



QUEEN'S
COLLEGE
TAUNTON

BULLETIN

Queen's College Whole School Newsletter

04 February 2022

Sports, Music and Lunar New Year



Mr Julian Noad - Head of College



Given that I am currently isolating myself, it would be hard to avoid discussion of Covid. We are very hopeful that this wave will

pass over very soon and we can return after half-term in good health and attendance. I apologise that we cancelled the parents coffee on Thursday morning. Although Jane remains, thankfully, Covid-free, we didn't want to run the risk of possibly passing something on to anyone who attended.

In line with guidance, I continue to request testing at home, at least twice weekly. Any symptomatic or positive child should stay home. We will not routinely test during the day; this is not guidance and it is not practical to respond to every child who thinks they 'might have Covid'. Pupils are issued with tests to take home; pupils should not be doing their own tests at school, nor will these be supported by other staff. If a child is unwell or symptomatic, they should go home.

Once at home, they should test.

The busyness of boarding life at Queen's never fails to make its mark. A standout this week was in support of the Lunar or Chinese New Year. A truly fabulous feast was laid on by our caterers and I know that a number of pupils enjoyed their own traditions.

Taunton Music Festival is underway this week and next. Mrs N has popped to Temple Methodist Church to watch some of our pupils perform and has been most impressed with the standard, especially when all those who are performing have not had a chance to do so in front of an audience for two years. Music really is central to Queen's life and we look forward to increasing engagement from all in the terms ahead. A summary of the Music Festival will be included in the Bulletin next week once all the classes are complete.

It was a delight to host two tournaments this week: rugby sevens on Sunday and then the IAPS U14 Boys County Hockey tournament on Tuesday. In the latter, our boys played

so passionately winning two out of their three matches. Although they were frustrated by that loss to Wells Cathedral, they are through to the next round. Brilliant work.

In other sporting success, the boys' 1st hockey XI won, yesterday, at West Buckland with a penalty stroke converted after the final whistle to progress in the tier 3 national championship. Then the girls 1st VII netballers followed on Thursday with a win 34-31 at King's.

I am now going to curl up with a Lemsip and feel sorry for myself. I hope that you have more enjoyable weekends planned. The Outdoor Education team certainly have more active weekends planned with Ten Tors training and climbing outings. Please do lend your support to our boys' hockey (versus Wells) and girls' netball (versus West Buckland and King's Hall) tomorrow, or the rugby 7s on Sunday at Colston's. Good luck, all.

Yours ever,
Julian



Nursery Round-up

Nursery News From Mrs Donna Kershaw - Highgrove Nursery Manager

Highgrove Nursery have had so much fun this week exploring and celebrating Lunar New Year and National Storytelling week. Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who joined us throughout the week to read a story.

Puddleducks have been busy making Chinese lanterns, and decorating red money envelopes to fill with chocolate gold coins. They have also made a large Chinese dragon to parade around the garden. On Tuesday, the whole Nursery enjoyed a Chinese-themed lunch menu when the children ate sweet and sour with noodles and rice, along with red jelly and a fortune cookie for pudding. Some of the children even attempted to eat their meal with chopsticks!

Tiggywinkles also enjoyed the themed lunch on Tuesday, as well as exploring the noodles, dried rice and the chopsticks a little more in the sensory trays over the week.

Cottontails have also been celebrating Lunar New Year by decorating Chinese lanterns with tissue paper and exploring noodles in the sensory tray and little role-play kitchen.



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

We continued the storytelling theme in the Nursery School this week with the children practising making red and green patterns in a sponge painting activity to create colourful caterpillars, as well as printing caterpillar numbers to link with the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Our other key story of the Three Bears sparked off a threading collage bear activity to practise the children's fine manipulative skills and hand/eye coordination. This was followed by a sustained shared-thinking activity in our Kitchen Club about making porridge, when the children enthusiastically shared their ideas and thoughts about the porridge making process and where oats come from. This led to a porridge tasting opportunity for their morning snack where they mixed and ate their own porridge. Luckily there were no bears in sight!



Prep School

Mr Henry Matthews - Head of Prep



Sport is the theme of this week's entry in the Prep School. It has been brilliant to watch and hear of the fantastic skill, effort and enthusiasm our children have shown in the many matches and tournaments they have been involved in and they should all be extremely proud of their achievements.

Monday was one of those great days as a Head where I needed to split myself in many directions to be able to see all the fantastic work going on. Our Year 6s took part in an incredible African drumming workshop culminating in a mini performance to an audience of parents and staff. Thank you to Miss Scutt for organising such a wonderful event and to Mr Clark who was even given the opportunity to perform a solo! Simultaneously, our Year 3s and 4s were out on fixtures and it was fantastic to see how much improvement has been made in the past few weeks.

IAPS tournaments have taken key positions in the planning for this week and we are immensely proud of all who have represented the school. I know selection has been extremely difficult and there have been some tough decisions made. I speak directly to those who may have been disappointed this week when I say you are as much a part of the team as those who played. I know and understand all too well the feeling of not getting "the call" all too well, but trust me when I say that, if you continue to work hard, enjoy and persevere, your time will come. To those who played in both the hockey and netball tournaments, a huge well done.

Isolation and illness has meant that some children have not been in for the team photos and pictures will follow in next week's Bulletin. Sport truly is on the up at Queen's.

Looking ahead, the focus shifts to the creative subjects with the launch of the Queen's Arts Festival.

Yesterday, the children were introduced to this year's criteria with an assembly and we cannot wait to see the entries start to come in. The theme is 'metamorphosis' and children can enter in a variety of categories including film, artwork, dance and music.

We also look ahead to the remainder of the Taunton Music Festival. Again, we have a number of pupils who will be taking part and they have been working hard to practise their performance pieces. I am particularly excited to be joining the choir next Thursday for their performances at Temple Methodist. This will be the first time I will have been able to see them perform in competition and I know it will be a great experience.

Finally, many of our Year 6s will have an exciting Saturday ahead with the launch of the first cookery workshop. I know the sign-up has proved popular and we hope to build on this enthusiasm over the course of this term. Make sure you save me some of the food too!

All the best for the weekend,

Henry

Prep School

Prep Sports Round-up

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

Read the full sports report [here](#). You can also visit our new [Flickr](#) account to view all our photographs from the matches.



IAPS Netball

The U11A netball team had an amazing day on Wednesday at the IAPS Netball Qualifier held at King's Bruton School. Despite the disruptions to their preparations last week, the girls were full of enthusiasm and determined to give their best. They played confidently in their pool matches, listened to coaching tips and responded well when under pressure. Three battling wins and a narrow loss meant that the girls came second in their pool and were through to the cup competition and a quarter-final match against Taunton School.

iaps

To read the full story and view the individual scores click [here](#).

Recipe for success for our feathered friends

Prep discovered more about the local wildlife as the Eco Team joined Senior School Head of Food and Nutrition, Mr Mann, to cook up different types of bird feeders for our feathered friends.



Using recycled paper cups and old coconut shells, they melted the lard in the kitchen classroom and filled them with a home-made bird food mix of raisins, currants, sultanas, grated cheese, breadcrumbs, seeds and cereals. Then the Eco Team hung up their finished feeders with twine on some of the larger trees around Queen's College.

Mr Mann said, "The experience was enriching for the children to help them discover more about wildlife at Queen's and what that



wildlife might eat. These feeders will be particularly appreciated by garden birds in winter, when they need foods packed with energy to survive cold weather.

Prep School

Year 6 Fab Drumming!



Marion from Fab Drumming gave Year 6 an African drumming workshop that they will never forget. Not only did they learn how to sit with and play a djembe, but they also gained the experience of playing as part of a large group, which is definitely a special feeling.

Year 6 learned several rhythms, some call and response patterns and had opportunities to improvise and to play with a variety of dynamics. The massive grins on their faces told the whole story. They showed great teamwork and supported each other through the afternoon, giving a short performance at the end to parents and pupils.

This was a cheerful and enjoyable event with lots of active learning.

Year 1 Strings Taster Session



Year 1 took part in their first 'Strings Taster' session with Mrs Ennis and Mrs Gullick - two of our peripatetic staff. The children were fascinated with the hands-on, first

encounter with both violins and cellos. They loved learning how to hold the instruments and pluck the strings - particularly focusing on the strings 'Dan D' and 'Alice A'. The children carefully listened to the beat and joined in time to make some lovely music. They can't wait to see the Strings teachers again next term!



Queen's Canopy

The Year 2 children were excited to see all the fruit trees that have been planted by the DT block. They each chose their own tree which they will observe growing over the years.



Instrumental Music Tasters

Pupils in Years 4-8 are currently enjoying instrumental music taster sessions with lots of different visiting music teachers. Yesterday it was Year 5's turn to enjoy a visit from Mrs Parvin with her wonderful range of saxophones.



Senior School

Sports Round-up

This week we have had an action-packed week of sport from the Rugby pre-season tournaments being hosted by Queen's on Sunday, to a nail-biting National Plate Hockey match against West Buckland in the week. In addition, we had some fantastic Rugby, Hockey and Netball fixtures.

To read the full sports report click [here](#). You can also visit our new [Flickr](#) account to view all our photographs from the matches.



Celebrity Chef praises Queen's in Cookery Competition



We are celebrating the culinary success at last Friday's Royal Academy of Culinary Arts national finals at Bournemouth and Poole College. Queen's College was the only school in the country to compete in two different age groups.

Tired after a 6am start, coupled with pre-competition nerves, Queen's students Natasha Ncube (Year 10) and Munopa Nhete (Year 12) both managed to score exceptionally high marks in their categories.

They were individually praised by head judge and celebrity TV chef Lesley Waters, famed for regular television appearances on 'Ready Steady Cook', 'Great Food Live' and 'This Morning' and the former head tutor at Leith's 'School of Food and Wine'. [Read the full story here](#).

Year 10 GCSE Biologists

The Year 10 GCSE Biologists, studying the structure of the heart. Over the next few weeks, they will look at heart conditions and medical treatments such as stents, balloon angioplasty and heart transplants.



Senior School

Outdoor Education Round-Up



The [Outdoor Education department](#) has been busy over the last few weeks and preparations for summer adventures are well underway.

The Gold DofE paddlers have completed their white-water training on the Lower Dart (canoeing photos) and now move onto the River Wye for their practice expedition over Easter. The Silver and Bronze walkers are also on training expeditions over the next few weeks. The kayakers have been paddling on the River Exe, training for their expedition to the French Alps in July (kayaking photos). The Exmoor Challenge was also launched recently and due to high levels of interest, three teams have been entered from Year 7 which is great news.

One group of pupils who have relished the cold dark nights over the winter have been the members of the various mountain bike clubs who have turned to night riding the off-road trails of Haldon Forest and the Quantocks using lights strapped to both their bikes and helmets.

Digby Saunders in Year 11 who is one of the more experienced bikers describes his experience of night riding: "Night riding completely changes the mountain biking club. Routes we have done before become unrecognisable and you have to completely rethink your approach to braking and cornering. It requires an entirely different mind-set to normal biking and is so much fun to learn. Overall I have had a fantastic time with the mountain biking club and the night riding has been a great experience."



Food and Nutrition Round-Up



It's been another action-packed week in the Food and Nutrition department. From a visit from Premier Football player Ellie Olds, to festive feast finals and bird-feeder making. To read the full story click [here](#).



Sixth Form

Bath v Harlequins



On Friday 28th Jan, a group consisting of those who had played in the 1st XV this year, went to watch Bath play Harlequins. Organised by Mr Vecchio, the trip did not disappoint. The evening started off with a trip to Pizza Express which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

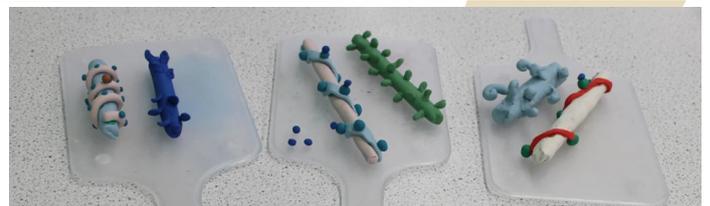
Then we headed out to the ground and enjoyed a brisk walk past the river to the ground entrance - which we eventually found a few minutes after kick off. The game did not disappoint with the underdogs, Bath, winning a thrilling game by one point against the reigning champs. The atmosphere at the ground was great, although the many failed Mexican waves left Mr Deven Bell looking embarrassed to be in our company. All the boys revelled in the event as we got a chance to see a professional game of rugby, helping us to gain an insight into the ability level of players at the top of their game. The trip was a great success and although the return time was two hours later than suggested, everyone came back with smiles on their faces. Thanks must go to Mr Vecchio, Mr Bell and Mr Shepherd for taking us and organising the whole trip.



A Level Biologists



The Year 13 Biologists are studying muscles and joints as part of their Edexcel course. They undertook a large synovial joint dissection to study ligaments, tendons, cartilage and joint capsules.



The Biologists have also been studying muscle structure and learning about the sliding filament theory. To aid their understanding of the structure of the myofilaments within the sarcomere, they constructed actin and myosin models and then demonstrated to each other the conformational changes which occur when calcium ions are released from the sarcoplasmic reticulum, leading to muscle contraction.



Boarders

Boarder Lunar New Year Feast—Year of the Tiger

The boarders were amazed at the incredible spread put out for the boarding community to mark Lunar New Year. A big thank you to our catering team for making the evening such a triumph! The food was delicious. Decorations, Fortune Cookies and a plentiful supply of food meant there were many happy faces celebrating the Year of the Tiger. Happy New Year to all in our community!



Round-Up



Last Friday evening, Mrs Cooling took a large group of our seniors to watch Spiderman at the local cinema. Pupils enjoyed some time out and the general consensus was it was a good one to watch. On Sunday, the senior boarders visited Clarks Village for some retail therapy. They returned with lots of bags, all happy with their bargains!

Cotlake House had a family Sunday funday on the weekend. A dog walk over the meadows with a very intense game of Pooh sticks, a fun swim and

then some mindful activities including reading, colouring and yoga were enjoyed by all.

On Monday evening, Taunton fire service visited the senior boarders to talk about fire safety and safety in the home. It was an informative talk and gave the boarders the chance to ask lots of questions about fire safety. Ed and Dave were very friendly and helpful.



Prominent OQs

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

When he died, in 1911, the obituary in *The Times*, described **Robert Hart (OQ, 1845-46)** as one of the three greatest Victorians, the other two being Cecil Rhodes and Gordon of Khartoum. Although Robert was at Queen's for only a year, he retained a deep affection for the school. Indeed, when he retired in 1908, he wrote to the Headmaster, A.S. Haslam, saying he would like to visit Taunton of which he had fond memories.

Both town and school were delighted to welcome Robert later that year. On 15 October, he received the freedom of the borough of Taunton from the Mayor, who also presented him with a silver casket, one panel of which shows Queen's College. The following day, as honoured guests for Speech Day, Robert and his wife attended the service in the Temple, sitting with the smaller boys. Then, after lunch in the dining hall, Lady Hart officially opened the swimming pool (formerly an open-air pool) above the door of which, still, can be seen the date. At the prize giving, Robert addressed the boys, staff and parents in the Great Hall. Beginning with the greeting, 'Schoolmates', he enthralled the audience with stories about his school days and his work in China. Robert and his wife are shown in the centre of the photo below.



In 1854, he went to live and work in China, as a diplomat, in time becoming the most influential European in the government of the country. In 1863, he was Inspector General of the Imperial Maritime Customs and Posts (the photo shows him in 1867). He reformed the civil service by making appointments of personnel noted for their incorruptibility and cosmopolitanism. In effect, he created a modern civil service. Robert also improved the country's ports and navigation facilities including the construction of a string of lighthouses along the coastline and the charting of its waters. To ensure customs revenue was maximised he began the systematic collection of statistics on trade. He also set up a modern, national, post office. He encouraged the building of railways, telegraphs and modern industries to expand the economy.

Robert helped the country avoid the worst consequences of many international crises facing the weak Manchu Dynasty headed by the Empress Dowager, Cixi. The most serious of these was in 1900, when the Boxer Rebellion erupted. Besieged in the British Legation for eight weeks, Robert and other foreigners were rescued by an allied force of Western powers who then occupied Peking. Robert secured a tolerable settlement

whereby the Chinese paid heavy reparations but avoided large-scale loss of territory.

Robert took a keen interest in Chinese culture. He helped establish colleges at which Chinese students could learn foreign languages. Robert taught music to a number of Chinese boys some of whom played the dance music at his parties. He set up the Western band of Chinese musicians.

His achievements were of enormous long-term significance. His own country knighted him in 1882 and the Chinese awarded him their highest honours including the Order of the Double Dragon. In 1914, a statue of him was unveiled in Shanghai, later destroyed by the Japanese in WWII.

His Methodist faith, nurtured at home and reinforced by the schools he attended (after Queen's he completed his education in Portadown and Belfast) remained an important source of strength for him throughout his life. He confided in the boys on Speech Day that he always prayed before taking decisions. This helps explain his sense of duty and commitment to work.

At a banquet held in his honour in London on 15 December 1908, Robert made a remarkable prophesy. He predicted that China would be the strongest economic and military power, 100 years hence. That this proved to be the case is due, in part, to the work Robert did to modernise the country. A beneficial consequence of this development has been the increase in the number of students from China coming to Queen's – something Robert would have applauded.

Lunar New Year

Some of our international students explain what it's like to celebrate Lunar New



Annie Wang - The bell of the Year of the Tiger has sounded, and we welcome the arrival of another spring together. There is a custom that on Lunar New Year families cannot sweep the floor or take out the rubbish, otherwise it will sweep away the "blessing" and "wealth". Every household has couplets posted outside their door, and red hanging lanterns. All day there is the sound of fireworks, the fireworks never stop, some cities prohibit fireworks, but on Lunar New Year, everyone is allowed to light the fireworks.

Elders give young children red gift packets, inside of which is money. Relatives visit our home and we have great food together, we all sit together and watch the television. All the TV channels on Lunar New Year night show the Lunar New Year Gala.

Hanson Kwong - Lunar New Year is a traditional festival in East Asia which people celebrate with their family and friends. 12 animals are represented each consecutive year: this year is the tiger. Every 12th year is called a "round". Tradition says, if your age is in the "round", you need to wear red underwear on New Year's Eve.

On Lunar New Year's Eve, people often eat jiaozi, in the north, which is a dumpling filled with meat and dip, in salty and sour sauce, or tang yuan in the south, which has sweet stuffing, they both mean hoping the upcoming year is happy and healthy. The first day is the most important day because people who are married or old enough, give red gift packets with money inside to children and that's how kids earn money. Adults sometimes also give red packets to each other as a gift. The most interesting thing is the third day, called "red mouth", which is not a good day to visit any friends because "red mouth" means making someone mad.



News and Announcements

Upcoming Dates

Whole School Open Afternoon	11 February 2pm
Next Steps/ Starting School Open Morning	10 March 9am
Step Up to Reception: a Taster of Music at Queen's	11 March 11am

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

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

An evening with Steven Berkoff 21 March

Steven Berkoff's film and stage career proclaim a true innovative genius with a muscular physical style that has inspired other actors for fifty years. Like all who push artistic boundaries, Steven Berkoff's radical opinions and choices are no stranger to controversy, which makes him all the more fascinating.

Join us for an evening of insight and theatrical flair with a true legend of British theatre! Tickets will be available to purchase soon!



Afternoon Tea in the Art Department



Our fabulous Art Department are going to open their doors to parents (Prep and Senior) on Wednesday 30 March, 4.00-5.30pm. This will give parents a chance to view work, see a CC in action and meet some

Sixth Form pupils at work.

Parents Upcoming Coffee Mornings

All 8.00 - 9.30am in the Dining Pavilion and for all parents, Nursery, Prep and Senior.

These are a chance for parents to catch up with one another and to meet other parents, everyone is very welcome!

- Q Fri 18 Feb
- Q Fri 4 March
- Q Thurs 17 March



BOOK NOW- Dazzle and Treasure Island

Tickets are now available to purchase for Dazzle and Treasure island.

Click here to book [your](#) ticket. New family ticket rates available.



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FEB HALF TERM 2022

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Curious Coders	Ingenious Inventors	Virtual Reality	Expert Engineers	Media Madness

**Example schedule only, activities at each camp may differ **

Movie Making | Video Game Design | Robot Coding | STEM Experiments | Engineering

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E: INFO@NEXTTHING.EDUCATION T: 01442 873150

Apprenticeship Week

Next week we are happy to support National Apprenticeships, a week of events showcasing the amazing opportunities that there are to work and study at the same time.

A link is attached for various resources for parents can be accessed [here](#).



Buses

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.

Boots Taunton—Covid Jab Walk in Appointments

Boots in Taunton have informed us that they have walk-in appointments available for 12-15 years old who require either their 1st or 2nd dose of the Covid-19 Vaccine.

Monday - Saturday:

9am - 12pm

3pm-5pm

Sunday:

11am - 1pm

2pm - 4pm