



QUEEN'S
COLLEGE
TAUNTON



BULLETIN

Queen's College Whole School Newsletter

03 December 2021

T'was The First Week Of Christmas



Mr Julian Noad - Head of College



"Wow", was the one word that was most heard after the final Shrek performances last weekend. At the cast party, thanks and celebrations were shared in equal measure. The very many people involved - too many to mention here, but you all know who you are - deserve enormous praise and gratitude.

Whilst news of the omicron variant of covid is causing some alarm, I reassure all parents that we are monitoring the situation closely but keeping on with as much normality as possible. Face coverings are being worn in communal areas indoors and we remain alert in advance of further studies. In line with government advice, we are confident that there will be no need for greater restrictions. Ironically, it is an old-fashioned intestinal virus which is causing more concern. I wrote on Wednesday, but remind here, that extra hygiene and vigilance is required at this time; please keep away from school for at least 48 hours in the event of vomiting or diarrhoea. We have, sadly, been advised to take a very cautious approach and cancel all fixtures this weekend. I am very sorry to be the bearer of this bad news.

In more positive news, I have enjoyed taking part in mock interviews with Year 13s whose university applications will demand these. Another highlight was being invited to watch Sam Pugh deliver his EPQ (Extended Project) on the potential at one instant in time for peace in Korea - it was a spell-binding piece of political analysis and bodes well for his PPE interview with Keble College, Oxford, on Monday.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming all of Year 13 to the House for drinks yesterday evening. The debate that preceded the event was all about what 'smart casual' dress code constitutes. Once in attendance, they overcame the challenge of a semi-formal social occasion and were delightful company. Not for school, but for life...

Mrs N and I have been on the road again this week, this time to our friends at Perrott Hill - what a wonderful prep school setting. We have seen a number of Perrott families in recent weeks and we look forward to welcoming more.

The season of Advent has arrived, the Christmas trees are up and decorated, and the diary is very busy in the run up to the end of term. House Cross Country races are ongoing, with Years 7 & 8 completed but other years awaiting the starting bugle next week.

As a keen trail runner, I am delighted that we have gone back to the old plan of courses in and around Cotlake Hill rather than simply round the school pitches.

A lunchtime concert in the Prep School today was a delightful way to draw breath on a busy Friday. Well done to all the performers. Make sure that you pop the Senior School Christmas Concert into your diaries for Wednesday (8 December), starting at 7pm. And the Pre-Prep Christmas Play is at 11am on Thursday (9 December).

As the term nears its end, we will take the time to celebrate together. There will be numerous events, including boarders' formal dinners, Sixth Form balls, and many more. We will also take the time to look back, with pupil reports due to be shared, but also our own thinking on how things are going at Queen's. If you have any questions, suggestions, or feedback, my door is always open. Please do get in touch.

Best wishes,

Julian.



Nursery Round-up

Nursery News From Mrs Donna Kershaw - Highgrove Nursery Manager

Highgrove have been busy preparing the rooms for Christmas with many activities planned throughout the festive period.

Cottontails have created a winter wonderland role play and explored the paint with some Christmas stamps.

Tiggywinkles have turned their role play into a Christmas kitchen with the children making a variety of meals for each other and Puddleducks have a Santa's workshop. The children have also been writing letters to Father Christmas.



Nursery School News From Miss Lizzie Hayes - Head of Nursery School

The Nursery School children have been enjoyed exploring the textures of raw fruits and vegetables in the Kitchen Club this week. They had a 'grate' time testing out various child-friendly kitchen tools as they worked out how to mash, slice, chop and dice it all. The activity provided lots of opportunities to develop an array of wonderful descriptive words such as 'squelch', 'squashy' and 'juicy' as the children discussed what they were doing.



Prep School

Mr Henry Matthews - Head of Prep



Christmas has arrived in the Prep School this week with decorations, carols and trees aplenty.

Personally, I can't wait to see the upcoming events as this will be my first chance to see the live, and in person, Christmas programme which was, unfortunately, disrupted last year. I am also very glad that I will not be persuaded to dress up as an elf and dance around on top of the School House tower, as was the case in last year's Christmas film! Preparations for our end of term Carol Service are now well underway and we kicked off December with a rousing rehearsal of carols in our Prep School assembly on Tuesday.



More photos of Step up to Reception on [Flickr](#)

This week, we once again welcomed next years' Reception cohort into school with an exciting morning of Christmas crafts. It was brilliant to see our children settle into the session so quickly and there was plenty of fun to be had decorating gingerbread, dressing the tree and designing Christmas pictures. Please pass on our details to any friends looking for Reception places in September 2022, we would love to invite them in for one of our step-up mornings.

We are all looking forward to a very exciting week and hope to see many of you in school for the various shows and activities. It will be a busy time so please do refer to my letter, dated 1 December, for a day-by-day account of the Christmas programme. Our Nursery, Pre-Prep and Year 3 children have been working hard in rehearsals this week and are now eager to get to show time. I can safely say that the audiences will be in for a real treat.

As ever, our Lunchtime Concert today was a great success and, with so many performers willing to put themselves forward and showcase their talents, it is clear to see that music is a real strength and passion of the school. I always enjoy the Lunchtime Concerts as it is a chance for the children to choose their own performance piece and really let their personality shine through. Well done to everyone who took part, and thank you for such an enjoyable end to the week.

Finally, I will end with a huge 'well-done' to all the children who took part in their Trinity Music Exams this week. I know many will be awaiting confirmation of their grading but you have all done a brilliant job and we are very lucky to have such talented musicians here at Queen's.

I wish you all a happy weekend for those out on adventurous activities, especially our Year 3 climbers who are climbing indoors at the South Molton climbing centre.

Henry Matthews

Prep School



Prep Sports Round-up

Some great action has taken place both at home and away in Prep School sports this week.

To read more about the girls hockey festival at Exeter School, how our U8 and U9 boys and girls got on against King's Hall read the [full sports report here](#). You can also visit our new [Flickr](#) account to view all our photographs from the matches.



Science Club - How strong is an A4 Sheet?

In Science Club the Pre-Prep children investigated how to change the shape of A4 paper to make it stronger. Their challenge was to make a structure strong enough to hold the weight of a book. The children were amazed that only three paper cylinders could hold the weight of 25 books!



Cotlake House Meal

Cotlake boarding house celebrated the boarders who achieved the most Merits this term with a meal out at Eat The Bird. These merits are awarded to children who are helpful, kind or show good initiative around the house.



Cotlake Pizza

Cotlake boarders had great fun making pizza with Mr Mann, Head of Food and Nutrition, at the weekend. They made their own dough, learning about how gluten is formed and also learned or improved their safe dicing, grating and chopping skills.

The delicious pizzas made an appearance for Saturday lunch! Mr Mann said, "I am delighted that we are able to inspire budding young chefs to have fun cooking up tasty treats in our kitchens in Senior School. We want to give pupils the skills, knowledge and confidence to enjoy making their own great tasting and nutritious foods".



Prep School



Fluffy Bread in Year 2

Year 2 have been having great fun this week making bread! They have been learning about instructions in their English lessons and have been following a recipe carefully to make what we hope will be delicious white, fluffy bread. It was quite messy but the children learnt the importance of following the recipe in the correct order. They were particularly surprised to see the dough double in size whilst warming by the classroom heater.



Lunchtime Concert Year 3-6

We were really proud of our Prep musicians, with members of every year group taking part in [today's concert](#). It is a big achievement to get up and perform in front of peers and parents. Well done to all who took part in this enjoyable event. More photos are on our [Flickr](#) account.



Senior School

Sports Round-up

Some great action has happened both at home and away in Senior School sports this week. To read the **full sports report** [click here](#). You can also visit our new [Flickr](#) account to view all our photographs from the matches.



Trinity Music Exams

This Friday saw a number of the musicians of Queen's sitting their Trinity Music Exams, from Initial level right up to Grade 8. These internationally recognised qualifications provide a useful measure of progress and formally recognise the hard work and achievements of musicians. Students and their teachers have been preparing for these important exams all term; everyone was well-prepared and no doubt we can look forward to some great results!

Royal Chef's Cooking Classes at Queen's

Head of Food and Nutrition, Mr Joe Mann, treated pupils at Queen's to a day of presentations and cookery workshops from Armed Forces Chefs this week. The pupils had an amazing time learning how to gut and prepare fish and prepare poultry. To read the full story [click here](#). More photos can be found on [Flickr](#).



French House Charity Day

It is the French charity day today. French have decided to raise money for [Children with Cancer UK](#). They organised an own clothes day as well as a bake sale and a competition to guess the weight of the cake .



Senior School

House Cross Country

The Years 7 and 8 pupils took to the local hills and footpaths to tackle the annual cross-country House competition on Monday and Tuesday. The runners embraced the tricky terrain, hopping over stiles, splashing through puddles and sliding down Cotlake Hill on their way to the finish line. A huge well done to all of the runners for making it round the challenging course with such a positive attitude, and particular congratulations to our Year group winners Tom Taylor, Megan Clarke (both Year 7), and Tom Nash and Blanca Pascual Mazarrasa (both Year 8). We look forward to the Years 9 and 10 (Tuesday) and senior (Thursday) events next week. More photos can be found on [Flickr](#).



Year 9 Social - Pizza and Film Evening

Year 9 had some festive fun on Thursday evening with a 'Pizza and Christmas Movie Night'. After eating copious amounts of pizza in the dayroom, they settled down to watch 'The Grinch'. A lovely time was had by all. A big thank you to Ms Rust, Mrs Newsome and Miss Spall for helping make the evening a success.

Tree planting scheme takes root after COP26!

Green-fingered pupils joined forces with Head of College, Julian Noad, and Head of Prep School, Henry Matthews, for a special tree-planting project for National Tree Week.

To read the full story [click here](#).

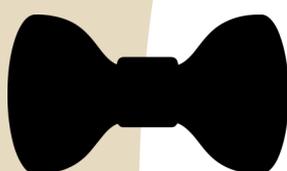


Sixth Form

Sixth Form Round-Up

The beginning of the week in Sixth Form was dominated by the success of 'Shrek the Musical' which ended with a matinee on Sunday afternoon. It was a fantastic performance that involved the whole of the College and there were a lot of tired eyes and a few green-tinged complexions around the SFC. It was followed by an 'apre play party' in the Wyvern Hall for the cast and guests when all relaxed, breathed a collective sigh of relief at having been able to perform again, and dined on green cake.

Representatives of the Royal Marines and Royal Navy shipped into Queen's during the week and Sixth Form students were invited to talk to the service personnel about forces life and a career in the services. Tom, Y13, interviewed them about their diet for his L3 Food Science and Nutrition coursework.



There has been much excitement in the SFC this week as we plan and prepare for the Christmas Ball next week at the Oake Manor Golf Club. Sartorial tips were given during Sixth Form Assembly with Mr Aldridge impressing all with his bow tie tying skills. This year's Ball is particularly important to us all as this time last year the country went into lockdown and venues across the country closed.

Today, Friday 3rd December, Sixth Form students have helped with the French House charity day selling cakes, collecting donations, and again having to decide what own clothes outfit to wear. French House is raising money for Children with Cancer UK.

The First XV, having sustained a string of injuries, have dusted themselves off for an away game against Sidcot School this Friday under-lights. We wish them luck!

50 UCAS applications have now been sent to universities from Scotland to Cornwall. Offers are flooding in, including illusive offers to study veterinary science and physiotherapy and three unconditional offers. 40 students have now received one or more offers and discussions on which offers to 'firm' are underway. Mock, and real interviews have been occurring in the SFC meeting room and there is a buzz around the place as Sixth Formers consider their future studies and desired careers.

UCAS

Sixth Form have embraced the collective effort to reduce the spread of the new COVID variant and masks have become the standard look in the Common Room, at the pool table, on the sofas or while making toast.

Y13 students enjoyed Christmas drinks at Wyvern House with the Noads, a great evening of conversation and festive spirit was had by all.

Sixth Form



Highgrove Boarding House Christmas Meal

On Wednesday evening Highgrove Boarders were treated to a three course Christmas meal and mocktails at Pitcher & Piano, Taunton. Upon their return to Highgrove House they enjoyed fun and games, mince pies, Mulled wine and a surprise visit from Santa! Lots of merriment was shared by all, welcoming in the festive season.



Prefects POV

Putting on a musical is always a huge feat but, with the help of outstanding crew, and with the hard work of our directors and other staff members, 'Shrek the Musical' was a real hit. Despite mystery illness, clashes with sports fixtures and only two little piggies, the cast put on a total of five extremely successful performances.

Read the rest of this week's Prefect POV feature on our [website](#).

Year 12 Psychology Conference

Year 12 Psychologists attended a student conference at the University of Bristol on Tuesday. They were treated to some thought-provoking talk on a range of themes. An interesting discussion was about how to spot fake news on social media - it turns out we were not very discerning! We also learned that different types of dance can help with different cognitive challenges. For example, structured dances, such as the Macarena, are good when convergent thinking processes are needed. The students also had the opportunity to speak with an (ex) chief examiner, psychologist and textbook author, Mike Cardwell of Bath Spa University.



Barclays Virtual Career Sessions - Springpod

Barclays are hosting a series of virtual career sessions to provide more information about Barclays Apprenticeship opportunities and their diversity networks. Whether you already know what you would like to do with your career or you are still exploring possible opportunities – please join the event to learn more about Barclays work, culture and the range of possibilities available. [Click here](#) for more information.



Summer Experiences in Law & Politics

Do you dream of standing up in the Supreme Court and arguing a human rights case? Or negotiating an international treaty with UN representatives? Next summer you can do all this and more on one of these flagship summer experiences in London:

More information can be accessed [here](#).

Prominent OQs

Geoff Bisson - Alumni Officer, continues his look at the outstanding achievements of OQs.

Arthur Henry Reginald Buller (OQ 1886-92) was an eminent Botanist. His seven volumes of *Researches on Fungi*, the last one published posthumously, remain a key source for present mycologists. Also, he was instrumental in the development of the University of Manitoba.

Reginald's (he was always known by his third name) interest in natural science was stimulated at Queen's College. His flair in this field was such that he was offered a place at Mason College, Birmingham, to read Botany in 1892. When at Queen's, he was a regular participant in the meetings of the Debating Society. His involvement in debates reveal a pupil willing to engage with others on a wide range of topics. He spoke in discussions on the importance of arbitration in international affairs, canvassing in elections, civilisation, abstinence, strike action by workers, the relative value of health and wealth and, unsurprisingly, the importance of vivisection to scientific research.

At his graduation in 1896, he was awarded the Heslop Gold Medal and the '1851 Exhibition Scholarship', which enabled him to study at Leipzig under the supervision of Wilhelm Pfeffer, a noted plant physiologist. In 1900, Reginald moved to Munich and studied for a year at the Botanical Institute led by Robert Hartig. The latter's influence was profound, not least his insistence that plants were best studied in their natural setting rather than as preserved specimens.

As a lecturer at the University of Birmingham (his alma mater had been renamed) from 1901, Reginald impressed as a dynamic and stimulating academic, not least with a series of lectures on plant diseases



in 1903. His future at Birmingham was secure but he opted to accept a professorship at the University of Manitoba. The photo of him, here, was taken in Winnipeg on his arrival there in 1904. He was one of the first six professors hired by the University. His commitment and increasing fame as a mycologist, helped make the University the respected institution it became over the next 32 years, until he retired in 1936.

Reginald was a colourful character whose eccentricity attracted attention. Throughout his time in Winnipeg, until his death in 1944, at the age of 69, he only lived in hotels. One reason for that was his generous salary - \$2,500/year, was about ten times what he received at Birmingham. Another was his dedication to his work. However, that did not stop him from enjoying a full life. He never married, but he was popular with women, and his interests included the writing of poetry. An example was this verse, based on the activity of *Pityrosporon melassez*, a yeast-like fungus that causes baldness:

Julius Ceasar

Who conquered Gaul

Suffered defeat

From an enemy small.

The spore of Melassez

Whose armies, well led,

Removed all the hairs

From the crown of his head.

The scientist-poet of mushroom city, as Reginald was known, had a keen sense of public duty and, from 1907, gave lectures throughout the prairies. His talks were spellbinding and attracted attendance that exceeded room capacity.

Reginald was granted leave of absence in 1922 to work on his *Researches of Fungi*, which was to gain him an international reputation, increased with the publication of each volume. Like his lectures, Reginald's books were written in straightforward language that was intelligible to laymen as well as academics. His *Essays on Wheat* was an indication of his interest in the practical implications of his research for prairie agriculture.

Many universities in Canada, the US and India conferred honorary degrees on him. Elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in London in 1929, he received their Royal Medal in 1937. Fittingly, the building shown below, now the home to the Botany and Microbiology Departments of the University of Manitoba, was named the Buller Biological Laboratories. In 1958, the Buller Memorial Library was opened to house Reginald's books, research papers and letters.



News and Announcements

Food Sustainability - Food Purchasing and Going Out For Food

Hello, I am Rachel Wong. I am a Year 13 student. I am currently taking WJEC Food Science and Nutrition. I am doing coursework on obesity and type-2 diabetes and really need your help with my research project. I am currently collecting information from as many people as possible and I would be very grateful if you would take a few moments to fill out my [questionnaire](#). Thank you very much!

Senior School Concert - 08 December 7pm

Join us for mulled wine and mince pies at 6:30pm, followed by an enjoyable selection of music and dance (some with a festive feel) performed by the ensembles of Queen's College Senior School.

Retiring collection for The Sidney Lawton Trust.

Free to attend [book via our box office](#).



Adventure Appeal

Miss Booton to Race 100K on the River Trent to raise money for the adventure appeal

Miss Booton is preparing to do a 100K paddle boat marathon over two days to raise money for the adventure



appeal. What an incredible endeavour! If you would like to support Miss Booton's 100K paddle down the River Trent you can donate to the [just giving page](#).

Call For Auction Lots

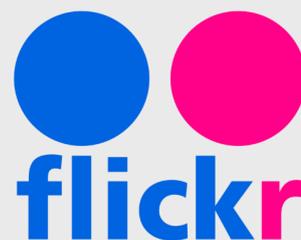


Look out for details of our exciting Spring Term online auction in support of the Adventure Appeal.

We would be grateful for donations for the auction lots from members of the Queen's College community and friends. Please contact marketing@queenscollege.org.uk or pop into the main senior school reception if you are able to donate items or services .

Queen's Photo Albums Now on Flickr

There are so many amazing things that happen at the college everyday it is impossible to share all the fabulous photos we take on social media and in our Bulletin. So, we have decided to start sharing our photo albums on Flickr. Our page can be accessed [here](#). The albums will be added to constantly so be sure to keep an eye on our account to see all our great photographs.



Shrek - A Grand Return to Theatre

Smiley Chan, Munopa Nhete, Natasha Seton review our recent production of 'Shrek the Musical'.



Shrek the musical. We saw posters everywhere, brief dance steps peeked from the door, and heard snippets of songs as we passed Queen's Hall... At last, the big day arrived! We simply couldn't wait any longer to see the full performance ourselves.

To read the rest of the story click [here](#).

News and Announcements



Upcoming Dates

Ten Tors Training	5 December
Open Mic Night	5 December
Pre-Prep and Prep Christmas post begins	6 December
Boarders' Formal Dinner	6 December
Sixth Form Christmas Ball	7 December
Senior School Concert	8 December
Year 3 Christmas Party	8 December
Pre-Prep Christmas Play	9 and 10 December
MUN Conference	11 December



Greta and David, our Senior School bears, would like to remind you to stay up to date with all the latest information...

Our online whole school calendar can be found [here](#).

Our sports portal can be accessed [here](#).

Buses - Save your time, fuel and the planet

Did you know that you can book the QC buses for just mornings, or just afternoons?

A flexible pass option is available for up to five trips per week (any combination) for a termly commitment of approx. £20 per week. Please contact Mrs Mockridge for details ram@queenscollege.org.uk or call 01823 272559. All our drivers provide a wonderful service - they are contactable, DBS cleared and all vehicles have CCTV and tracking fitted.

