



QUEEN'S
COLLEGE
TAUNTON



BULLETIN

Queen's College Whole School Newsletter

26 November 2021

Shrek The Musical



Mr Julian Noad - Head of College



Green is the colour, as 'Shrek' has taken centre stage this week. There have been two matinee performances so far for primary pupils, and for some, it was their first ever school trip, with our own Prep in attendance today. The big smiles on the way out, as they high-fived members of the cast, told the tale superbly. If you have not yet seen this wonderful production, we have three further showings, tonight (Friday), Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon,

with a few tickets still available for each.

A welcome visitor this week was Mr James Featherstone, Head of Exeter Cathedral School. He was delighted to be able to see for himself the wonderful next step available to his pupils and that our ethos would suit his families perfectly. We look forward to welcoming them.

I have also been out and about, with a visit to King's, to meet Headmasters current and future, Biggs and Sloan. Friendly, local rivalry should never prevent good

cooperation and we discussed a number of opportunities.

Our senior mathematicians were in Bristol this week, being 'inspired' with a series of lectures. This and wider themes of food and sustainability across the College are shared later in this bulletin. Enjoy.

Best wishes,
Julian.



Nursery Round-up

Nursery News From Mrs Donna Kershaw - Highgrove Nursery Manager

Puddleducks have been busy in the construction area this week, looking at building sites and machinery as well as using real tools to practise their woodwork skills.

Tiggywinkles have been focusing on colours this week, having colour-themed days, looking for objects around the playroom to match the colour theme.

Cottontails have been practising and improving their physical skills, using the tunnel and tent, as well as practising the steps and rolling the different sized balls through the pipes.



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

The Nursery School children have enjoyed exploring the effects of autumn outside this week with the leaves that have fallen in the garden. This theme carried on into their Forest School session, when they learnt all about hedgehog hibernation, and they collected twigs to make their very own hedgehog out of clay.



Prep School

Mr Henry Matthews - Head of Prep



Mr Noad ended last week's bulletin with the word of the week 'Shrek', and I will open with the same theme. The Prep School was

treated to an incredible performance of Shrek the Musical this morning and we have all come away with huge smiles and singing many of the songs. It has been my first chance to experience the legendary Queen's Performance and I, like the children, have been blown away by the scenery, lighting and sound but, most of all, the skill, talent and confidence of our Senior pupils both on stage and working hard behind the scenes. I know this will have inspired many of our Prep School children to pursue performing arts in the future. A massive thank you from everyone in QCPS to all those involved with a truly memorable show.

Performing arts continues to be the theme this week with due recognition to the 53 children who competed at this year's Taunton Speech and Drama Festival. Tuesday's assembly took a little longer than anticipated as there were simply so many children to award with certificates, medals and even trophies. Our performers should be incredibly proud. Last night, we were also treated to the inaugural Queen's Prep Speech Showcase expertly

organised by Mr Kirby.

With a similar principle to the lunchtime concerts, children were invited to perform their Speech piece to an audience of friends and family. The talent on show was superb and we were lucky to see performances ranging from self-composed pieces, extracts from stories and poetry, ranging from mysterious to thoughtful and also funny. Thank you to our performers and those who joined for another great evening in school.

Cross College links continue to grow and we are very pleased to announce the imminent arrival of just over 400 fruit trees commissioned by Mr Joe Mann (Head of Food and Nutrition). Mr Mann met with Mrs Wade and myself earlier in the week to start the ball rolling on two exciting projects. The first will be to help inspire our younger chefs as they begin to work on a programme of Saturday masterclasses in the Spring and Summer Terms, and the second, which will start imminently, is for the Prep School to be part of the development of the new kitchen garden. Eco Team will begin the work by helping plant the winter veg in the coming weeks.

Alongside the planting of vegetables all children in the Prep School will be invited to plant a tree in a project named 'grow with us'. The trees will form a vital part in helping the school achieve sustainable goals and our children will track the annual progress of their tree as they move through the school.

Another first for the Prep School was last week's Discovery Day which was a huge success, and we were very pleased to invite both new and current families into school to share in a day packed with creativity. It has been great to see interest in the school increase over the past term and, following the popularity of running such an event, we are already planning Discovery Day - Science, which will take place during National Science Week in the Spring Term.

Finally, I will end by saying we are very much looking forward to sharing our Christmas celebrations with you in the coming weeks; rehearsals are well underway and the children are all in great voice. Please keep an eye on the My School Portal Calendar and school communications for information on tickets.

I hope you all have a good weekend.

Henry Matthews

Prep School

Prep Sports Round-up

From the fantastic boys and girls U9 Blundell's festival at the weekend, to triangular matches in both rugby and hockey throughout the week, the Prep School has had a very busy week of sports. To read the **full sports report** [click here](#), you can also visit our new [Flickr](#) account to view all our photographs from the matches.



Rockets Away

There was an explosion of excitement in our Pre-Prep Science Club this week! Following on from some work on forces, the children made balloon rockets, showing how a push of air forces a balloon at speed across a piece of string.



Percy Visited Reception

Reception children had an exciting morning on Thursday. Percy, Mr and Mrs Noad's dog, came for a visit and the children really enjoyed stroking him.



Wild Wisdom Challenge

The children from Year 2 to Year 11 took the opportunity to investigate the most up to date information from the Wild Wisdom Challenge, created by WWF, in conjunction with David Attenborough and Blue Planet.

The staff were delighted to see over a hundred children enter the competition, accumulating a huge bank of knowledge which has helped them to understand the changes that have been discussed in COP26. The final leaderboard was headed by Izzy P, closely followed by Muneso and Archie G. It is brilliant to support so many proactive and knowledgeable young people who are working hard to improve our environment.



Speech and Drama Festival

A Round-up of Last Week's Speech and Drama Festival

Queen's College had huge successes at the 107th Taunton Drama Festival last week. The event ran over three days and more than 70 pupils in the Pre-Prep, Prep and Senior School participated in the Festival. We saw some truly outstanding performances with extracts from 'Macbeth' to improvisations about fire alarms! The competition was such a friendly event, with the emphasis on taking part, trying your best and enjoying each others' performances. Mr Kirby, Speech Teacher, said: "I am absolutely thrilled with how all of the children performed. They did outstandingly and represented Queen's so very well. Congratulations to everyone".

All our photos from the Speech and Drama Festival can be found [here](#).

The Results

Timisayo:

1st and Overall Winner of Year 3 Verse Speaking

Olivia & Ava:

2nd place in the Year 3 Speaking

Livi:

1st place in the Year 5 Prepared Reading

Cora:

2nd place in the Year 5 Prepared Reading

Lucia:

1st place in the Sixth Form Performance Poetry

Alex:

1st place in the Year 7 & Under Solo Mime and Overall Winner of the Mime classes

Millie:

1st place in the Solo Shakespeare

Oscar:

1st place in the Solo Acting Year 10 & 11

Millie:

1st place in the Solo Improvisation Year 10 & Over and Overall Winner of the Improvisation classes

Teniore:

2nd place in the Years 5-7 Performance Poetry

Jack:

2nd place in the Year 4 Verse Speaking

Thien An:

3rd place in the Year 4 Verse Speaking

Thomas:

3rd place in the Year 4 & Under Performance Poetry

Amy:

2nd place in the Year 1 Verse Speaking

Aurora & Lowenna:

3rd place in the Year 1 Verse Speaking

Teddy:

1st place in the Year 1 Verse Speaking

Ege & Amelia:

1st place in the Year 2 Verse Speaking

Rebekah & Megan:

2nd place in the Year 2 Verse Speaking

Bertie & Oliver:

3rd place in the Year 2 Verse Speaking

Thomas:

1st place in the Year 8 & Under Project Speaking

Aria:

1st place in the Years 8 & 9 Solo Acting

Millie also won the Robin Bush Award for achieving the highest mark at the Festival (90% - Outstanding!)



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.



Pupils Flex Their Mussel Power!

Something fishy was going on this week as Food and Nutrition pupils received an extra special delivery of fresh, local rope-grown mussels from Lyme Bay, to prepare and cook as part of a 'Fish in School Hero' programme. The aim of the programme is to ensure that every child gets a chance to prepare, cook and eat fresh fish and seafood supported by local fishmongers and fish suppliers. Pupils from various year groups took part in the mussels masterclass where they prepared and cooked up, safely, a selection of beautifully presented dishes based around mussels.

Pupils made many dishes, including 'Angry Mussels', a Jamie Oliver recipe with chilli, garlic, tomatoes and fresh rosemary, grown at Queen's College and Thai Style Mussels with fresh coriander.

Head of Food and Nutrition, Mr Mann, explained, 'Our aspiring chefs have been busy learning how to prepare and cook local, sustainable, fresh seafood. They have learnt how fresh local mussels are rope-grown and harvested sustainably and can provide us with key nutrients for our diets. I was extremely impressed with the pupils as most of them had never prepared fresh shellfish before, but they all got stuck in, were engaged and focused throughout, and prepared some superb dishes. Many students tasted mussels for the very first time and loved them!

The grade 'A' fresh rope-grown local mussels arrived at Queen's College courtesy of Offshore Shellfish and MJ Seafood. Sarah Holmyard, Head of Sales and Marketing at Offshore Shellfish, said, "We are delighted to support



the Fish in School Heroes programme by supplying our mussels to Queen's College. It is so important for children to have access to foods they may not otherwise try and be the next generation of seafood enthusiasts. Mussels are so quick and simple to cook, are good for you, and great for the environment so are perfect for the pupils to try".

Ten Tors

Ten Tors Training Report - Mr Mark Neenan

Last weekend saw the second in a series of training and selection walks for the Queen's Ten Tors teams 2022. This year we have secured two 35 mile teams (Years 9 & 10) and one 45 mile team (Year 12).

Ten Tors is the biggest mass participation youth event in the UK and is an experience difficult to forget. I am always amazed at how our young people develop through the training process and mould themselves into competent, supportive and self reliant teams, ready to cope with whatever Dartmoor can throw at them. Last weekend, the weather was good and the group focused on developing their navigational skills. Before the event in May, the teams will have learnt to cope with poor weather conditions, walking long distances with heavy packs and navigating through some of the wildest and most remote places on Dartmoor. They will also learn to deal with the many challenges of the event, as and when they occur, and support each other as a team. Most importantly, they will take away some lifelong memories.



Website Feature

Pippa Drummond (Year 12) who took part in the last Ten Tors event in 2019 reminisces on her time taking part in the event.

To read her account head over to our [website](#).



Shrek The Musical

Shrek is an Ogre who wants to be left alone ... but it just won't happen!

The pupils have been working incredibly hard this week to put on a Broadway quality performance of Shrek the Musical. The tale of hulking green ogre Shrek. Shrek and Donkey are sent by Lord Farquaad to rescue the beautiful Princess Fiona, and on the way find friendship, fun and a fearsome, funky dragon! It's the classic story, with a big helping of musical mayhem.

Below are some of our favourite photographs of the cast and the performances so far but **many more photographs can be found on our [Flickr Account](#).**



Shrek The Musical

Behind the Scenes—Crew Club

We would like to give a big shout-out to the Crew Club which has made this amazing performance possible. Crew Club is a popular, weekly co-curricular club which provides pupils, who are keen on the technical aspect of theatre, the opportunities to be involved in programming lighting boards, recording soundscapes and even designing set and creating props. Thank you, well done crew club for all your hard work!



Also a special **THANK YOU** to everyone who has worked so hard behind the scenes: Stage Management Team, Technical Department, Costume and Make-up Department, Set Designers and Artists, Front of House Team, Chorographers, The Musical Director and Assistant directors and of course our Artistic Director Mr Ian Trafford.

Fairy Tale Food fit for a Princess and an Ogre!

A big thank you to the Food and Nutrition pupils for cooking up some tasty treats!

Airy and light choux bun bites with a flavourful rich creamy cheese and smoked salmon filling may sound like the perfect centrepiece for any fairy tale banquet, but topped with a piped bright green herb and garlic-parsley sauce will satisfy not just the Royals of Far Far Away but also a big green ogre from a swamp!



These 'swamp boulders' are just one of the many tasty treats cooked up by our aspiring young chefs at Queen's College, for the latest school production of Shrek The Musical. Some lucky pupils studying Food and Nutrition have taken over the shows catering duties to create fun festive Shrek inspired foods for the performances on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The children have not only developed their culinary skills in the kitchen classrooms but designed, costed and are also serving the foods as part of this unique hospitality experience.



You will also be able to pick up one of a hundred and fifty intricately decorated, handmade 'Gingey' the gingerbread men (but, rest assured, the Muffin Man who lives on Drury Lane, promises there are

enough for every performance!). Other delectable fun-festive ogre themed foods include some very moorish bright slime green popcorn, fruity festive green ogres on a stick, fruit ogre mouths, Shrek bread, and Shrek macarons stuffed with chocolate swamp mud. On Sunday's afternoon performance there will even be a swamp juice mocktail to enjoy!

Mr Mann, Head of Food and Nutrition said, "We devised this challenge to show everyone, not just the immense professional talent we have in this school for drama, theatre, but also to celebrate the high standard of catering and hospitality of our young people. It's been a tremendous success; the students were delighted to have taken part and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I am incredibly proud of the achievements of all the Food and Nutrition students and staff in supporting this fantastic school show!"



Sixth Form

Round-Up From Our Sixth Form Centre

Well done to Sixth Form students who worked together and raised £107.21 at two tuck shops located outside Queen's Hall, in the SFC for Children in Need, and the Prep School cake sale raising a total of £433.36 when added to own clothes donations. An amazing success to help children and young people who are less fortunate than themselves!

A tech weekend and final play rehearsals, which included many talented Sixth Form students, made for a well-earned break from A Level studies in final preparation for the senior school play *Shrek the musical*. Vince Jeffrey, our Sixth Form Manager, also supported the play by helping with stage props which included a flying donkey!

Rachel, Y13, received her fifth and final offer from Reading University for a degree in Nutrition with professional placement. Due to the work placement element she was invited to an online interview which was followed by the offer. Well done Rachel! 40 UCAS applications have now been sent and the offers are rolling in and the practice interviews are a regular event in the SFC.

A second group of Y12 students attended a wonderful formal meal with Mr and Mrs Noad on Tuesday, enjoying the delicious food and conversation, including bucket-list destinations.

Basketball matches have been a highlight for many of our students in recent years; despite losing narrowly to Wellington this week, it is great that the students continue to enjoy the game. Evan, Y13, shone again this week, scoring the majority of our baskets.

This week our focus in assembly was on self-esteem, encouraging all of our students to self-praise not self-judge and to find ways of maintaining high self-esteem: talking to friends, parents, staff; having a range of hobbies; thinking positively; being organised and ring-fencing 8 hours sleep/ night!

Highgrove House Weekend Activities

The first week back after Half Term, Highgrove & Hutton boarders finished up the week with a 'Marshmallow & Mindfulness' evening, toasting marshmallows and playing mindfulness fortune teller games...there was also a lot of music and dancing to lift the spirits. The intention of the evening was to engage students about positive outcomes they have experienced and how they could be mindful towards others.



The following week Highgrove boarders enjoyed an evening at LUSH Taunton, where they focused on self-care and how engaging in a self-care routine has been clinically proven to reduce or eliminate anxiety & depression, reduce stress, improve concentration, minimize frustration and anger, increase happiness, improve energy and much more. A very relaxed time was had by all!



Visit our [Flickr](#) account to view more photographs.

Sixth Form

Growth of plant-based showstoppers

With the interest in plant-based vegan bakes blossoming, and the number of vegans in the UK continuing to grow, Year 13, Loveday Trott, quizzed The Vegan Society this week, virtually, at Queen's, about consumer trends for healthier and more sustainable plant-based options. Her interview with Rachel Bowcutt, Communications Manager and Supporter Services Manager at The Vegan Society, formed part of Loveday's Sixth Form research project in Food, Science and Nutrition with Head of Food and Nutrition, Mr Mann. She was investigating plant-based baking for ethical and environmental reasons and the expanding set of product options in plant-based baking contributing to plant alternatives becoming a long-term option for bakers around the world.



Sir it's not wrong, I've just discovered a new bit of maths

All the A-Level mathematicians spent an exciting afternoon at The Bristol Hippodrome on Thursday 25 November, taking part in the Inspiration Maths series of lectures. The three guest speakers the students heard from were engineer turned lecturer, Paul Shepherd, self-proclaimed YouTube global sensation, Steve Mould and mathematician/singer Ben Sparks. Paul started off the show with his experience on working on engineering masterpieces such as the Millennium Dome and Arsenal Stadium, describing the modelling process required to find the most elegant, cost effective and low carbon solution to grand engineering projects. **To read all about it head over to our [website](#).**



Prefects POV

This week our Prefect POV feature is written by Jenny Thurstan. Jenny takes the opportunity to reflect on the recent COP26 summit and how the pupils at the college can set a green example not only to the rest of her generation but to the entire community.



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

Invitation for Parents: Success Beyond School

Resource for Parents - You are cordially invited to the latest INVESTIN- Success Beyond School events series. Free of charge, live online parents events designed to give you the essential tools needed to support your child on their career journey.

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

INVESTIN

Prominent OQs

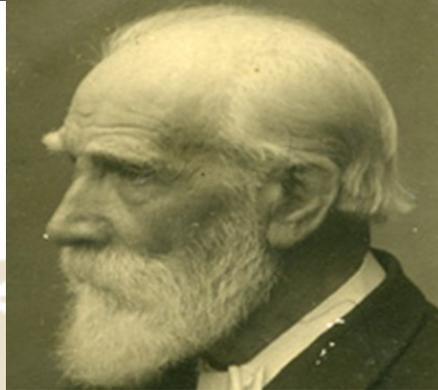
Geoff Bisson - Alumni Officer, continues his look at the outstanding achievements of OQs.

The West of England Wesleyan Proprietary Grammar School (the name by which Queen's College was first known), was founded by dedicated Methodists. It is unsurprising that theology was important in the education of pupils of the early decades of the school. Once a week the Governor, resident in the school, gave a weekly lecture on theology to all the boys, instructed the older boys in the study of the Hebrew Bible and the Greek Testament, conducted prayers at the beginning and end of each day, and met each class three times a week. The boys attended services at the Temple each Sunday.

Of the pupils at the school during its first 30 years, about 20 entered the Wesleyan ministry and others were ordained in the Anglican Church. Many of them served as missionaries abroad. For example, Rev. G. Whelpton served a Wesleyan church in Le Havre, France, and Rev J. Vanes went to India.

Henry James Piggott (1845-48) was the founder of the Wesleyan Methodist mission in Italy. Henry was born in Lowestoft, the son of a former missionary in Sierra Leone. He went to Kingswood School, Bath, before starting at Queen's, aged 14. He was already studying Greek and Latin and was advanced in Mathematics. Henry was an outstanding scholar and, on the strength of his performance in his Matriculation exams in 1848, was awarded an Exhibition of £30 per annum for two years, by London University. He gained a first class degree in Classics.

Subsequently, he served in local churches in Oxford, Hastings and



Hammersmith, London, resisting the chance to carry Methodism to India. However, the unification of Italy in 1861 presented an opportunity he could not refuse. The exploits of Italian nationalists, especially Garibaldi, excited many in Britain (the biscuit was named after him and he was feted on a tour of Britain in 1864). Henry initially worked in the north of Italy then, from 1864, the south. On his travels, he preached the Methodist message, often brazenly critical of Catholicism and the Papacy. Wherever he went, he established churches and set up schools.

In 1873 he moved to Rome, which is where he focused most of his energies. However, as Superintendent of Methodism in the Italy District, Henry continued to travel and preach throughout the country. Nonetheless, his move to Rome coincided with the arrival of the Rev. Leroy Vernon, from the USA, who assumed most of the missionary work within the country. Henry and Leroy had a clear understanding of the historical context of the time they were living through. Together, they supported nationalists trying to forge a new state. Their objective was to promote a Protestant Church completely immersed in the spirit of the Risorgimento.

As the denomination increased in numbers, there was a greater demand for ministers, so Henry founded a theological college. Henry also encouraged ministers from Britain to join his church in Italy, often submitting articles to the British religious press. As President of the Italian Bible Society as well as its Sunday School Union, Henry helped foster biblical scholarship in Italy.

Henry admired the work of the founder of the Italian Free Church, Alessandro Gavazzi, former chaplain to Garibaldi, whose Rome base at Ponte Sant'Angelo Church came into Wesleyan Methodism in 1903, when the churches merged.

Inside the church is the memorial tablet to Henry that, previously, was housed at the church in Via della Scrofa where Henry lived. On 30 November 2017, the centenary of his death, his life and work was commemorated. Standing to the right in the photo below, is Tim Macquiban, pastor of the church, and pastor Jacqui Horton, a member of the Council for Ecumenical Relations of the Methodist Church of Great Britain.

After laying a wreath there, many church leaders and dignitaries assembled at Henry's grave where prayers were said. In the cemetery chapel Jacqui delivered a talk about Henry.



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.

Suggestions of possible donations can be found [here](#). 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.

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 marketins@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 be able 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.



#AskTheAwkward—Resource for Parents

Have you checked out this brand new resource for parents? #AskTheAwkward, is a new resource for parents and carers of secondary-aged children.



#AskTheAwkward aims to help parents and carers have regular conversations with their children about online relationships and more. The resource includes three short films created in a social experiment style, with real parents and their children to capture their reactions to a range of questions. Find out more [here](#).

News and Announcements

Hutton Dance Extravaganza

The Hutton boarders are dancing for a full two hours on Friday 3rd December from 19.30 - 21.30 to raise money for Love Musgrove.

Musgrove Park Hospital has provided Hutton House with crucial support for those physically or mentally ill this year and so the girls would like to raise money to say a huge thank you to all of the staff there.

If you feel you would like to donate, please visit the link to our just giving page [here](#). If you would like to dance and join in the fun then please let us know!



Upcoming Dates

Shrek The Musical	24-28 November
Mountain Biking Trip, Forest of Dean	28 November
Pre Prep and Prep Coffee Morning	02 December
Step up to Reception—Christmas Craft	02 December
Trinity Music Exam	02 December
Year 9 Social - Pizza and Film Evening	02 December
Trinity Music Exam	03 December
Prep Lunchtime Concert	03 December
Hutton Dance Extravaganza	03 December

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 5 trips per week (any combination) for a termly commitment of approx. £20 per week. Please contact Rebecca 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.

