

BULLETIN



Queen's College Whole School Newsletter

17 March 2023

Such A Busy Week!



Mr Julian Noad - Head of College

I mentioned last week that we had a visit from the Good Schools Guide. Whilst the full report will take a few weeks to deliver, I can share an initial line of feedback which resonated with me. Our visitor was 'struck overwhelmingly with the happiness at the heart of the school'.

I must confess that happiness was not high on the agenda, but joy in success was, for this week's performances of *The Crucible*. This is a challenging play with challenging themes, played and set superbly under candlelight in the Wyvern Hall. Well done, all. Next week it's the Prep school's turn with their performance of Moana. Tickets, as ever, from our box office.

The final two Sixth form suppers of the year have taken place this week. We have very much enjoyed spending time around a supper table with each of our Year 12s. Many of these same folk have this week put in prefect applications, with letters and videos of application. Mr Free and I look forward to interviews next week.

Before then, the weekend. I encourage

all to join us for tonight's (free of charge) Spring music concert. Tomorrow, Queen's will be hosting a Model United Nations conference, with 150 pupils and staff from other schools debating issues of international importance. The sports programme offers netball versus Exeter school and hockey versus Clayesmore. We shall also see boarders pony trekking and welcome Old Queenians (of the 1998-2003 vintage) for a reunion dinner.

Sunday will feature training for the Alps expedition paddling crew, Exmoor challenge training, and (in the week we welcome a new <u>Duke of Edinburgh</u>) a bronze D of E training outing. The day will close with a choral evensong sung by our own chapel choir, at <u>Taunton Minster</u>.

As you will see from the school calendar (you can add this to your own calendar by clicking the +Google button, bottom right), next weekend we look forward to Super Saturday, a fabulous afternoon for senior school pupils and parents. More details will follow from the sports department

next week.

That glance at the calendar will also confirm that the end of term is now frighteningly close. It is not, therefore, too soon to share end of term plans for the senior school. In brief, this is a normal programme until 3pm on Wednesday 29 March, when we will hold an end of term prize giving assembly, with a 4.30pm finish planned. There will be no CCs on that day and buses will head off at 4.30pm; the boarders' bus to Heathrow leaves at 8am on Thursday morning.

There is, as always, much going on. Please be sure to use My School Portal to check on details or keep abreast. Busy, but fun, is how we like it but do also take time to breathe, and to take stock. Spring is definitely on its way and I look forward to seeing the wildflower meadows which our grounds team are currently creating on the unused banks of our campus. I hope you are also able to set some happy targets.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Julian





It has been a busy week here in the Prep School filled with many exciting activities and events. We kicked off the week with our Science Discovery Day, where students had the opportunity to participate in a range of STEM challenges relating to the theme of 'connections'. They had a fascinating virtual reality experience, wandering through animal habitats, and a fun fingerprint exercise, among other activities which you can read more about in the following pages. We were delighted to be joined by prospective families many interested in the school, and we look forward to seeing them return for further taster days in the coming weeks.

Yesterday was a busy day in Pre-Prep. Reception class took part in a muddy and wet outdoor school session with the Outdoor Ed team, where they built a shelter and cooked bread on an open fire. At the same time, Year 2 went on a trip to the Museum of Somerset to learn about castles. I was fortunate enough to join Year 2 on the trip, and we had a great time exploring the dungeon and pretending to be knights. The children were a credit to the school, demonstrating exceptional behaviour and enthusiasm for learning about their topic.

Today, we supported Comic Relief in a charity day, and all students and staff came dressed in red or bright colours. We also held a talent show that was a huge hit with the children, and we will be announcing the results shortly.

This afternoon's house matches in hockey and netball were a resounding success. **Parents** joined us to watch an afternoon of competitive sports, and the children showed impressive determination, teamwork, and a high level of skill. It was fantastic students see SO many participating and enjoying the friendly competition. We look forward to more of the same in the cross-country, swimming gala, and creative competition next week as the children strive to add

valuable points to the house totals this term.

Looking ahead to the weekend, the Moana team will have their final rehearsal before their upcoming shows next Friday. We are excited to see the hard work and dedication of the students beginning to come to fruition as we prepare for the shows. If you haven't booked tickets yet, head to the booking page to make sure you don't miss out on what promises to be a real treat for the audience.

As we approach the end of the term, I would like to remind parents and guardians to keep an eye on My School Portal for upcoming events. If you're unsure about any items on the calendar, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher or the office team.

Finally, I wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing weekend.

Henry

Nursery Round-up

Nursery News From Mrs Donna Kershaw - Highgrove Nursery Manager

Puddleducks have been learning about recycling this week through their story of the week as well as their very messy role play area. The children have enjoyed sorting out the pile of rubbish into the correct sorting boxes and grouping the materials together. The Puddleducks children were also pleased to have a cooking session with Ashley on Monday and take home a fairy cake - although many were eaten before the children reached the car park!

Tiggywinkles have been exploring 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' story, creating some beautiful butterfly pictures as well as practising some fine motor skill development by threading with pasta shapes. Tiggywinkles children requested on Wednesday that they have some water play and enjoyed 'painting the garden' with their own pots of water and paintbrushes.

Cottontails have been very busy this week settling in some new families into the nursery. The dryer weather this week has also allowed the babies to spend more time out in the garden exploring both the Tiggywinkles and Puddleducks gardens. A favourite activity of the week was the sensory tray filled with cornflakes. Apart from a few being eaten, the children enjoyed scooping and pouring from a range of different containers.







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



The Nursery School children have been busy stirring, rubbing in, rolling and cutting this week as part of 'Kitchen club. Discussions were had around weighing and measuring the ingredients as well as cause and effect. The end result was a lovely batch of vegan scones which the children proudly took home for tea. Tuesday's Forest School session provided opportunities to join in with the Prep School Science day theme through an exploration of the weather. Half of the children ventured down the playing fields to investigate the effects of wind, making kites out of string and plastic bags whilst the second group collected rainwater in the garden to discover how

rainclouds are made with an experiment using water, shaving foam and food colouring. The effect was fascinating to watch and the children learnt all about how the sun evaporates the rain back up into the sky and what happens when the clouds become dark and too heavy to hold onto the raindrops any longer.







Red Nose Day

A Talent Show, a Sponsored Splash and Everyone Dressed in Red!

On Friday morning, a selection of Prep children performed in a talent show to raise money for Comic Relief. A total of 34 acts participated, showcasing a variety of talents which left the Prep school audience and judges Ruthie Highbrow, Susie Sparkle and Silver Fox, amazed!

The show was full to the brim with exceptional talent ranging from singing and dancing performances to comedy acts and impressive musicians and magicians. The audience loved participating and singing along to many well-loved songs.

The winners of the talent show will be announced in Tuesday's assembly. A huge well done to everyone that took part from the performers to the Tech Team!

The Senior and Sixth Form pupils organised a cake sale and "splash the pupil" to raise money for Comic Relief. In addition to put a smile on everyone's faces the Sixth Formers danced around the campus and helped serve lunch in the canteen.



Prep Sports Round-up



Last Friday, we were lucky enough to take a mixed U11 football team, and the U11A netball team down to Exeter School for some great tournaments. Both teams worked hard throughout the afternoon with the girls performing well in defence and continuing to improve their match play. The football team, played their hearts out and left everything on the pitch according to Mr Bishop, scoring some great goals and defending fiercely!

On Monday, our U8 and 9 children enjoyed some lovely matches against Kings Hall. The girls had some really tight matches, but

showed how much they have learnt throughout the term, marking well, passing and shooting effectively. The boys also had some positive matches, the U8 team did particularly well, using space effectively and attacking with energy and enthusiasm. The U9 boys found their match more challenging however, they showed true sportsmanship.

Wednesday we played a number of exciting triangulars. Both the U10 girls and boys played confidently and dominated their matches. The boys, playing away against Perrott Hill and Wells and the girls at home against Exeter Cathedral and Wells. The U11 boys also played triangulars with some close matches against Perrott Hill and Wells where we lacked a little consistency in the A games but worked really hard in the B team matches which were end to end.



Amazing Birdhouse and Bug Hotel

The Prep School would really like to send a huge 'thank you' to Ffion's Grandfather who has so very kindly designed and made an amazing birdhouse and bug hotel for our playground. We are all so very grateful and will be taking great pleasure observing them as they fill with residents in the future months.





Science Discovery Day



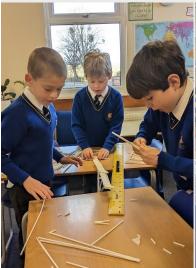
This week we have been celebrating British Science Week.

The theme for this year was 'Connections', on Tuesday the Pre-Prep and Prep pupils enjoyed an action packed, fact-filled Science Discovery Day. One of the highlights proved to be the visit from The Education Group who delivered a

fascinating virtual reality session that explored animals in their natural habitats and how they used their adaptations to connect to the surrounding environment.

The senior chemistry teachers delivered a hugely positive session to our Year 5 and 6 pupils, challenging them to create their very own batteries. Teamwork was a particular focus for the day and tasks such as bridge building, egg box drop and creating string telephones provided opportunity for the pupils to work cooperatively and with focus. Curious minds were in evidence during the Fantastic Fingerprint sessions when one Year 6 child asked Mrs Fox if our toes had a unique print, similar to that of our fingers. Undeterred by the question, Mrs Fox decided to take matters into her own hands and remove her socks and shoes to take toe print samples that she then compared with the children in order to answer the initial question.

A great day was had by all and a huge thank you must go to all of the Pre-Prep, Prep and Senior School staff who helped to make the day so memorable.













Year 2 trip to Taunton Museum

Year 2 had a fabulous morning at the museum learning about the history of Taunton's castle. They explored the castle and learnt about five key places that a knight would have visited including looking at the secret stone staircase. Role play was a huge success with the children dressing up as knights and princesses and setting up banquets whilst also protecting the kings and queens. A great morning of history.











Reception Outdoor Education

Reception have had a very exciting Outdoor School session this morning. They helped to build a fire and they cooked some fresh bread twists. These were enjoyed with hot chocolate at morning snack time. Then, the children made a shelter to keep them dry in case it started to rain. Miss Allport checked our shelter by pouring water on it luckily Reception had done a really good job and managed to stay dry!





Preparations and rehearsals for Moana are in full swing, the cast and set are looking fabulous! The pupils cannot wait to share what they have been working on with their parents and members of the community next Friday. It is not too late to book your tickets to attend!

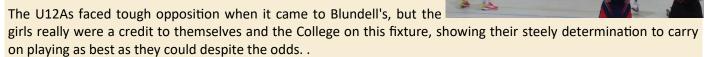


Senior School



Netball

This weekend the girls had a block fixture against Blundell's, which had some last-minute changes due to the weather. Another strong performance from the 1st VII on Saturday. They dominated the game early on and moved the ball nicely through the court. Jen and Osa worked well in the defensive D to turn over the ball. Pippa made a number of mid-court turnovers reading the ball well and timing her jumps. Blundell's made a good comeback in the 3rd quarter leaving just 2 goals between us. Queen's sealed the deal in the final quarter bringing home a win for the team.



Hockey

The U14A boys played the game of the season on Saturday coming out on the winning side against Exeter School. The boys worked hard and played some very exciting and attacking hockey. A great team performance all round.







Senior School

Equestrian update

Despite the weather our riders had a successful day at Chard Equestrian Centre. Francesca & Harriet both winning their classes. Harriet 1st 70cm and Francesca 1st in 90 and 1st & 2nd in the 100 (2 horses ridden).







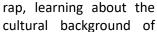


French Rap and National Identity Seminar

Last Monday, 3 Senior school students (Edie Y13, Mila Y12, Arthur Y11) attended a French seminar on "French rap and national identity" given by Professor Eleanor Hodgson, a former University of Exeter lecturer in French, hosted by Taunton School.

The event was open to all the local schools, to students currently studying French, French natives or anyone else interested. The interactive session was given in a mixture of French and English, at a level accessible to all. We listened to snippets of some key French





the rappers, as well as learning key French vocabulary and context around the subject.



It was a really interesting talk, and eye opening to see how profoundly French culture and national identity impacts French rap, and how many of the French rappers are socially committed in their lyrics to raising awareness about key social and political issues happening in France.

Senior School

Lucky recipients of Wild Alaska Salmon





We were delighted to be one of only 250 schools in the UK that received wild Alaska pink salmon, courtesy of the Food Teachers Centre and Alaska Seafood UK.

Queen's College was one of the lucky schools to receive some of the 10,000 salmon fillets that were sent out to schools! It's part of the 'Fish Heroes' project, which is an initiative that encourages young people to learn about, cook and taste fish. Pupils also learnt about the health benefits of fish in the diet, as well as aspects of food sustainability and food provenance.

Mr Mann, Head of Food and Nutrition said, "children in the UK

eat on average just 84g of fish products a week, of which only 21g is oily fish - way below the recommendation of two portions a week. It has been an amazing experience - from the delivery, cooking and tasting of Alaska pink salmon. Pupils have really enjoyed their time and have learnt many important high-level food preparation skills".

Mrs Barker, Food Teacher said she was, "thrilled that we have been selected to receive the wild salmon from Alaska. It means that our students can not only learn about wild fisheries and the different tastes, textures and usages but also cook with the fish themselves".

Pupils cooked Wild Alaska Salmon Burgers and Moroccan Style Alaska Salmon Fish Fingers.

You can find out more here.

The Crucible

Lit by candlelight, in the atmospheric and intimate setting of the Wyvern Hall.

Audiences built and built throughout the week for our hugely atmospheric production of 'The Crucible', performed in the Wyvern Hall by candlelight.

The word 'intense' was the most common response by audience members to the show which explores persecution and the personal risks to those who stand up against tyranny.

The Senior School cast, including Jack as John Proctor, Rosie as Elizabeth Proctor, Freya as Parris, 'Tasha as Reverend Hale, Emily as Governor Danforth, Millie as Mary Warren and Lily as Abigail Williams was joined by some brave middle school students, including Rebecca , Ella , Freya and Makanaka who played the afflicted girls under attack from witchcraft... or so they claimed.

This term the performing arts team has staged 'Mother Courage' and 'The Crucible': two landmark masterpieces of serious drama. Now we are looking forward to FUN: the 'Inside Out' music and dance variety show will be followed by 'Mary Poppins' and... GREASE IN A DAY at the end of next term!













Sixth Form

REP and Psychology Department





Last week saw the inaugural debate between the REP and Psychology department. They each entered a team to argue the motion; 'The Deliberate Act of Killing is Never Defensible'.

Both teams presented a well structure response, with REP arguing for the motion, whilst Psychology contesting it. REP was led by Amelia who opened with her teams definitions of the concepts 'deliberate, killing and defensible'. She was supported by Isla, Lily and Elizabeth. They made some excellent points which focused on philosophical contributions and emphasising the power of good over evil. This was countered by Psychology which was led by Emily, who was

supported by Charlotte, Polina and Leela, with links to psychological contributions from Freud and Bowlby.

The judging panel were really impressed by the level of understanding that each group brought to the motion and commented on how well prepared the students were. They mentioned that the teamwork was clearly evident and that each person spoke with passion, whilst relating to their various disciplines. After several questions from the

panel and the floor, the judges made the difficult decision on who presented the most persuasive argument. They expressed the view that it had been very difficult, with little between the two teams, but on the night Psychology just had the upper hand. Congratulations team Psychology!

Finally, we would like to thank Mrs Pawley and Mr Aldridge for agreeing to take on the difficult task of judging this event.



Sixth Form

DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) Conference



This Monday, Hazel and Falah attended the inaugural DEI (Diversity, equity & inclusion) conference at West Buckland School alongside Mrs Shearman and Mr Chislett.

Both pupils are members of the College's DEI group and have worked hard on a number of initiatives across the College.

It was a great day with the opportunity to listen to keynote speakers talking about Inclusion and Safeguarding as well as a great talk from Farah Nazeer, the CEO of Charity Women's Aid.

OQ Visit

Why Learning Languages Matters



Flo, who was Head Girl during her time at Queen's, learnt Spanish and French which she says was enough to equip her for an international career in market and sales for learning software company, CARTO. Flo explained that if it wasn't for her languages, she wouldn't have the intercultural awareness required for the job, and wouldn't be able to interact with customers and partners across the world (e.g. in Spain, Latin American and beyond).

During her visit, Flo delivered an interactive session with Year 9, who are currently making their options choices, about how languages enrich your life, both personally and professionally. She then spoke passionately to the whole Senior School in Chapel about the importance of languages.

Flo also helped the Sixth Form with their CVs and gave them career-related advice. Flo was truly inspirational and we are very grateful that she took the time to help us inform and enthuse our pupils.

Flo said, "Languages have really enriched my life, opening a lot of doors that otherwise wouldn't have been open to me with just English as my native language. Queen's was an incredible place to start my education - not just because of the academic component, but the co-curricular offering and ethos of the school. I left with friends for life and it was absolutely wonderful to return this week and see the great environment it continues to provide for so many young people starting their careers".

Queen's Unplugged

The Return of Queen's Unplugged - Fallon and Pippa Year 13



Friday 10 March was the return of Queen's Unplugged; an exceptional evening during which talent was displayed from across the whole College. The future is undoubtedly bright here at Queen's, as demonstrated by Prep school students Cora, Eva-Bella and Sophia who performed a choreographed rendition of 'Made you look' by Meghan Trainor, as well as Grace - another exceptional talent from our Prep school!

It is always fantastic to see new talent emerging through the younger end of the Senior school, too, with Millie, Mary-Tess, Lily and Ava all performing excellent solos. We were lucky enough to see some group performances this year, with a group of Year 13 girls coming together to perform in their last year here at Queen's, a group of our musical theatre students performing 'Seasons of Love' from Rent and an upbeat performance of Billy Joel's 'Scenes from an Italian Restaurant' by the teachers!

Thank you to everyone who not only helped us to run the event, but also showed their support on the evening. As it stands, we have raised just shy of £500 for St Margaret's Hospice which will undoubtedly go to a very good cause! **More photos and videos can be found on** <u>Flickr</u>.











News and Announcements

Key Dates	
Spring Concert	Friday 17 March 2023 19:00-22:00
Queen's College MUN	Saturday 18 March 2023
Prep School Musical: 'Moana' Rehearsal	Saturday 18 March 2023 10:00-12:00
Exmoor Challenge Training Walk	Sunday 19 March 2023 08:00-16:00
Bronze walk # 3	Sunday 19 March 2023 12:30-16:00
Choral Evensong at Taunton Minster (St Mary Magdalene)	Sunday 19 March 2023 17:00-20:00
Trinity Music Exams	Monday 20 - Tuesday 21 March 2023
Nursery School Parents consultations week	Starting Tuesday 21 March 2023
Bring your Parent to Nursery School week	Starting Tuesday 21 March 2023
Scholars Event: Years 9 and 10 in English and Drama	Tuesday 21 March 2023
Cardiff WWC Alps Training	Tuesday 21 March 2023
Informal & GCSE Performance Concert	Wednesday 22 March 2023 19:00-21:00
Parents' Coffee	Thursday 23 March 2023 08:15-09:15
Prep School Musical: 'Moana' Dress Rehearsal	Thursday 23 March 2023 13:00
Scholars Event: Years 7 and 8 in Computing	Thursday 23 March
Brain Day	Friday 24 March 2023
AMSP Maths Feast Challenge (Year 10)	Friday 24 March 2023
Silver DofE Practice Expedition	Friday 24 March 2023
Pre-Prep & Prep School to watch 'Moana'	Friday 24 March 2023 10:00
Prep School Play: 'Moana' Matinee	Friday 24 March 2023 10:00
Winter Bouldering League	Friday 24 March 2023 15:00- 19:30
Scholars Event: Years 10 and 11 in Chemistry	Friday 24 March 2023 16:30- 17:30
Ten Tors Departure from school	Friday 24 March 2023 17:00
Prep School Musical: 'Moana' Evening Performance	Friday 24 March 2023 18:30

Our online whole school calendar can be found here.

Our sports portal can be accessed here.

Experience a traditional Iftar buffet at Queen's this Ramadan 27 March 19:25



Embrace the spirit of Ramadan with a free Iftar Buffet at Queen's College. When the sun sets, head to the Queen's College Kitchen Garden Restaurant to tuck into a delicious free iftar buffet. The holy month of Ramadan sees two billion Muslims around the world fast from dawn to sunset. Each day, once the sun goes down, they break their fast with an evening meal called Iftar.

You can expect a tempting spread featuring international cuisine and traditional Arabic dishes at our traditional buffet will take place from 19:25 on Monday 27 March. So join us and break fast with family and friends and enjoy wholesome food at this open, inclusive, and engaging buffet experience.

News and Announcements

Upcoming Parent Social Events



Parents' Coffee Mornings This Term

Thursday 23 March 8:15-9:00am (Easter Theme)

These are very much relaxed events and a chance to catch up or make new friends. Please come to the main reception office in the Senior School and we will show you through to the Dining Hall where this is hosted

Other Social Events

Summer Family Event - Saturday 13 May

Trull Tennis Club - Half Term Camps

5-9 and 10+ age groups every day. Lunch & Drink needed

To book please contact Hannah: 07866 393846 or wannynoonah@hotmail.com

We have plenty of spare rackets. Welcome to all levels!

Led by our Level 4 Senior Club Coach Jon Warren - Fully licensed.



Can you help?

Our fabulous Art department have received the generous offer of a potter's wheel which is looking for a new home. The potter's wheel is currently in Bruton and we are hoping someone may be able to collect it for us.

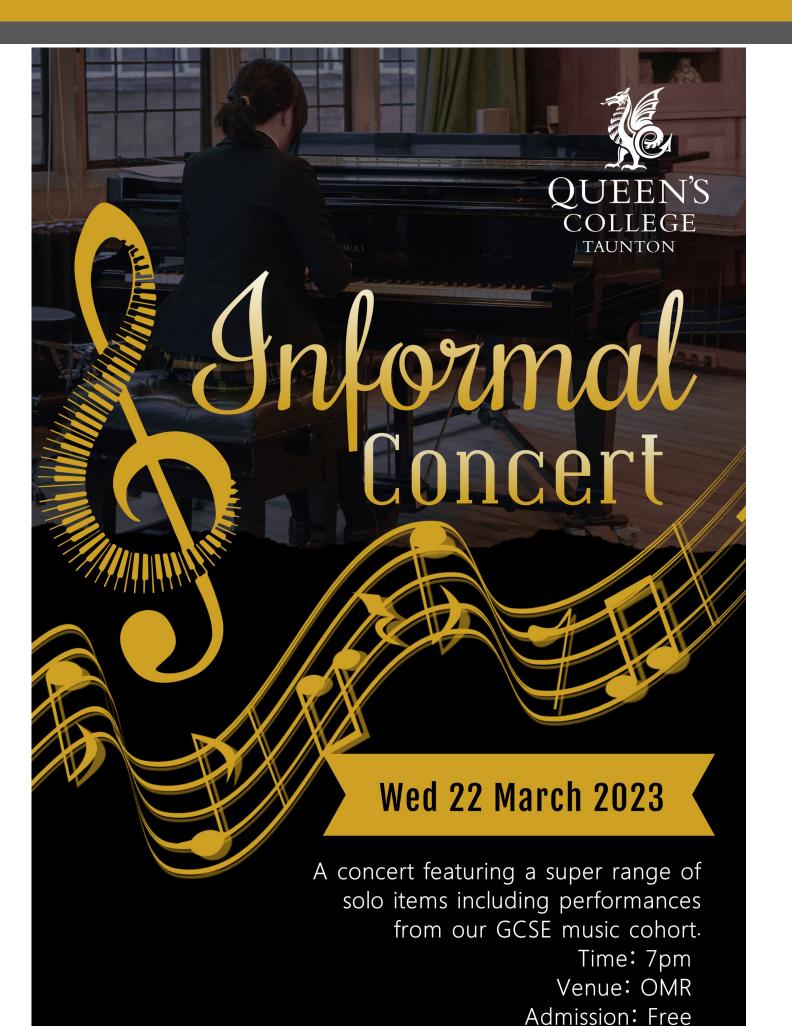
If you are able to assist with pick-up and delivery to school, at a time to suit you, we would be extremely grateful. Please contact Sandra Spall







7pm in the Queen's Hall





Friday 24 March 2023



Book Now! bit.ly/3Doa6VF



This visually spectacular show will be performed by our Prep school Year 5 and 6 students in a large cast who are all onstage throughout the whole performance.

Moana is the daughter of Tui, the Village Chief; her destiny seems mapped out for her, but she yearns for a life beyond the nautical charts. Setting off on a journey to right the wrongs of her ancestors, Moana must face Gods, Demi-Gods and a host of strange creatures, and find her place in the world.



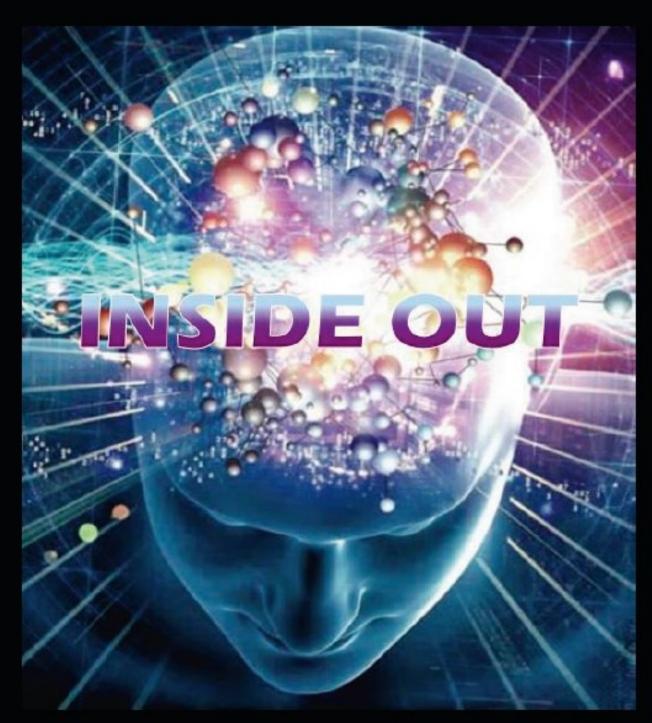
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- A fabulous day for young musicians up to 18 and from Grade 3 upwards
 - A fun day of sectional rehearsals led by professionals

 Wind and the base of the second sections and the second sections are second sections.
- Featuring sectional rehearsals with specialist music teachers and leads from the Southern Sinfonia and their Artist Director, Simon Chalk
 - Concert to end the day for all family and friends
 - Completely free, including brunch and refreshments



We are delighted that Simon Chalk, an outstanding conductor of international standing and Artistic Director of the Southern Sinfonia, will be joining us for the Orchestral Festival.

Simon has conducted orchestras in over 70 countries, across a plethora of musical genres, to tens of thousands of concert goers. He has appeared at many of the world's most iconic venues, from the Royal Albert Hall and Sydney Opera House to the O2 in London and Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas to name but a few, working alongside some of the finest soloists including Peter Donohoe, Eugen Indjic, Nicholas Daniel, Catrin Finch, Craig Ogden as well as musicians from many other musical styles including Il Divo, Lea Salonga, Alfie Boe, Kathryn Jenkins, Russell Watson, Alice Cooper, Roger Daltrey, Barry Manilow and Johnny Mathis.



A JOURNEY THROUGH THE MIND IN MUSIC & DANCE

27 - 28 April 23

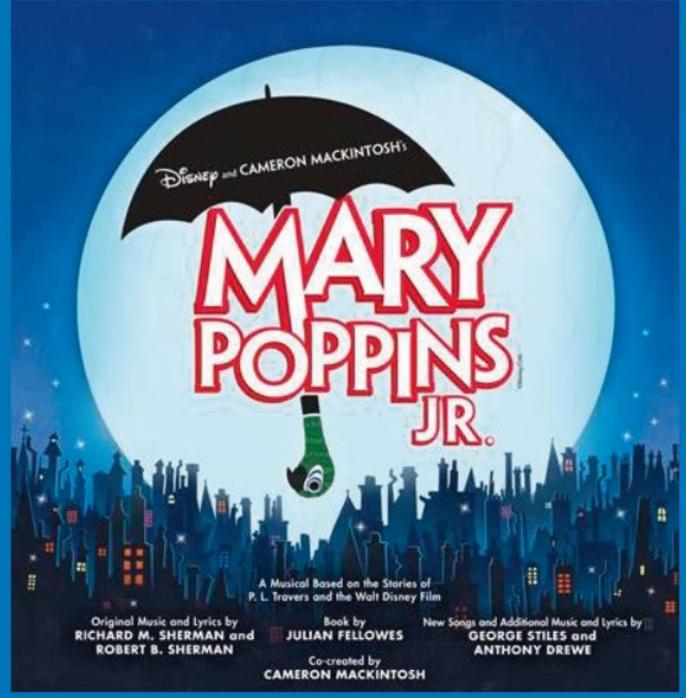
Dance is thriving at Queen's College, and last year over 80 students of all ages came together for the incredible dance and music show, Zodiac.

Inside Out is another exciting fusion of all forms of music and dance, including ballet, contemporary and hip hop alongside a wide variety of instrumental solos. Inspired by the popular Pixar movie, the show melds many styles to explore the human mind and our complex and evolving emotions.

A huge cast of dancers, singers and instrumentalists invite you to join them on a memorable adventure!







TAKE FLIGHT INTO MUSICAL HEAVEN

19 – 21 May 23

What can we say? It's one of the most delightful and eternal pleasures of every childhood! **Mary Poppins** features all the much-loved Supercalifragilstic songs, such as Jolly Holiday and Step in Time, plus new classics such as Practically Perfect and Anything Can Happen, this show will have you dancing on air!

The multiple Award-winning show is packed full of magic and charm, and our Key Stage 3 students are stepping up to the challenge to create an energy-packed and eye-popping spectacle that truly appeals to the whole family. Mary Poppins advises: early booking is a very good idea for this show!





