

### BULLETIN

**Queen's College Whole School Newsletter** 

05 May 2023



### "God Save Our Gracious King"



### Mr Julian Noad - Head of College



Last weekend seems a long time ago but the sense of accomplishment and joy to be found at the finish line of 'Ten Tors' is never easily

forgotten. In this event, 2500 young people from youth groups and schools all over the South West, walked 35, 45, or even 55 miles over at least ten significant hills carrying all that they need for 36 hours. There were blisters, tears and also great big smiles on show. Not all teams finished with a full cohort but I was delighted to see our three teams finish as six in full. Further reports will be elsewhere in this bulletin, but well done and thank you

to all, including the staff who camped out also to make it all happen safely.

Ten Tors also meant that we had a few limping tour guides for Monday's Open Morning when we saw terrific numbers and fantastic interest in both Prep and senior schools. The positive feedback from all our visitors was as ever superb to hear.

Further feedback came from this week's Parent Forum, which covered everything from co-curricular clashes to food, but also road safety and staff changes. I hope that all present welcomed the clarity I was able to share and the reassurance that things would be addressed. If you have a concern, however minor, the next

Senior School Parent Forum is scheduled for Wednesday 14 June. Of course, if you need support sooner, my door is always open and the inbox is ever receptive.

On the discussion of staffing, I have promised to share details within a wider 2023/24 developments document but, with some things not quite resolved, this is still incomplete. I can, for now, share the following pieces of news.

We look forward to welcoming Emily Chanter as Assistant Head (sixth form). Emily is currently a pastoral lead at Cullompton School; she will be our 'Head of Sixth form' and look after our 'Futures' (careers) programme.









### "God Save Our Gracious King"

### Mr Julian Noad - Head of College

We have been without a Chaplain for some time and I am delighted that local minister Richard Kelley will be joining us in September. Into the Director of Sports role comes Tom Bell, formerly Director of Sport at Harrow, Bangkok and more recently West Buckland. He is full of energy and has great vision for sport at Queen's. Molly Simpson joins the PE team also, currently teaching at Colyton Grammar, and with Team Bath netball experience. Lastly, for now, we have appointed a fabulous couple, Henry and Ali Burlingham to take on the Houseparent role for Cotlake. Henry is an experienced teacher and Assistant Head at QEH in Bristol.

The public exams season has begun, with practical, oral, and listening assessments.

There is fun elsewhere, with Year 8 visiting the Eden Project in Cornwall. This afternoon, we look forward to our small Coronation Celebration, with cupcakes, drinks, a rendition of the National Anthem, commemorative pin badge for all, on House lawn (weather permitting). I am sure you don't need reminding that Monday is a bank holiday, with the school closed except to boarders who will have a number of exciting activities including onsite camping for Cotlake.

Two dates for your diary. Parents' Coffee is for the whole College parent body and the next one will be on Wednesday (10 May), 8.15-9.30am, in the main dining hall.

Just come to main reception after pick up and we can direct you. And then on Saturday (13 May) our QCC is hosting a 'summer family social', next Saturday, 13 May, 4-6pm, on the grass by the Sixth form centre. This is a chance for families to get to know one another and is for all ages across the College. There will be a barbecue, an ice cream van, an inflatable, a scavenger hunt, and drinks; bring along a picnic rug and your own picnic if you wish.

For now, as I don my red, white, and blue accessories in preparation for our tea party, I wish you a fabulous coronation weekend, whatever that may bring for you. Long live the King.

Yours,

Julian

# Prep School

#### Mr Henry Matthews - Head of Prep



As we approach the end of this exciting week, I write today with reflections on the events that have taken place and provide a glimpse of what is to come as we hit the midpoint of this half term.

It has been a thrilling week for cricket lovers at Queen's, with the fixtures against Wells on Wednesday, with the final few balls deciding the matches. Those who watched our home matches were

treated to some excellent play in the spring sunshine as the Lower was filled with plenty of children enjoying the sport. Well done to all of the children who participated and we look forward to seeing their progress in future matches.

#### Mr Henry Matthews - Head of Prep



Today we celebrated the King's coronation with tea party on lawn with pupils accessorising their uniform in red, white and blue. The cake was delicious and it has been an excellent opportunity for the children to learn about the role of the new King ahead of the bank holiday weekend.

Our Year 6 students had a productive meeting this week, where they looked ahead to their upcoming trip to the Ardèche. It was a chance for them to ask questions, alongside parents and find out more about what they can expect on the trip in July. We are sure they will have a fantastic time and create memories that will last a lifetime, I am already regretting not booking myself on this one!

Year 2 children also had an exciting week, with a trip out for their outdoor education lesson. They had the opportunity to explore nature and develop their skills, an excellent opportunity to learn outside of the classroom.

We also celebrated many children who achieved their bronze awards in assembly this week.

Each week the pile of certificates grows and I have also been pleased to announce our first

ever Pre-Prep award winners since the introduction of the new house system. To achieve the bronze award is a fantastic accomplishment, and it is great to see so many proud badge wearers around the school.

Looking ahead to next week, we are excited to announce that the book fair will be arriving on Tuesday. The fair is an excellent opportunity for the children to discover new books and explore a range of genres. We encourage all parents to come along and support the event.

In addition, Year 6 students will have an informal Q&A session with their new year lead. It will be a chance for them to ask questions and learn more about what they can expect in the coming year. We hope that this session will help ease any concerns they may have and enable them to start the new academic year feeling positive and informed.

We are thrilled to welcome a surprise guest, a member of the GB climbing squad, who will be working with some of the children on Thursday.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn new skills and be inspired by a professional athlete. More details on this event will follow.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of upcoming whole school events. Next Saturday 13th May 4-6pm we look forward to the QCC Family event. An opportunity for parents and families to come together to socialise and meet new families. More details can be seen within the Bulletin today.

On Wednesday there will be the regular parents coffee in the Dining Hall 8.15-9.30am. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at one of these exciting events next week.

As we head into a relaxing long weekend to celebrate the Coronation, we hope that all our families take some time to relax and enjoy themselves. We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Tuesday.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we hope everyone has a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Henry

# Inside Out



In musical theatre, we say that when emotions are too strong to speak, we sing them, and when they are too strong to sing, we dance them. If that is true, then INSIDE OUT was an extravaganza of emotional performance!

Following last year's hugely popular ZODIAC, we are delighted to confirm that once again, the pupils at Queen's, alongside our specialist music, dance and drama teachers, rose to the challenge to produce another wonderfully diverse range of performances. This yearly show draws together material that has been rehearsed across all three disciplines of the performing arts in exam syllabus and recreational sessions: the theme of exploring what we feel on the inside in ways we can share with an audience proved to be a fruitful area of discovery. It was fascinating to see how abstract concepts were expressed across different levels of age and experience!



# Inside Out



Drawing together the work of 96 pupils from across the school required massive organisation and co-ordination. Many teachers volunteered their help to ensure that performances were slick- and surprisingly calm backstage. Our new Head of Dance, Bryony Buckingham, worked closely with all our dance, music and drama teachers to create a show of infinite variety.

As you may be aware, one of our top performing arts scholars, Millie, has been whisked off to the West End to appear in 'Aspects of Love'. She was due to be part of INSIDE OUT until West End duties prevented her, but it is to the great credit of all involved, that the performers quickly adapted their dance patterns and steps with very little rehearsal, demonstrating that whilst we definitely have our exceptional shining stars, we also have tremendous strength and ability in depth throughout the college!

# Nursery Round-up

Highgrove Nursery News From Mrs Donna Kershaw - Highgrove Nursery Manager



Children at Highgrove Nursery were very excited to receive some 'Living eggs' this week. Over the week the children have had the opportunity to watch 8 chicks breaking out of their eggs in the incubator, and then moving them to the larger cage. Once the chicks had dried out and became fluffy some of the children were eager to hold them and watch them freely run around the reception area!

Over the week each room have been busy preparing for our coronation picnic, hats and bunting were made with the older children talking about what the King might do each day, where he lives and how he travels. It was a lovely afternoon full of music and a lovely spread of party food.













# Nursery Round-up

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

The Nursery School children are making the most of the term's topic on 'pirates' and 'under the sea', with the role play area being transformed into a pirate ship. Activities to support this theme have included a treasure hunt theme in Forest School, with great excitement as they learnt how to use a map to find clues which led them to a variety of places around the College and finishing up at the adventure playground where 'X' marked the spot. The children were so inspired by this activity that they have carried on making their own maps to use in their play during the course of the week.

The key story that we are using for our topic is 'Barry the Fish with fingers' which the children have enjoyed painting their own interpretations of Barry and his friends using shapes to enclose spaces and represent features.



#### **Prep Sports Round-up**

It was lovely to finally get out on the grass for some cricket this week. Wednesday was a glorious day with 10 matches across the fields and astro. It was fantastic to have so many children out playing cricket with the Year 5 and 6 girls at home, hosting Wells and the boys away. The U11A girls team played their first grass cricket, with some great bowling from all but especially Charlotte who took some late wickets and stumpings with her partner Juno. Batting is still our focus but we ran better between the wickets than Saturday.

The U11B also did well with some great play from Anya in the field in particular. Both C teams enjoyed their first outings, and bowled consistently throughout the afternoon. Thanks as ever to Wells for some great matches. Away, the boys also had a great afternoon. The U11A's struggled a little against some straight bowling by Wells, but were more consistent when bowling, with a number of wickets being taken and limited runs scored. The U10A played steadily and showed good focus when both batting and fielding. Well done!

#### A reminder next week:

- Q Year 5 and 6 girls rugby trip to Westonbirt Wednesday
- Q Year 6 girls Team Bath Trip Friday
- Q Year 3 and 4 Cricket match away at Wells Saturday morning

Imogen in Prep had been very busy working hard with her new pony. They have had 2 wins in the 40cm qualifying them to jump at the Pony Club Championships in August. It is wonderful to see our riders of all ages out having fun!



#### Year 2

The Year 2 children had a fabulous morning at Staple Hill, learning about a woodland habitat. They explored microhabitats looking for mini-beasts and were thrilled to find centipedes, millipedes, spiders, woodlice and snails amongst the damp logs.

Colour mixing has been the art theme in Year 2 recently, with the children mixing different shades of green to match the colours of leaves they found in the Pre-Prep garden areas.





### **Cleaning Up Crew - Week 2**

'Clean Up Crew' found many small pieces of plastic rubbish as they walked from the Pre-Prep playground, past the Senior D.T block and past the Wellbeing Centre back to the Pre-Prep.

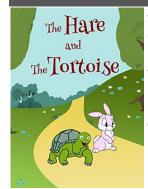


#### Year 1

Year 1 has been embracing the summer term topic of mini-beasts with great enthusiasm! Last week, the children acquired a number of caterpillars, who they've been caring for and raising. Each morning the children monitor their growth with careful observations and enter these into their caterpillar diary. The caterpillars have more than doubled in size and we are all eagerly waiting for them to form a chrysalis.



#### Year 4



This week Year 4 learnt a <u>song</u> for the coronation. The year 4 children then composed fanfares using sets of chime bars and their own instruments.

The children have been learning about fables in their English lessons, this week they read the Hare and Tortoise and had fun investigating the different morals and animal characters.

They are preparing to write their own fables and hope to share them with others when they are finished.

#### Year 3



Year 3 have had a busy week exploring rocks and fossils both inside and outside. In the classroom they examined different types of fossils in circle time. Then later outside the class explored the campus to find different types of rocks used in the school's architecture, their favourite was the Prep "hut" that uses lots of different types of rock, both for structure and decoration.

Also this week the children worked on characterisation and hot seating. They each selected a different hat and came up with a character who would wear this type of hat. They then took it in turns acting as the character in front of the class.



### Senior School

**Sports Report - Rob Cooling (Acting Director of Sport)** 



The sun has finally arrived which meant we have been able to get our summer term sports truly underway!



Saturday we welcomed Wellington School for some U12/13 softball cricket matches, West Buckland joined us for some U10/11 cricket and the 1st XI and U15A travelled to Wellington for their first matches of the season.

The U14/15 tennis squad also met on Saturday for some intra-squad competition in preparation for the season ahead. On Tuesday our U15A/B girls took to the wicket for the first time this season to play Wellington School in some exciting matches.

On Wednesday afternoon, our visitors were Exeter Cathedral School, Wells Cathedral School and Mount Kelly. In glorious sunshine, it was fantastic to see so many U12/13 and U10/11 cricket fixtures taking place across the school grounds - 15 matches in total!

The U13/U15 and senior swimming team have also been competing this week with a visit to Blundell's.



Francesca took her new horse to Chard, where she won the Schools 85cm. Harriet also has a new horse, they had their first outing this week at Chard where they were

3rd and 2nd. So exciting to see these new combinations and we wish them luck.

Our athletics team has been in action again with an open meet hosted by Blundell's on Saturday and the Taunton Area County Qualifiers on Wednesday. A huge well done to all athletes who have competed. We wait patiently and are hopeful that many will be selected for the county squad.

The week concludes with the 1st XI boys travelling to Mount Kelly to play in a triangular 20/20 with Plymouth College and the girls 1stXI welcome King's College in their first cup match.

With no sporting activity taking place this weekend, I hope you all enjoy the coronation celebrations.

### Senior School

#### **Ten Tors**



Ten Tors 2023 took place last weekend. Queen's entered two 35 mile teams and one 45 mile team. The event involves teams of six young people planning and walking a route with full packs unaided around Dartmoor over two days.

Friday was as frenetic as ever with route planning, kit checking and soaking up the wonderful positive atmosphere created by 1000's of young people who have all spent many months training for this challenge.

Saturday started at 04:30 with bacon sandwiches before the camp is woken up to Chariots of Fire at 05:00. Nervous anticipation follows with last minute plans being made and kit being checked again. The teams then parade up to the start line at 06:15 before the gun goes off at 07:00 and our teams disappeared into the mist.





They came back in on Sunday afternoon tired and with sore feet but all with beaming smiles. After having made great progress on the Saturday all three of our teams had a tough day on the Sunday with some challenging navigation and very poor visibility. At times they couldn't see more than 20 metres in front of them. They all have some great stories of their adventure and memories that will last long after the blisters and aches have gone away. The teamwork, commitment, and positive attitude shown by all team members throughout the training and event has been fantastic. Well done to all.

# Senior School



Pupils joined a health drive to change young people's attitudes to eating fish. Last week, Year 10 pupils donned their aprons for a fish masterclass delivered by Simon Gray from the national 'Fish in Schools Hero' programme.

Before a live cooking session on how to handle, prepare and cook fish, Simon talked about sustainability, and nutrition with a range of fish and seafood on display, including hake, plaice, mackerel, oysters, mussels, and squid.

Under the guidance of Simon and the Head of the Faculty of Art, Design and Food, Mr Mann together with food teacher Mrs Barker and food technician Geraldine Fuller, the young 'Fish Heroes' then got hands-on putting their new food skills into practice. There was fish filleting, cleaning a squid, and making batter for calamari.

The Fish Hero programme is delivered through a partnership between the Food Teachers Centre and Fishmongers' Company's Fisheries Charitable Trust, and aims to ensure that every child gets a chance to prepare, cook and eat fish before they leave school. It also aims to educate pupils on the health benefits of fish and help them to gain a greater insight into how seafood gets from the sea to their plates. In addition, it encourages pupils to eat fish at least twice a week.

Simon, who delivered the programme, has extensive experience as a teacher as well as providing catering at large events such as Henley Regatta, Wimbledon and PGA Golf tours – an excellent source of knowledge and expertise for our pupils to learn from.

The session benefited Year 10 pupils who are studying Food Preparation and Nutrition at GCSE with both knowledge and skills. Pupils were learnt about fishing quotas, sustainable fishing, different fish classifications and different fishing methods. Meanwhile, a wide array of beautiful seafood was laid out in front of them to explore from mackerel to hake, squid to mussels, gurnard to oysters and bass to scallops.



Mr Mann said: "We were thrilled to welcome Simon Gray to Queen's College. The day has been a fine example of how we work with those in the food industry to enrich our pupils' learning experiences at Queen's".

Queen's College is now the proud owner of a 'Fish in School Hero' logo having gained the status of a 'Fish in School Hero' school within the national programme.

### Sixth Form

#### Aidan Year 12

At the weekend, Sixth Form student Aidan travelled to EIS Sheffield for the British Fencing Youth Championship, ranking 46th in epee. Aidan has been fencing since aged 11, but has only done epee for the last 3 years - so this was a great achievement - well done Aidan. Aidan is a keen member of our Queen's co-curricular Fencing Club, which is offered to both our Prep and Senior pupils.





### Boarders' Corner







On Sunday 30th April, 16 School House boys signed up for a coastal adventure at one of the most beautiful beaches in the UK - Croyde Beach in North Devon.

The weather was perfect, arriving to find glorious sunshine and some challenging waves to make the coasteering session all the more exciting. The session was led by The Kids Adventure Company who were excellent instructors and encouraged the boys to have a go at some of the highest jumps and entries. They commented that the boys did extremely well. After two and a half hours in the water, a pasty and hot chocolate was thoroughly enjoyed! This is definitely something that we hope to repeat again soon!

### Boarders' Corner



It was a busy and fun packed weekend in Cotlake. On Saturday we made the most of the sunshine and after morning school activities the pupils spent the afternoon outside in the sunshine.

Music was playing while they enjoyed playing cricket, football, painting and go-karting. Then in the evening it was movie night with the new Peter Pan movie. On Sunday Mrs Shearman, Miss Holder and Mrs Kelly took the children to Escot for an action packed day of Segway, foot golf and archery. This weekend we look forward to camping on site with pizza and fire pits, a visit to town and Sunday Funday.



### **News and Announcements**

#### **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.

### **News and Announcements**

### **Upcoming Parent Social Events**



#### **Parents' Coffee Mornings This Term**

Wednesday 10 May 8:15-9:00am

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

Key Dates	
Coronation of King Charles III - no normal school activities	06 May
Coronation Bank holiday - No School	08 May
Highgrove Nursery Transition Visit	09 May
Scholars Event: Years 8 and 9 in English	09 May
Book Fair (Prep)	10 –11 May
Parents' Coffee	10 May 08:15-09:00
GB Climbing Coach visit	11 – 12 May
Senior School Own Clothes Day for Edukid	12 May
Reception step up session	12 May
Year 6 Girls' Team Bath Netball Trip	12 May

### Our online whole school calendar can be found <a href="here">here</a>. Our sports portal can be accessed <a href="here">here</a>.

#### **Eat Game Awards**

The hard work of all our pupils at learning high meat skills with local, wild, fresh pheasant, venison and partridge in Food Preparation and Nutrition classes at Queen's College has once again been recognised at a star-studded Awards Ceremony in London. Deputy Head, Mr Green, joined the Head of Faculty of Art, Design and Food, Mr Mann and Food Teachers, Mrs Cadwallader and Mrs Barker to receive the school's prize in the finals of the national 'Eat Game Awards' from friend of the school BBC CountryFile Presenter Adam Henson. Following the awards ceremony Queen's College officially remains the Best School in the UK for teaching and learning with Game!



To hear more about BBC's Adam Henson talking about Queen's College please listen to the latest Eat Game Podcast.

### **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

- 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





# **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 <a href="mailto:ram@queenscollege.org.uk">ram@queenscollege.org.uk</a> 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.

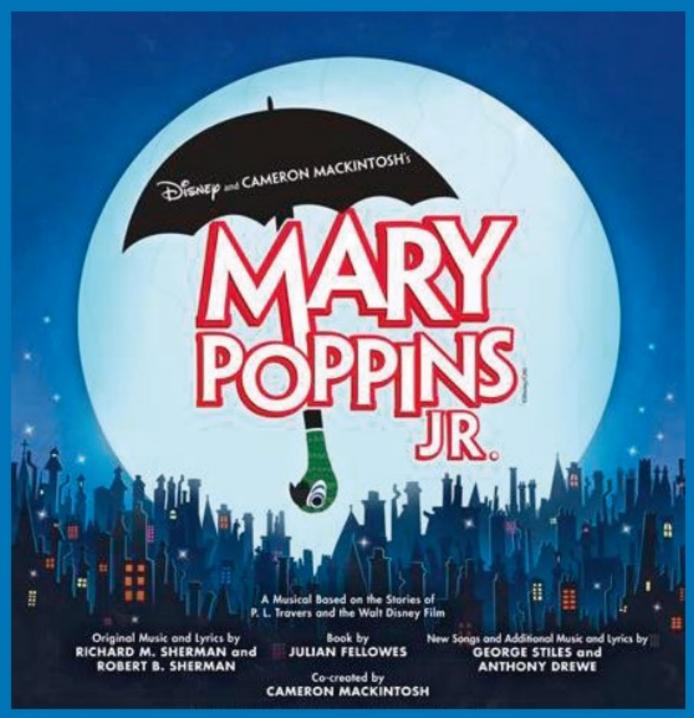
In the process of changing our uniform supplier, we have streamlined the range a little to reduce the number of items required, which we hope will reduce confusion as well as cost.

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!







# SUMMER FAMILY SOCIAL.

SATURDAY 13th MAY 4pm-6pm

on THE LOWER by THE SIXTH FORM CENTRE

INFLATABLE, ICE-CREAM VAN, BBQ, PIMMS BAR, ACTIVITIES for CHILDREN

Food and drinks are available to purchase or please feel welcome to bring along a picnic and rug.

BBQ kindly supplied by CULLEN's CATERING

Payment by cash or card

Children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult

Please note we will cancel if the weather is wet

Made with PosterMvWall.com

### **News and Announcements**



### SUMMER BALL

SAVE THE DATE THURSDAY 06 JULY 2023 7:00PM-12:30AM

AN EVENING FILLED WITH FOOD, MUSIC AND DANCING. BLACK TIE EVENT.

ADMISSION STRICTLY BY TICKET ONLY PRICE: £69

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

More
information on
these events can
be found here



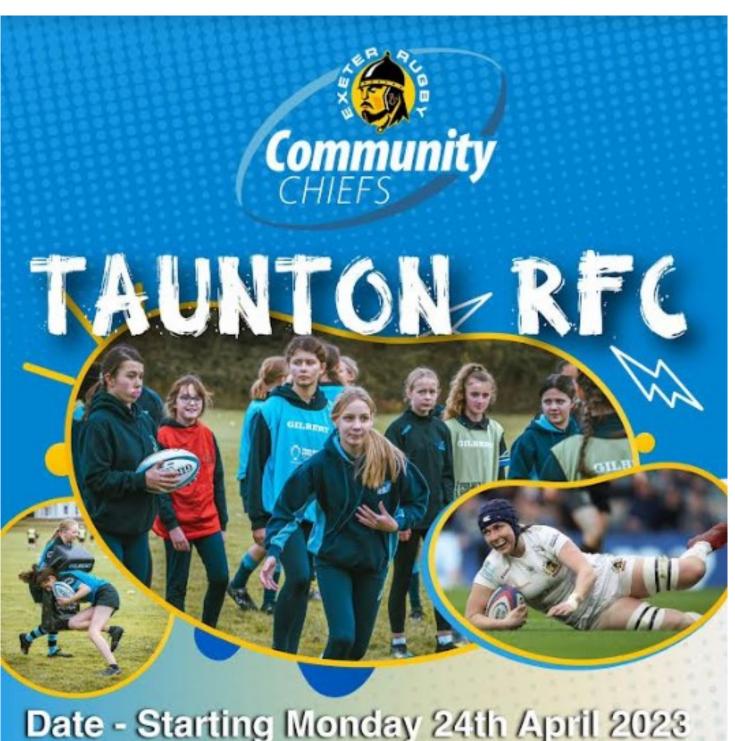
Save the Dates

# Speech Days

Celebrate with us!

Prep: 05 July 2023 11:00am

Senior: 06 July 2023 10:30am



Date - Starting Monday 24th April 2023
Time - 6.00pm to 7:00pm
Location - Taunton RFC
Age Groups - U12-U18 girls

PLAYER APPEARANCE EDONY JEFFERIES







@COMMUNITYCHIEFS





The summer holidays are a great chance for students to unwind but can also be a very useful time for them to upskill and prepare for their future careers.

For more information click <u>here</u>.

