she expect a mighty art installation to be produced!



Now, not only does the English department have a cosy, private, individual reading space for any pupil to use for a little bit of reading down-time (*below*), they have an impressive, four-foot-high piece of art to welcome them, and inspire them, as they climb the stairs.

Huge thanks go to the talented Katie McDavid and Leela Cosens in Year 11 for their inspiring piece – with paint, papier-mache book leaves, and whole books in relief (which were once the centre-pieces at Mrs Litton's wedding).

Exploding from a reader's mind, it encapsulates what reading brings to the imagination.



Opportunity to try a martial art unlike many others

WHAT IS AIKIDO?

Aikido is a Japanese martial art developed by Morihei Ueshiba (1883-1969), as a synthesis of his martial studies, philosophy, and religious beliefs. Aikido is often translated as 'the way of harmony', and Ueshiba's goal was to create an art which practitioners could use to defend themselves while also protecting their attacker from injury. Aikido is performed by blending with the motion of the attacker and redirecting the force of the attack, rather than opposing it head-on.

This requires very little physical strength, as the aikidōka (aikido practitioner) leads the attacker's momentum using entering and turning movements. The techniques are completed with various throws, joint locks and immobilisations.

Aikido derives mainly from the martial art of Daitō-ryū Aiki-jūjutsu but began to diverge from it in the late 1920s, with Ueshiba's early students using the term aiki-jūjutsu.

Today, aikido is found all over the world in a number of styles, with broad ranges of interpretation and emphasis. However, they all share techniques learned from Ueshiba.

Classes are taught by Michael Higgins Sensei, founder and chief instructor of Itai Doshin Aikido Club, who has been practising Aikido in the UK, Europe and Japan for 20 years.



WHY PRACTICE AIKIDO?

All martial arts have something to offer, but unlike many others, Aikido does not block, but blends with the opponent to evade an attack.

It's all about movement, timing, body mechanics and posture breaking. In addition to open-hand techniques, students also train with Bokken (wooden sword) and Jo (wooden staff) to enhance our understanding Aikido. One of the primary aims of Aikido is to develop and improve ourselves, physically and mentally, through rigorous practise.

IS AIKIDO DIFFERENT TO MOST OTHER MARTIAL ARTS?

Compared with Karate, Tae Kwon-Do, and Kick Boxing – most definitely. You really need to see and feel it to appreciate its softness, fluidity of movement and devastating power. It is worth noting that Aikido is a full contact martial art. However, it is non-competitive.

DO YOU NEED TO BE PHYSICALLY STRONG TO PRACTISE AIKIDO?

The simple answer to this question is a no. Aikido places great emphasis on motion and the dynamics of movement and blending, but does not rely on strength, so is well suited to both men

and women.

Aikido is about relaxing, as this allows you to move freely and quickly as your body is not tense.

WHERE AND WHEN?

Classes (with a small charge) are held on Fridays in the Wyvern Hall at the following times.

15.30-16.30

Years 11-13

16.30-17.30

Years 7-10



■ Queen's students are welcome to join the club's normal weekly Aikido classes*, also held in the Wyvern Hall. Please contact Mike Sensei – mikedh1@googlemail.com or 07769341797 – for further details.

Tuesday 19.30-21.30 Adults (16 years +)
Friday 19.00-20.00 Juniors (7-15 years)

* Monthly fee of £12.50 for students, plus an annual fee of £15 for insurance.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS



The Silver DofE group had their first training walk on Dartmoor at the weekend. They were developing their navigation skills, using the map and compass, as well as looking at timings and pacing.

The weather forecast was for sunshine and showers but there seemed to be far more showers than sunshine!

The group kept smiling and Mrs Neenan was really pleased with their positive attitude and improving navigational skills.



Year 12 Outdoor BTEC students paddled their first river on Monday. They made fantastic progress

during the session and all finished with a capsiz drill. First white water river next week!



The whitewater paddling season has started and the Senior Games kayakers made the most of this yesterday (Thursday) with a wonderful trip down the River Exe.



Years 7 and 8 Adventure Club enjoyed a climbing trip last Friday.

For a number of the pupils,

it was the first time they had managed to reach the top of the wall.

Very well done!



Year 12 travelled to South Molton yesterday for an evening of climbing.

There are a large number of competent climbers in the group who challenge each other to take on increasingly difficult routes.

It's great to see such enthusiasm!



Excellent National Cup performance against local rivals

1st XI v Taunton School

The girls were really looking forward to the U18 National Cup tie, having not faced Taunton School for some time.

It was a frantic start and Queen's defended robustly, repelling several attacks early on and creating some promising chances at the other end. The half-time scoreline of 4-1 in Taunton's favour did not reflect the game.

El Stevenson scored a superb solo goal, beating two or three players before firing in a wonderful reverse stick strike. In the second half, Queen's were on top throughout and were unlucky not to score a couple more goals.

But, as the half wore on and legs tired, Taunton took advantage of the increasing space to score and take the game away from Queen's.

An excellent performance and the girls can look forward to the next round of the Plate competition.



trailed 2-1, as a result of two fine individual goals by Exeter, but Greta Siakoufis smashed home a short corner to halve the deficit.

After the break, Queen's were chasing the game but put in a much more mature performance to keep Exeter's star players quiet.

Another well-worked short corner saw Claire Handel tap in to bring the game to 4-2, but despite the girls' best efforts, the second half finished in a 1-1 draw, with the final 5-2 scoreline being in Exeter's favour.

The girls can look forward to their next match in the Plate competition, for which they will travel to Blundell's.

U14A – County Tournament

The U14s had a brilliant afternoon of matches at Millfield on Thursday.

They played four 20-minute games against Millfield (0-00), Downside (1-0), Wells Cathedral (0-2) and Wellington School (0-2) in a Tier 2 competition.

The girls played so well, building on feedback from the previous match and

implementing new tactics.

They maintained high effort levels throughout the tournament and should be proud of their performance.

U13A v Sherborne Prep

A late arrival gave the girls only a short warm-up, but they started the match well and competed across the park.

Some excellent defending made sure Sherborne were limited to only a few attacks, but Queen's were also struggling to find the decisive pass at the other end of the pitch. Two quick goals before the break saw Sherborne take the lead, but Queen's fought back to bring the game to 3-2, with Evie Raggatt scoring two superb goals.

Unfortunately, with Queen's searching for an equaliser, Sherborne nicked a fourth to take the game.

U13A v Sherborne Prep

The team were excited to play Sherborne and put the skills learned in training to the test. The girls showed dominance in the middle of the field and made some strong runs through, with a near goal at the post by Keira. In the end, it was an entertaining 0-0 draw and player-of-the-match went to Hattie Thorne in goal for some awesome saves.

Battling display against top team



Basketball v West Buckland

This was round three of the basketball league and, although we have yet to record our first win, the team's performance continues to get stronger.

Our opponents, West Buckland were the league's top scorers, with a positive points difference of +52, and a crushing victory record of 93 points scored in a single game. We held them to just 49 points and registered 24 points in our favour.

We played positively throughout and never stopped working together, showing that Queen's are not an easy team to beat.

1st XV turn in great performance ahead of big match

1st XV v Milton Abbey

The 1st XV have been awaiting a big performance after coming so agonisingly close to a victory in previous weeks.

After a nail-biting first half, the team scored a critical try to see them ahead at the break.

Once again, Queen's displayed real togetherness in defence and it was great to see the hard work with Mr Hamilton in training show in the second half.

Through Max Johnson and Elliott Berry's clever kicking game, and Jack Dormor and Dylan Baker's determination in defence, Queen's proved too strong for a good Milton Abbey side.

The team now have a weekend break before facing Wellington next week in a big match to end the first half of term.

U14A v Ivybridge

The U14s travelled to Ivybridge to play in the *School Sport Magazine Cup*.

The boys showed great heart and determination throughout the first half, making lots of tackles and defending well.

On the day, Queen's came up against a well-drilled and experienced side.

However, the boys did not feel disheartened and will have learned from playing against talented players.

U13A v Perrott Hill

A great game played in great spirit.

Queen's were slow off the mark but their ability to move the ball into wide spaces proved how good they can be.

Alex Burrough showed amazing footwork to regularly beat players and Oliver Lockington was a great leader of the side, talking well to his teammates throughout the game.

1st XV v Wells CS

The 1st XV travelled to Wells Cathedral School on Saturday and it proved to be an exciting encounter.

Queen's got off to a fast start with Toby Bloxham sliding over in the corner, after great hands from the backs. Wells rallied to score two unanswered scores before half-time.

In a wet and windy battle, Queen's battled hard throughout the rest of the first half.

Playing downhill in the second half, the Queen's scrum and their carrying ability proved powerful in the conditions with Daryl Sigobodhla and Simon Sage powering over the goalline. Queen's had shown some clear progression from a hard week of training.

The 1st XV are improving week-on-week with lots of positives to take out of this enormous team effort.



U15A v Wells CS

This was a brave team display in very difficult conditions.

Oliver Smith had another excellent game and scored an excellent and thoroughly deserved try at the end of the match.

Scorfield Chan also had a good game and is improving greatly as a rugby player. Despite the odds being against Queen's throughout, as the opposition brought a large squad, the boys did not let their heads drop and chased every break, fought at every ruck and gave a great account of themselves.

This was a huge improvement on the first fixture of the season and it's a pleasure to see the team developing rapidly.

U14A v Wells CS

The boys played a challenging and physical game at the weekend. The weather tested their skills but they still managed to score a great team try, shifting the ball from one side of the pitch to the other and scoring in the corner.

A special mention to Flynn Williams for his performance, defensively, making a number of outstanding tackles during the game and turning over a number of balls at the breakdown.

The most pleasing aspect of the match was seeing four boys play their first game of rugby this season, with two of them playing their first-ever game and doing themselves, and the School, proud.

U13A v Wells CS

Although a reduced number of players were available, the U13s fielded a very spirited and determined nine against a 15-strong Wells squad.

In the wettest conditions of the season so far, the U13s continued to make progress. The passing was very good, and, to the collective credit of all the players, the Wells players deemed them the hardest tacklers, and most difficult team to stop, they had yet encountered.

Well done to every player.

U12A v Wells CS

In pretty damp conditions, the U12 boys played with determination and continue to make pleasing progress.

Oliver Lockington scored two well-taken tries, and it was encouraging to see all the boys who are new to rugby improving throughout the game.

They have continued to work on their understanding of the game in training this week.

Geoff Bisson, OQA Secretary, continues his look at the outstanding achievements of our former students.

George Eric Rowe Gedye was one of the great investigative newspaper journalists of the 20th century, bearing comparison with his legendary contemporary, Ed Murrow, broadcast journalist of CBS News.

George was also a prolific author of books on current affairs, some of which were hugely influential.

Yet, on leaving school, he joined the Army. He served in WWI as an infantryman, with the Gloucesters, on the Western Front.

Wounded on the Somme in 1916, he recovered and transferred to the Intelligence Corps on the strength of his fluency in French and German he had learned at Queen's.

Later, he mastered Russian which, by 1925, he 'was already beginning to feel at home in' and several central European languages.

After the war, he served in the Rhineland assigned to the Governor of Cologne – interrogating prisoners of war – and then the Allied High Commissioner for the area. During this time, he wrote a few articles for *The Times* based on the non-classified information he had gleaned from interrogating prisoners.

This triggered his career as a journalist from 1922 until 1967, when he retired. He died three years later, aged 79.

As the special correspondent of *The Times* in the Rhineland, George wrote several highly critical reports of the French occupation of the Ruhr in 1923.

He moved to Vienna in 1925, from where he warned about the dangers of the rise of fascism in Central Europe. He parted from *The Times* in 1926 and, for three years, did freelance work for the *Daily Express*. This included a trip to Albania to interview King Zog.

His reputation was such that, in 1929, he was appointed Central Europe correspondent for the *Daily Telegraph*



and the Bureau Chief for Central and South Eastern Europe for the *New York Times*.

George managed this by working all day and every evening and because of the later deadlines of the US paper.

At the same time he wrote articles for the *Daily Herald* and other British newspapers.

George shunned the cafés and bars frequented by other foreign journalists who referred to him as 'The Lone Wolf'.

His reports from Vienna were awaited with great anticipation, not least by Winston Churchill, who used to phone the *Daily Telegraph's* night desk to find out what Gedye had written before the paper was published the next day.

While in Vienna he wrote several books, the first of which was *A Wayfarer in Austria* (1928), a travelogue through the country.

Others followed, including *The Revolver Republic* (1930), which exposed French designs on the Rhineland, and *Heirs to the Habsburgs* (1932), looking at the condition of those states which had been part of the Austrian Empire until 1918.

Within two weeks of the annexation of Austria in 1934, he was expelled from Vienna as an 'undesirable alien' and he moved to Prague.

Here, he completed his most influential

book, *Fallen Bastions*, the sub-title of which, *The Central European Tragedy*, indicated the thrust of the book. It was a stinging indictment of the policy of Appeasement.

The *Daily Telegraph* objected to the tone of the manuscript and gave George an ultimatum, before publication, to revise the text or they would end his employment with them.

George decided to resign and the book was published in early 1939. It was a literary sensation, went through five editions in two months and is still in print.

After the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia on March 14th, 1939, George hid in the British Embassy to avoid arrest by the Gestapo, who later allowed him to go to Poland.

He continued to work for the *New York Times*, as Moscow correspondent, 1939-40. The brutality of Stalinism appalled him. The paper moved George to Turkey but he was arrested in 1942 because of his activities for Special Operations Europe.

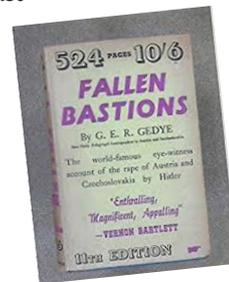
The Germans accused him of plotting to assassinate von Papen, the German Ambassador in Turkey. On his release, he was assigned to the Middle East.

Following the war, he was the Central Europe correspondent for *The Guardian*.

His reports on the humanitarian horrors of refugees, including the expulsion of the Sudeten Germans from Czechoslovakia, and the conditions for civilians in Austria, did much to inform the public and politicians of the problems in Central Europe.

In 1950, George became the bureau chief of Radio Free Europe in Vienna, reporting on Communism in Europe, as well as *The Observer's* correspondent at Vienna.

An article on George in the *Wyvern* of 1951 covered his career to that date, and listed his recreations, one of which was apt: 'Irritating the conventional'.





QUEEN'S
COLLEGE
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ANIMAL FARM

**ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL,
BUT SOME ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS**



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