

BULLETIN

Queen's College Whole School Newsletter

28 April 2023

The Summer Term Is Well Underway



Mr Julian Noad - Head of College



The first full week of term draws to a close, with the excitement of a fabulous dance show - details of this will be shared in full next week. I was fortunate

to be able to see last night's (Thursday's) amazing show. Please, take the chance tonight if you cantickets here for a 7pm start.

It has also been wonderful to see our twenty new pupils settling in across the school, boarding and day, and all so very much at home. With Year 5 and 6 personal parent tours of the senior school ongoing (sign up if you have not already) and another busy open

morning (with fifty families signed up) on Monday, there is much excitement for new recruits. This reminds me to remind you that Monday is a working school day and to please help ensure that our pupils are in school looking super smart. Also, if you know of families who might be interested in Queen's, please spread the word - Monday's holiday for some is a great opportunity for a look around; walk-in visitors will not be turned away.

I also take the opportunity to celebrate the publication of our recent <u>Good Schools Guide report</u> which concludes with: "A shining gem of a school offering an impressively all round education with the perfect balance of

on and off curriculum opportunities, gentle and kind pastoral care, a grounded close knit community and a fabulous setting. I think that's us. Thank you, GSG!"

Looking further ahead, to next weekend, the Coronation Bank Holiday, when we will be doing our bit of celebrating. On Friday (5 May) we will be encouraging all pupils to enhance their uniform with red, white, or blue accessories - dig out those Union Jack ties or socks - in preparation for a whole College picnic party in front of School House at 3pm. On Saturday (6 May) there will be no matches or other activities and on Monday (8 May) there will be no school. The boarders will be busy with many activities and some











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outdoor ed activities will be on the go. Sport this weekend includes athletics at Yeovil and Blundell's, cricket versus Wellington and West Buckland, internal matches for our tennis players, and grass roots horse-riding event. The weather has not been kind to our sportsmen and sportswomen but looks set to be perfect for this year's Ten Tors competition on Dartmoor this weekend. We have three teams entered, walking and camping for a 35 or 45 mile trail up and down the hills. I look forward to being in Okehampton on Sunday to cheer them over the finishing line. We also have a bronze Duke of Edinburgh team out training.

Prefect appointments took centre stage for me this week. Further details are elsewhere in this Bulletin, I am very much looking forward to working with them.

They have big shoes to fill after Pippa, Charlie and their team have done such a magnificent job this year.

I flag two dates for the diary. Firstly, we have our next Parent Forum on Wednesday, 3 May, at 8.15am. After drop off, just pop along to senior school reception and bring any questions or concerns with you. I will be all yours...

Secondly, looking a little further, dare I mention Speech Day and the Summer Ball? These events are open to all members of our community. Please do join us for these important and fun celebrations. For now, just save the date: Thursday 6 July. Invitations for both will arrive soon.

For the Summer Ball, which was an enormous success last year, we phase the ticket release: Year 13

and their parents will get first dibs from Friday 12 May, with the rest of the Queen's community welcome to purchase from Friday 19 May. Tickets will be available to purchase online with the web address to be advised on the 'go live' date. Senior school Speech Day will be on Thursday 6 July (with the Prep speeches on the day before, Wednesday 5 July). Tickets for speech days will also be available online this year.

I wish you a terrific weekend,

Julian

Mr Henry Matthews - Head of Prep



Welcome back to what has been a fantastic start to the summer term, even if the weather hasn't been what we had hoped for!

Over the past two weeks in the Prep School, we have seen some fantastic events and activities take place and I have been pleased with how the pupils have returned to start the final term of the year. Lessons have been purposeful and many children have already been popping into the office to share their successes in class over the last few days.

One of the highlights of the past two weeks was the local area walk around Trull for our Year 3 children. It was fantastic to see them exploring and discovering their local community while learning about the history and geography of the area. They showed great curiosity and enthusiasm throughout the trip and were commended by members of the public for their behaviour and politeness. Year 3 also had a busy time last Saturday when taking part in an offsite climbing activity. I was pleased to see so many children attend and I know the outdoor ed staff were impressed with their effort and enthusiasm.

This week, we were also treated to an incredible show, Inside Out, by our talented students. Tickets are still available for tonight's performance

which can be booked here. In performances yesterday's performers showcased a range of styles and techniques in dance, speech and music. It was truly impressive to see the hard work and dedication that our students put into their performances and I was even more impressed to see so many pupils from the Prep School step up to perform. It has been a real Queen's event displaying the incredible range of talent, skills and aspiration in the school.

Despite the unpredictable weather, our cricket teams have been putting in some excellent performances in their opening matches. Unfortunately, a few have been rained off, but we are hopeful for some good weather in the coming weeks. This weekend our U11/10A and B girls take on West Buckland at home and despite the weather forecast, the plan is for these matches to go ahead on the astroturf.

As we look ahead, I would like to remind you that Open Day is coming up on Monday. This is a normal school day for our pupils and we look forward to sharing the wonderful work that goes on at Queen's with many prospective

families. There are still a few spaces left, so if you know anyone who would like to pop along please encourage them to do so. Vanessa will be happy to answer any questions and can be contacted via prepadmissions@queenscollege.org

Finally, a look ahead to the end of term and a quick save the date notice for Speech Day and the ball. Prep School Speech Day will take place on Wednesday 5 July and will be a fantastic celebration of all that has been achieved this year. The annual ball will be held on Thursday 6 July and tickets will go on sale in the coming weeks. Keep your eye out for the email with booking information. These are always special occasions, and we are looking forward to celebrating the successes and achievements of our students with you.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and involvement in our school community. We are proud of the hard work and commitment shown by our students, and we appreciate your partnership in helping them to achieve their goals.

I wish you all a pleasant weekend.

Henry

Inside Out

Inside Out





Inside Out is a journey through our emotions expressed in a diverse range of performances of dance, music and speech. The children have worked extremely hard on all their pieces for the show and after a successful dress rehearsal last weekend, we are all really excited to watch the pupils shine.

There are a variety of dance styles within the show including ballet, modern, tap, contemporary and hip-hop; the children attend these dance classes each week here at Queen's College. A huge thanks to everyone who has been involved, especially the parents who are managing hair and make-up this year. It really is going to be a show to remember!

For those that have not seen the show yet, we hope you enjoy it. We look forward to bringing you a full report and brilliant photographs next week. In the meantime you can view the trailer for the show here!

Nursery Round-up

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

The summer term has got off to a busy start in the Nursery School as the children celebrated Eid with a mehndi pattern colouring activity, pencil control practice and lots of discussion around the festival of Eid Mubarak.

In kitchen garden club the children planted sunflower seeds and enjoyed talking about what seeds need in order to make them grow. The seeds are now being watched daily for signs of germination as we eagerly wait for Spring to arrive to see how big they will grow. The first activity for this term's main topic on pirates and the sea was sand names where the children were encouraged to write their own name with glue which they then covered with coloured sand to make sand names.







Prep Sports Round-up

Well, the British weather has been typically unpredictable this week, switching from ideal cricket weather with beautiful sunshine to hail storms and torrential rain reminiscent of a mid winter rugby or hockey lesson!

To protect our waterlogged pitches from being ruined in the first week of term, we were unable to play at home on Wednesday, however we did manage to get away with U10 A and B boys teams to Blundell's to play the first match of the season. The boys did well and learnt a lot against some great batting by the opposition.



Although our matches have been limited, we have had a number of great training sessions with all the Prep year groups. It has been fantastic to see how much has been retained from last season by our Year 5 and 6 pupils. Year 3 and 4 have shown their normal levels of enthusiasm and excitement, with some children showing some promising bowling and batting skills already. We have a busy couple of weeks coming up with not just cricket for Year 5 and 6, but a Saturday match for the Year 3 and 4 children at Wells Cathedral, a girls rugby day at Westonbirt School and a trip to watch Team Bath Netball!

House Swimming Gala

During the House Swimming Gala, 36 races were held across the afternoon, including relays and everyone raced really well. Parents thoroughly enjoyed spectating, thank you supporting the pupils.

Congratulations to Sheldon and Livi for achieving "overall winner of the House Swimming Gala 2023".





Equestrian



Imogen in Year 3 won her class at the weekend, meaning her and her pony will qualify for the pony club championships in August.

It is great to see our young equestrian members out at competitions.

Well done Imogen!

Year 3 Climbing

Year 3 enjoyed a great afternoon's climbing at Rock & Rapid climbing centre in South Molton on Saturday afternoon. The children were all incredibly enthusiastic and supportive of each other. The trip was the culmination of Year 3's half term of climbing in Outdoor Education lessons where the children have been focussing on trusting one another and developing communication skills as well as a wide range of climbing techniques. It was a wonderful afternoon and everyone climbed very well.



Year 2 Outdoor Education

Year 2 have been exploring the great outdoors in their Outdoor Education lessons this week. As part of their Science work, they have been learning about seed dispersal and enjoyed searching for a variety of seeds within the Pre-Prep outdoor space and learning about how they spread from one place to another. Fire building has been a highlight of the week when they learnt about what a fire needs to burn successfully. Toasting marshmallows was enjoyed by all!



Prep Cleaning Up Crew

The children in Year 2 completed an English unit in the Spring term, focussing on cleaning up our oceans.

Following on from this, many of them said that they would like to start a 'Clean Up Crew' at school. The club has proved very popular with Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils.



Growing Our Own Food For World Earth Day



The World Earth Day 2023 theme is "invest in our planet", and we think that perfectly captures our ethos at Queen's College. Our pupils growing their own food at school not only reduces carbon emissions by the absorption of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, but growing your own food also reduces carbon emissions through lowering all our Food Miles.

As we continue to grow more of our own food at Queen's, we have also thought about the environmental impact of reducing our water consumption

and we use recycled rainwater that is collected off the roof of the classroom building next to the pupil's Kitchen Garden. To read the full story visit our <u>website</u>.





It has been wonderful to welcome back our Year 6 pupils for what is their last term in the Prep School! We have welcomed three new pupils who seem settled already, and put our order in for the 'Class of 23' hoodies!

Year 6 have been studying Shakespeare. The children are re-enacting the witches scene from the scottish play, Macbeth. In the pictures, the children are standing over the bubbling cauldron and chanting "Double, Double, toil and trouble, fire burn, and cauldron bubble!

On Thursday 6LG led an informative assembly about resilience. The pupils explained to the school what the word resilience means and that

many characters from films could be described as resilient as despite facing a number of challenges they kept going and never given up. Examples such as Harry Potter, Moana and Matilda were given. The class then went on to explain that every day we all have things that may knock us back, make us feel sad or annoyed and how we react to these negative experiences shows how resilient we all are. Finally, 6LG gave the school ideas on how to improve their levels of resilience with a series of tools that would help them feel better, one of which was to ask for help or accept support when you need it.

We are looking forward to a number of move up activities and meetings this term, starting with an assembly by Mrs Spall and some of the current Year 7 in a couple of weeks.

Senior School

Sports Report



What a week! Perhaps the wettest start to the Summer term we have experienced for a long time. With cricket matches, both home and away having to be postponed due to the weather or the pitch conditions, it has been a frustrating start for our cricket players this week. Last weekend saw our U12/13 girls and our U14/15 boys and girls having some preparation time in the nets whilst other matches had to be cancelled. Our athletics team managed to dodge the weather and attended their first open meeting, hosted by King's

College, at The Castle School track. With many athletes competing for the first time of the season, we achieved some great team event results in the 4x100 relay and the mixed medley relay, not to mention some fantastic personal achievements in the shot put, javelin, high jump and hurdles.

The annual Senior House Cross-Country finally took place last week following previous cancellations due to poor weather! This popular Queen's tradition is a much anticipated event, where Barnicott, French, Ray and Woolmer Houses all compete for finishing positions. The course takes advantage of our wonderful, local surroundings, and we even bumped into an Old Queenian on the way round, who after commenting on how polite our students were, stopped to share his own fond memories of his time at Queen's - and of running the same route! To read the full match report including some match reports about the girls cricket at Wellington School click here.



Rock Climbing



Pupils in years 7-13 enjoyed a day at the crag last Sunday.

This was the first outdoor climbing trip since winter and took place at Uphill Quarry.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed climbing on real rock, despite slightly chilly, windy conditions.

GCSE Drama

Year 11 completed their final practical assessment for GCSE Drama on Monday evening. This is an important assessment and watched by an external examiner.

There were 3 groups and all performed very different scripts. Whilst we won't know their grades until the summer, Miss Ridley was really pleased with all of the performances and extremely proud of all of them.

Well done everyone!



Senior School

French Trip By Bea in Year 8



In the first week of the Easter holidays, a group of pupils studying French in year 7, 8 and 10, enjoyed an incredible trip to Normandy, France. This was a great opportunity to continue our classroom learning whilst immersing ourselves in French culture. We were split into small groups, with a mixture of all years per group - allowing us to form new friendships that wouldn't have necessarily formed in everyday school life. We participated in all kinds of activities such as bread-making, fencing and the animal farm. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed these activities with even the teachers getting involved - special mention to Mrs Ross for her phenomenal effort in the assault course.

In the evening, there was an extensive activity programme for us including a treasure hunt and French fancy dress. A pupil favourite was our amazing talent show where a range of acts were performed including dance, mime and extracts from Mary Poppins and Titanic.

Many pupils formed special bonds with the French staff, overcoming the language barrier. They were energetic and lively, making the experience more enjoyable for us. One staff member even taught us how to perform Mary Poppins in French. We were also fortunate to travel to places outside the chateau including a goat farm, supermarket and Mont Saint Michel. This was enjoyed despite the awful weather. All these activities were very fun but left all pupils (and staff) very tired by the end of the trip. Reflecting on the trip now, it was an unforgettable



"Je pense que tout le monde a aimé le mont Saint-Michel même si le temps n'était pas bon. Le marché a aussi du être une bonne expérience : devoir parler français avec les commerçants, tout simplement voir un marché français Les animateurs du château étaient très accueillants et les activités amusantes.

Bref, c'était un bon séjour."

- Max Year 7

Sixth Form



Prefects are the glue that holds many great schools together. The accolade of 'prefect' is rightly and highly prized, not because it bestows any great privilege or benefit, but rather that one gets the chance to give back to one's school in the way that role models before have done.

At Queen's, the system has evolved over time. Where once prefects might have been the policemen of the school, they now see their role to support their younger peers. They still have responsibility for organising many key events, be it lunch queues, assemblies, or tours, but importantly now serve to channel the pupil voice.

Importantly, the House system is now entirely pupil-led and the Heads of Houses take real responsibility for their House members, each guiding and addressing one quarter of the senior school.

I was delighted that this year so many showed interest in assuming this responsibility. It means a lot to me and to the School that our pupils are so keen to give something back to their community.

The process was rigorous. There were nominations from current prefects and staff, letters of application and short video submissions. All applicants had periods of shadowing this year's prefects, and finally underwent an interview with a Deputy Head and the Head of College.

It goes without saying that some pupils will be disappointed. I wish it could be otherwise. For some, this might be the first ever such knock-back. No pupil, successfully appointed as prefect or not, is a failure. All of our pupils are fabulous. Those selected for prefectship have been so only by certain measures. Those who accept disappointment with good grace and magnanimity show that they have learnt a very important life-lesson.

That prefectship is so valued is hugely important to me. However, prefectship is not the be all and end all. There are manifold alternative leadership opportunities at Queen's. It will also be the case that further prefect ties will remain in my study, ready for award should it be shown to me during the autumn term that someone has stepped up in the face of this original disappointment. We must also remember that it is not a personal statement containing the word 'prefect' but instead good grades that open the doors to university and job interviews. Indeed, academic endeavour will be the primary focus of all of our attention.

The new 2023 team of 'Prefects Elect' (the current Year 13 prefects still hold their status until the end of the year) offer a broad range of skills, experience, and personal traits. They will, I am certain, grow their roles and serve their school magnificently. I thank them all, in advance.

Prefects Team 2023-2024

Heads of School

Emily H (R) Tadhg M (B)

Prefects [with additional roles]

Jeffrey C (R)

Emily D (R)

Emily D (B)

Rosie E(W)

Sevin F (B) [Head of House]

Harry F(W) [Deputy Head of School]

Franky G(F) [Head of House]

Millie G (W)

Jonty L(W) [Head of House]

Amelia M (W) [Deputy Head of School]

Freya R (W)

Joel S (R) [Head of House]

Sixth Form

Millie Year 12 Off To The West End!



Staff and pupils are over the moon that it has been announced that Year 12 pupil Millie will be sharing the West End stage with music legend Michael Ball in the revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical, Aspects of Love at London's Lyric Theatre.

Millie, who joined Queen's College in Year 7 with a Performing Arts scholarship has been chosen to play the role of young Jenny. The production, directed by Jonathan Kent and with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, lyrics by Don Black and Charles Hart, and based on the novel by David Garnett, will tell the story of Rose Vibert, a beautiful actress who finds herself homeless and penniless after her breakthrough play closes early in post-war France.

Michael made his West End debut when Cameron Mackintosh cast him as Marius Pontmercy in the original London production of Les Misérables 35 years ago.

To read the full story visit our website.

Ted Year 13

Congratulations to Ted in Year 13! During the Easter break, he played for The England Lambs Rugby Senior XV team against The England Deaf Rugby Team on The Close, Rugby School as part of their rugby bicentennial celebrations!

There were 3 matches in total: Lords and Commons vs Rugby District Veterans, Ampthill 1881 vs Rugby Club Dignois from France and England Deaf Rugby Union vs The England Lambs. It was a fantastic match and although England Deaf were a much bigger team The Lambs team lived up to their motto of fast and free and won 64-12.

Ted said, "It was an amazing experience to be part of such a dynamic team at such an iconic venue"



Revision



Our Sixth Form A Level students have recently attended a number of Grade Booster Workshops to support their studies. This includes the Year 13 Business Studies, Psychology and Sociology Revision Conferences, all of which took place this week at the Vue Cinema at Cribbs Causeway, Bristol.

These booster workshops are delivered by specialists in their field, and offer revision and exam technique advice. They are arranged to help our students feel even more confident for their exams, in addition to support offered here at Queen's.

Boarders' Corner

Flip Out

This Sunday we took all of our boarders in Years 8-10 to Flip Out in Wellington.

It was good to get off-site with our new boarders who enjoyed getting to know the other boarders. Well done to all of our new boarders who have had a busy week and settled well into school life.







News and Announcements

Puppies!

Last Friday, some of our Sixth Form students had the time of their lives cuddling these incredibly cute puppies.

Mr and Mrs Cooling's dog Scout and Mr and Mrs Wilde's dog Ruga became the proud parents of 11 Labrador puppies a few months ago.

Over the past few weeks the puppies have brought joy and smiles to pupils, boarders and staff across the campus, sadly, we had to say goodbye to these playful pups, as last weekend they went to their forever homes.



News and Announcements

| Key Dates | |
|--|--------------------|
| Ten Tors | 28-30 April |
| British Fencing 2023 British Youth Championships | 29 April —01 May |
| Open Morning | 01 May |
| Trip to OQ kayaking film screening event in Exeter | 02 May |
| Parent Forum | 03 May 08:15-09:15 |
| Year 8 Geography Trip - Eden Project | 04 May |
| Year 2 Outdoor School off-site visit | 04 May |
| Highgrove Nursery Transition Visit | 05 May |
| Reception step up session | 05 May |

Our online whole school calendar can be found here. Our sports portal can be accessed here.

BYOD Device Scheme

Easy4U have set up a web shop to offer rent or purchase options on suitable devices for our transition to Bring Your Own Device. They offer a monthly cost on a selection of Chromebooks, Windows laptops and Macbook hardware allowing you to spread the cost of a new device over two to five years depending on the device you opt for. Their options also include support and damage/theft cover to give you additional peace of mind.

More information can be found here.

The link to the offers is here



News and Announcements







May Half Term & Summer Holiday Camps For Students Aged 7-16

Queen's College is delighted to be partnering with Academic Camp, an experienced team of professionals who are passionate about offering inspiring and challenging academic camps for adventurers, explorers and engagers aged 7-16.

- sports
- debating
- . Be a Leader (CPD accredited)
- drama
- adventure
- · applied maths
- robotics
- STEM
- environmental impact
- · yoga and well-being
- · food and nutrition
- · arts and design and more

Camps/Masterclasses run at Queen's from Monday to Thursday. On Fridays we run trips (including to London, Thorpe Park and surfing in Devon)

29th May to 2nd June 2023 17th July to 25th August 2023

Day: £40 a day including lunch (£20 half-day) Boarding: £125 per night

Discounts available when booking 12+ days





We have lots of exciting summer courses and ultimate activity camp sessions available throughout the summer holidays (17 July to 25 August).

For more information or to book a session visit our website.

Uniform News

Uniform News



Following feedback from parents over a long period, as well as ongoing issues around supply, cost and quality, we are pleased to share with you that we have appointed a new uniform supplier.

There are no major changes to the uniform, just the supplier. Our new supplier, 'School Colours', has been appointed on the basis of their quality, value and service levels - we are confident that you will see an improvement in all areas.

You will soon have access to a link, enabling you to purchase online directly from the supplier. In the meantime, all orders and uniform related enquiries need to be sent to Rebecca Mockridge ram@queenscollege.org.uk please. Rebecca is based in the senior school reception area. Samples of uniform items in almost every size are available for pupils to try on before ordering, so please do book in with Rebecca if you'd like to make use of this service.

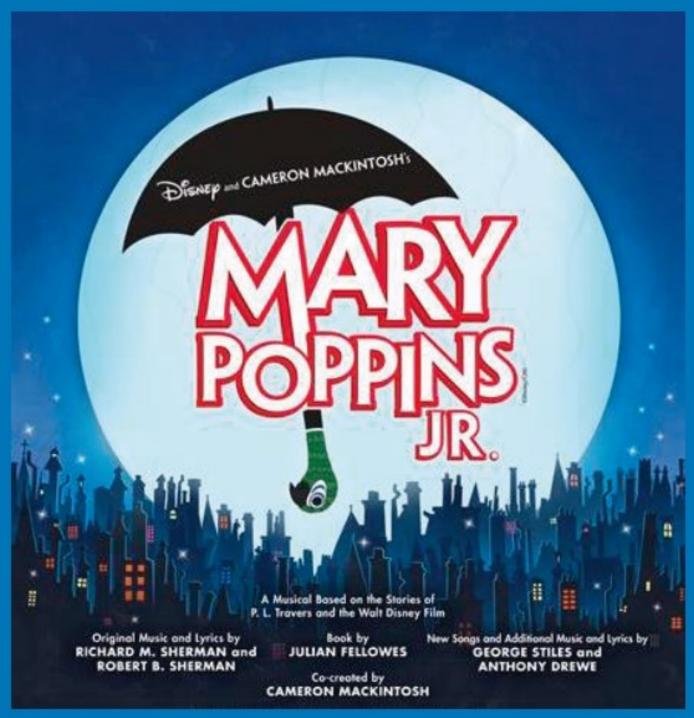
In the process of changing our uniform supplier, we have streamlined the range a little to reduce the number of items required, which we hope will reduce confusion as well as cost.

Whilst we are not changing the uniform, please note that with effect from September 2025 we are upgrading the blazers. All blazers, both fitted (currently black) and standard (currently grey), will be produced using the same (new) fabric, although there are differences between them in terms of style and trim.

The new fabric is harder-wearing and better quality, so blazers should remain smarter for longer. The price will not be in excess of the current cost of a blazer, but it will represent much better value in terms of longevity. The new blazers will be available to purchase and can be worn from September 2023. All pupils will be required to wear the new styles from September 2025. Either blazer (current or new) will be acceptable attire for the next two years.

Currently held stock from our former supplier will be available to purchase at a series of uniform sales throughout this term. Dates will be confirmed shortly and shared with you. **This stock will all be discounted by 25**% and you will also be able to see the new blazers, which will be on display for your interest.

As we transition from one supplier to another, we are grateful for your support and patience.



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!







The Head of College, Mr Julian Noad, and Head of Prep School, Mr Henry Matthews, warmly invite you to attend the Pre-Prep to Sixth Form

OPEN MORNING

Monday 01 May 2023 | 09:00-12:30

Register your interest via our website or contact our Admissions team.

01823 340830 admissions@queenscollege.org.uk (Year 7-13)

01823 278928 prepadmissions@queenscollege.org.uk (Reception-Year 6) www.queenscollege.org.uk

News and Announcements

Save the Dates!





Save the Dates

Speech Days

Celebrate with us!

05 July 2023 11:00am

06 July 2023 10:30am

