



QUEEN'S  
COLLEGE  
TAUNTON

# BULLETIN

Queen's College Whole School Newsletter

28 January 2022

## Forest School Have Fun At Fyne Court



### Mr Julian Noad - Head of College



In the week that face masks are no longer required in schools, it is ironic that we are dealing with a number of isolation cases, boarding and day, but thankfully none affected are seriously ill. We also have, as many businesses do, a number of staff isolating or caring for children who are isolating. Please bear with us for the next two weeks when there may be some minor adjustments to provision. Please do continue with the at home testing and keep away from school any child who is poorly. We will get over this little hump.

I have been delighted to receive excellent feedback on the [Wellbeing Hub](#) from TeenTips. This week's webinar, delivered by the site's founder Alicia Drummond, on raising resilient teenagers is here; it is excellent and says all that I would want to share. Owing to

paywall restrictions, this episode is available only until Monday - so please do find time to take a look before then. When you have signed up for The Wellbeing Hub you will get announcements of future fabulous webinars as well as access to the myriad of excellent resources.

This week has seen another wonderful sixth form supper, with eight Year 12 pupils joining Mrs N and me at Wyvern House for a convivial evening. We really do cherish these times. Year 10 parents' evenings (face to face on Wednesday and online on Thursday) were truly positive gatherings, with the general theme being purposeful endeavour leading to pleasing progress.

Mr Green begins his 'futures meetings' with Year 11 pupils on Monday and I hope to join as many as I can. These meetings will be an

academic progress and lend support where needed, but also to look ahead and share advice for the Sixth Form and beyond.

A busy weekend lies in store for sport (albeit a few fixtures for younger aged groups have been cancelled, owing to covid, home and away - latest updates on SOCS), performing arts, outdoor education, and boarding activity - all details on the calendar. Sadly, Mrs N and I will not be on the various touchlines; we must away to Oxford to see our daughter Molly and go out for lunch to celebrate her 21st birthday; are we really at that stage in life already?!

Yours ever,  
Julian



# Nursery Round-up

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

Highgrove Nursery have had another busy week!

Cottontails have been busy playing in the kitchen role play this week and even enjoyed a carpet picnic with all the play food. The younger babies have been using the large floor mirror to look at their reflections as well as lots of tummy time and sitting practice!



Tiggywinkles have had 'Bigger Digger' as their book of the week. The children have enjoyed exploring the

construction, role play and vehicles as well as using different sized vehicles to make paint tracks in the art and crafts area. They have also been practising their

prepositional language skills such as, 'over' and 'under', and also mathematical language of 'full' and 'heavy'.



Puddleducks have had fun this week exploring camping! They have been singing campfire songs in the role play area, toasting marshmallows and using the porridge oats to make lunch. The children have also been learning how to use the balancing scales to use mathematical language such as 'lighter' and 'heavier'.

During one of our music sessions the children had lots of fun moving to the Riverdance music trying to copy the dancers.



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

This week the children have been enjoying developing their hand/eye coordination using balls and hoops in P.E. The 'Write dance' sensory group focused on extending the children's cross lateral movements using sand, music and movement.

The maths group focused on practising numbers and early mathematical problem solving challenges. Craft activities involved collage threading teddy Bears to develop fine manipulative skills and sequencing the events of Goldilocks and the Three bears story.

Forest School saw some of the children go on their first Forest School trip to Fyne Court where there were many things to explore and discover, from understanding

the meaning of signs to looking for imaginary hedgehogs, building dens and playing '123 Where are you'. The children who took part onsite in Forest School activities enjoyed using the mud kitchen where they extended their thinking skills to devise their own mud pies using whatever 'ingredients' they could find around the garden.



# Prep School

Mr Henry Matthews - Head of Prep



Year 3 Assembly This Week



I must begin this week's bulletin with a big "well done and thank you" to all our pupils for the way they have handled the Covid disruptions this week. Those in school have kept working hard and those at home have faced the isolation period with the usual enthusiasm and positivity we all expect from our children.

Despite a number of cases in school, we have still been able to fulfil the majority of planned activities and the staff have been fantastic and finding workarounds to ensure we have kept pressing forward. Excellent teaching is often about modelling good practice and, whilst this usually happens when teachers demonstrate how to solve a problem on the whiteboard, this week our staff have modelled excellent practice in their creative and solution-based approach to keep everything running as normal. We certainly are lucky to have such a great team working here.

This Tuesday saw the continuation of parent tours. I was thrilled to meet with Year 2 parents and show them around the wider school. I am very aware that many parents of our Pre-Prep children have not had the opportunity to see the school in full force after the events of the past two years and it was great to show everyone around our classrooms and facilities, as well as giving them the chance to meet and talk with our Year 3

class teachers, Mrs Wade and Mrs Hitchin.

On Wednesday, I was very lucky to attend a national conference on the subject of Marketing and Communication in Prep Schools and was pleasantly surprised to be approached at breaktime by one of the speakers. "Mr Matthews, I hope you don't mind but I am planning to share some of the Instagram videos from Queen's as part of my presentation." Thankfully, the reason for this was that our recent social media work has been highlighted as excellent by many in the sector and Queen's is being noticed as an example to follow. I am very proud that our innovative approach is being held in high esteem, although I did hide behind my fingers when a video of me waving was put up on the big screen!

Finally, we look ahead to another packed week with drumming workshops, offsite Forest School, tournaments, fixtures and cookery masterclasses. I wish you all a happy weekend and hope to see some of you on the sidelines for hockey tomorrow.

With best wishes,

*Henry*

# Prep School

## Prep Sports Round-up

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

On Saturday Exeter School played the U10A and U11A boys hockey teams, on Monday some of the pupils took part in a primary schools cross country event at King's College. Also our U10 and U11 girls played netball against Wellington School.

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



## Year 1 Victorian House and Home workshop

The Year 1 children had a fantastic time at the Somerset Rural Life Museum in Glastonbury.

Firstly, the children dressed themselves in Victorian era clothing - baker's boy caps with waistcoats and mop caps with aprons. Then they were asked to use their detective skills to find out about various historical artifacts.

The children became creative crafters in the first activity and had a go at Victorian rag rug making. Then they became clever cooks and helped the 'farmer's wife' to measure and make drop scones which were cooked on the range in the museum farmhouse kitchen. All the children agreed the drop scones were delicious and they were allowed to have another one!

After lunch the pupils took a look around the museum galleries as well as the impressive Abbey tithe barn. It was noted by the museum staff on several occasions what a lovely group of children they had to visit. A marvellous time was had by everyone and the teachers were so proud of the well-behaved and interested children.



# Prep School

## Year 4 investigating friction

This week the Year 4 pupils have been investigating friction and completed an investigation with Mr Clark (Head of Prep Science) to see which material enabled our air balloon rocket to travel the furthest.



## Year 6 John Muir Award

Year 6 carried out a litter survey this week. The findings and time spent will contribute to their [John Muir Award](#) which encourages people of all backgrounds to connect with, enjoy and care for wild places.

The pupils will complete 25 hours of commitment to the award including a night walk and a conservation day.



## Tree-mendous Assembly

Year 3 parents came to the Birchall Hall yesterday to listen to a wonderful presentation by the children all about trees entitled, "What do you know about trees?" The children were joined in the assembly by our special guest Mr Mann who is the Head of Food and Nutrition in Senior School. The pupils explained how Mr Mann, our Eco Team and the Grounds staff have helped Queen's to plant 420 fruit trees in our grounds and that every child from Nursery to Year 11 has their own tree each with their own bamboo label with their name on. Henry from Year 3



explained, "Now, as we grow taller and stronger, we can watch our trees grow with us". Olivia added, "Our trees will grow into a fruit hedge to grow fruit for us to use for cooking with Mr Mann". Mr Mann went on to explain what types of trees had been planted and what the fruit might be used for in the kitchen classroom.

# 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.



### Year 9 Biologists

The Year 9 Biologists have been investigating transpiration rates in leaves. By using very accurate balances they can record the mass of water lost from plant tissues under different conditions and then relate this to the movement of water through the Xylem.



### Bicton Arena



Niamh did an amazing job at Bicton Arena in coming 6<sup>th</sup> out of 38 riders last weekend. She had a clear round jumping both Show jumps and then onto Cross-Country jumps. Well done Niamh!

### Cross Country County Championships



On Saturday, nine Queen's runners competed in the county championships, held at Barcroft Hall, South Petherton. It

was a 'proper' but brutal course with a steep uphill for the first five minutes, then soft clay and technical downhills to keep the runners busy. We had entries in all categories and all represented their school and region well, wearing the blue vests of Taunton Area. Thomas Taylor and Megan Clark finished high enough to collect invitation letters and may be going on to county representation.

### Year 9 and 11 Tea Party

Mr and Mrs Noad have been lucky enough to enjoy two tea parties and one Sixth Form supper this week. The tea parties have continued with Year 9 and this week the first of our Year 11 tutor groups joined Mr and Mrs Noad. The pupils have been excellent company and as well as getting to know Mr and Mrs Noad, the tea parties are proving to be a fantastic opportunity for ideas about the school to be shared.



# Senior School

## Year 9 and 10 Scholars' Event

On the 27 January we welcomed Bonnie Free into the College to highlight the importance of diet and nutrition in maximising performance both academically and athletically. Those in attendance will have taken a lot from the seminar, including knowledge of the types and quantities of food we need, and when to eat them in order to best prepare our bodies or help them to recover from exercise. There was also an opportunity to discuss the media's impact on diet and nutrition, and how many of the stories posted are not always accurate. The seminar finished with information on the use of supplements, and whether they are necessary.



## Food and Nutrition Round-Up

Firstly a huge "good luck" to Munopa Nhete in Year 13 and Natasha Ncube in Year 10 are representing Queen's at the Student Chef 2021-2022 National Finals today!

Last week it was tearless onions, this week it was Wild Alaskan

Salmon! This week we 'hooked' up with the Alaska Seafood University to help pupils become 'dab' hands at preparing and cooking fish dishes in an initiative that is 'angling' to promote awareness of sustainability and nutritional benefits of wild fish, as well as a chance to discover the tastes, textures, and versatility of Alaskan Seafood.

In addition, BBC Masterchef winner, celebrity chef Dhruv Baker has been demonstrating to pupils this week how to expertly fillet a highly sought-after Wild Alaska King Salmon via video. Pupils also completed an online Alaska Seafood University seafood training course which saw them take a deep dive into the Alaskan fishing industry.

Read more about what happened in food and nutrition this week on our [website!](#)



## Queen's Canopy

As part of the Queen's canopy initiative, started by Her Majesty in order to plant as many trees as possible all over the Commonwealth to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee, the pupils have planted 420 new trees to form a fruit tree hedge from the DT and Food and Nutrition block up towards our Prep School.

The Prep School Eco Club helped with some of the planting. Each child from Nursery to Year 11 has designed a bamboo label with their name on it. They have chosen which will be their tree and planted their label in the ground. Now, as they grow they will be able to watch their tree grow and eventually be able to pick and eat the fruits or use them for cooking. We are hoping to plant 420 more trees next year!



# Sixth Form

## Sixth Form Round-Up

It's been a big week for interviews amongst our Sixth Form cohort with three online medicine interviews, three in-person medicine and pharmacy mock interviews and an in-person veterinary interview.

In previous weeks, we have had other interviews for nursing, veterinary, physiotherapy, fashion and textiles, English and Commercial Music and for PPE. We have noticed an amazing ripple effect amongst the wider Queen's community when positive outcomes are received. When Sam, Louisa, Jasmine, Phoebe, Gracie and Islam received their offers as a result of their interviews it brought smiles to many faces: Mr Stone, who checked the connections for the online interviews, Miss Poole, who booked up the room and kept an eye on proceedings, and all the staff who helped with practice interviews, Mr Noad, Mr Green, Mrs Wilde, Mrs McAlonan, Mrs Hendon and Mr Aldridge, and all the parents and OQs who helped beyond the School gates, and the Sixth Form tutors and teachers who advised on and checked their personal statements and contributed to their academic references. It brings home the importance and the strength of our wider School community.

Mr Cooling has made a great mark on the Sixth Form Centre already with the establishment of our shopping bag exchange hook. When Sixth Formers pop out to Tesco to get crucial supplies they can now avoid adding to plastic bag consumption by grabbing a bag-for-life on the way out of the SFC.



## Medics Co-curricular



This week was the first MEDICS co-curricular club, aimed at those seeking NHS careers or careers in Veterinary Science. The students were looking at anatomy and dissection skills and each undertook a full rat dissection.

Over this term, they will be covering a range of useful skills and preparing for university entrance tests and UCAS applications. Many of our students have been offered work experience placements from Queen's College parents and we are very grateful for this support. If any other parents or OQs would be willing to offer a

Queen's student work experience or would like to come in and talk to our students about different career paths within the NHS or Veterinary science, then please contact Mrs Henden (Head of Science Faculty) on [lmh@queenscollege.org.uk](mailto:lmh@queenscollege.org.uk).

# Sixth Form

## Prefects POV—Chinese New Year



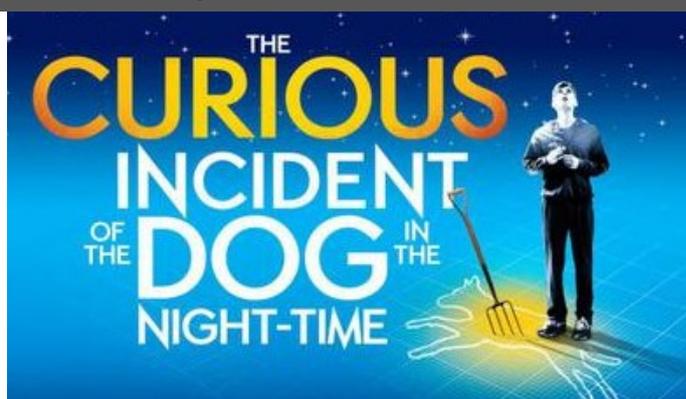
The festival is known by many names: Chinese New Year, Spring Festival, and Lunar New Year. It marks the passage of the harvest season and celebrates the coming spring.

Each new year is represented by one of twelve different animals of the Chinese zodiac. This coming year is the year of the Tiger. Before the new year celebrations begin, we clean our homes and ourselves! This symbolizes washing away anything bad from last year and starting fresh. We feast and celebrate with our families because Lunar New Year is about preparing for good luck in the coming year, and it is also about family and honouring our ancestors.

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

## GCSE & A Level Theatre Trip

The Year 10 to 13 GCSE and A Level Drama students travelled to the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton to watch The National Theatre's Olivier and Tony award-winning production of 'The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time' which brings Mark Haddon's hit novel to the stage. The students are required to watch lots of different styles of live theatre for their GCSE and A Level courses but the novelty of live theatre post covid has not yet worn off.



## Prefects Team Dinner

Mr Noad treated the Prefect team at Queen's to dinner at The Cosy Club last Friday night.

Our Prefect team are an extremely important part of the community, they support younger pupils in the school as well as covering important duties around the school. They were fabulous company and the dinner was much enjoyed after the mock examinations last week!



## Year 12 Supper

Mr and Mrs Noad were joined by Mrs Hills and Mr Speyer at this week's Year 12 Supper. Conversation was free-flowing, including discussion about future plans but the hot topic was the incredibly diverse areas that the pupils are tackling for their EPQs.



# Prominent OQs

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

**JJ Amaworo Wilson (OQ, 1980-87)** is an author of international repute. His writing has been widely acclaimed by literary critics and been recognised with many prestigious awards. He is an authority on language and language learning and a respected writer of non-fiction and poetry.

JJ has written over a dozen books about language and language learning, two of which won the English Speaking Union Award for Best Book for Teachers that saw him honoured at Buckingham Palace in 2008 and 2011. The photo, below, shows him receiving the award from the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace in 2008, for *How to Teach Listening*. In this photo, the Duke asked JJ about his tie. JJ replied, "It's my old school tie: Queen's College, Taunton." The Duke also asked if JJ was still talking to his editor (pictured on the right). When JJ won the same award for another book, *Speakout*, in 2011, the Duke made the same joke! His textbooks in this field have sold half a million copies.



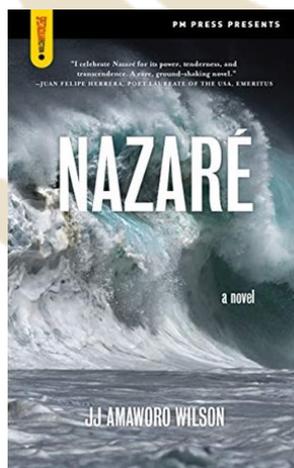
Educators in many parts of the world have asked him to talk to them about language learning and, as a result, he has visited about 70 countries to do so. Born in Germany, he spent most of his youth in the UK but, after finishing at university, he has lived in Egypt, Lesotho, Colombia, Italy, Spain, Brazil and the US. Currently, he is



writer-in-residence at Western New Mexico University. He also teaches on Stonecoast's MFA in Creative Writing at the University of Southern Maine, and is co-chair of Southwest Word Fiesta.

His fiction, essays and poetry have been published in numerous literary magazines and anthologies, including *IC3: The Penguin Book of New Black Writing in Britain*, *African American Journal*, *Justice Journal*, *The New York Journal of Books*, *Electric Literature*, and *Afrobeat*, among others.

JJ's first novel, *Damnificados*, was published in 2016. It won four major awards, was nominated for an American Book Award, was named a Top 10 book in 'O', the Oprah Winfrey magazine, and translated into French and German. Last year, his second novel, *Nazaré*, appeared and has been extremely well received.



Both are examples of fabulist fiction, distinguished by the inclusion of fantastic or mythical elements as if factually true. The heroes of both tales are ordinary people who show courageous leadership in extraordinary circumstances. Both stories focus on the plight of the oppressed and the dispossessed.

For JJ, literature has been a key feature of his life. His father wrote a series of children's books, called *Adventures with Jeremy James*, using his son's name for the title character. His love of storytelling developed at Queen's. There, his vivid imagination and talent with words was evident in stories such as *A Gothic Tale* published in the Wyvern in 1984. He took English, History and Politics at A Level before going to the University of Edinburgh to study History of Art and English Literature, in which he gained his BA and then his MA.



In his free time, JJ plays numerous ball sports. At Queen's, he excelled on the sports fields. He played for the first

team in rugby, hockey and cricket. He was a member of the U15s team that won the national Lord's Taverners' trophy in 1983 and he played junior international rugby for England in 1985 against Holland, Italy and Portugal (photo). He finished his school career as Head Boy.

# Boarders

## Boarders Round-Up

Last Weekend the Cotlake boarders went to “clip n climb” in Exeter for their Sunday trip. There was plenty of shows of bravery and smiles around! Also on Sunday, a group of 20 boarders enjoyed an afternoon at Flipout. They all had a great time and we are looking forward to a disco night bounce next time!



## Burns Night—Formal Dinner

Our senior boarding community came together to celebrate Burns Night on Tuesday evening, Holyroyd Howe, our catering department, provided us with a delicious traditional Burns Night supper alongside a tasting table with meat and vegetarian Haggis. This was followed by a very lively Ceilidh in the Wyvern Hall. Much fun and laughter was had by all as they tried to learn the complex dance routines accompanied by the live band 'Fresh Aire'.



## Highgrove Health Kick

Continuing our Year 13 activity programme Highgrove, on Friday night last week, we ran a 'Health Kick' activity, learning how to make fresh fruit and vegetable smoothies, quick-fix drinks to take with you when you are in a hurry to get to work or your university lectures, needing a pick me up or a good dose of vitamins.

Fruit smoothies can be an easy way to nourish your body with essential nutrients. The best way to know the exact ingredients in your smoothie is to make it yourself. All you need is a blender, fruit and a base, such as water, milk or yoghurt. Making your own smoothies can help prevent fruit from going to waste, while providing benefits that will keep you on the right track towards good health.



# 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 Thurs 3 Feb
- 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.

Suitable for all ages.



# News and Announcements



**2022 Camps Open**

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## FEB HALF TERM 2022

What's on?

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
 <b>Curious Coders</b>	 <b>Ingenious Inventors</b>	 <b>Virtual Reality</b>	 <b>Expert Engineers</b>	 <b>Media Madness</b>

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

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

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 Providing safe, fun, educational and essential childcare.  
★★★★★  
*"My 9 year old son was totally absorbed and loved his day at camp from beginning to end. He still raves about it and has his 3D Darth Vader head, that he printed."*  
 C. French (Parent)



How to book

<b>STEP 1</b>	<b>STEP 2</b>	<b>STEP 3</b>
SCAN THE QR CODE	FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP	USE OUR COUPON TO GET £5 OFF
		<div style="border: 1px solid white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">5FEB</div>

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 E: [INFO@NEXTTHING.EDUCATION](mailto:INFO@NEXTTHING.EDUCATION) T: 01442 873150

## INVESTIN

### Spring Term Career Opportunities For Ages 12-18

*Available in 20+ industries: In-person at UCL or live online*



**WEEKEND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

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 JAN-MAR 2022, AGES 12-18

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Students can now register for the Spring Term career opportunities with INVESTIN, which are available in 20+ cutting-edge industries. **Students will learn directly from some of the UK's best professionals** - doctors, forensic scientists, architects, MPs, filmmakers, engineers and more - through a series of live, interactive simulations which provide a tailor-made, professional experience to ages 12-18. Students can choose to attend either at UCL or live online from the comfort of their own homes. **It is expected that the most popular programmes will be fully booked by 30 January.** For more information click [here](#). To Book, please use the following discount code "QUEENSTAUNTON10"