

BULLETIN

Queen's College Whole School Newsletter

19 May 2023

"A Spoonful of Sugar..."



Mr Julian Noad - Head of College

A bit of sun has lifted the hearts of most. Last Saturday's QCC summer social was a great success with a big turnout; it felt like summer had truly arrived. My thanks to all involved.

Welcome to this week's bulletin.

I have been away from the College and my study a bit this week. Firstly, at Windsor Castle for Monday and Tuesday, a spectacular conference venue, working with the Performance Learning team to begin our implementation plan. This exciting whole college curriculum development was mentioned in last week's missive: Senior School developments for 2023/24. I have also been to Dyson HQ Malmesbury with the universities committee taking the opportunity to find out more about their **Dyson Institute** and degree apprenticeships in general.

And this morning, I have been privileged to stop by our matinee performance of Mary Poppins, where we hosted local primary schools for a fantastic (and free) opportunity - many had never been to a theatre before. Do not miss out on your chance: a few remaining tickets here for tonight, tomorrow evening, and Sunday afternoon.

Exams are well underway for Year 11 and for some Year 13s, but the rest of our pupils are enjoying a rich programme of activities. Cricket in the sun has been a highlight this week. Fixtures tomorrow include Bristol Grammar (for the 1st XI), Taunton (U15s), and internal matches for others. We also have athletics at Millfield and tennis matches at home.

The outdoor education team are making the most of the summer. This weekend brings an Exmoor Challenge a Prep House climbing competition, senior climbing in the Cheddar Gorge, kayaking at Langport, and the Bronze DofE final outing. I also share that a number of our pupils (some former) and their parents are at Buckingham Palace today to collect their Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards. Also, in my absence on Monday, Ten Tors medals were awarded in assembly - a great opportunity to mark this massive achievement.

The Design department and its gang of dedicated pupils have been working on their sustainable electric car for some time and will be turning the wheels in anger on Sunday for the Green Power Car Race.



"A Spoonful of Sugar..."

Mr Julian Noad - Head of College

We have just one more week before half term and there is much going on. I flag up two musical treats: the Prep summer concert on Thursday at 6pm, and a Senior School tea time concert on Wednesday at 4.30pm. 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).

I end with another reminder that tickets are now on sale for anyone in our Community (parents and friends, OQs etc) for the Summer Ball.

You don't need to put together a full table of 10; we can find you some excellent company. It was a truly fabulous evening last year, proving terrific fun and a great way to get to know others. Grab your tickets here.

The ball is on the evening of Senior School Speech Day, Thursday 6 July. Invitations to Speech Day will be with you soon, along with fuller details. For those who don't know, Speech Day is a compulsory day for all pupils - All parents are very warmly welcomed. It is a formal occasion, so we all dress up.

There will be speeches (with the award of prizes) from 10.30am and then lunchtime refreshments for all from 12 noon. There will be exhibitions of work and an opportunity to meet with other families. It is a great day in the school calendar. I hope that you will be able to clear your diary to join us.

For now, enjoy a fabulous weekend. Julian

Prep School



What a fantastic week it has been here in the Prep School and there is much to read about in the following pages.

Firstly, our congratulations go to the senior school pupils who have certainly put on a show for us today in their outstanding performance of "Mary Poppins Jnr." The Prep School children have thoroughly enjoyed performances and it was wonderful to see our pupils shine on stage, a real inspiration for those in the audience and I am sure we will see many of our current Year 6 students doing the same next year!

Dry and sunny weather has meant we have finally been able to get all cricket fixtures on this week with super skill and commitment being shown on the field of play. I am sure that this afternoon's Year 5 and 6 house matches will be played in great spirit and I know many children are very much looking forward to an afternoon on The Lower in the sunshine.

Year 2 have continued with their summer term outdoor learning, where they honed their woodworking skills and crafted beautiful necklaces made from natural materials. It has been

amazing to see our young learners engage in these experiences that develop their creativity and I am sure they are already looking forward to being part of the Outdoor Ed programme in their timetabled lessons next year.

A big thank you to everyone who supported our book fair. generosity helped us raise over £700, which will be used to update our library books in both Upper and Pre-Prep. We have surveyed pupils in school council meetings and they have put forward some interesting suggestions to ensure

Mr Henry Matthews - Head of Prep



all pupils continue to develop a love of reading.

Remaining on a 'book' theme, this week, we initiated an exciting project called DEAR (Drop Everything and Read). The first DEAR time took place during our assembly on Tuesday, where the whole hall fell silent for 10 minutes of individual reading - even the teachers have to join in! The joy of reading was celebrated as pupils and staff enthusiastically embraced this new project and I think this is something that will become a permanent fixture in our school day. I am also delighted to share that we have our very own Story Chair, provided to us through funds raised via the QCC Quiz night back in February. Thank you to the QCC and to all that support their events.

We have also enjoyed scientific themed trips this week. With our Year 5 visiting Wessex Water and Year 3 ventured to Lyme Regis. As ever, the children have loved the opportunity to take their learning into the wider community.

Year 3 were even treated to an ice cream on the beach as they represented the school so brilliantly during their time in Lyme.

The autumn term will see the return of a Prep school favourite, Grandparents Day. This time we have decided to extend the invite to other family members or friends so that everyone has an opportunity to be involved. It is a fantastic opportunity for children to showcase their learning in the Prep School. More information will be shared about this event closer to the time.

On the theme of social events, I would also like to share the details of this year's upcoming summer ball on Thursday 6th July. Last year's event was a huge success and it was a pleasure to be able to celebrate the previous year with the Queen's community. Tickets are available for parents and friends of the Queen's community and can be purchased here until 18th June. We hope to see many of you there and please don't worry if you haven't got a full table - we will

happily seat you with other friendly faces.

Finally, as the sun has been shining, this has provided plenty of opportunities for outdoor learning and play. We will continue to make the most of these sunny days and ask that parents ensure that children bring sun cream, a hat and water bottle to school.

I look forward to a busy weekend for Upper Prep children, many of whom are competing in the house climbing competition on Saturday morning. I look forward to seeing some of you there and wish you all a happy weekend.

Henry

Nursery Round-up

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







The Nursery School children had a fantastic time in the sunshine on their Forest School trip to Fyne Court this week. Half of the children took part in a bug exploration activity using magnifying glasses to look closely at beetles, woodlice and ladybirds. The second group, who did some pond dipping with nets, managed to catch some leeches, baby newts and pond skaters amongst other wonderful little creatures. The enthusiasm for natural exploration continued in the Nursery School garden after they returned when they decided to make homes for whatever other minibeasts that they could find hiding in the undergrowth.

Prep School

Prep Sports Round-up



The sporting week started on Saturday with a great trip to Wells with our Year 3 and 4 children for their first cricket matches of the season! Much excitement on the bus led on to some fun matches with all the children participating brilliantly. Thanks to Wells Prep as ever, for great hospitality.

Also on Saturday, Mr Chislett ferried some Year 6 pupils to Yeovil to compete in the Somerset Track and Field Championships for the U12 event and on Sunday Mr Wilde took more children across from Year 5 and 6 for the U11 and 10 event. Very well done to all for their efforts for the school across the weekend. We came away with a fair medal haul!

- Q Rosie Year 6 2nd 1500m
- Q Juno 1st Year 5 Turbo Javelin, Long Jump & 600m
- Q Benjamin Year 5 1st 600m, 2nd Turbo Javelin, 3rd 60m
- Q Hester Year 5 1st 60m, 2nd Long Jump, 3rd 600m
- Q Mitchell Year 5 2nd Long Jump
- Q Jack Year 5 3rd Long Jump
- Q Olson Year 7 3rd High Jump
- O Livi Year 7 1st Javelin

Prep Sports Round-up



Monday saw the U11A playing their first Hardball Cup fixture against North Town Primary which proved to be an excellent match, played with great spirit and with considerable skill from both teams. Also on Monday some of our Year 3 and 4 children went across to King's for a cross country event. All the children did brilliantly and there were some great times posted.

On Tuesday, we hosted Wells for our first swimming gala. We had some convincing wins in the majority of events, with many of the children gaining personal best times, which was great. Our fabulous

Sixth Form came out to time for us and were so supportive with our nervous swimmers. It was a great event.

On Wednesday, the U11 boys' team had a change in fortune and came up against a tough King's Hall side, where we struggled to get going in the field, but credit should go to Thomas for a bowling spell. The U10 boys battled through their match also against King's and are continuing to show good progress. Benjamin and Freddie both had good all round games. Away at Blundell's, the girls enjoyed the sunshine and put together some fine performances with some effective bowling by Ria in the B team, and some outstanding batting by Livi and Juno in the A team to keep both teams within 10 of Blundell's at the end. The C team also enjoyed a good game with Erin receiving coaches player of the match. Thanks to all the staff for the hours they have put in this week to allow so many children to compete in so many sports!

Pre-Prep



In the Pre-Prep, our summer co-curricular clubs are in full swing and have been full of interest and excitement! It has been wonderful to welcome the Reception children to our clubs, alongside the children in Years 1 and 2 for this term. There is such an array of activities to experience!

The Clean-up Crew has been clearing the College site of any litter and rubbish. We are so grateful to them for keeping our outside areas extra clean and tidy. The cookery club has been busy creating some delicious recipes. This week, the year two children have made a batch of tasty butterfly cakes. They worked with care to decorate these, mixing

their own buttercream and cutting their cakes with precision. During story stones club, the children have been looking at the Queen's College wyvern and have used this as a stimulus for their own story stones. Well done to all!

Step Up Sessions

Nursery enjoyed their time in the reception class during their "step up session".









Last Friday, the Year 6 girls finally departed on their long awaited trip to watch Team Bath play Netball at the University of Bath. We left school at 3:30pm and stopped off at McDonalds which for a couple of girls may have been the highlight of the trip. We arrived in Bath in good time to see the warm up, attempt to get onto Sky TV and buy lots of merchandise!

The actual match was intense and great to watch. Bath led for most of the match which we were surprised by as Manchester Thunder were above them in the super league. However, their higher standard came through in their play late on with a last quarter surge, leaving Team Bath trailing by three at the end. The girls were impressed and surprised by the physicality of the game and how fast it was played, they were up shouting for Team Bath at the end which was great to see. Homeward bound the girls were tired but I think thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Drop Everything And Read

Tuesday's assembly was filled with anticipation as the children discovered why they had been asked to take a book to assembly. As part of our desire to encourage a love of reading amongst our pupils we explained the DEAR initiative (Drop Everything And Read). It was wonderful watching the children and staff engross themselves in their chosen book. The children will be asked to have DEAR time at any point in the school day this week and this is something that we will continue to incorporate into our school terms.



Year 5 Wessex Water Trip



Year 5 enjoyed a great trip to Wessex Water this week, which tied in with our Geography and Science topics. The children were taken on a fascinating walk around the water recycling centre and they learned a great deal. They also had great fun in the river, testing water flow with a cork and stopwatch, and finishing off with a dam making competition. Luckily the sun was out so no-one stayed wet for too long! After lunch the day ended with a stroll around the beautiful reservoir where we were lucky enough to see a kingfisher and a swan sitting on her eggs.

Year 3 trip to Lyme Regis



Year 3 had a wonderful time in Lyme Regis and are now expert fossil hunters! They spent time at the Mary Anning museum looking at all the amazing exhibits and then explored the beach searching for fossils under the expert guidance of Chris, the Museum's Education Officer, where they found many ammonites and belamites. They are now looking forward to discovering more about fossils and dinosaurs as we continue our learning in the coming weeks. No trip to the beach is complete without an ice-cream and Year 3 certainly enjoyed theirs!





Year 2 Outdoor School





Our focus in Outdoor School this week was 'Woodland Art' and the children worked fabulously in teams to create some super work. In small groups the children worked collaboratively to create a woodland picture, with a frame around it. As you can see from the photos, they worked creatively to design some spectacular pieces. Individually, the children were taught how to use a saw and drill safely to create a wooden medallion which they wore with pride on their return to school.

Instrument Music Taster - Mr Jenkins













On Tuesday we held an Instrument Taster Evening in the senior Music Department, offering students the opportunity to meet members of our talented Visiting Music Teacher team and try out a wide range of instruments. With 13 instruments being demonstrated, there was plenty to get involved in and we had a very large number of our pupils with us, many trying four or five options. The wide ranging benefits of playing a musical instrument has really come to the fore in multiple recent studies and it was encouraging to see so many parents and students interested in starting a life-enriching musical journey. If you were unable to attend but are interested in music lessons for your child, please contact Mr Jenkins in the Senior School Music Department or Miss Scutt in the Prep School who will be happy to advise on choices and how Queen's can support your child's musical aspirations.

Senior School



Another busy (and dry) week of sport in the Senior School, full of cricket, swimming and athletics action.

At the end of last week, our swimming team took part in the annual Meade King Cup and all involved must be commended for their efforts in the pool. Against some very tough opposition, they all tried extremely hard across all their races. Friday also saw our 1st XI in action, against Exeter School in their re-arranged cup match.

Saturday was buzzing with cricket as we welcomed teams from Wells Cathedral and Collegiate, getting a chance to enjoy much improved pitch conditions - reflected in some fantastic cricket being played by all age groups, from 1st XI to U13C.

Our athletics team had the chance to enter the King's Bruton open event at The Castle School track on Saturday with many athletes having the opportunity to try different events for the first time. As a result of attending many open events over the last few weeks, I am very proud to announce that 16 of our athletes, across all age groups, have been selected to represent the Taunton Area Squad. Well done to all.

On Tuesday, the U15A cricket team welcomed Taunton School in the first round of the County Cup. Congratulations to the boys for getting through to round 2.

Wednesday's matches were played at St Peters for the U13A and U13B Girls teams, both securing wins and the U12 and U13 teams travelled to King's Hall for their competitive matches, with a mixture of results. Well done to all cricketers.

To conclude the week, the equestrian team will be competing in the one day event qualifier at Moreton, our 1st XI will be hosting Plymouth College and our 1st XI Girls will travel to King's College. Both to compete in cup competitions.

We look forward to Saturday when our athletes will enter the 10 Schools Cup at Millfield. Also, various cricket fixtures will take place both home and away - good luck to all involved.

Senior School

Scholars Event: Blackout Poetry - Rebecca Year 9



In the Scholar's Event run by Miss Watkins, Year 8 and 9 joined to create our own blackout poetry. This is where you are given a page of text, usually from a novel, and colour over or 'blackout' the majority of the text so that the remaining words form a poem. It provided us with a creative opportunity, challenging us all to become inventive in the words we picked.

Miss Watkins showed us a book; it was called Carrie's War and by the looks of it, hadn't been picked up in some time with its ripped and dusty cover! She then proceeded to tear it up, ripping out whole pages, much to our shock. However, she then gave us each a page to create our poetry, giving the book a new purpose.

We were given full creative freedom - my page heavily featured the effects of war, so I drew a skull to fit with the melancholic poem I had created. Other's managed to

alter their text completely, finding some joy when moulding the words together.

Year 8 Bird Houses



Year 8 have been looking closely at the artists Rachel Walker and Chrysa Koukoura. The pupils have put their fantastic bird designs onto a bird box which is going to be put up in the Kitchen Garden, Food and Nutrition department. We will see if we have any visitors over the next year!









Senior School

Royal Marines ready for action at Queen's



We were delighted to welcome back Colour Sergeant Mike Beaton, MBE and his colleagues from the Royal Marine Commandos Education Awareness Team to deliver straight-talking, honest food life skills and Royal Navy career advice through an exciting GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition masterclass experience today.



CSgt Beaton, who has served around the globe from operational tours of duty in Northern Ireland, to the jungles of Sierra Leone, has also represented Great Britain 7 times in the World Triathlon Championships, from Japan to Denmark, Switzerland to France and all this whilst on tours of duty within the Royal Marines.

Known as the 'Commando Chef' he spoke about the importance of food nutrition as a foundation stone for a healthy lifestyle, "in an age where we consume too much sugar and salt and don't have nutritional know-how readily available, we aim to not only educate but to highlight the importance of a healthy diet, particularly within our role in the armed forces".

Two classes of our Year 10 pupils were treated to a morning of presentations and workshops including live cooking demonstrations.

Our favourite vegetable has been leeked!



Our pupils are responsible for sowing, caring for and harvesting the fresh fruit and vegetables in our wonderful school Kitchen Garden. This week pupils dug up a bumper crop of fresh leeks from the school vegetable beds.

Year 7's worked hard to uproot and unearth all these tasty leeks, ready for creating delicious dishes back in the kitchen classroom.

"They took the whole process through from seed to harvest to prepare and cook tasty dishes from our organic fresh produce", said Mr Mann, Head of the Faculty of Art, Design, and Food.

Sixth Form

UCAS 2024 launch



On Tuesday afternoon he SFC was buzzing with activity and excitement about future plans for university and beyond.

On the very day that UCAS Apply opened for 2024 entry, our Year 12s filled the SFC computer rooms and started their applications. Further sessions and support will be given in regard to personal statements and making good institution choices ahead of sending off the applications in October. UCAS Hub is the go-to site for students during the application process but UCAS also offer a parents newsletter for parents/

guardians who would like to advance their knowledge of the process (https://www.ucas.com/parents-signup,) as ever, Mr Aldridge and the Year 12 tutor team will be on hand to respond to queries from students or parents. Exciting times ahead!

Chess for Charity

Last week, 12 students took part in a chess match to raise money for Edukid, with many spectators dropping in to watch the games. Some were very close and it was amazing to see them all taking part.



Boarders' Corner

Cotlake House



Cotlake have enjoyed another busy weekend of activities. Saturday afternoon was once again spent enjoying the sunshine on the upper with mask decorating, ball games and making chocolate banana smoothies.

On Sunday the pupils enjoyed some adrenaline fuelled fun at Ninja Warrior, with some impressive balance and climbing skills on show.



QCC Family Event



We couldn't have asked for a better afternoon for the QCC Summer Family Social. The incredible weather brought so many of our families out and all had much fun. Picnics, barbeque food (with thanks to <u>Cullens</u> Catering), ice cream and drinks were much enjoyed. The children enjoyed fabulous face painting and Pin the Tail on Percy organised by our brilliant prefects. The inflatable assault course and kindly donated inflatable football pitch (from the Football Fun Factory) were very popular indeed.







Trip to Cambodia



Some of the School pupils are lucky enough to be travelling

part of our whole college Edukid collaboration. Pupils in Prep School are collecting small items to be taken over and given to the children in the school. There is a box outside the Birchall Hall and we would appreciate any donations. Items must be small enough to be carried over: pencils, stickers, balloons, small notebooks, games, deflated footballs, skipping ropes etc., are all ideal.

Rental Properties?

We have a couple of families looking for rental accommodation in the area, if you are able to help or know of anything coming on to the market, please email:

Mrs Mockridge, ram@queenscollege.org.uk.

Key Dates	
Mary Poppins	19-21 May
Exmoor Challenge	20 May
Prep School House Climbing	20 May
Equestrian: Mixed ages V One Day Event Qualifiers @ Moreton	21 May
GreenPower Car Race	21 May
Year 7 and 8 Kayaking at Langport	21 May
Bronze DofE Final Expedition	21 –22 May
Scholars Event: Years 9 and 10 in Food and Nutrition	22 May
Highgrove Nursery Transition Visit	23 May
Scholars Event: Years 7-9 Biology	23 May
Year 2 Tours	24 May
Nursery School Forest School Trip	24 May
Tea Time Concert	24 May
Year 2 Tours	24 May
Discover Queen's - Outdoor Education Day	25 May
Prep School Summer Concert rehearsals	25 May
Scholars Event: Year 10 English	25 May
Prep School Summer Concert	25 May
Prep School Summer Fayre	26 May
Prep School: No Co-Curricular activities	26 May
Senior School: No Co-Curricular 2	26 May
Half Term	27 May — 04 June

Our online whole school calendar can be found here.

Our sports portal can be accessed here.

OQ News

Rebecca Wilde

Congratulations to OQ Rebecca Wilde who made her Senior GB rowing debut last weekend at the Weddau International Regatta in Germany.





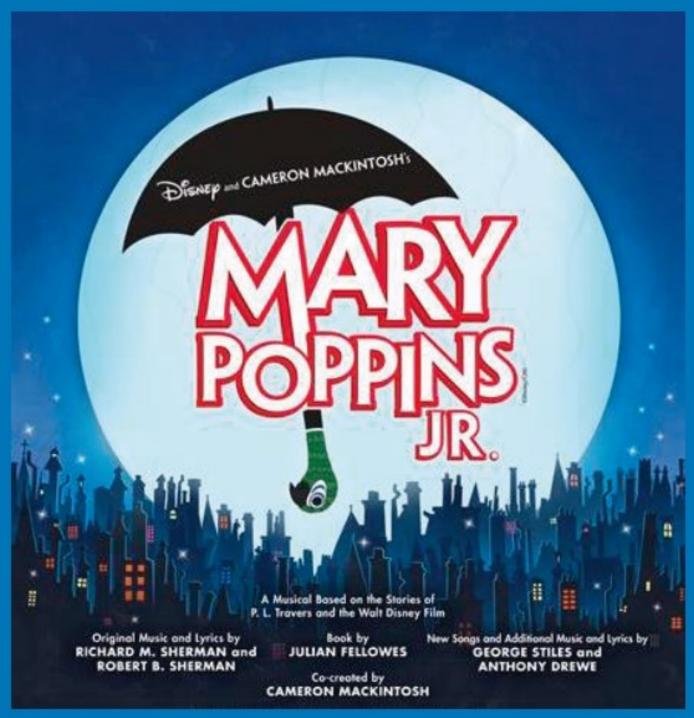


Uniform News



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.



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 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



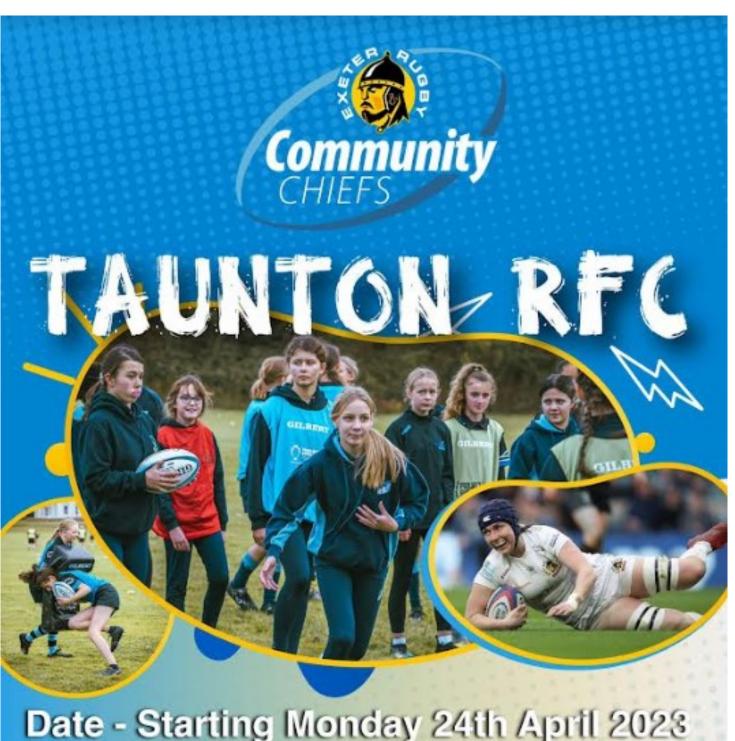
Save the Dates

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

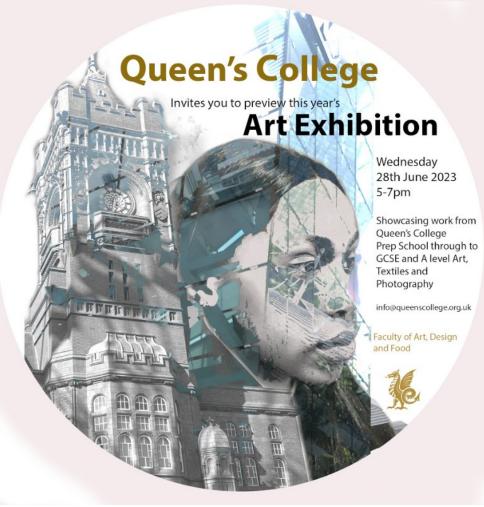
PLAYER APPEARANCE EDONY JEFFERIES







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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