



Wow, what a week!

Mr Julian Noad - Head of College

Normal sartorial guidelines have been twice relaxed this week with, in my case, odd socks (for [anti-bullying week](#)) on Monday and spotty socks and tie (for [Children in Need](#)) today. Including associated assemblies, these fantastically pupil-driven activities have focused our thinking on these important issues superbly.

I must also commend our Head Boy and Girl, Ali and Jenny, for running an excellent student council. Again, this has been their initiative without staff input. The discussions have been evidently purposeful with solutions as well as problems presented to senior staff. Indeed, I can happily report that when we went through the list last evening,

all were actioned or in hand, including reinstated water fountains and a call for teachers to be more generous with plus points.

Last weekend was marked with remembrance and the visit of many Old Queenians. We met for a delightful drinks reception in the School's original home in Taunton Castle on Saturday evening. On Sunday, the AGM was a momentous occasion as a new structure was agreed which empowers the College to take on the management of the alumni relations, notably with the introduction of a new networking website. I look forward to sharing more details in due course, but the benefits for current pupils will be

significant. The highlight of the weekend was a poignant remembrance service followed by two fantastic hockey matches, enjoying sunshine and enthusiastic support. Jane and I were bowled over by the engagement of all of the community, notably our younger OQs who really demonstrated values no doubt inculcated by their time at Queen's - values that we will continue to promote; they were confident and affable, but also grounded and without an ounce of arrogance.

Today, in the Prep, has been an exciting 'Discovery Day' - a taster day with a difference and yesterday, in the Senior School, it was the Sixth Form taster day. It

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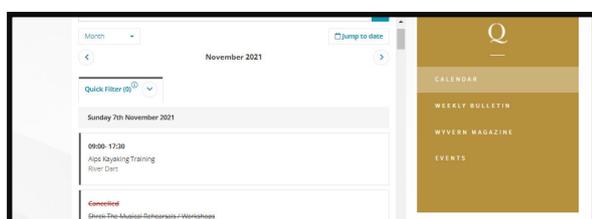
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was great to see such fun in the Prep and Year 11s looking so proud and content as sixth formers for the day. There has been much enthusiasm at both events with a good number of external attendees. Indeed, the growing interest in Queen's is a delight; interest locally and from further afield. In the past two weeks alone, I have met more than 30 interested families, in person and online, from Taunton and further afield.

Our first Head's supper of the year on Tuesday was a wonderful event. The ten guinea pig Lower Sixth (Year 12) were, perhaps naturally, nervous to start but soon opened up with stories and laughter aplenty. Mrs N and I look forward to supper number 2 next week. Additionally, we have been blessed with two tutor group tea parties this week - Mr Williams' Year 8 and Mr Monk's Year 7 - and on both occasions have enjoyed getting to know each other. As we close week nine of term, I cannot yet claim to have sat down with every pupil in the College, but we are getting there.



I take this opportunity to celebrate progress with communications. I hope that parents in Prep and Senior have tried our new portal, [MSP](#), and seen the rich (and growing) set of information that is now at your fingertips. I draw your attention, in particular, to the calendar, which is replicated on the College [website](#).



We are trying to get all information in one place, without conflict. Please do try the filter options to find what you need for your children. You may also wish to link this calendar to your smartphone so that you can have these data to hand at all times (please ask if any of this is not clear).

Before I draw to a close, let us address this week's FAQ: "what is happening with exams this year?" Parents of pupils in Years 11 and 13 should have received details this week of our response to the government announcements of last week. In short, whilst expecting exams to run in full in summer 2022, we must also be prepared for teacher-assessed grades (TAGs) as last year. We intend to ensure that pupils are well supported but not overly burdened by this parallel arrangement. Guidance for this year permits topics to be identified in advance for most assessments and for formulae sheets and the like to be used. Mr Green, Deputy Head (Academic), summed it up for pupils thus: *"For the time being, all you need to do is focus on working hard for your mock exams. Your teachers will continue to support you in every way they can and you can be assured that we will be there, by your side, every step of the way over the course of this year."*

The word for the week next week is *Shrek*. There is much excitement in anticipation. The Queen's Hall has been taken over by the most fabulous staging, including a turntable! Our pupils and staff have been working tirelessly for this, in spite of illness and isolation. I have no doubt the final events will be spectacular. If you have not yet procured [tickets](#), I urge you to do so.



This weekend brings fixtures in hockey and rugby, from U9 to U18, against Blundell's, Exeter, and Mount Kelly on Saturday. And then there's Ten Tors outdoor training and boarders' retail therapy on Sunday. Have a great one yourselves.

Best wishes, Julian.

Nursery R

Nursery News From Mrs Donna Kershaw - Highgrove Nursery Manager

The Highgrove Nursery have been celebrating National Nursery Rhyme this week.

Puddleducks Room have been building walls for 'Humpty Dumpty' and using the large drain pipes for 'Incy Wincy Spider'.

They have also been testing their balance and coordination in the garden by building tall obstacle courses with the large stepping stones and wooden blocks. Puddleducks have also been using National Road Safety Week to practise their zebra crossing skills in the garden and on campus.



Tiggywinkles have also been focusing on Nursery rhymes this week, singing 'Wind the Bobbin Up' whilst doing string painting and practising labelling their body parts with 'Head, Shoulders, Knees & Toes'. The children have also enjoyed choosing their favourite Nursery rhymes during music time to sing whilst playing the musical instruments.



Cottontails have been focusing on the rhyme 'Down by the Station'. They have enjoyed sitting in the box, training in the role play area, as well as listening to train sounds on the iPad. The focus book has been 'Peppa and the Big Train' which not only supported the Train theme but also included lots of opportunities to discuss number names throughout the week.



Prep S



School



Senior

Sports



Girls Hockey - Queen's vs West Buckland U13A

A challenging, yet positive afternoon against West Buckland. Opposition's player of the match went to Bahiya for her strong performance all over the pitch. Coaches player went to Rebecca Barter for her constant positivity and defensive play. First defensive game for Amelia C, showing great skill. Also a very strong attacking game for Blanca.

Girls Hockey - Queen's vs West Buckland Senior 1st Team

A well-balanced fixture saw Queen's College control large sections of the game, but without the clinical finishing required to take the lead. With the half-time score 0-0, the team was asked to up the tempo in the second half but we were caught on the break twice, and despite a well finished goal from Rebecca Randolph, they were unable to get the desired result from the game.

Girls Hockey - Queen's vs West Buckland U14A

Our U14A team had a great match against West Buckland's U15A team. The Backs had their work cut out keeping the WB team out of the D, but they made some great turn-overs and distributed the ball nicely to the midfield players. Izzy, Chloe and Maddie deserve a special mention for their formidable defending, and Megan for her outstanding effort throughout the game.

Girls Hockey - Queen's vs King's College U15B

The U15B team put on a fantastic performance. We had some girls making their debut, who picked up the rules well, and made incredible progress throughout the match. One of our more experienced players, Evie, was strong in defense and turned over the ball countless times in the D. Tabbie and Evelyn played well in mid-field and kept possession of the ball well.

Girls Hockey - Queen's vs West Buckland U12B

A tough match for the U12B team against a strong West Buckland side. Despite the score-line, the girls remained positive, determined and energetic and displayed some good passages of play. Harriet Newcombe was named player of the match by the opposition. Final score 5-0.

Girls Hockey - Queen's vs West Buckland U15A

Good intense performance by the 15Bs leading to a 3-3 draw vs West Buckland 2nd team. Some very close scoring opportunities which, if we were clinical, would've led to an even more high-scoring game.



Senior

Sports Report

Boys Rugby - Queen's vs Downside U15A

The squad came under some serious pressure against a mobile and physically dominant Downside team. However, the character of Queen's players shone like a beacon through this difficult game. Oliver Smith stood out, as he captained the team and lead by example - voted player of the match by Downside. Well done Oli. But the praise doesn't stop there, Rowan Weston, was typical of the whole team. Rowan gave everything that he had, and never stopped chasing numerous dashes down his wing. However, my greatest praise is for the whole team as they adjusted to a five minute spell of touch rugby, when Daniel Banks, Oliver Wilson and Tom Wilcox came onto the pitch. The team changed their set up and very quickly all three new players were handling the ball and committing to their defensive roles effectively. Those five minutes proved very difficult for Downside, who struggled to score just once, and showed the potential that our U15s has.



Boys Rugby - Queen's vs King's Halls U12A

The U12s played King's Hall on a sunny afternoons at Queen's. The team battled well, passing the ball and supporting each other through out. After the games the boys discussed how much they had learnt during the afternoon. Well done Queen's! On to Saturday where the boys face Mount Kelly in an exciting encounter.

Boys Rugby - Queen's vs Downside U14A

The U14s showed a lot of determination in their fixture on Saturday vs Downside. They were a little slow to get into the game and at half time found themselves three tries down. They brought a lot more physicality to the second half and a lot of very impressive running rugby was played. It was a great team effort all round and the boys earned a well-deserved come back draw to finish the game 20 points all.

Boys Rugby - Queen's vs Downside U16A

The U16s had a tough first game back after half term that was disrupted by last-minute changes to the number of players on the pitch. However, we saw the welcome return of Archie Elliott and Huw Wilson to the team who both had great games after a long break. The boys played with heart and came up against a strong running team who moved the ball well.



Boys Rugby - Queen's vs Downside Senior 1st Team

Coming back after half term the Queen's boys took to the field vs a strong Downside team. After a fast start from Downside, the side were down 12-0 in as many minutes played. The boys battled hard and it was clear that what they had been working on in training was put into practice. From a turn-over, brilliant hands from Ali Z, Jack D saw James Bradley put into space still with a lot to do with mesmerising footwork skipped past three defenders to score one of the tries of the season. The line-out and scrum was very competitive, largely thanks to the welcome return of Adam Hodgson Lisk. Toby Bloxham was a stand-out performer due to his footwork and direct running. As we move into the second half of the season, it is a promising start from the senior boys with another week of good training before we continue our season with an away match at Mount Kelly.

School



Sixth

A Round-up from our Sixth Form Centre

Despite being only the second week of term this week has been another busy one for the Sixth Form with many events going on!

The Sixth Form has started its support for Christmas Sparkle with a donation box that will collect gifts for children who are less fortunate.

With COP 26 on people's minds the Sixth Form Centre has now installed more cycle racks for those who wish to travel to Queen's in a way that is healthier for the body, mind and the environment.

Furthermore, Sixth Formers Louisa Wills and Bella Clements have stepped up to help organise Friday's Children in Need, with the focus on spotty clothes and sweet sales to raise awareness and funds for the BBC Charity.

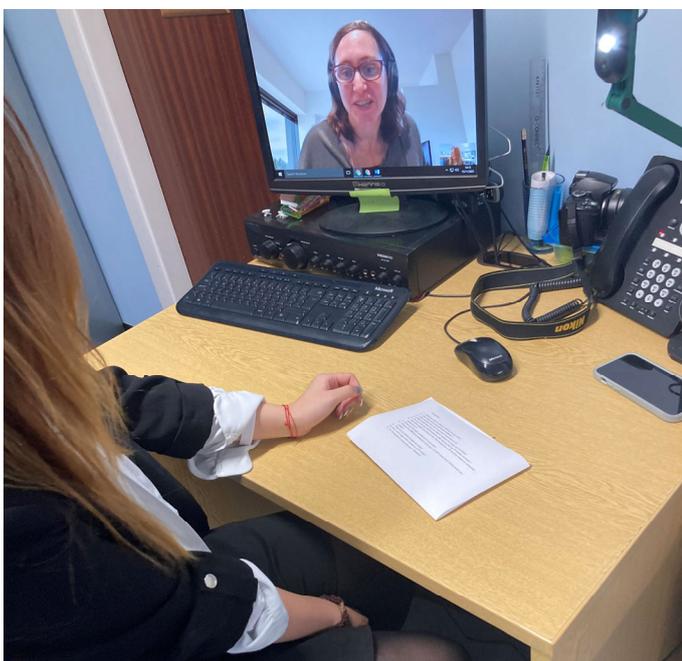
Supper at Mr and Mrs Noad's

Mr and Mrs Noad hosted the first of their suppers with Y12 this week. The pupils were fabulous company, it was a lovely memorable evening.

These suppers are a chance for Mr and Mrs Noad to get to know the Y12s but also embody our school motto, 'we learn not for school but for life'. The pupils were asked to write a formal reply to the invitation they received and after welcome drinks, the pupils enjoyed a meal prepared by one of our chefs from Holroyd Howe. The learning of these 'soft skills' are one of the many important elements that we offer sixth formers here at Queen's.



Queen's Quizzes Coca-Cola on Sustainability, Obesity, and Diabetes



Europe's Scientific and Regulatory Affairs Team at Coca-Cola were quizzed by Queen's pupils on their response to sustainability, obesity, and diabetes. This week, Public Health Nutritionist and Dietitian for Coca-Cola, Brigid McKeivith, answered questions in her role as UK and Ireland Scientific and Regulatory Affairs Manager at Coca-Cola Europe.

Rachel Wong in Year 13 led the questioning as part of her 'Food, Science and Nutrition' course with Head of Food and Nutrition, Mr Mann. In reply to questioning about children making the correct nutritional choices, Brigid was quoted as saying "It is about habit-forming and trying to get children to plant healthy choices early on. Trying to instil that at an early age is very important".



Prefects POV

Prefect Point of View by Sophia Welch and Louisa Wills - Year 13

This week the entire college has been raising awareness for anti-bullying week. The senior school



prefects started this campaign with an assembly last Friday explaining the importance of the movement 'one kind word'. This is the Anti-Bullying Alliance's theme for 2021, with a goal to spread positivity after the isolation of the past year. The Anti-Bullying Alliance is a coalition of organisations and individuals that are united against bullying.

With the chaplaincy theme of honesty this term, the prefects encouraged the community to embrace the 'one kind word' movement by making personal and honest compliments.

Additionally, the senior school prefects went to various year group dayrooms this week to give out stickers and to sell wristbands and rulers in aid of the anti-bullying cause. It was great to see everyone so enthusiastic about the movement.

On Monday, it was amazing to see the whole college take part in Odd Socks Day, a fun and inclusive way to stand against bullying. Also on Monday, the senior school welcomed their anti-bullying ambassadors from Year 7 to 12 to talk in assembly about the importance of being an "upstander", to give recognition of the fact that bullying is something that needs to be actively fought against. Not only was it a great message to spread, but it was very impressive to see pupils from such a young age standing up in front of the senior school and emphasising the importance of working together to stop bullying. A special mention must go to Roger Cipriano, Harriet Thorne, and Mary-Tess McAlonan in Year 7 for their excellent oration in the assembly.



From a prefect point of view, overall, Queen's is an incredibly welcoming and inclusive environment. However, on the occasion that an incident of bullying may occur the pastoral team is quick to act and resolve the issue, making sure that every student feels comfortable. With the addition of the new Well Being Centre and the senior school's bullying ambassadors, extra support is now in place to prevent bullying. As a college, we are becoming a community of upstanders, raising the flag when we see behaviour that is not in line with our principles.

This year's Anti-Bullying week has shone a light on the progress that has been made not just throughout the college, but throughout the world in the battle against bullying, as well as the steps we can take to create an even more inclusive community.

Prominent OQs

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



Christopher Pitchford was a boarder at Queen's for eight terms until leaving in July 1965. Four years later, he was called to the Bar – the first step of a distinguished career in the judiciary.

He took silk in 1987 and was elected a Bencher in 1996. He was appointed a Recorder and became a Queen's Counsel. In 2000, he was made a Judge of the High Court (Queen's Bench Division), when he received his knighthood. He was Presiding Judge of the Wales and Chester Circuit from 2002 to 2005.

From 2006 to 2010, Christopher was Director of Training [criminal group] and, over the same period, he was a member of the Sentencing Guidelines Council. He was appointed a Lord Justice of Appeal in 2010 and, subsequently, a Privy Councillor. In 2004, he became Deputy Lieutenant for Mid-Glamorgan.

His expertise in criminal law was unsurpassed. During his career, he was involved in many notable, and several nasty, cases. His role as a judge was not without its dangers. In 2002, he was attacked by a defendant who punched him repeatedly on the face, smashed a lamp on the bench and hurled a cup of water in his direction. In March 2015, Theresa May, the Home Secretary, appointed him Chair of the Undercover Policing Inquiry, the brief for which dated back to events since 1965.

The task was vast in scope and incomplete when he had to retire through ill health in May 2017.

Despite his eminence, all who knew him testify to his humility, humour and generosity. A measure of the esteem of others for him was evident at the memorial service in his honour in Llandaff Cathedral on 25 November 2017. Several hundred people packed the huge space. The Dowlais Male Voice Choir, at the request of Christopher, sang at three points in the service; the beauty of their music was a tribute to the support he had given them in his lifetime.

Three eulogies were delivered, the first by the Rt Hon. Lord Judge, a colleague, David Pinchin, a close friend from his youth, and Kate Thomas, the Lord Lieutenant of Wales. Between them, they extolled the virtues, qualities, achievements and legacy of this remarkable man, as well as his love of family, friends, and all things Welsh, especially rugby, and Bedlinog Rugby Club in particular.

In his lifetime, Christopher was mindful of the need to help others, and he supported many charities. For example, he was patron of 'Leadership Through Sport and

Aware, too, of his good fortune to have gone to Queen's College – a point made during the eulogies in Llandaff Cathedral - he was delighted to accept my invitation to visit the School in 2010. He addressed sixth formers before sharing a meal with them. All were engaged by him.



At school, Christopher played on the left-wing for the 1st XI Hockey side in the successful season of 1965 when Queen's beat Taunton School and drew with King's College. He also represented the School in the 2nd Rugby and Cricket teams. He was active in the Debating Society and, on one occasion, he was the main speaker for the motion that 'The Coffee Bar is replacing the Church', which was defeated. He was also a member of the History and Geography Society.

Acting was a passion and he took part in school plays. As Richard Rich in 'A Man for all Seasons' it was said 'he found it difficult to be particularly slimy', which was unsurprising for a person who was naturally kind and gracious.



Spotlight

Mrs Carla Sherman - Head of Boarding. Explains the message behind the new staff lanyards

This year, Queen's College is completing the Pride in Inclusion award through the charity, Educate and Celebrate. Part of this award involves the creation of an Inclusion and Diversity Statement. The pupils from a range of year groups have written a Statement for the College. This has been signed by staff who were then given a new Staff lanyard to demonstrate their support for all protected characteristics. Pupils are also being invited to sign the statement in their tutor groups. The Statement can be found here:

By signing this statement, I agree to acknowledge, accept and include anyone within the College community regardless of disability, age, sex and gender identity, sexual orientation, race, religious beliefs, or family choices, without bias or prejudice.



Shrek The Musical



Last-minute preparations are in full swing for Shrek the musical next week, including the erection of our fabulous set.

There are still a few tickets left to purchase, so get yours while you still can! Tickets can be booked [here](#).

Alternatively head over to our Facebook page before Tuesday next week and enter our prize draw that gives you the opportunity to win a set of family tickets to attend the musical!

A promotional poster for 'Shrek The Musical' at Queen's College Taunton. The background is green with glowing yellow stars. At the top left is the Queen's College Taunton logo. The title 'SHREK THE MUSICAL' is written in large, stylized, glowing green letters. Below the title are silhouettes of Shrek, Fiona, and Donkey against a green background. At the bottom, there is a black banner with white text: '24 - 29 NOV 2021', 'QUEEN'S THEATRE QUEEN'S COLLEGE, TAUNTON', and 'TICKETS: bookings.queenscollege.org.uk'.

24 - 29 NOV 2021

QUEEN'S THEATRE
QUEEN'S COLLEGE, TAUNTON

TICKETS: bookings.queenscollege.org.uk

The Weekend

A round-up of our boarders activities last weekend

School House boarders enjoyed a great afternoon paintballing on Sunday for this term's chosen House outing. The house was randomly split into two teams, red and blue. The blue team were unbeatable winning all three of the games!



The Hutton girls have been celebrating being part of the Queen's boarding community. Years 9, 10 and 11 enjoyed a delicious three-course meal at the Cosy Club at lunchtime and the Years 12 and 13 were pampered with a very British afternoon tea and an evening Spa session at The Cleve Hotel and Spa, Wellington. All returned relaxed, relieved, refreshed and ready for a busy week at Queen's College.



Cotlake House bounced out of bed and jumped at the chance to go to Flip-Out for their Sunday trip.



News and Announcements

Christmas Sparkle

Just a reminder that our [Christmas Sparkle](#) collection is up and running throughout the college.

Many of you will already be familiar with this fabulous project. Since 2015, local schools, businesses and the

general public, have collected gifts, which are then wrapped, and distributed to children who otherwise might receive nothing. Queen's has always been a strong supporter of this project and we would love it if you could contribute again this year.



There are collection boxes in Highgrove, Pre-Prep, Prep and Senior school (reception) and we are collecting presents for children aged from 0-18 years. We only ask that gifts are brand new and unused.

Please be aware the deadline for donating gifts is the end of November.

We will let you know the dates for wrapping if you are interested in helping further.

Thank you so much for supporting this wonderful community project.

Speech and Drama Festival

A very well done to all the pupils that took part in the [Taunton Speech and Drama Festival](#) this week.

There have been some incredible achievements! Full coverage of the festival will feature in next week's Bulletin.



Future Bulletin Contributions

Parents and carers we would love our future Bulletins to have even more content about what our pupils get up to outside of school. So if your child has done something exciting in their spare time please let us know, we would love to include it in a future issue or on our social media channels! Please email any content to marketing@queenscollege.org.uk

Upcoming Dates

Swimming Gala at West Buckland School	22 November
Shrek The Musical	24-28 November
Sixth Form Math Inspiration Lecture , Bristol	25 November
Mountain Biking Trip, Forest of Dean	28 November
Sixth Form Ball	07 December

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

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