

Making Memories Together



Mr Julian Noad - Head of College

To 'All The People of Somerset' (Sumorsæte ealle in Old English, I believe), I wish a belated Somerset day; this year a celebration 'for King and County'. Lunch on Thursday was, therefore and perhaps inevitably, local sausages (from our own pigs) with [The Wurzels](#) as a backing track. We also enjoyed our tea party last Friday and a more relaxed couple of days, enabling us all to watch the Coronation ceremony. I hope your Coronation weekend was a joyful celebration also. There were tired eyes after Cotlake's *Big Sleep Out* but otherwise, our boarders enjoyed relaxation and some activity.

As I write, we have only two weeks until half term.

There are just four and a half weeks thereafter until the summer holidays. And yet there is much to do and much going on. Full details as ever on the parent portal, [MSP](#); and also identically on the [school calendar](#) (you can add this to your own calendar by clicking the +Google button, bottom right).

Examinations are now in full swing and, from Monday, we move into the sports hall to accommodate the larger sittings. Please be aware that this does have a small impact on some CC arrangements, especially in wet weather.

Today was an own clothes day in the Senior School, in support of [Edukid](#) and the developments we are supporting in

Cambodia, including a group of pupils visiting in the summer, to help develop projects in sustainability, and education, and also to learn about the experiences of life in a different part of the world. On their return, they will link with the Prep School to further embed our global citizenship.

This afternoon sees the annual Meade King Swimming Gala, between the four Taunton independent schools. Sadly, other engagements will keep me away. The weekend brings fixtures in cricket versus Wells Cathedral and Collegiate (the former Colston's) schools, with internal tennis fixtures, and an athletics meet at King's, Bruton.

Mary Poppins rehearsals continue as

Making Memories Together

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we build for the shows next week - you really must not miss this, get your tickets [here](#).

The Outdoor Education team have enjoyed a visit from a GB climbing coach this week and look forward to sailing and canoe polo on Sunday.

Tomorrow, Saturday will see the QCC 'summer family social', 4-6pm. This 'picnic in the park' comes with a barbecue, refreshments, ice cream, and activities (organised by our Prefects) for the children. There is no entry charge and no need to book: just show up with your blanket.

Looking ahead, summer ball tickets have gone on sale today to Year 13 - with purchases coming in at pace.

Ticket purchasing for everyone else opens next week, Friday 19 May, so please start thinking about who you might like to sit with (tables of 10) so that you do not miss out.

You will have seen messages from Mrs Rebecca Mockridge regarding uniform sales. She flags up that trousers are currently available at a 75% discount, only £15 a pair. Blazers, in limited sizes, are available at 25% discount. Mrs M encourages Year 9 to get Year 10 skirts now. All other stock is reduced by 25% and 50%. Please make an appointment soon by contacting Rebecca Mockridge, Senior Receptionist on the main number or ram@queenscollege.org.uk.

Finally, shared with you separately but here as a link, [Senior School developments for 2023/24](#) - a summary of the exciting initiatives underway. Of more immediate change is that Mrs Pippa Bell, drama teacher, will be leaving us at half term. Her extremely long commute has not worked out for her or her family. Please do not worry, all of her lessons will be covered under Mrs Litton's (Head of English and Drama Faculty) direction. As ever, if you have any questions, just get in touch. If you prefer safety in numbers, our next parent forum is Wednesday 14 June.

Have a terrific weekend. I hope to see as many of you as possible on a boundary rope or at the picnic tomorrow.

Julian

May Half Term

MAY HALF TERM 2023
30TH MAY - 2ND JUNE

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Prep School

Mr Henry Matthews - Head of Prep



Year 3 enjoying the sun before lunch

I hope you had time to enjoy the extended weekend and some of the celebrations for the King's Coronation. This has been a short but eventful week in the Prep School and there is plenty to read about in the following pages.

Our week began on a high note with an eco focussed presentation assembly, where we proudly recognised the hard work of our enthusiastic Eco Team. It was an honour to witness The Rotary Club present awards to the children involved in a recent initiative led by The Rotary Club, in which a competition was launched to find young people who have made a significant contribution to their local environment. Pupils in The Eco Team at Queen's have led projects in growing plants and vegetables to be used in the kitchens and have most recently been involved in creating a Bee Highway which will reach from Trull to Taunton Town.

We were delighted to welcome the arrival of the popular Book Fair in the library this week. Once again, it proved to be a tremendous success, allowing the children an opportunity to explore and buy a range of books and reading materials. Thank you to Mrs Kelly for organising this once again and all those who have supported the event. The enthusiasm for reading within our school community is fantastic, and with further links to outside organisations

and with proceeds from the bookfair, we will continue to develop reading spaces in school.

Continuing with our commitment to charity and global awareness, we were privileged to have representatives from our linked charity, Edukid, deliver an inspiring assembly. Through an interesting presentation, we gained valuable insights into the progress being made by Edukid and the developments we are supporting in Cambodia. In the summer, children from the Senior School will visit the village of Kampong Takong to help develop projects in sustainability, education and also learn about the experiences of life in a different part of the world. On their return they will link with the Prep School to further enhance the relationship between Queen's and Kampong Takong.

To conclude this week, we were thrilled to facilitate a climbing competition, hosted by a very special guest visitor from Team GB Climbing. Jay Jackson is a GB Climbing Coach working primarily with the GB Development Squad and the GB Paraclimbing Team. The energy, enthusiasm and skill displayed by our young climbers was incredible as they took on extremely challenging routes and time trials. Well done to all participants! We are now eagerly awaiting the first House Climbing

competition next Saturday.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting weekend in store. Our Year 3 and 4 children are looking forward to fixtures on Saturday morning. Also a reminder that families are invited to join us for a family picnic on Saturday afternoon at 4 pm. It promises to be a fun event and we are hoping for dry weather.

A final note for an opportunity for children to get creative over the coming week. All children are invited to design a picture that reflects Sports Day and the winners of the competition will have their designs printed in this year's Sports Day programme. Winners will also be awarded House Points. The design should be drawn on A4 paper using any of the following: paint, crayons, pencils or felt tips. Please ensure your child's name and House is written on the back of their entry and handed into the Prep Reception office by Monday 22 May.

I wish you all an enjoyable weekend and hope to see many of you at the family picnic tomorrow.

Henry

Nursery Round-up

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



The Nursery School children have thoroughly enjoyed joining in with the coronation celebrations over the past week with a castle themed role play area where they could dress up as soldiers, Kings or Queens. Then there was crown making for the tea party using a variety of sparkly collage materials and forest school crowns to make with natural resources from the garden in their forest school session this week.

Other craft activities included making, decorating and of course eating crown biscuits in the kitchen garden club. They also enjoyed designing soldier pictures for use at a later special date this term. The national anthem has been sung and several 'King' themed stories have been enjoyed to round-off the celebrations.



Prep School

Prep Sports Round-up



Yet again the rain has affected our matches this week. We feel for our hard working groundsmen who put so many hours into our pitches, and do such a tremendous job, the rainfall promotes huge growth in the grass and also prevents cutting as the ground is just too wet. Whenever our sports staff visit other schools they do notice the difference between the playing fields and they often report that they do think ours are at the top end. Apparently we have had almost twice as much rain as last year in May already! Although our reservoirs need it, certainly it brings much disappointment to our players!

On Wednesday, most of our Year 6 girls and a smattering of Year 5 travelled to Westonbirt School (very Downton Abbey) for a day of rugby. The girls got to practise various skills with a carousel of activities and some of the coaches were Scottish and English internationals who play for Worcester. The girls got to ask questions at lunchtime which included, how the players came to become international, if they had always wanted to be rugby players, and if they ever had a red card. In the afternoon they played some mini tag games, and despite a brief downpour we were lucky with the weather and had a lovely day. Thank you to Miss Holder for attending with the children and allowing so many girls to take part.

We still have a busy few days ahead, with the Team Bath trip, Year 3 and 4 cricket tomorrow as well as athletics at Yeovil both Saturday and Sunday.



Prep School

Young Environmentalists



The Prep School Eco team were over the moon to receive the honour of a visit from our Eco Governor, Mrs Walden and three important members of The Taunton Rotary Club, led by our previous Headteacher, Mrs Khodabandehloo!

This occasion was prompted by the children's entries to the nationwide Rotary Young Environmentalist Competition 2023. In small groups, the Year 5 and 6 Eco team created Google Documents to share their work to promote Biodiversity and enhance our local environment. Supported by a variety of enthusiastic staff, especially Mr Mann and his team, Mrs Wade and the Eco Club are very proud to announce that one of our groups has won the regional round of this competition and has now been entered for the National Final!

The winning team were Bradley, Edward and Maurice, who have all been faithful and enthusiastic supporters of the Eco team since their arrival in Prep school in Year 3 and 5.

All of the children were overwhelmed by the kindness and enthusiasm of the Taunton Rotarians, who not only visited us to praise their efforts, but also gave each entrant a T-shirt, book and special certificate to recognise their contributions.

We would all like to thank The Taunton Rotary Club for their support, enthusiasm and generosity. They even gave us a significant cheque with which to further our environmental endeavours! Congratulations and thank you so much to The Taunton Rotary and all the children and staff involved!

Prep School

Book Fair

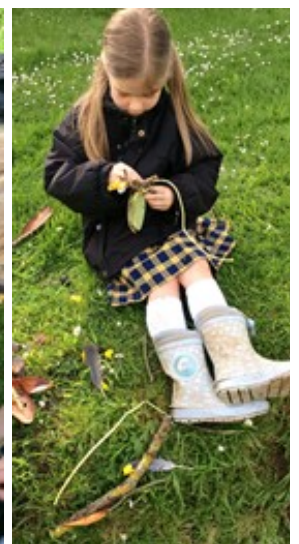


At Queen's we are passionate about fostering a love of reading. Twice a year we hold a Scholastic Book Fair which gives our pupils an opportunity to look at and share a variety of books with their peers. The children have really enjoyed book browsing and choosing books to buy.

Pre-Prep

The Pre-Prep children are thoroughly enjoying their summer term topics and are embracing all of the engaging learning opportunities on offer. After the excitement of the coronation, our reception children have begun their learning about dinosaurs. This week, they have created some wonderful dinosaur art and are busily writing facts in their dinosaur writing area.

The year one children are excited to report that their caterpillars are now in the form of chrysalises! Each morning the children continue to record their growth and observations. In outdoor school, we were blessed with some sunshine! The year one's designed and made some superb minibeast hotels collaboratively and worked with great care and attention. These are tucked away in sheltered areas of the Hutton lawn and after only a few minutes, a number of minibeasts had already ventured across to investigate these new homes.



Senior School

Sports Report - Rob Cooling (Acting Director of Sport)



Rain affects play...Again! Even more disappointment this week for our cricketers as, despite the best efforts of our grounds team, many pitches remain un-playable.

On Thursday last week, the 1st XI travelled to Mount Kelly for a triangular match with Plymouth, only managing one game before the rain made an appearance once again and concluded the day early. Mount Kelly were also our visitors on Friday evening when the U17's played their first round of the National cup. Saturday fixtures were collapsed as it was a weekend of coronation celebrations, I hope all had a restful long weekend.

Our U14/15/16 and senior swimming team were back in action on Tuesday with a visit to King's College, in preparation for the Meade King Cup which takes place this Friday - good luck to all of our swimmers.

The U13 girls cricket team were able to avoid the rain and travel to King's Hall for their re-arranged cup match on Wednesday and our athletics team took part in the Track and Field Schools Cup at The Castle School track, with some fantastic personal performances. Hopefully this will be reflected in the team results published soon. This weekend we look forward to more sporting action with cricket matches, athletics and tennis - weather permitting!



Senior School

Eden Project



Year 8 visited the Eden Project last week and enjoyed exploring the Tropical and Mediterranean Biomes. They learnt how plants and animals have adapted to each Biome's unique climate, and were able to experience first-hand what it is like to be in a tropical rainforest! There was the opportunity for some to even get higher than the emergent trees on the floating platform! Well done to all of Year 8, who were a delight to spend the day with. A big thank you to Mrs Ross, Mrs Shearman and Mr Neenan who accompanied Year 8 on the trip.



Senior School

Wild Wilderness Cuisine Class Praised by TV Expert



Inspired by the celebrity TV chef James Martin from ITV's James Martin's Saturday Morning show, and of ITV's Good Morning fame, our pupils have been foraging for wild ingredients to cook with from around the school site.

In the latest TV show, James was joined by fellow Chefs James Tanner and Hrishikesh Desai, along with regular, TV food foraging expert and author, 'The Yorkshire Forager' Alysia Vasey who taught everyone about food that can be found in hedgerows this spring.

With her teachings, our pupils went on a wild forage to create their very own wilderness cuisine preparing food in the classroom with the recommended earthier garlic flavour of three-cornered leeks, the young pea taste of sticky wild cleavers and a few gorse flowers that smell of coconut and taste of almonds (plus a few tangy dandelions).

TV food foraging expert and author, Alysia, contacted the school to praise our pupils saying, "How absolutely fantastic, I hope you all really enjoyed yourselves foraging and cooking".

Senior School

Camera Club

Last week in Camera Club, vintage cameras were the stars of the show as students used them to grasp the basics of how cameras work. The cameras then featured as the subjects of their photo shoot, applying what they have learned about adjusting the aperture of their digital cameras to control the depth of field of their images.



Mary Poppins Update

When we do a show, we don't do it by half! Not only will our Mary Poppins come flying in around the stage, but our house spins and changes in front of the audience's eyes! Our in-house technical team and students have worked to build the set and many of the props from scratch! It's part of the immense effort involved to make Mary Poppins an unforgettable show!



Sixth Form

International Nurses Day



Today it is International Nurses Day, Queen's College thank all the nurses around the world who are working hard to keep us healthy. Today, we also want to celebrate our incredible Sixth Form students who are going on to study nursing, paramedic science, midwifery and medicine. Your dedication to helping others is inspirational and we're very proud to see our students pursuing these important careers. Pictured Left to right: Pippa, Joe, Ruby, Maeve, Tashi and Osa

OQ News

A Royal Visit



Tony Bloxham, who attended Queen's College between 1973-82, played an instrumental role co-ordinating the Plymouth place-based School Improvement Programme in the city between 2018-2022, working closely with the Department of Education and other partners to raise educational standards in Plymouth. He has held a number of other roles throughout his career including Headship at Preston School, Yeovil, where he was also the Chair of the Somerset Association of Secondary Head Teachers. He has been the Director of the Taunton Teaching Alliance, and in May 2018 was appointed the Southwest representative on the National Teaching School Council. As an

Educational Advisor for the DFE, Tony has also supported a number of vulnerable schools both regionally and nationally.

We are incredibly proud of Tony's achievements and are thrilled that he and Mrs Bloxham had the opportunity to attend such an exclusive event.

Congratulations to them both!



Boarders' Corner

The Big Help Out



At the weekend, our Year 8 and 9 boarders took part in The Big Help Out, an initiative to mark His Majesty The King's Coronation by giving everyone the chance to lend a hand, and make a difference in their communities.

Our pupils took part in litter picking in the local community - which was a wonderful way to give back to the local community - Well done and thank you to each of them!

Cotlake House

It was a jam packed weekend of fun for Cotlake House. On Saturday pupils went either into town shopping or relaxed in the house before evening activities began.

The pupils showed their dancing skills with a silent disco followed by pizza, campfires and marshmallows on the upper. They then had an exciting night of camping in tents on the upper.

Sunday the children enjoyed a leisurely stroll through Vivary park to make the most of the good weather. After lots of fun in the park they enjoyed ice creams and listened to the brass band. And as it was a bank holiday, they had a Sunday movie night, singing along to Mamma Mia. This weekend the pupils look forward to a trip to Ninja warrior.



News and Announcements

Key Dates	
Athletics: Athletics V Somerset County AA track and field championships	13 May
Mary Poppins Morning Rehearsal	13 May - 14 May
QCC Family Event	13 May
Mary Poppins (Middle School Musical) full day rehearsal	14 May
Year 5 Trip to Wessex Water	15 May
Music Instrument Taster Evening	16 May
Nursery School Forest School Trip	17 May
Year 2 Outdoor School	18 May
Highgrove Nursery Transition Visit	18 May
Reception step up session	19 May
Mary Poppin Matinee and Evening Performance	19 May

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

News and Announcements

Summer at Queen's



SUMMER AT QUEEN'S

Visit our website to find out more about summer courses and day camp sessions available

queenscollege.org.uk

For more information click [here](#)



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.

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Dates:

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

Fees:

Day: £40 a day including lunch (£20 half-day)
Boarding: £125 per night
Discounts available when booking 12+ days

Sample Programme and To Book



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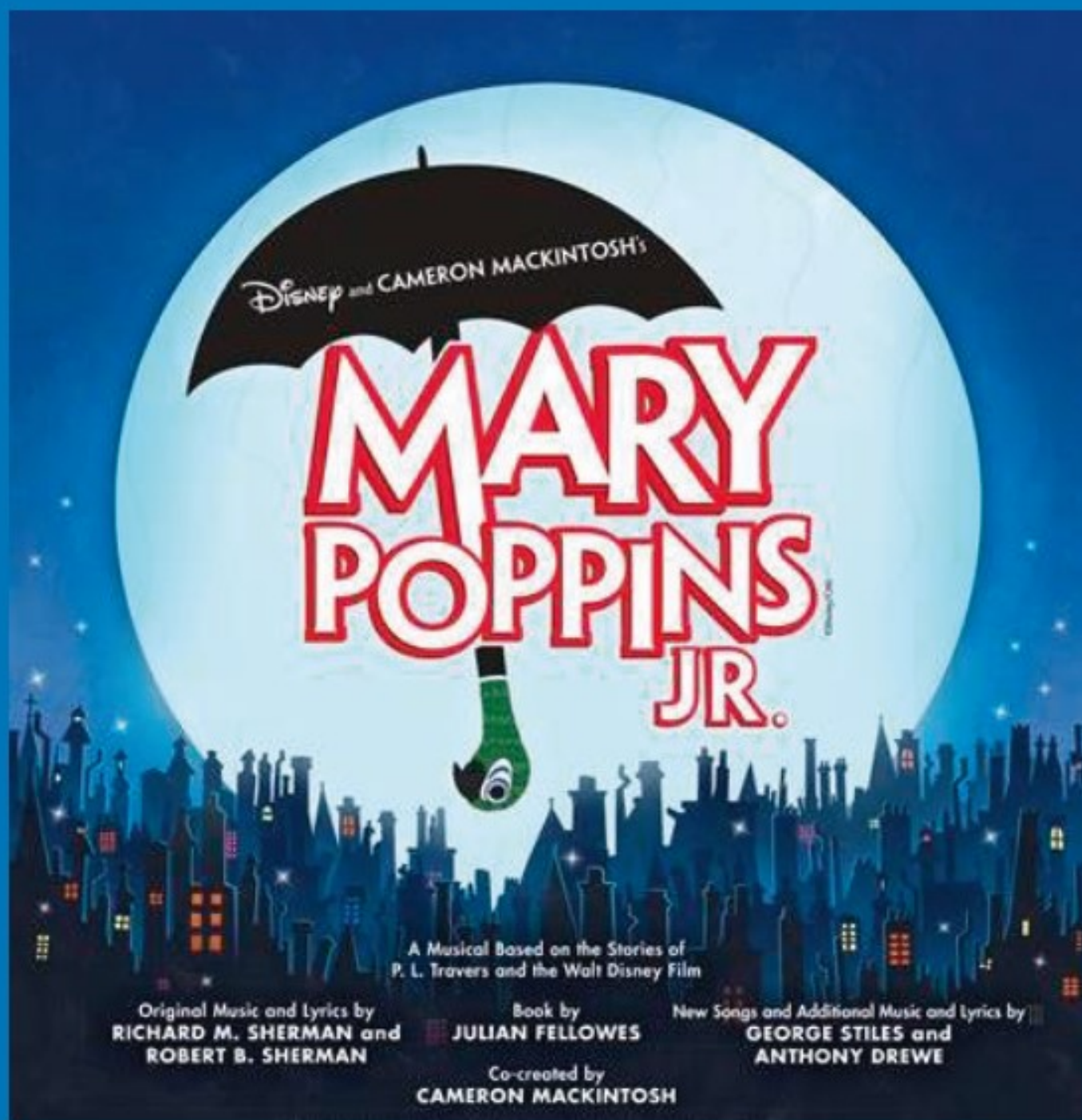
Uniform News

Uniform Sale



We currently have remaining stock from our former supplier (Perry's) which is now available to purchase, at sale price. Please contact Rebecca Mockridge at ram@queenscollege.org.uk to make an appointment. You will also be able to see the new blazers, which will be on display for your interest.

- Q Trousers - Available at 75% discount £15
- Q All other stock 25% & 50%
- Q Current Year 9 - get your new Year 10 skirts now
- Q Blazers - 25% discount - limited sizes
- Q Limited sports stock sizes so please make an appointment soon.



Disney and CAMERON MACKINTOSH'S

MARY POPPINS JR.

A Musical Based on the Stories of
P. L. Travers and the Walt Disney Film

Original Music and Lyrics by
RICHARD M. SHERMAN and
ROBERT B. SHERMAN

Book by
JULIAN FELLOWES

New Songs and Additional Music and Lyrics by
GEORGE STILES and
ANTHONY DREWE

Co-created by
CAMERON MACKINTOSH

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 *Supercalifragilistic* 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!



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The QCC invite you to join us at our

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SATURDAY 13th MAY

4pm-6pm

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ACTIVITIES for CHILDREN**

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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

News and Announcements

Save the Dates!

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



Community
CHIEFS

TAUNTON RFC



Date - Starting Monday 24th April 2023

Time - 6.00pm to 7:00pm

Location - Taunton RFC

Age Groups - U12-U18 girls



PLAYER APPEARANCE EBONY JEFFERIES



@COMMUNITYCHIEFS



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INSTRUMENTAL TASTER EVENING

TUES 16 MAY 16:30 - 18:30

Want to try something new?

The Instrumental Taster Evening is open for anyone to come and try a range of different instruments such as....

Flute, Cello, Trombone, Piano, Singing,
Trumpet, DJing...

Please speak to Mr Jenkins or Miss Scutt if you are interested in attending to try a particular instrument.





Queen's College

Invites you to preview this year's

Art Exhibition

Wednesday
28th June 2023
5-7pm

Showcasing work from
Queen's College
Prep School through to
GCSE and A level Art,
Textiles and
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Faculty of Art, Design
and Food





QUEEN'S
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Teatime Concert

Wednesday 24 May

A concert featuring a super range of solo items including some of our younger musicians taking to the stage.

Time: 16:30

Venue: OMR

Admission: Free