



QUEEN'S  
COLLEGE  
TAUNTON

# BULLETIN

Queen's College Whole School Newsletter

10 December 2021

## T'was The Second Week Of Christmas

Little Red Riding Hood: A Pantomime



### Mr Julian Noad - Head of College



Three turkey lunches this week tell me that Christmas is most definitely on its way, but each has been a fabulous occasion to bring together parts of our community at the end of term. On Tuesday, the Sixth Form Christmas Ball was superbly enjoyed in the very best of spirit. For many of the Sixth Form this was their first such outing and there was a real sense of unity in the singing and dancing. Jenny Thurstan (Head Girl) said to Mrs N, 'Everyone had so much fun and I just wanted to say thank you and hope you had a



lovely night!' We had a fabulous evening, we were really touched when Ali and Jenny asked for a photo with us. A big thank you to the staff who worked hard to put this event together.

Yesterday, we joined two very different parts of our community with, first up, the Vintage Lunch providing Old Queenians of a certain age to rekindle old friendships and share tales of the 1950s and '60s at Queen's. Later that evening we joined Cotlake House, our junior boarding house, for a formal dinner, with speeches and all the trimmings, superbly led by Mr Baker. These seven to twelve year olds were delightful company and rose to the occasion magnificently. The Cotlake values of kindness and honesty shone through. I repeat Bradley's excellent toast to 'brilliant boarding staff'.

Sadly, for some in our boarding community, today marks the first day of isolation, as those who have flights begin to shield themselves, in a bid to

ensure that they are permitted to get home next week. They will continue to join in with School but online from their rooms. It is such a shame that we, once again, battle with confusing restrictions. Nonetheless, we have otherwise been able to maintain a full pre-Christmas programme.

On that note, please assume that all invitations to end of term events still stand, pupils and parents. All we ask is that visitors take an LFD test within 24 hours of coming on campus and be prepared to wear a mask in some areas.

Wednesday evening's senior school Christmas concert provided a delightful mix of solo and ensemble music as well as dance; a perfect showcase. Year 3s 'Red Riding Hood' pantomime was a real hoot, with every pupil playing their part, with excellent singing and acting. Sadly, I was unable to join Pre-Prep's Christmas play but the reviews are equally excellent (details further on in *(continued on next page)*)



# Continued...

## Mr Julian Noad - Head of College

this bulletin, no doubt).

This week has seen cross-country for the seniors (Year 11 and Sixth form), with some excellent running around Cotlake Hill and on to The Orchard. Some in Year 9 & 10 feel that they were 'spared' by storm Barra's postponement of their event.

In the academic arena, it was good to meet Y11 parents this week, in person in many cases. The combination of online and in person parents evenings does seem to have been welcomed by parents. You will have heard much about food recently, but we have more good news to share, with Natasha Ncube (Year 10) making it to the National Finals of the Royal Academy of Culinary Arts 'Student Chef 2022' competition in January.

In haste, I also mention that I have enjoyed positive meetings this week with Perry's (our uniform suppliers) and Holroyd Howe (our caterers). Both have listened well to concerns that have been raised by parents. Bear with us, please, as we work to implement solutions to improved service in each.

I am concluding this week's bulletin entry early in order to meet Exeter Cathedral School's kind invitation to their Carol Service in the cathedral. Furthermore, there will be no relaxing this weekend, with a MUN

(Model United Nations) conference, fixtures, a Queen's College chapter Masonic lunch, and I look forward to joining the outdoor education team for some canoeing on the River Dart on Sunday.

Next week will bring more festive frolics, with Pre-prep parties, senior House quizzes and House lunches on Monday.

Then it will be Tinsel Tuesday and it's Christmas jumpers, turkey lunches, various parties, and rugby House matches. Wednesday brings the Prep carol service and their end of term. Thursday it will be the seniors' turn and a 1pm end of school.

I hope that parents will also be able to join us at one of the two events on Wednesday (coffee at 8.15am or drinks at 7pm) - check inboxes for that invitation.

I am very much looking forward to a fabulous final week.

Best wishes, Julian.

## Adventure Appeal



**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 Adventure 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.

**TO DONATE**

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

JustGiving 

# Prep School

Mr Henry Matthews - Head of Prep



Well, what a week it has been in the Prep School and I most certainly feel well and truly in the Christmas spirit. This has been a week of performances

and celebrations and I have been so pleased to welcome so many parents, grandparents, friends and families into school to share in these with us. We kicked off the week with both our Year 3 and Pre-Prep children performing their dress rehearsals to the rest of the school. It was a chance for children and staff to get a sneak preview of some fantastic singing, acting and dancing before the big shows later in the week.

Pre-Prep have performed twice to a live audience with 'Behind the Stable Door' and I have to say the children have all been incredible. They took us on a journey through the Nativity story from the viewpoint of the donkey, sheep and camels who had to carry their heavy loads to Bethlehem to see the birth of Jesus. I was amazed by how well the children learned their lines, songs and actions and it was a very funny and heart-warming show. Well done Pre-Prep!

And Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a panto! Songs and jokes were the order of the day as Year 3 delivered a confident and enthusiastic performance of 'Red Riding Hood: a Pantomime'. The audience were amazed by the talent on show and I am sure we have some budding superstars in our midst - I know Mr Trafford can't wait to see you on stage in the Queen's Hall soon!

I am sure you will enjoy the photos of these events in the following pages. Both performances have been filmed and we will be releasing these to parents next week.

Our Cotlake boarders attended their annual Christmas Dinner on Thursday evening; unlike Mr Noad, this is my first turkey dinner of the festive season and it was a real treat! The catering staff put on a fabulous event and the boarders should be commended on their excellent behaviour throughout the evening. Mr Baker awarded prizes for endeavour, achievement and a dormitory award. Well done to the Connah, Bradley and the boys in Griffin Dorm as worthy

winners of each prize. We ended the week with our Autumn Term House matches and it was great to see so many children involved in the competitions. All of the children have made so much progress with their sport this term and I am pleased to see everyone relishing the many competitions, tournaments and fixtures in which we have taken part. The matches were played in great spirit and we will be announcing the winners in our end of term assembly.

As we look forward to a fun-packed final few days, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our school community for their support this term. We really are back to business as usual and I am looking forward to many more successes in the months ahead.

I hope to see many of you at our Carol Service in the Queen's Hall next Wednesday and wish you all a relaxing weekend.

With best wishes,

Henry

# Nursery Round-up

## Nursery News From Mrs Donna Kershaw - Highgrove Nursery Manager

Highgrove Nursery enjoyed their Christmas dinner on Wednesday! It was a lovely occasion where the whole Nursery got together and some of the children had their first taste of Christmas pudding!

Festive activities have also continued throughout the week with children decorating gingerbread men, playing with the Polar Express Christmas sensory tray, as well as singing and hearing lots of Christmas songs and carols!

Thank you to all of the parents who also joined us for the Puddleducks Christmas singalong in the Nursery garden, it was a lovely event enjoyed by children, parents and staff.



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

The Nursery School children have been busy with their festive craft activities this week, as well as practising for their play in their special costumes. Activities included fir-cones which were pom-pommed up into Christmas trees, twigs that were fixed into triangle shapes to hang on the tree and exploring the concept of pattern, making using Christmas sponge shapes.



# Prep School

## Little Red Riding Hood: A Pantomime



Year 3 produced a brilliant performance of 'Little Red Riding Hood: A Pantomime' which had the audience toe-tapping to the music, laughing at the humorous script and clapping the songs.



Each child had numerous lines to learn which they delivered confidently; the acting and singing were wonderful. From the Big Bad Wolf with a roar that could knock you off your feet, to William, the cute vegetarian wolf, with the beautiful singing voice, two entertaining comedy villains and some very expressive squirrels, foxes and elves; each child gave their all and had the audience captivated. Little Red Riding Hood bravely sauntered through the enchanted woods, only to be saved from peril by her brave Father, worried Mum and friends who all managed to rescue a very cross Granny at the end! The children's enthusiasm certainly put everyone into a happy festive mood.

Well done Year 3, we're so proud of you! More photos can be found on [Flickr](#).



## Prep School Eco Team



The Prep School Eco team enjoyed their opportunities to learn more about sustainable living through their activities with Mr Mann, from the Senior Food and Nutrition department, and his team. They very kindly prepared and supported the children to enable them to plant sets of onions, both red and white, plus more fruit trees! An added bonus

was ripping up all of the egg boxes that had been used in the cookery department throughout the term. These were then carefully laid at the base of new compost bins to be covered with a bed of worms and left over food, ready to create more brilliant compost for future food growing projects. Mr Mann said, "I believe it is so important that we take a whole college approach to sustainability and making Queen's a greener, more ecologically sustainable and more biodiverse place, and I am so glad we can use growing food at Queen's to engage pupils in this way".

## Year 4 Greek Plates

Year 4 produced some lovely clay plaques inspired by Ancient Greek plate designs. The pupils rolled out clay and then inscribed the designs using modelling tools. The designs were highlighted by the careful application of acrylic paint. Here is the work of 4LG - 4AC are due to finish their plaques this week!



## Ballet

There have been a number of Royal Academy of Dance recorded ballet exams taking place this half term from Primary to Grade 8 and Intermediate (Year 3 up to Year 13).

These groups were fine-tuning their syllabus work which they started last academic year. The exam content includes a range of technical exercises and short dances performed as duets or solos.

All of the ballet students have worked very hard this term and Miss Kim and Miss Tanya are very proud of their efforts.



# Prep School

## Pre-Prep Christmas play 'Behind the Stable Door'



The Pre-Prep Christmas play, 'Behind the Stable Door', was a wonderful extravaganza of acting, singing and dancing. This version of the Christmas story is told by the animals. An industrious Inn Keeper, who is trying to get ready for all the visitors to Bethlehem, has swept them out of their stable!



The Year 2 children took the lead roles, delivered their complex and brilliantly learnt lines, with some superb comic timing. Year 1 children played the parts of dancing innkeepers and shepherds, as well as narrating the epic story. Finally, impressive and heart-warming performances came from the little angels and sheep, played by our youngest children in Reception.



The whole performance was brilliant; from fabulous upbeat songs with lots of dance moves and clearly sung lyrics, to well-timed comic moments with grumpy camels and an overzealous innkeeper who wants everything to stay clean and tidy. Well done to every single child who took part - you gave your audience an experience to remember and we loved it! More photos can be found on [Flickr](#).

## Cotlake Christmas Meal

Cotlake House enjoyed their Christmas meal tonight. There was an enormous amount of fun and a great family atmosphere. More photos on [Flickr](#).

Boarders awards this year:

Prep Stirzaker Endeavour Cup = Connah H

Senior Gogh Endeavour Cup = Sofia O

Cotlake Prep Boarders Award = Bradley N

Cotlake Senior Boarders Award = Evvie R



## Year 3 Weekend Climbing

Last Saturday, Year 3 spent the day climbing at South Molton climbing wall.

The pupils had a go at 'bouldering' and 'roped climbing'. Bouldering helps develop good climbing technique as pupils can focus on their balance and movement on the wall. They are close to the ground and soft matting allows for a challenging, but safe, activity. The roped section saw pupils scaling heights of up to 10 metres whilst other pupils held the ropes at the bottom keeping the climbers safe. The group was buzzing with enthusiasm all day and seemed to have a fantastic time. Well done!



# Senior School

## Sports Report

Years 7 and 8 took part in the Inter-House hockey and rugby on Wednesday afternoon. In the hockey, the teams played a round robin of games which displayed just how much progress they have made this term. There were goals galore and some absolute thrillers, including a 5-5 between Woolmer and Barnicott. The games were played in fantastic spirit and thoroughly enjoyed by the players and coaches alike. In the end, Ray took the spoils and were crowned House champions.

The rugby was played in a similar fashion, with a mixture of touch and contact sections, within the games, to allow all pupils to take part. The games were fast paced and action packed, with the players enjoying the competition of playing against their usual team mates, rather than with them. The victory went to Woolmer after a brilliant team effort in the final game. Well done to all of the boys that took part, making the event so enjoyable.

Also this week has seen cross-country for the seniors (Year 11 and Sixth form), with some excellent running around Cotlake Hill and on to The Orchard.

More photos can be found on [Flickr](#).



## Christmas Concert

With Christmas not far away, the musicians and dancers of Queen's provided a stunning start to the festive season, featuring performances of a wide range of styles and moods. In the first-half, the String Group set the bar high with excellent performances of Corelli's Christmas Concerto and Vivaldi's Concerto in G major, featuring soloist Sophie Lowe making the passagework look effortless.



Beautiful solos by Aria Maryan-Verona, Mary-Tess McAlonan and Rosie East were matched by the Middle School Orchestra and Years 7 and 8 singers with their confident and evocative performances of 'Medieval Dance', 'The Snowman', 'Summertime' and 'Little Children, Wake And Listen'. The first dance of the evening was provided by You You Chin and Prakriti Wood with an energetic Polish character dance.



The second half saw further beautiful dance work from Bella Clements and the Senior Dancers, complementing a further range of skilled solos from Hazel Dovey, Fallon Gillies, a specially recorded performance from Pippa Drummond, along with a lively violin duet from Georgie Ambler and Mrs Alex Ennis. Rounding the evening off, Wind Band provided a blast of energy with Flash Dance and Sleigh Ride. All performances, without exception, were of a very high calibre, demonstrating the amazing commitment and achievement of the musicians and dancers of Queen's; what a way to get into the Christmas spirit! More photos can be found on [Flickr](#).

# Senior and

## Year 7 Quantock Hills Photographic Competition



Prize Winner - Arthur Lean

On their Geography Field Trip this term, Year 7 were set the challenge of taking a photograph that captured the essence of the Quantock Hills.

We were inundated with amazing entries. The Headmaster was given the difficult task of selecting his favourites and he awarded prizes to Arthur Lean, Lara Fourie and Francesca Smith. Emily Neenan was also highly commended. He was incredibly impressed with the overall standard of entries from all those Year 7s who were involved. A huge 'well done' to

everyone who entered the competition. In recognition of the wonderful work put in by Year 7, the top entries (of which there were many) will be made into a calendar so they can be enjoyed for the rest of the year!



Prize Winner - Lara Fourie



Highly Commended - Emily Neenan



Prize Winner - Francesca Smith

## Years 7 and 8 Adventure Club

Years 7 and 8 Adventure Club, last Friday, explored Swildon's Cave on the Mendips. They scaled underground waterfalls, squeezed through some very small passageways and saw some stunning stalactites and stalagmites. An evening to remember!



## RSC Top of the Bench Chemistry Competition



Four pupils from Years 9-11 took part in the Bristol University, Royal Society of Chemistry 'Top of the Bench' competition.

The pupils had to use their chemical knowledge and excellent reasoning skills to work on four different assignments.

Florence Regan, Kitty McAlonan (joined via video-link to solve one of the experimental puzzles), Hugh Pluckwell and Matt Henden tackled two experimental investigations and lateral thinking assignments demonstrating excellent logic and sound scientific data evaluation abilities to complete the two hours of work in fine form.



# Sixth Form

## Show Jumping

On Sunday, Ruby Russo and Georgie Ambler took part in the NSEA Show Jumping at Kings Sedgemoor Equestrian Centre.

Both jumped very well. Georgie had two clears in both the 80 and 90 class and Ruby had a good round in the 1 Metre class, riding *Just Orange*, coming 7<sup>th</sup> out of 36 riders. Well done to both.

Georgie is pictured riding *Kissed by Fire*.



## Food and Nutrition Round-Up

So many amazing things have happened in Food and Nutrition this week. Natasha Ncube, Year 10, won her place as a finalist at the Student Chef 2021-2022 Nationals. She will be representing Queen's National Finals in association with the Royal Academy of Culinary Arts!

As the festive season fast approaches, the pupils have been treated to cooking up some sweet and fruity foods from around the world including French Choux Pastry Profiterole Christmas Puddings, with light and fluffy piped choux pastries, Christmas French Couronne and much more.

In the Sixth Form, this week Simon Sage, in Year 13, interviewed Dr Jenny Baverstock, Senior Research Fellow at the Faculty of Environment and Life Sciences University of Southampton. **To read the full report and view lots of lovely photos head over to our [website](#).**



## Royal Navy Explorer Sea Scout Rowan Weston



On Saturday, Royal Navy Explorer Sea Scout Rowan Weston (Year 10) of RN63 Watchet Sea Scouts had the very rare opportunity of visiting a serving warship while it was docked at Portsmouth. HMS Severn is manned by a crew of 50, one of which is an ex Watchet Sea Scout who arranged the invite for the groups visit.

Rowan enjoyed a tour of the ship including a chance to stand on the bridge and man the 20mm deck mounted cannon! While they were at Portsmouth the group also visited the historic dockyard and HMS Victory to learn about the very first commissioned Royal Navy warship and Admiral Lord Nelson. Rowan saw the brand new aircraft carrier HMS Prince of Wales which at 280m long, is a truly impressive sight. Rowan is very keen to join the to join the armed forces and would like to fly, either in the RAF or as a Navy pilot and experiences like this inspire him even more.



# Sixth Form

## Sixth Form Round-Up



As the penultimate week of Autumn term has come to a close, events have been in full swing! On Tuesday evening, the Sixth Form had a wonderful time at their Christmas Ball. Mr Noad welcomed all to the event calling it a good night to celebrate a busy term. DJ Dave MC'd a cacophonous 'Twelve Days of Christmas.' The venue, like the photo booth, was bursting with energy and holiday cheer, making for the most spectacular occasion. The sports boys started the collective sing-a-long with 'Wonderwall' only to be raised by the girls with 'Party in the USA.' 'I'm a Believer' brought all to the floor with happy memories of 'Shrek'. Students were able to let go and socialise with staff and their friends, emphasising the burgeoning seasonal jolliness. Christmas crackers were shared, crowns were worn, and heels were put to the side and replaced with a range of more appropriate dancing footwear, including fluffy slippers. (Lots more photos can be found on [Flickr](#)).



Christmas cheer spread to the Sixth Form Centre with lights and tinsel and our very own tree. All the students were excited to see Christmas begin to arrive.

On another note, the Food Council came together this week to discuss the menu and nutrition at Queen's. Changes are in the making as we look forward to some adjustments to the menu, such as themes and added variety, especially with the salad bar and veggie options. Jocasta (Y13) said, 'It was really exciting to see so much more structure to the menu plan, and seasonality. On top of that, food miles are being taken into consideration and prioritised', meaning that we will be lessening our food waste, and actively being more green.

The Winter Concert took place on Wednesday evening featuring an array of music and dance for all to enjoy. Many Sixth Form students took part in multiple ensembles. The performances filled the Queen's Hall with Christmas cheer and was such a treat to behold. More photos can be found on [Flickr](#).



The Sixth Form enjoyed some collective exercise and a House challenge on the annual House Cross Country up Cotlake Hill and around the fields. Doing five kilometres in total, everyone really challenged themselves and gave their best effort for their House in challenging conditions. First in Y12 was Charlie for the boys and Pippa for the girls, and first in Y13 was Jack for the boys and Eleana for the girls.

# P

Over the last week or so a number of Sixth Form students have passed their Driving Theory tests and others have become new young drivers by passing their driving tests. This is fantastic news, especially with the pandemic impacting upon driving lessons and tests over the last 18 months. Young drivers are, unfortunately, more likely to be involved in serious collisions, so with the Christmas season upon us, extra emphasis has been placed upon road safety and designated drivers to avoid driving related incidents. We are very lucky in the SFC that Vince, our stalwart Manager, and ex Police Force, gives the students a valuable individual chat about being a first time driver.

On the UCAS front, three Y12 students, Rachel, Dominic and Loveday, have now received all their offers and are looking into accommodation options for next year.

# Sixth Form

## Prefects POV



Samuel Pugh and Sophia Welch explore the topic of Human Rights in light of Human Rights day.

The theme of this year's Human Rights Day is equality- which is focused on Article 1 in the UDHR. The United Nations' slogan for this campaign is "All Human, All Equal," as their particular aims this year include the reversal of vaccine inequality and injustice after the varied response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

# OQ Vintage Lunch

## OQs shared tales from the 50s and 60s this Thursday at the Vintage Christmas Lunch

OQs who came to the Vintage Lunch yesterday had a very enjoyable day. For various reasons, many OQs, who otherwise would have been there, were unable to attend. Nonetheless, for those present, the occasion was convivial.

The Wyvern Hall looked splendid with a sparkling Christmas tree and six tables, finely decorated, laid out before it. On arrival, over a welcome drink, OQs (former pupils and teachers) were able to reconnect with friends who, in some cases, they had not seen for several years. The traditional Christmas lunch was served to everyone's satisfaction and, over coffee and mints, pupils sang some festive carols. Following this, there were two short speeches.

The Head of College, Mr Noad, expressed the pleasure he and his wife, Jane, had in being at Queen's and their delight in meeting many OQs for the first time. He felt optimistic about the future and explained that he would reveal his views about the path ahead later in the academic year. David Jones, OQ, the Chairman of the Foundation, outlined the purpose and aims of the Foundation and he urged all OQs to consider giving, financially, to the School.

After a group photo, some OQs were keen to walk around the school site. Alas, this was cut short by rain, but all departed in good spirits.



# Spotlight

Some of our international students discuss Christmas and how traditions differs around the world



## Christmas in Hong Kong by Aiden Kan

In Hong Kong Christmas is celebrated on the 25th of December.

I think the difference between Hong Kong Christmas and British Christmas is the food, drinks and the atmosphere. A traditional Christmas meal in Hong Kong is roasted spring chicken with seasonal mushrooms and fresh oysters.

Traditional places to go in Hong Kong, include the 'Winterfest'. This is a huge winter party that involves the shops and theme parks. It is also famous for its New Year's countdown. There are amazing firework displays all over the city.

Christians in Hong Kong go to church and sing carols, like in the UK. We have Santa and he is called 'Song Daan Lou Yan' (Christmas Old Man)

My favourite thing about Christmas in Hong Kong is the atmosphere. It is very beautiful and lively. Happy Christmas in Cantonese is Sing-daan Faai-lohk!

## Christmas in Spain by Cloe Adroer-Cristofol

In Catalonia on the night of the 24th we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We eat Serrano ham, croquettes, cheese, lots of other delicious tapas and adults drink cava. We have Santa Claus, but we call him 'Papa Noel'. On the 25th of December we also celebrate "Caga tio". It's a wooden trunk that looks like a dog, with a painted face, a red blanket and a red hat. We hit him with a wooden stick while we sing a song and, when you lift the blanket, there are presents!

Spanish children are lucky as we have two days on which we celebrate and have presents. The 6th of January is called "Reyes Magos" which means "Magic Kings".



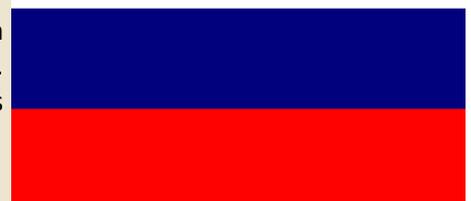
There are three Magic Kings, Melchor, Gaspar and Baltasar. On this day we also eat "roscon de reyes", which is a circular cake with cream and fruits inside. There is a little ceramic king inside the cake and if the king is in your piece of cake, you have good luck.

Like in the UK, in Barcelona there are beautiful Christmas lights in the city. The most beautiful lights are in "Las Ramblas", the most famous street in Barcelona.

## Christmas in Russia by Sofia Ochagova

In Russia we celebrate Christmas on the night of the 31st December and 1st January. In Russia, we say 's-rah-zh-dee -st-vohm' for Merry Christmas. My mother cooks fish, rice and prepares salads. She also bakes a cake. My mum drinks champagne and my father and I drink coke.

I sometimes go to church with my Godfather. Like in the UK, we give each other presents. I put the tree up with my mum and we decorate it together. We enjoy watching films and being together. In Russia, the last day of term is always fun as we play games.



# Prominent OQs

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

When **Alexander Charles Durie (OQ, 1927-33)** left Queen's he joined Shell-Mex & BP, the joint British sales company of Shell and British Petroleum, as a mail clerk. He worked for the company for the next 30 years except for the period of the Second World War, during which he was commissioned in the Royal Artillery. He became a gunnery instructor and ended the war as a lieutenant-colonel.

Resuming his civilian career in 1945, he was promoted through the ranks of Shell-Mex & BP, taking charge of its London division in 1953. A year later, he became marketing director of Shell in Australia. When he returned to the UK he assumed the role of general manager, joined the board of Shell Mex & BP and became joint managing director with, from 1963, particular responsibilities for marketing.

His success with the company was such that, in 1964, Alec was, in modern parlance, 'head-hunted' by Sir Hugh Fraser, the founder of the House of Fraser and Treasurer of the Automobile Association (AA), to run the AA. Though he knew almost nothing about cars and the breakdown service provided by the AA, Alec accepted the challenge.

During his 13 years in charge, the AA was modernised. Practical uniforms were introduced, minivans replaced motor-cycles with their distinctive side-cars, the salute with which officers greeted customers was discarded and the company logo – the intertwined, metal radiator badge – used since the AA was founded in 1905, was substituted for the modern AA emblem (shown here).



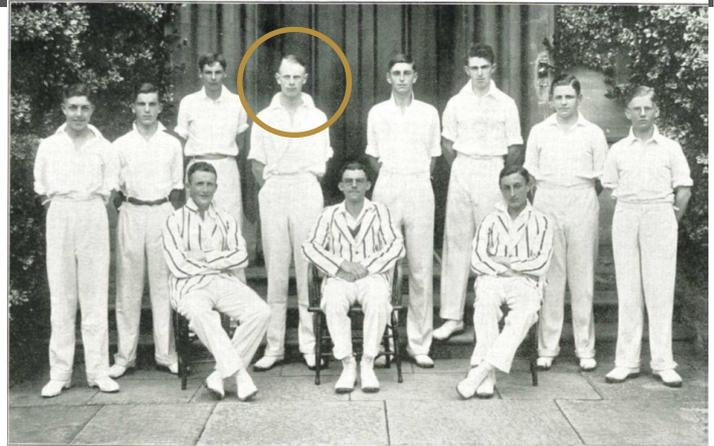
Alec also explored new areas of business. In 1967, AA Insurance Services was created and he collaborated with 'Reader's Digest' to publish touring guides. Other co-

operative ventures, with various companies, provided personal loans and private health care. The shift of the AA's headquarters from Leicester Square, London, to new offices in Basingstoke in 1973, was a major aspect of the reorganisation undertaken by Alec.

In 1971 he became President of L'Alliance Internationale de Tourisme, which represented motoring organisations around the world. In this role, he initiated the presentation of gold medals to the astronauts of Apollo 15 as the first lunar motorists.

In Britain, he was involved with many organisations with motoring interests and he advised the government on the compulsory wearing of seat belts and sanctions against drinking and driving. Alec was Chairman of the British Institute of Management and the Independent Schools Careers Organisation, another body he guided through change. He was a director of several companies including Thomas Cook and the Chelsea Building Society.

Clearly, Alec was a successful businessman but, as he said in his speech at the OQs dinner in 1962, he believed 'business was the greatest social service in the world,



because it made possible all other social services'.

His main interest outside business was cricket. This had been his passion at Queen's and he played for the 1stXI in his last two years there. The photo shows him in the side of 1932. As a batsman, Alec preferred to attack rather than defend when at the crease, a positive attitude he seems to have adopted throughout life.

Alec supported Hampshire and Surrey and, in 1970, he joined the latter county's cricket committee, becoming its President in 1984. As at the AA, he transformed the county's commercial affairs and, in 1983, he raised £3million to build the Bedser Stand and the Barrington indoor cricket centre at the Oval.

In the 1990s, he guided the club through two crises, one concerning ball tampering and, the other, the club's affairs. In this, as in all his management roles, Alec was courteous and sympathetic to all involved, able to diffuse tension with humour. This was a trait evident at Queen's and illustrated in the several witty cartoons by him that appeared in the Wyvern magazine at the time.

Alec was awarded the CBE in 1973, and knighted in 1977. He died in 2001, aged 85.

# News and Announcements

## New interim reports

Reports for pupils in Years 7-10 will be available on My School Portal early next week. The format of the full reports for pupils in Years 8 and 9 is unchanged. However, the format of the interim reports for Year 7 and Year 10 pupils will be rather different this term. As well as all of the usual target, attainment and effort data, each teacher has written two short comments about each pupil they teach. The first of these will reflect on each pupil's 'particular strength' in that subject and the second focuses on a specific 'area for improvement'. We hope that by providing this additional information we are able to keep you even better informed about your child's progress.

If you have any feedback about the new interim report format, please contact Mr Green ([sjg@queenscollege.org.uk](mailto:sjg@queenscollege.org.uk)).

## Upcoming Dates

MUN Conference	11 December
Gold DofE Canoeing practice	12 December
Pre-Prep and Prep: Christmas / Winter Jumper Day (Own Clothes)	13 December
Senior House Quiz	13 December
Tinsel Tuesday - Christmas outfits / Christmas Jumpers	14 December
Christmas Lunch	14 December
Parents Coffee	15 December
Parents Drinks	15 December
Final Assembly - Cups & Colours	16 December
Carol Service	16 December

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

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

# News and Announcements

## Very Well Done to Hutton House

We are all so proud of Hutton house who held a Dance-a-thon on Friday evening for Love Musgrove. The girls danced continuously for 2 hours.

They absolutely smashed their fundraising target and raised over £600! If you would like to donate please click [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](mailto: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.



## Bus Drivers

Do you know someone who would be interested in occasional, flexible hours to drive our vehicles (9/17 seater maximum) Must be clean licence holders. Full training provided for small group trips and airport transfers.

Please send expressions of interest to HR, Emily [ext@queenscollege.org.uk](mailto:ext@queenscollege.org.uk) or Terina [tkw@queenscollege.org.uk](mailto:tkw@queenscollege.org.uk)

## New Bus Routes

Due to demand, we are planning for new bus routes from September 2022 which will cover the following areas:

1. Milverton, Wivesliscombe, Wellington,
2. High Ham, Langport, North Curry

Register your interest to book a flexi or full seat [ram@queenscollege.org.uk](mailto:ram@queenscollege.org.uk)