



QUEEN'S
COLLEGE
TAUNTON



BULLETIN

Queen's College Whole School Newsletter

18 February 2022

I wish you all a terrific half term



Mr Julian Noad - Head of College



Well, what an end to the half term. Storm Eunice has given of her best but we were able to keep going and we reach half term well and truly ready

for a break. I thank all parents for their support with early and late collections to ensure that we all returned safely home. It was pleasing to see so many parents (sixteen, I believe) for a lovely coffee morning today.

I was especially delighted that the fabulous middle school play, Treasure Island, had its chance in the limelight with wonderful performances on Thursday evening for parents and friends and as a (mixed media format) matinée performance to the whole school today. It was a joyous production and demonstrates that the pipeline of performing arts talent is strong.

Excepting today, it has been a great

sporting week. Emphatic wins were enjoyed by the girls netball 1st and 2nd VIs against Mount Kelly last week. Meanwhile, the senior boys' hockey has been thrilling, with two goals in the final two minutes last Saturday to beat West Buckland, followed by a very narrow loss (2-2 after extra-time, all square after penalty flicks and a loss in a sudden death shoot out), versus Dauntsey's on Tuesday, in the third round of the National Plate competition.

Parents' evening season continued this week with positive feedback being shared with Year 9 parents and great discussions about GCSE options for next year. After half term it is the turn of Year 8 parents - I look forward to seeing you there.

In last week's bulletin, I mentioned a fabulously busy open afternoon. Even more delightfully, this has been followed by further visits and taster

days and on each occasion the warmth of welcome and the sense of family and community have been to the fore. I have also passed on to staff the much-repeated observation that our staff are just so 'passionate and caring'. I agree wholeheartedly.

They, and you no doubt, are looking forward to a chance to catch breath (and repair those fence panels or broken tiles etc, etc) next week. I wish you all a terrific half term.

I close with a reminder of 'cheese and wine' on Monday 28 February (the day we return) from 7.30pm. This is a chance to share details of the relaunch of the parents and friends association, **Queen's College Community**. Please do get involved - social engagement only is an option.

Yours ever,

Julian



Nursery Round-up

Nursery News From Mrs Donna Kershaw - Highgrove Nursery Manager



Puddleducks have been looking at space this week in line with their book *Whatever Next*. They have been having lots of fun with role play, and using cardboard boxes to build dens and climbing inside! They have also been talking about the planets and using paper-mache to make their own planet earths as well as using the iPad to watch rockets launching into space, which generated lots of conversation!

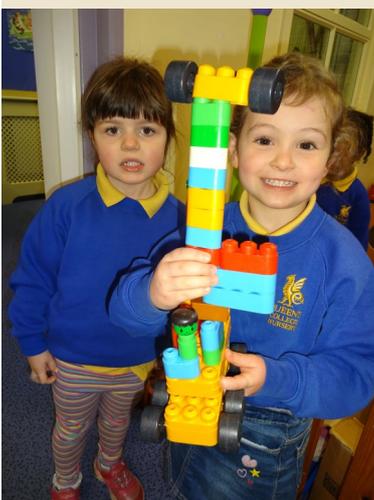
Cottontails Room have had a busy week; lots of enjoyment was had one morning with whole body painting! The older children have been practising their rolling and throwing skills as well as their climbing skills, crawling in and out of the ball pool. This weeks focus book has been *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and the older children have become very confident in pointing out the different fruits in the book when asked!

Tiggywinkles book this week has been *Guess How Much I Love You*, and the children have been printing with hearts in the art area and talking about their families. They have also planted a lot of sweet peas in preparation for the lovely plans we have for the garden. The yoga focus this week has been on breathing exercises, which has been a nice end to the morning sessions on the busy days. The Puddleducks children are also enjoying spotting the many birds and squirrels on the new bird feeder in their garden.



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

The first half of the Spring term has been a busy one for the Nursery School children, as they have learnt the key principles of the art of storytelling as part of laying the foundations for later literacy. The children gained an understanding of the role of the author and illustrator, and we focused on some of their favourite traditional stories such as, *The Three Little Pigs*, *The Three Bears* and *The Hungry Caterpillar* to learn prediction skills and develop ideas for ways in which the story might end. There were a variety of craft and adult-led activities on offer to extend the children's topic learning and to incorporate maths and sequencing skills, as well as supporting their fine manipulative skills to prepare them for the purpose of writing. The children also used their own creativity to build models with and without instruction cards in 3-dimensional form and created some wonderful artwork with precision and purpose.



Prep School

Mr Henry Matthews - Head of Prep



In a rather interesting turn of events, we have ended the half term with a hybrid approach to learning once again. I am very

pleased that we have been able to remain open for those who have needed us and still offer a form of online learning for those who were unable to be in school. It is in times of adversity that the strength of a community is shown and, once again, the Queen's family has pulled together to ensure minimal disruption to normal schooling.

As usual, the Prep School has been full of activity in the final week of half term. In lessons our children have worked incredibly hard in their termly assessments and early results are showing very good progress all round. This is a testament to their concentration and dedication in lessons and, for many, the hard work in class is beginning to pay off.

On the sports pitch we have continued to improve and, most importantly for me, the teams are showing real cohesion and belief in

each other. This is heartening to see and I am often caught at break and lunchtime with children wishing to tell me of, not only their own, but their friends' successes on the field of play.

Year 3 stepped back in time on Wednesday to become Ancient Egyptians for the day. They took part in a range of activities from bread baking to mummification and it all ended with a superb show and tell assembly to parents in the Birchall Hall. You can read more about this in the following pages.

We have also been awash with visitors this week and it is great to meet so many new families who are wishing to join our fantastic school. All of them have been blown away by the hard work they have seen of our children in lessons and, most of all, their confidence and friendliness; I am always pleased by the immense pride our children show in the school. Many families have come as a direct recommendation from our current parent group and I

would like to thank you for your support of the school.

We have much to look forward to when we return; World Book Day - with a virtual visit from 'The Rapping Teacher', Red Nose Day and, of course, our performance of 'Dazzle'. I look forward to seeing many of you at these events and others.

Finally, I wish you all a good half term break and I hope you will have some opportunity to relax with loved ones. I end with a short quote I found whilst scrolling through social media earlier in the week and I think it resonates with how we are feeling at Queen's with so much to look forward to...

"Approach each day with the confidence and enjoyment of a four year old wearing a batman t-shirt!"

Have a great break,

Henry

Prep School

Prep Sports Round-Up

Some great action has taken place both at home and away in Prep School sports this week. With the boys playing Wellington and Mount Kelly at hockey and the girls playing St Peter's at netball, suffice to say it was a busy week!

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



Egyptian Day



Year 3 had an awesome day as Ancient Egyptians on Wednesday. They started the morning baking savoury bread, studded with colourful apricots, dates and raisins, some even added a dash of honey to their dough, which was based on an old Egyptian recipe.

Next, they designed and produced golden Egyptian necklaces using information they researched about artefacts found in the tombs and, after an energetic lesson creating an Ancient Egyptian group dance with Mr Matthews, they loved using their



research about mummification to create drama in pairs.

At the end of the day, the children were able to share their bread with their families and horrify them by acting out how to mummify a body in the Beautiful House, chanting their mummification rap and showing off their dancing skills. The children looked amazing in their colourful costumes and gained a great deal from their day, including lots of fun!

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



Prep School

Year 5 Insulation Challenge

This week Year 5 have been investigating insulation. The children began the project with a simple box and had to consider which materials would muffle any sound that came from within it. They then created their 'sound proof' boxes arranging their materials in a variety of imaginative ways. A loud buzzer was then used to test the sound levels before and after - all of the groups achieved impressive results!



Grace Aldridge St Margaret's Hospice Fund Raiser



Year 5 pupil, Grace Aldridge, decided to plan a fundraiser for [St Margaret's Hospice](#), a charity very close to her heart.

She designed bracelets, painted some beautiful pictures and sold some delicious cakes. She set herself a target of raising £20 and managed to raise £200! A fantastic achievement.

Well done Grace!

Dazzle - 31 March 2022



A fun-packed magical musical about saving the greatest place on earth! 'Dazzle Bay Fun Fair' - ghost trains, ferris wheels, and plenty of candy floss.

Poppy Pringle's life is full of ups and downs- and not just on the Dazzle Bay rollercoaster!

Join us for a heart-warming musical adventure with our Prep School cast. Our 8 to 11 year-olds will draw you into a story with all the fun of the fair!

This year's Prep play is sure to be an exciting ride!

Thursday, 31 March 2022, 18:30

Book your
tickets
[now!](#)

Senior School

Sports Round-up

We've seen some great action, both at home and away in Senior School sports this week. From hockey, swimming, rugby and netball it has once again been an action-packed 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.



Equestrian

Ruby won the 90 on Orange and came 7th on her young horse, Callie, qualifying for the Hickstead Elite. Orange was the fastest in the 1m. Well done!



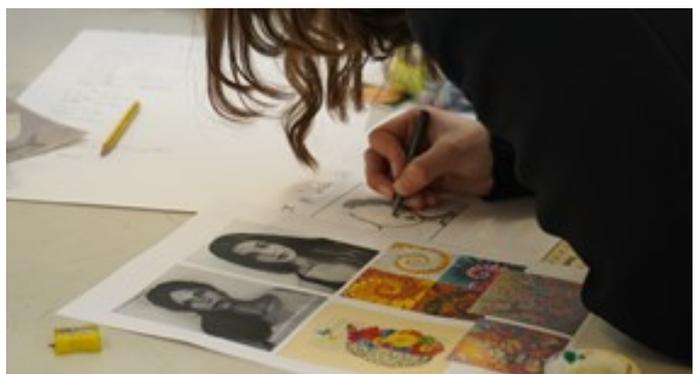
Art Scholars Event



The Art Scholar event was a creative brainstorm session linked with the Arts Festival launch. It was a really wonderful opportunity to get all the scholars of all ages

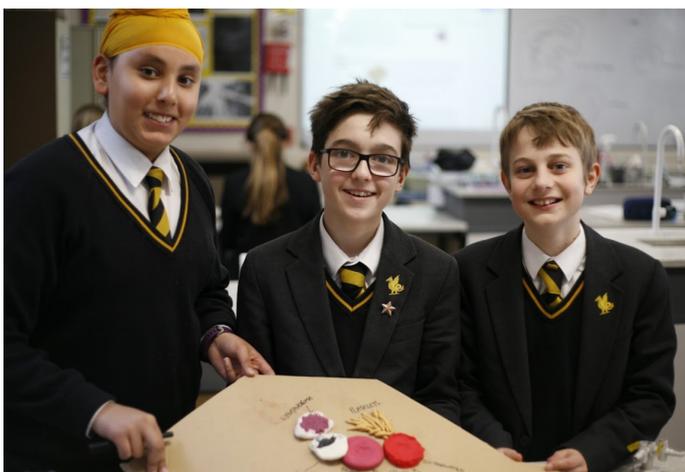
together, to think creatively and explore the theme of Metamorphosis, and what they were proposing to produce for their entry. The pupils looked at a range of visual resources to inspire the pupils, from GCSE to A-level, across Art, Textiles and Photography.

The scholars were fantastic at discussing their ideas and their creative enthusiasm was infectious. Their ideas sounded fantastic and we are excited to see all the entries when they are in.



Year 8 Science

This week Year 8 pupils demonstrated their learning about the composition of blood by building models of the components.



Senior School

Treasure Island- Timbers Well And Truly Shivered!

Robert Louis Stevenson never got round to mentioning the hurricane soup incident, hula-dancing mermaids or seasick granny, but we set the record straight this week with our adventurous, hilarious re-telling of *Treasure Island*. Aria Maryan-Verona played the intrepid Jim Hawkins, doing battle with the villainous Christian Davies as Long John Silver, whilst Annabelle Wood gave us a decidedly quirky Blind Pew and Evan Hall was hugely impressive, understudying the role of Billy Bones at short notice, whilst also surprising us with slick ukelele renditions as Ben Gunn.

This is the first Middle School play (Years 7 to 9), packed full of theatricality and slapstick comedy. Many of the cast are now moving on to rehearsals for the Middle School musical next term, 'Honk!'.

More photographs can be found on [Flickr!](#)



Outdoor Education Round-Up



The Ten Tors training last weekend was a real challenge for all involved. The teams were introduced to some wild weather on the Moor with gusts

of 40mph and heavy rain! Having camped close to Princetown overnight, pupils completed a day walk on the Western moor. Both teams are now pretty self-sufficient with two training weekends before the actual event and everybody is making fantastic progress. Next stop - Brecon Beacons over half term!

This week saw the start of a series of 'come & try' scuba diving sessions. We have been inundated with pupils wanting to have a go and have six taster sessions planned over the next few months. This week was the turn of Years 7 and 8 divers who all seemed to have a fantastic time!



Food and Nutrition Round-Up

From Valentine's Day treats, to a Teacake Tycoon Sir Tunncock's Treats, to being awarded the Queen's [Green Canopy commemorative plaque](#) as part of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, it has once again been a very busy week in the Food and Nutrition department. To read more about it click [here](#).



Sixth Form

Film Night



On Tuesday evening the Sixth Form enjoyed a Valentine themed film night. The superb evening was organised by our heads of Sixth Form, Gracie and Tom as well as Bella, one of our Sixth Form Prefects. The film was chosen by vote and the absolute classic starring Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore, 'Blended', won by a mile. The film was accompanied by Domino's pizza, which was a crowd pleaser, and we would like to thank Mr Cooling for organising this.

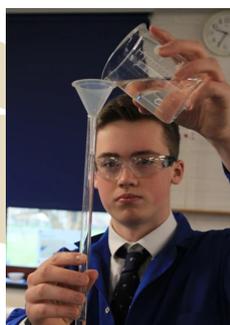
The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and it was so lovely to see so many members of the Sixth Form spending their evening together.

Chemistry



The A-Level Chemists were undertaking a challenging back titration which involved working precisely to calculate the acidity of commercially available vinegar. Through careful observation and complex calculations, they were

able to ascertain the concentration of ethanoic acid.



Valentine's day Post-it Note



To celebrate Valentine's Day on Monday, as Sixth Form students arrived they were greeted with a nice message written by one of their peers, anonymously.

One of our Sixth Form Prefects, Jocasta, came up

with the idea to do this with the help of another one of our Sixth Form Prefects, Bella. Every student was randomly assigned a fellow Sixth Former to write a little message to brighten their day. These were then written on post-it notes and put up in the Sixth Form centre for the students to read.

Elsie, one of our Year 13 students said, 'My post-it really made me feel good and it was so nice to see people coming together to write such nice things about each other'. It was lovely seeing the smiles and laughter echoing around the wall of messages and I hope this is something that becomes a tradition in the coming years. I'm sure many can agree that this was a shining example of just how kind and caring our Sixth Form is.

Prefects POV



This week's Prefect POV is written by Samuel Pugh (Year 13). "With the passing of another House Assembly, it seems fitting to dedicate this Prefect POV to the houses at Queen's College, what it is like being a Head of House and why I love it!"

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

Prominent OQs

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



Arthur Henderson (OQ, 1907-1911) was a Labour MP who held various posts in government over a political career

spanning 45 years. His father, also named Arthur, was the Leader of the Labour Party, who served in the wartime coalition cabinet led by Lloyd George.

Arthur's early schooling was in Darlington but when his father moved to live in London he placed his son at Queen's. His academic ability was rewarded with the 'Heaver Scholarship' in his second year and he was successful in both the Junior and Senior Oxford Examinations.

He was an enthusiastic member of the Debating Society, and a member of its committee. The reports of the meetings of the society reveal his left-wing views and the passion with which he expressed them. Arthur spoke in more than one debate on 'the Tariff' – a major political issue of the years he was at Queen's – on one occasion declaring that protectionism did not protect the worker. He supported the motions that 'Socialism would prove beneficial to England' and that 'Capital Punishment be abolished'. The photo (bottom right) shows Arthur with some of the members of the Debating Society, 1908.

Arthur was active in student politics at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he became Chairman of the University's Labour Club. After graduating with degrees in Economics and Law, a career in Law beckoned.

He was called to the Bar in 1921, and he was appointed a King's Counsel in 1939. For many years he was standing counsel to the Labour Party. In 1927, he published *Trade Unions and the Law*.

Arthur was elected an MP in 1923 for Cardiff South, lost the seat a year later, to win it back in 1929. However, when the Labour Party split in 1931, Arthur lost the seat a second time. He returned to Parliament in 1935 for Kingswinford in Staffordshire, a seat he held until its dissolution in 1950. In the election of that year he was returned for Rowley Regis and Tipton, near Dudley, which he vacated in 1966 when he was made a life peer as Baron Rowley.

During WWII, Arthur served in Churchill's coalition government. As Under-Secretary of State for War, from March 1942, Arthur annoyed Goebbels, the head of Nazi propaganda, by the confidence with which he referred to an anticipated Allied offensive. In a broadcast to America, a flustered Goebbels referred to Arthur as a 'Judocratic Plutobrit'. Following a reshuffle in February 1943, Arthur became Financial Secretary to the War Office until the coalition ended in 1945.

When Labour formed the next government, Arthur was Under-Secretary of State for India and Burma, at a time when the road to independence for India was navigated. With the

office redundant in 1947, Arthur served as Minister of State for Commonwealth Relations, briefly. He finished his ministerial career as Secretary of State for Air, 1947-51, adjusting the role of the RAF to fit the demands of the atomic age and the Cold War.

Arthur had joined the army at the start of WWI and achieved the rank of Major in the Honourable Artillery Corps. From September 1939 to March 1942, Arthur was on the General Staff. Yet, Arthur was a determined advocate of international law and world peace. He strongly supported both the League of Nations and the United Nations. With his ministerial career at an end in 1951, he focused his energies on international relations. He served as Vice-President of the British Parliamentary Group for World Government, and as Chairman of the United Nations Parliamentary Group. He was also Vice-President of the Council of Europe Assembly, 1961-62. In his later years, he lived in the USA for much of the time where he became a popular figure. He appeared on the US television show, 'What's My Line', in 1957 and, a year later, on his 65th birthday, until then a bachelor, he married Mrs Mary Gliksten of Miami, Florida. He died on his birthday, 1968.



Boarders

Boarder Round-Up

Cotlake House braved the elements and had 'snow' much fun tobogganing at Mendip Activity Centre last Sunday.

School House hosted graffiti artist, Sam Gaden, from Aerosol Art, to run some design workshops with the boarders who want to contribute their ideas to the feature artwork that Sam will complete during half term.

School House also held their Badminton Championship. The hands-down winners were Will (Year 9) and Justin (Year 13), who made an unbeatable combination, not losing a single set. Well done to everyone who took part.



News and Announcements

Upcoming Dates

Return After Spring Half Term	Monday 28 February
Cheese and Wine - Relaunch of parents and friends	Monday 28 February
Deadline for Queen's College Festival of Arts entries	Wednesday 02 March
Parents Coffee Morning	Friday 04 March
Next Steps/ Starting School Open Morning	Thursday 10 March
Step Up to Reception: a Taster of Music at Queen's	Friday 11 March

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

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

Master Maths

Help your children Master Maths with the brilliant @mathsnoproblem! Enable your child to explore maths and numbers outside the classroom with these helpful tips. Watch the video [here](#)!

How do I support the teaching and learning of maths at home?



1-week Holiday Course in Music

Mon 8 - Fri 12 August 2022: Guildhall Young Artists Taunton has a 5-day Summer Holiday Course 2022 for all 10–18 year olds. Based at Richard Huish College, Taunton, it's an action-packed week of fun workshops in music, drama and much more. To pre-register, or for more information, please email Rachael Parvin: rparvin@gsm.d.ac.uk.



Somerset Education Partnership

We're happy to work with our friends at Somerset Education Business Partnership. [Click here](#) for more information.

Squad Photos

Tempest Photography are pleased to announce the team group photographs taken last term are available to view and order [here](#).

Please order within the next two weeks to avoid P&P (delivery to school). For assistance please call 01736 752411 - Option 3 to place an order or Option 5 for Customer Service.



1ST XV RUGBY
B05S12DC81

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Sign up to receive details of all the latest events, resources and information on careers related activities in Somerset

CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP TODAY!

SEB SOMERSET EDUCATION BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

News and Announcements

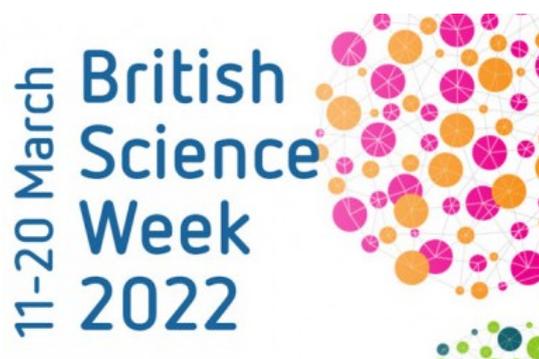
Biology Photography Challenge

We are asking students and staff to take photographs of the natural world which represent the science week theme of 'Growth'.

There are four categories, Year 7-9, Year 10-11, Sixth Form and Staff. Winners from each category will have their photograph turned into a poster and displayed in the Biology Foyer as well as receiving a Biology-related prize.

All photographs need to be submitted as jpegs to Mrs Henden lmh@queenscollege.org.uk by 20 March.

Please include your name and year group in your email.



Festival of The Arts



Last week saw the launch of our second Queen's College Festival of the Arts. This in-house event aims to promote the many dimensions of the arts sector and celebrate the creative culture of our school community.

Pupils from Years 3 to 13 are invited to explore the Arts in greater depth with the opportunity to showcase their work outside lessons in keeping with our school motto: *We learn not for school but for life.*

The theme for 2022 is Metamorphosis and the categories are: Music, Prep Music, Dance, English with Drama, Prep English, Art, Photography and Textiles, Design Technology and Food and Nutrition.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday 2 March with finalists having an opportunity to showcase their work from Friday 11 March. Full details can be found [here](#). They are also on My School Portal for all parents and Senior pupils and Google classrooms for the Prep children.

Bench Coats

If you would like to purchase a Queen's branded bench coat for your child, please contact Mrs Mockridge for an order form at ram@queenscollege.org.uk.

Prices range from £43.29-£50.47



Sports Socks

If your son/ daughter is in need of some more sports socks, we have a supply in Senior School Reception. The cost is £9 and this can be put on to your school bill. Simply ask your child to request a pair at reception.



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

THE TEMPEST

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WYVERN THEATRE COMPANY

TUE 15 MARCH	LANDMARK THEATRE	ILFRACOMBE
WED 16 MARCH	PAVILIONS	TEIGNMOUTH
SAT 19 MARCH	BEEHIVE ARTS CENTRE	HONITON
SUN 20 MARCH	TOBACCO FACTORY	BRISTOL
THU 24 MARCH	QUEEN'S THEATRE	TAUNTON