



Super Saturday Ahead



Mr Julian Noad - Head of College



The final full week before Easter comes to a close. Whilst our academic priority is clear, with high-quality teaching being shared in reports ongoing and our examination pupils focused superbly on the revision trail ahead, there is much else to grab our attention.

This week we have been dazzled by 'Dazzle' and look forward excitedly to [Zodiac](#) next week. A positive meeting with [Southern Sinfonia](#), our resident professional orchestra, means that I will soon be able to share exciting news of concerts and professional masterclasses to come.

The varied world of a Head is never complete without meetings regarding catering. As Napoleon reputedly said, 'an army marches on its stomach,' and it is so true that this area is important for happy school life. Whilst we will never serve c.1200 meals a day without the odd grumble, I am pleased that pupils recognise that there

have been improvements. I continue to work closely with our team as we look to make food, with our own teaching department on board, a real focus for Queen's, with quality and sustainability to the fore.

Afternoon tea in the art department this week was a lovely way to bring parents together as well as showcase the fabulous work that goes on in this area. As I share often, this space is so uplifting. If you have not had a chance to look around, please find one.

Indeed, this week has been another busy one for visitors. Such is the interest in Queen's at the moment that we have at least twenty new pupils starting (across year groups) after Easter, including a good number from local independent schools. I hope that you will forgive that final mention, but you will see that I am very proud of how we are rebuilding confidence in Queen's.

Super Saturday Ahead



Mr Julian Noad - Head of College



Confidence also continues to grow with 'living with covid'. You have been shared details of this week's update on regulations. To confirm, [HM Government now advises](#) that 'children and young people who are unwell and

have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend'. In essence, with effect from Monday 4 April, there is no requirement for covid testing and the normal expectation for any illness should be followed. We will, of course, maintain vigilance, particularly within our boarding community, for whom return home plans depend upon being covid-free.

A week of all seasons now draws to a close. As I write, my next stop is the Prep School's Easter Eggstravaganza before staff bootcamp marks the start of Friday evening! This weekend sees Super Saturday for the senior school and Year 6 cookery, as well as Ten Tors training on Dartmoor and Bronze DofE on the Quantocks. Our boarders enjoyed a fabulous formal supper last evening and have an open mic night, a trip to Bath, and an Easter activity day to look forward to.

The final three days of term, next week, will have a few additional activities to watch out for. Mr Aldridge, our former Chaplain, will be laid to rest at a small family and friends service on Monday morning. In the afternoon, the Senior School and Years 5 and 6 from the Prep will meet in the Queen's Hall for a memorial service. We shall conclude by planting the first rose in a new memorial garden. Its intention is to bring colour and life to the heart of the College; just as Tim always did.

On Tuesday, the Senior School will come together again for final assembly. You should have been alerted that there will be no CC2 on Tuesday for the Senior School, so pupils may be collected earlier at 4.30pm, but buses will depart as usual at 5.30pm. However, on Wednesday, all buses leave at 4.30pm as we break for Easter, after an afternoon of mixed house hockey matches for the senior school.

For Muslims within our community who now begin their time of fasting, I wish you a blessed Ramadan.

Have a fabulous weekend.

Yours ever,
Julian

Nursery Round-up

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



The Nursery School children have had lots of visitors this week as part of our 'Bring your Mummy to Nursery' week, in celebration of Mother's Day. A big thank you goes out to those mummies who came in to read stories in English and French, decorate biscuits, play games and lead an exercise session. The children really enjoyed mixing coloured icing, playing a Gruffalo game and the new stories they heard.

Curriculum activities this week included planting vegetable seeds in the Nursery Garden.

In Forest School, the children were introduced to the concept of maps and directions. Their next project will be potion making, using leaves and other natural resources.

As we close the term's focus on developing storytelling skills, several of the children are now enjoying making up their own stories and creating a sequence of four pictures to tell their story on paper.



Prep School

Mr Henry Matthews - Head of Prep



'Dazzle' was definitely the talk of the town yesterday evening as last night we were treated to a fabulous show in the Queen's Hall. It was brilliant to see children from Years 4 to 6 up on the big stage and under the bright lights where they all showed great confidence, skill and enthusiasm throughout the performance. Our Dazzlers have been working incredibly hard over the past term and gave a stellar performance to an enthusiastic and bumper audience of family, governors, staff and friends, and I know many of us are already looking forward to next year's show.

I must say a big thank you to all involved in the performance, including special mentions to the Year 10 tech team for their hard work and support and also to Mrs Hitchin, Mr Dudman, Miss Scutt and Mrs Rosie for the set design, direction and organisation of the whole event.

The children have been working hard in their lessons. As we approach the end of term there have been some very interesting activities taking place. Year 2 visited The Museum of Somerset to discover how the Castle was built and designed for protection against the enemy and thoroughly enjoyed creating their own shield designs. Prep pupils continued their propagation of tomato plants in the College kitchen garden and Year 3 had a fantastic outing to see the moon sculpture currently hanging in Taunton Minster. We also continue to think of our environment with some of the Prep pupils joining in with millions of people in the UK and around the world in switching off electrical appliances for one hour last Saturday.

It has been a real pleasure to see such improvement being made on the sports pitches both in the fixtures against other schools and within our House matches. The notable improvement in skill level and teamwork is leading to greater success in matches and certainly more enjoyment on the pitches. I am very much looking forward to seeing further success as we move into the summer term.

Our Nursery School parents were welcomed in for parent meetings and to spend some time in the school for 'Bring Your Mummy to Nursery' week and I very much look forward to meeting many of you at some of our upcoming Reception '22 transition events next term.

After all the hard work this week, our children had the chance to enjoy some much needed fun as they took part in the Easter trail around the school grounds this afternoon, finishing off with some Easter craft and even a bit of chocolate! Once again, we were joined by visitors finding out more about Queen's whilst our current parents had the opportunity to share a cup of tea and an Easter biscuit over a catch up with staff.

I end with one small reminder, please could parents ensure that the designated parking or drop off bays are used correctly at morning and afternoon drop off or pick up. This is to ensure the smooth flow of traffic and the safety of the children. Thank you for your support in this matter.

I wish you all a happy weekend ahead of a busy final three days of term.

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.

The pupils had a fantastic time at the Larkman Cup Cross Country, this was the first Cross-Country team event that the Prep School has been able to participate in it for 3 years. All of the children ran extremely impressively, and will have gained invaluable experience. Poppy and Jack were our lead runners in the U9 sections.

Teniore battled for a well deserved 3rd in the U11 girls' section. Jayden ran a superb race, with a good demonstration of front running, to win the U11 boys' section.

There has also been some exciting action in girls' netball and boys' hockey. **Read the full sports report [here](#). You can also visit our [Flickr](#) account to view all our photographs from the matches.**



Trinity Music Exams

Congratulations go to the following pupils for their Trinity music exams last week:

- Q Olivia Elliott initial grade recorder
- Q Gracie-Jean Langford initial grade recorder
- Q Amalie Kelly grade 1 recorder
- Q Hester Preece grade 1 recorder
- Q Alex Clifton grade 2 recorder
- Q Timisayo Awodiji grade 1 recorder
- Q Hester Preece grade 1 cello
- Q Timisayo Awodiji grade 1 violin
- Q Alissa Holberry grade 3 violin
- Q Henry Durbin initial grade recorder



Year 5 Performance Poetry

Year 5 have started looking at performance poetry this week. They practised performing 'Conversation Piece' by Gareth Owen, focusing on volume and expression, movement, pace and rhythm.



Prep School

Year 2 Museum Trip

Year 2 took a trip to The Museum of Somerset where they took part in a workshop all about 'castles'. They discovered facts about the castle, and explored the many features of the castle which were designed to keep enemies out. The children were able to look behind a secret door to see an arrow slit and looked outside to where the moat once was. Role-playing knights from the past was great fun for the children, as was designing their own shield.



Year 3 Egyptian Clay

Year 3 have made some splendid Egyptian style clay cartouches using hieroglyphs to spell out their own names. They then upcycled crisp pots with more clay, to create some truly eye-catching mini statues in the style of canopic jars. We are impressed with them!



Prep School

Juicy Fresh Tomatoes From Seed



Now spring is finally here, our young gardeners have been learning how to grow fresh, nutritional and deliciously juicy tomatoes from seeds in our gardens.

Head of Food and Nutrition, Mr Mann, and Mrs Anne Wade have been teaching pupils how to grow foods from seed.

Last month, the tomatoes started their lives with Prep pupils sowing and germinating them indoors in seed trays, and this week they transplanted the older seedlings in Senior School and repotted them in the Queen's College Kitchen Garden. The pupils pricked out

and repotted the tomato seedlings into large red painted recycled and upcycled chopped tomato tins, from the Food and Nutrition kitchen classroom, to minimise our waste. These tins will also allow Senior pupils to move the plants outdoors in the hot sunny weather and indoors at night in case a frost threatens.

Mrs Wade said, "We can't wait to enjoy eating sun-warmed tomatoes fresh off the vine throughout the summer term". Mr Mann added, "The ripe red fruits, (yes, tomatoes are fruits), are wonderful super foods. Full of a nutritional substance called lycopene, which gives them their bright red colour and helps protect our cells against damage. Plus they are rich in potassium, and a great source of vitamins A, C and K".



WWF's Earth Hour initiative



The Prep School pupils are continuing to focus on what they can do to make the environment around them a better place for the future.

Last week they took part in the WWF's Earth Hour initiative, where they were encouraged to join in with 6.6 million people around the UK and high profile buildings like the Sydney Opera House, the London Eye and the Eiffel Tower, in switching off all electrics for one hour on Saturday 28th March. The information they learnt made them all the more motivated to do something to make things better for our planet.

Dazzle

The Audience Was Well And Truly Dazzled



A huge well done to all the wonderful performers in Dazzle last night, we have had lots of fabulous feedback from the audience. We hope you enjoy some of the lovely photographs below. We will include a full write up next week's Bulletin.



Senior School

Sports Round-up

Some great action has happened both at home, and away in Senior School sports this week.



The College welcomed Sexey's, Kings of Wessex and Wellington, for a rugby 7's festival. Queen's started fast with Catriona Wombwell making some incredible tackles and scoring the first try for Queen's. Maddie Lloyd also stepped up massively, leading through actions scoring the team's second try. In a closely fought second half, Queen's won their first game V Sexey's. Next, the school faced national 7's finalist Kings of Wessex. Showing great togetherness, Claire Handle made a brilliant break offloading to a supporting player which resulted in a try for Queen's – the first try Kings of Wessex had let in all evening. Finally, Queen's played Wellington in a highly anticipated rematch. Natasha Jewitt showed great

ability around the breakdown area, Olivia Turner made some critical tackles and Tabitha Shaw made some great carries in mid-field which resulted in Hartland running the length of the pitch to finish a terrific try for Queen's. A great showcase for Women's rugby, the college would like to thank Mr. Rob Cooling for his continued support for the girls U15 rugby team.



The House Football competition provided a fantastic opportunity for the pupils to take part in some competitive, mixed sport which was enjoyed by all. Over the course of the three competitions (Junior, Inters and Seniors) there was some entertaining football played in good spirit, and it was great to see pupils supporting their Houses. It was an excellent way to start winding down for the Easter break after a long and successful term of sport. Congratulations to Barnicott (Juniors), Woolmer (Inters and Seniors) for their respective victories.

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



Senior School

Lockerstash



'The College is proud to announce our partnership with Locker Stash. The Charity is a registered community interest company, that works with professional and amateur sports teams, schools, universities, and manufacturers, offering financial and social rewards as well as environmental accreditation for making organisations more environmentally friendly.

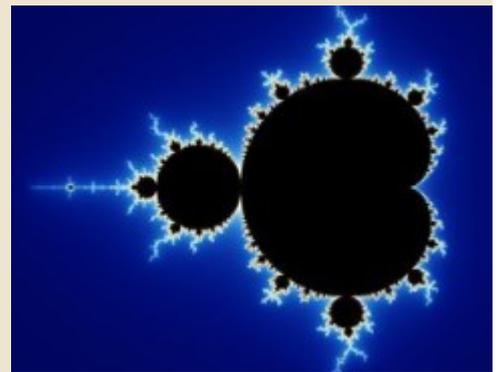
The way Locker Stash do this is by recycling old sportswear which is no longer used. To quickly free up space, and provide the financial support, they take this kit in, rehome via their e-commerce platforms and repurpose damaged items into cushions, bucket hats and bears. They also donate equipment to less affluent groups in the UK. All profits then go back into supporting disadvantaged

clubs, children and young adults to get equal opportunities in sport.

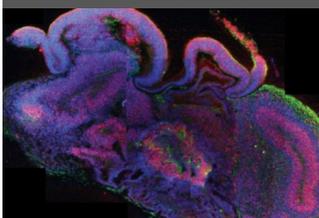
Ultimately, the bottom line is the more that is recycled, the more our school, the planet and other vulnerable groups within the sporting community, benefit. If you have any spare kit (Queen's or non-Queen's) please do donate it in the yellow bin which will be placed outside the PE classroom.

Scholars Event

Years 9 and 10 scholars had a look into the exciting world of imaginary numbers this week. Imaginary numbers are used in many applications in everyday life, for example, in electronics, signal processing, and things like quantum mechanics. Whilst we didn't quite get into quantum mechanics, we looked at how simple it is to use and manipulate imaginary numbers, finishing off with looking at how iterations of imaginary numbers can end up creating beautiful diagrams such as the Mandelbrot Set as pictured here. Imaginary numbers don't come up in the Maths courses until Further Mathematics at A Level, but hopefully everyone involved was able to see how easy it is to use such an abstract concept!



The Future of the Brain



Pupils from Years 10 - 13 attended a fascinating lecture on 'The Future of the Brain' given by Dr Guy Sutton as part of the Biology Gifted and Talented sessions. Dr Sutton is Honorary (Consultant) Assistant Professor in the Division of Psychiatry at the University of Nottingham and has held previous academic appointments at Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan and Cambridge Universities.

The lecture focused on the growth of neural organoids (pictured above) and current discussions over what exactly is consciousness. Students then considered biological ethics and the lecture concluded with an insight into brain-computer interfacing and Neuralink.

Senior School

Trinity Music Exams



Last Thursday we had a full day of Trinity Music exams took place in the Senior Music Department.

As usual, the students had been working extremely hard under the guidance of their dedicated instrumental and vocal teachers and they achieved outstanding results. All candidates passed with a number achieving merits and distinctions. Many congratulations to all those who took music exams that day.

The Moon - Sunday 27th March

As part of The Moon exhibition at Taunton Minster, live music has been included on a number of evenings.

On Friday, our saxophone teacher Mrs Racheal Parvin organised a concert in conjunction with Guildhall School, and arranged a recital of music featuring the Lálé Trio and opera singer Claire Barnett-Jones. On Sunday, the Director, of Music Ed Jenkins, joined the Artistic Director of the Southern Sinfonia, our Orchestra in Residence, to perform a recital of violin and piano music, all moon-related. Starting with Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, the recital continued with Simon playing the opening Sicilienne from Telemann's Fantasia No 9. The Passacaglia in D minor by Buxteude, played by Ed on the excellent Willis organ, followed before Simon played a beautiful piece he composed especially for the evening, 'I See The Moon'. Debussy's Clair de Lune was of course a must for the event before the finale of 'Moon River'. Both were wonderful evenings and it was a privilege to play for so many visitors at these unique occasions. Read more about it in the Gazette [here](#). (Photo - Ed and [Simon Chalk at The Moon](#))

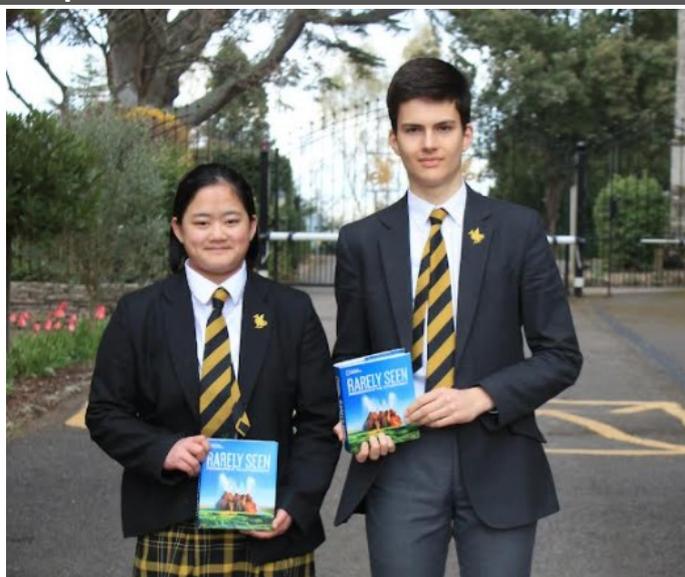


Biology Photography Competition Winners

This year's science week focus was on growth and the natural world. The senior Biology department ran a photographic competition, with the winners announced this week. Congratulations go to Julian Kaiser and Araya Glanville.

The biologists were presented with a book of photographs of the natural world from the National Geographic Society.

Their winning photographs will be printed into posters and displayed in the Biology department.



Senior School

Signs of Spring



As our earliest fruit blossoms are starting to bloom and burst into flower in our pupils' Kitchen Garden, we are proud to announce a partnership with the University of Reading, Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), and Waitrose, on a research project called Fruitwatch. The Fruitwatch project, which aims to gather much-needed data on the timing of our fruit trees flowering, will engage pupils with the wider community in a global issue. Pupils will be asked to record the type of tree, its location, and the stage of flowering, along with photos.

Mr Mann, Head of Food and Nutrition explained, "recent evidence has suggested climate change might be causing trees to flower earlier than when insect pollinators are most active. If true, this could have serious implications for common tree species like apple, pear, cherry and plum, which all rely on insect pollination to produce their fruit".

Chris Wyver, the PhD researcher at the University of Reading, who is leading the Fruitwatch project will be joining us at Queen's after Easter, thanked Queen's for all that we've been doing by planting hundreds of fruit trees, "I've been following

your fruit tree growing and it looks like a great! It's amazing what Queen's is doing! We want as many eyes on as many trees as possible to tell us if climate change really is having an impact on fruit tree pollination. If it is, then action will be required to prevent a potentially significant impact on our pollinators and fruit trees."

We want as many eyes on as many fruit trees as possible so we are asking everyone to go out into gardens, allotments, orchards or parks and tell us what they see this spring at fruitwatch.org.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Practice Expeditions

Bronze and Silver DofE practice Expeditions as well as the Exmoor Challenge group were out over the weekend. Year 11 pupils completed two days and nights walking on Exmoor. The route was longer and more



demanding than previous training walks, and the groups had to carry full overnight rucksacks. Many of the pupils had a really tough few days and there were definitely some very sore feet on Tuesday morning. They all did extremely well though and following thorough debriefs on Wednesday, should now be able to successfully complete the final expedition in the summer.

Meanwhile, the Bronze DofE and the Exmoor Challenge groups were training on the Quantocks. Mr Henden (Bronze DofE Coordinator) says the pupils walked very well and showed a sound application of their navigational knowledge.

The Exmoor Challenge group (Years 7 and 8) smashed it and can't wait for the event at the end of April!

JAY RAYNER

Wednesday 18th May

Queen's Theatre 7:30pm

Book
[here](#)

MY LAST SUPPER



QUEEN'S
COLLEGE
TAUNTON



For Tickets: bookings.queenscollege.org.uk - 01823 272559

The Tempest

Greg Cook and Freya Raybould reflect on their time performing in The Tempest



Greg Cook - Working with a touring company has been an engaging experience for all of us. Being able to act in different environments, with a sizable amount of independence, has been both fun and stressful at different times, but always oddly insightful.

I haven't done much acting outside of "The Tempest", so getting into the swing of things was relatively difficult: setting aside free-time for learning lines, getting into character and learning more about the physical demands of acting are all relatively new. I find that analysing the meaning of a text (especially a Shakespearean one) before performing and rehearsing is essential. Fortunately, practising with the rest of the highly enthusiastic cast was rather easy.

Travelling to every venue added a much more pronounced degree of professionalism to our performances, with the setup of the stage, placement of props, etc. predominantly done by students. We were given a large amount of time beforehand to look out costumes and props, before doing a single dress rehearsal to plan what would happen, and then performed it to an actual audience. **Read Greg's full article [here](#).**

"Being able to act in different environments, with a sizable amount of independence, has been both fun and stressful at different times, but always oddly insightful." - Greg Cook

Freya Raybould - My main role was Antonio, who is the evil brother to Prospero, and I was given the responsibility of the understudy of Prospero. As an understudy, it is vital to take key notes and annotations on what you will be doing. If you lay back and don't annotate in the early stages it is a lot harder to pick up, especially if the lead is not around to help you. In this performance, the main Prospero felt unwell due to covid, which meant I had to take over as the show must go on! As an understudy you must be able to quickly pick up new staging and adapt to corrections given to you by staff and cast as quickly and efficiently as possible - as well as being on standby ready to jump in should anything not go to plan. However, having two roles in your head at one time can be confusing, so my advice would be to become as calm as possible! Have notes, diagrams, two scripts if needs be! Anything that will help you detach two roles from one another.

After finishing one venue, the journey had just begun. Usually most of the actors / actresses would go home after the show but having to pack up everything made everyone feel a lot more included and valued as a company rather than just performers. There were always challenges about switching from venue to venue (e.g is there a cut-through round the back, are the wings big?) but as a company we worked around them to still display a beautiful piece of Shakespeare. The Tobacco Factory was definitely my favourite venue because the proscenium arch stage created a wonderful atmosphere. In addition to this, we had some time to visit a small part of Bristol. I think the best audience was in Honiton as all my friends had come to watch me and the cast on that night. Everyone laughed, clapped and cheered throughout the play.

Read Freya's full article [here](#).



The Tempest

The Tempest: The Wyvern Theatre Company's First Travelling Performance



"I know that my younger-self would be so excited to experience this and so proud of how far I've come, as well as the amazing people I've met because of it!" - Freya Raybould



Sixth Form

Sixth Form Round-Up

On Saturday morning the SFC was transformed into an IELTS testing centre for a gruelling day of English as an additional language writing, listening, reading and speaking assessments under the careful supervision of Miss Goodall. In order to make sure that the usual SFC Saturday morning study session for Year 11 boarders and Sixth Formers went ahead, the Covers became the SFC in exile for the morning.

The Sixth Form students are building up towards the summer exams, so there has been a healthy balance between study, socialising and co-curricular activities. Mr O'Donnell's tutor group led an entertaining and interactive assembly on Weird Mythological Creatures.

In the meantime the boys are anxiously preparing for the annual netball matches against the girls on Monday: the Year 12 boys take on the dynamic Year 12 girls, whilst the Year 13 boys, still smarting from their defeat last year, are desperately getting to grips with the finer rules of the game. Also, Mr Cooling has prepared a highly competitive Easter Egg hunt for the Sixth Form, when all will have a chance to win a chocolate prize!

Spring Social - Gracie Wickens-Sweet



On Friday night, the Sixth Form enjoyed a Spring semi-formal evening at the beautiful setting of Taunton Cricket Ground. Organised by the Sixth Form Prefects, there was music from a DJ (that resulted in a lot of dancing and singing!), team games involving balloons, and an array of delicious buffet snacks and drinks.

Everyone dressed to impress and the atmosphere was friendly, inclusive and fun. It was brilliant to see so many people, all together, enjoying themselves after the impact Covid has had on socials over the last two years. Now let's bring on the Summer Ball!

Year 13 Psychology Revision Day, Bristol

The Year 13 Psychologists attended an excellent Tutor2U grade booster revision conference at the Vue Cinema Cribbs Causeway on Tuesday.

This was a fast-paced and interactive experience where the students were immersed in live revision, pitting their wits against a timer and other schools. They all expressed the view that the day was beneficial at helping them organise their own revision and refresh their revision techniques.



Year 13 Sociology Revision Day, Bristol

Sociologists enjoyed a grade booster revision session provided by Tutor2U at the VUE Cinema Cribb's Causeway, Bristol.

There were lots of interactive tasks, often themed on TV gameshows like Catch Phrase, and the opportunity for Star Wars references was not avoided but worked well in the setting of Screen 7 at the VUE. A great day out was had by all.



Sixth Form

Prefects POV By Ali Zomorrodian



The holiest month on the Lunar calendar, Ramadan, begins this year on the evening of Friday, April 1, 2022 and ends on Saturday, April 30, 2022 lasting for 30 days. In the modern, fast-paced world, Ramadan is a time for Muslims to put the breaks on - and to fully develop a kind regard for others.

That means fasting, introspection, and developing compassion for those less fortunate. As quoted in the Holy Qur'an, "O ye who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that ye may acquire self-restraint".

Ramadan is never a set date, but based on sightings of the moon, as well as other astronomical calculations.

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

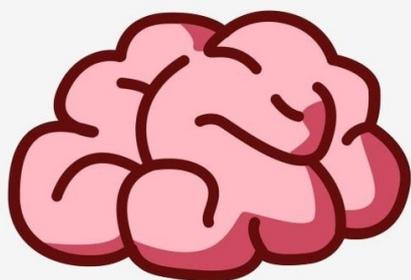
Afternoon Tea in the Art Department



We were very pleased to welcome parents from senior and prep school to the Art Department for afternoon tea on Wednesday. We are so proud of our pupils and they were pleased to show off their creative spaces whilst talking to parents about what they were doing. We also had our co-curricular clubs in full flow, which demonstrated the pupils' enthusiasm for their individual projects and Photoshop skills. It was wonderful to have people in to see all the artwork, especially after feeling closed to the outside world for two years during the pandemic. Art is a tactile subject so we thrive on the enthusiasm

that both pupils and staff bring, and their ability to immerse visitors in our environment. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to our Summer exhibition to celebrate our current GCSE and A Level pupils' work on **June 29 2022**.

Neuroscience



On Friday 25th March, A Level Biologists and Psychologists spent a day focussing on Neuroscience. Dr Guy Sutton prepared a series of lectures and practicals covering topics as diverse as 'the shattered mind' - looking at schizophrenia- 'Damaged brains' - considering the impact of brain trauma and tumours on brain function, as well as 'Psychosis' - considering the impact of drugs on the brain.

Students were also able to see a sheep brain dissection and consider current research into neuroplasticity, brain-computer interfacing, and cerebral organoids. The students were given a real insight into university-style lectures and tutorials, taking their current A Level knowledge and stretching it far beyond the syllabus.

Biology Olympiad

Over 10,000 students from more than 700 schools worldwide took part in this year's Biology Olympiad competition.



Ali Zomorrodian took part in the competition and we are delighted that he achieved a highly commended award. Ali is one of our Year 13 Biology A Level students and has an offer to study medicine this September.

Prominent OQs

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



The Very Revd Richard Sewell (OQ 1972-79) is Dean of St George's College, Jerusalem. The

College is a pilgrimage centre running study pilgrimages which seek to give people a deep experience of the land, its peoples and the holy sites of all faiths.

When Richard was at Queen's, a religious life was not something he contemplated. Instead, his priorities were sport and drama. He represented the school at rugby, hockey and cricket. He took a lead role in 'Our Town' by Thornton Wilder. After O Levels, Richard's sixth form years were at Plymouth College.

Richard studied Theology at the University of Birmingham purely as an academic subject. At that point, he had no sense of a vocation in the Church. This developed over time and with experience. He secured a volunteer post at the Church of Scotland Hostel in Tiberias. Although his role was simply to assist the running of the hostel, it gave Richard a deep interest in the Middle East and especially the Israel/Palestine problem.

He then trained as a Youth and Community worker at Manchester Polytechnic, after which he worked in Sheffield before moving to the East End of London to set up and run a local inter-faith project. His time there coincided with the first Iraq War and the Salman Rushdie Affair, so it was a volatile time to be involved in inter-religious issues.

Still unsure of his career path,

Richard worked in his family's wholesale newspaper and magazine business in Plymouth from 1991 to 1994.

However, Richard moved back to London to work for a Church of England mission agency as a mission educator. Part of his role was to communicate with the churches in Pakistan and Bangladesh, supporting their priorities in mission and development. Travelling to the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan, and specifically to Peshawar, was a significant experience and one that persists with Richard. Witnessing the difficulties faced by Christians as a small minority, at a time when the Mujahadeen and Taliban were beginning to establish networks there, made a big impact on him.

In 1999, Richard began to train to be a priest in the Church of England. After he was ordained in 2003, Richard served in South West London, as a curate in Putney, a vicar in Wimbledon and, for eight years, as rector of three churches in Barnes, London. In 2016, he returned to Israel for the first time since 1985. When approached to apply for the post of Dean of St George's College, Jerusalem, he was delighted to do so.

Richard and his wife of 25 years, JulieAnn, are shown here with the Archbishop of Jerusalem and the Dean of St George's Cathedral.



As canon in residence of St George's Cathedral, a role he values highly, they live in the Cathedral Close just a short distance from Damascus Gate, one of the major passages into the Old City. The Diocese of Jerusalem, which he serves, is predominantly Palestinian in identity. The Anglican Church has many churches and institutions in Israel and the West Bank. It also runs a hospital in Gaza.

Despite the COVID pandemic causing St George's to close for two years, life in Jerusalem has been a most enriching, if challenging, experience. St George's College runs around twenty-five study pilgrimages each year for pilgrims from all over the world.



Whilst most come primarily to experience the holy sites, the pilgrims also become familiar with the complexities of the land and its history. The College advocates justice and reconciliation, despite its elusiveness in these divided lands.

Richard's links with Queen's were revived in recent times after he contacted the school. Indeed, during the absence of the school chaplain, Richard conducted a service for the pupils by zoom from Jerusalem. Richard's brother, Andrew, is also an OQ (1966-77), and his grandfather, Leslie Paul, was Chairman of Governors for many years.

QC Community

Queen's College Community (QCC) Update - Jane Noad

Following our parent survey, the cheese and wine evening, and the subsequent follow up meeting, we felt it would be helpful to outline how the Queen's College Community (QCC) is intended to work.

The primary focus of the QCC will be to bring the whole Queen's community together and as such, it is a whole College group with a determinedly social focus. Any monies raised at organised events will be for chosen charities or for luxury items for the College pupil body. All parents, family, and friends are welcome to get involved in the QCC on a one off or frequent basis. It is intended to be commitment lite and not onerous for any who wish to be involved.

We have elected a QCC Chair (Larissa Smith-Bolliger) and Vice Chair (Naomi Speyer). Together, they are determined to bring enthusiasm, experience and fresh ideas. These roles are to provide oversight. For each event, volunteers will put themselves forward to arrange these. In this way, the load can be shared and parents can be involved on a frequent or ad hoc basis.

Parent Forums were raised in the survey. These were already on Mr Noad's radar and will be offered by Mr Matthews in the Prep School and Mr Noad in the

Senior School. Each forum will have a topical theme for discussion. Details to follow next term.

Related to the QCC, but separate, is a soon to be launched Queen's Connected web service. This is a little like the 'old school tie' network. It will allow all current and former pupils, as well as their families, to keep in touch, keep abreast of events, and share opportunities for work experience, mentoring, or employment. A hugely beneficial opportunity all round.

At the last QCC meeting, it was decided that a Quiz Night would be a great first event (see details below). A group of volunteers has since met to organise this and we look forward to a successful and enjoyable evening where people can connect with one another and meet fellow parents at a relaxed and fun event.

Please also note, our next QCC meeting will be held on **Thursday 5 May at 7pm**. These meetings are 'open', in that anyone interested may join in. At this next meeting, we will be deciding on some further, future events.

We hope you feel as excited as we do about the progress of the Queen's College Community.



The poster features a glowing lightbulb on the left side. The background is dark with white and yellow brushstrokes. The text is arranged as follows:

- You are Invited** (white text, top left)
- QUIZ NIGHT** (large yellow text, top center)
- Organised by our Queen's College Community (QCC) (white text, middle left)
- 29 April 7:30pm** (white text, middle left)
- Please join us for a fun and relaxed evening (white text, bottom left)
- Cash donations welcomed for St Margaret's Hospice (yellow text, bottom left)
- [Click here for more Info](#) (yellow text, circular button on the right)
- QUEEN'S COLLEGE TAUNTON (with logo, bottom right)

Boarders Corner

Formal Dinner

Yesterday evening, our boarders enjoyed a formal dinner with all of the senior boarding houses coming together for a meal followed by a disco. Our boarders from Years 9 to 13 had the chance to come together for food and good company before the end of term.

Awards were given to those pupils who have demonstrated the qualities that we encourage within our boarding community such as kindness towards others within their boarding house. Congratulations go to Luna Schierhorn (Year 10) Arron Anderton (Year 10), Franky Gediking (Year 11), Elizabeth Mok (Year 12), James Lam (Year 13) and Shirley Fan (Year 13), who all were all awarded with a boarding prize.



Archery

Over the weekend our boarders had the chance to take part in an archery activity session. Over the course of the afternoon they had a go under the supervision of our outdoor education staff. Pupils enjoyed the sunshine and many were surprised by their new-found skills!



Cotlake at Crealy

Cotlake House took a trip to Crealy on Sunday. They all had lots of fun on the rides and indoor play area.



News and Announcements

An update on Miss Booton's Training for the Trent 100k SUP Challenge



Having kept a base of paddling over the winter, and with the spring sun and longer days now on us, my training for the Trent 100k (24 July) is starting to get more intense. Last weekend saw a sub five hour paddle for the 14.5 miles length of the Taunton and Bridgwater Canal, starting at Bridgwater docks and finishing at Firepool in Taunton.

The Trent 100k is the SUP equivalent of the London Marathon for Stand Up Paddleboarders, and it isn't for the faint-hearted. It involves a gruelling 20 hours of paddling over two days, and no longer! There is a cut off time, alongside pace check points along the route; if my team and I don't make these then we are disqualified from the race.

As I'm doing this challenge for the Adventure Appeal, and adventure comes in many guises, I've decided to make my challenge, and indeed my preparation for it, slightly harder (or easier, depending on which way you look at it) in order to fully prepare myself. I shall, over the Easter break, be competing in the Head of the Dart SUP race; an 8 miles paddle from Totnes to Dartmouth against 250 other athletes. The following weekend, I'll be racing the Taunton Flyer Sportive; 100k of cycling, with the route taking in local airfields. Last year, I was the 4th woman, this year I aim to sit on the podium. Similarly, I aspire to be in the top three in June for the local Exmoor SUP, Bike, Run Triathlon event being held at Wimbleball; known as one of the most gruelling Ironman locations in the UK. This involves a 3k SUP on the lake, 20K cycle around Exmoor and a 5k trail run to finish it off. I hope that by preparing in this way I'll be in with the best possible chance of completing the Trent 100k.

Adventure and being outdoors means a lot to me, and I know it's equally as important for our students. I would love it if you could support my fundraising for the Adventure Appeal so that we can give more opportunities to our students to be active outdoors and relish the challenge of being adventurous. To donate please see my Just Giving page click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

SUPER SATURDAY

2nd April 12:30-17:30

PARENTS WELCOME!

12:30 - 14:00 Year 7/8

13:00 - 15:00 BBQ (pupils/staff)

13:30- 16:00 Ice Cream Van (bring cash)

14:00 - 17:00 Year 9/10 and Year 11/12/13

17:15-17:30 Presentation



You'll Never Walk Alone

Ukraine Benefit Concert



Supporting
 BritishRedCross

Saturday 30th April. 7.30pm,
Taunton Minster
(St Mary Magdalene Church),
Taunton, TA1 1SA.

Tickets: £20, £10, Under 18s free

Available from:
Taunton Visitor Centre
01823 340470

In aid of the
Ukraine Crisis Appeal

From the romance of Puccini to musical theatre classics, featuring the voices of Eamonn Mulhall, Eddie Wade, Elizabeth Watts, Olivia Mace, Iryna Ilyytka, Guy Robinson, Suzanne Manuell, the Amici Choir and with pianist Christopher Middleton.

News and Announcements

Upcoming Dates

Dance Show (Zodiac - A journey through Dance, Music and Space)	04 and 05 April 2022 6pm
End of Spring Term	06 April 2022
Boarders Return	25 April 2022
First Day of Term (please note May Day bank holiday is a normal school day)	26 April 2022
Whole School Open Morning	02 May 2022 9am-12:30pm
QCC Meeting	05 May 2022 7pm

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

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

Setting up Devices for Children - Mr Free

Many of the parents/carers I speak to whose child has been involved in a serious child protection issue are not aware of the features that are available on devices, broadband etc. which can be used to help protect their children.

Internet Matters have a huge range of advice and guidance, which includes simple guides to set up devices including tablets, phones, gaming devices and much more. To find out more information please click [here](#).

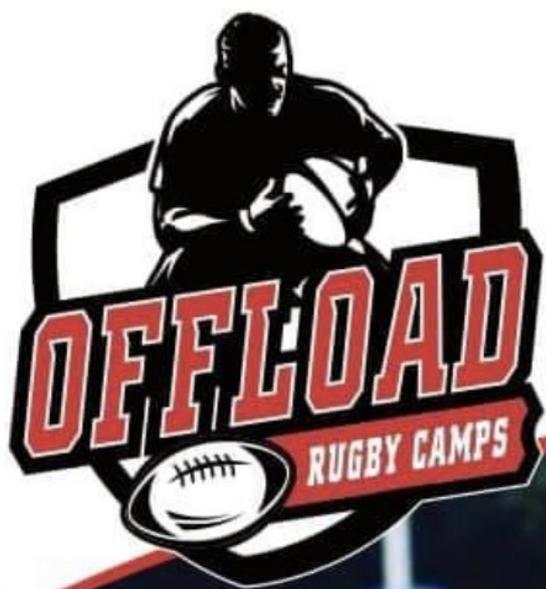


West Panthers Hockey Camp - Easter

West Panthers, the regional hockey camps, are going to be running a one day intensive camp here at Queen's College on the 21st April. This is a really good opportunity for our younger players (Y5/6/7/8) to enjoy hockey in a competitive, high quality environment outside of everyday school. As well as the West Panthers coaches, there are going to be a few familiar faces coaching from Queen's 1st XI too.

The camp will run from 10am - 3pm.

Given our links with West Panthers, we have been given early access sign up for the next 7 days, before the camps is advertised to the wider community. Please follow this link if you wish to sign up: <https://forms.gle/vMZIFTmQPTs3TWqa9>. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Queen's Head of Hockey Jack Knight (jhk@queenscollege.org.uk) for more information.



OFFLOAD RUGBY CAMPS 2022

WELLS RFC • WARMINSTER RFC
TOR RFC • YEOVIL RFC • DEVIZES RFC

SPECIAL OFFER
10% off sibling
discount per child

Book
[here](#)

**ACTION PACKED
FUN WITH
PROFESSIONAL
COACHES**



1 DAY RUGBY CAMP AT QUEENS COLLEGE SCHOOL, TAUNTON

22ND APRIL 2022 • £30

With a Pro Player Day

Book Now: offloadrugbycamps.com

Follow us on:  @offloadcamps
 offload_rugby_camps  offloadrugbycamps