

Queen's College Whole School Newsletter

16 June 2023



It is a little challenging to keep on top of all that is going on at Queen's right now, especially with me being away at Methodist HQ for a couple of days. However, I will try my best with a few highlights and a few pointers.

It's been Careers and Employability Week for Year 12 with a range of activities: Emma Warren (Year 3 parent) and Tanya Dicks from Elite Staffing Solutions have been mock interviewing; Lexi Shore, Managing Partner at AC Mole gave an accountancy careers talk; and Tom Samuels (Year 8 parent) met with students to talk about business and consultancy and delivered a cyber security escape room task; and they have been at a Bristol University Open Day today. My thanks to all who have given their time.

Mr Julian Noad - Head of College

Public examinations are not yet finished but will be coming to a close for GCSEs and A-levels in the next two weeks: further mathematics on 24 June and AEA extension mathematics on 27 June, respectively. Year 9 and 10 internal exams have been completed this week.

A diary error meant I was unable to join this week's Parent Forum but Mr Matthews kindly stood in to answer a few questions on our bring your own device plans. I share again our FAQ document for parents. It may also be helpful for youto glance through our senior school developments for September; this is a live document and is being tweaked as we go.

Year 8 pupils have been away for a

fabulous adventure. Challenge this week; Year 9 head off for their challenge on Monday. Both will be covered in next week's Bulletin but initial feedback can be gleaned from the OE Instagram account.

After some forecast overnight showers, the weekend should bring us a fine Saturday, with: Athletics, a South West Schools event, at Exeter; Cricket versus Mount Kelly; and Tennis versus Leweston. I also look forward to welcoming Old Queenian Patrons, the Sibly Society, to lunch.

On Sunday, I will be driving boarders to the North Devon Wake Park. Whilst Mr Knight leads an international hockey outing to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, for Great Britain versus USA, men's and women's matches.



Senior School

The week ahead will again need a close eye if one is to keep abreast: Years 11 and 13 remain on study leave; Years 7, 8, 10, and 12 are in 'normal' lessons (albeit with many exceptions); Year 9, as mentioned before, have their Adventure Challenge from Monday to

Mr Julian Noad - Head of College

Wednesday, with lessons on Thursday and Friday. Additional items in the calendar include: the Gold Duke of Edinburgh final expedition for Year 12; Green Power car racing at Helston for the electric car gang; and there is also an OQ reunion in London. As one final chase up, I remind you that <u>ticket sales</u> for the summer ball close next week, on Monday. There are but a few places left, for what looks set to be a fabulous night.

> Enjoy a terrific weekend. Julian

Healthy Eating Week



Healthy Eating Week takes place every year, aiming to encourage people to have a healthier and more sustainable diet. It is an annual initiative organised by the <u>British Nutrition Foundation (BNF)</u> focussing on providing, advice and support for everyone to find their way to eat a healthier diet with five different themes, one for each day of the week.

To read about what we have been doing at Queen's to promote healthy eating this week visit our <u>website news</u> <u>section</u>.

Mr Henry Matthews - Head of Prep



As we come to the end of another eventful week, we're very pleased to share many of the highlights in the following pages . We started on a high note by welcoming back Mrs. Wade, who is making a phased return following her successful operation. She received a very warm welcome from her class and I know that she is very glad to be back in school and working with Year 3 again.

The cricket season continues in full swing, and the progress on the field of play is noticeable. Our children participated in several thrilling matches and a tournament this week that kept us on the edge of our seats. Some of these fixtures were so closely contested that they went right down to the final few balls. I am very proud of the teamwork, hardwork, and determination displayed by all our children who have represented the school this week.

Performing arts has been at the forefront in the past few days. Getting the show on the road, Monday began with speech exams, music exams have followed and, as we head into the weekend, I know that many children will be taking part in dance exams. Good luck to all participants.

It is great to see such a high number of children taking part in these activities and we look forward to celebrating the successes later in the term.

The performance theme continued on Tuesday when we opened our doors to Oake, Bradford & Nynehead Primary School for an extraordinary strings workshop and musical collaboration day. It was a harmonious affair, where talented string enthusiasts from both schools came together to create some excellent music.

On Tuesday evening, we extended a warm welcome to the parents of our new reception class students, with an evening of introductions and information sharing. Mrs Penny and Mrs Baker were delighted to have the opportunity to get to know parents, and I am sure the children are very excited about starting school with us.

On Thursday, the scientific minds of our Year 5 students were ignited during their science step-up day at the senior school. They had the opportunity to engage in hands-on experiments, delving into the fascinating world of chemistry and biology, and develop a deeper understanding of the scientific process. These experiences encourage curiosity and inspire a passion for learning.

Meanwhile, our Year 2 students had a fabulous time exploring Knightshayes garden. They were amazed by the number of edible foods they could see growing in the kitchen garden before surveying the beautiful flowering plants in the formal garden. The children had a great day exploring the grounds, discovering hidden and treasures, immersing themselves in the rich history of the estate. Experiences outside the classroom are invaluable in enhancing the learning offer and we look forward to plenty more in our upcoming activity week.

We rounded off the week on a high note with a sensational lunchtime concert. As ever, our talented musicians impressed us all with their exceptional skills and passion for music. The concert was a testament to their hard work and dedication, and again I am proud to see so many pupils take part in this event.

Looking ahead to the coming week, we have a bustling schedule. We'll be celebrating our Year 6 students with a special assembly

Mr Henry Matthews - Head of Prep

on Tuesday and then a concert on Thursday.

Parents of Year 6 children are welcome to attend both events and I am sure they will be filled with fun memories of the children's time in Prep School. Nursery School children will present their end of year dance performance to parents in the Birchall Hall on Monday. A reminder also that we have our step-up morning on Thursday where the children will spend time with their new teachers and parents are welcome to meet staff after school for an informal chat over some tea and cake.

We end next week with Upper Prep Sports Day which promises to be a day of excitement, competition, and fun. We can't wait to witness our students giving their all in various sporting events, showcasing their athletic talents, and cheering each other on. Please do come along, there is even mention of an artisan coffee van and ice cream van to refresh us through the day.

With a busy few weeks ahead, please do keep an eye on MSP and if you need more information about any of the upcoming events, please contact the Prep Office staff.

> Best Wishes Henry



A huge thank you to the QCC (Queen's College Community) for purchasing the Prep School children this fabulous story telling chair.

The QCC were able to fund the purchase of the chair with the proceeds raised from the QCC Quiz Night earlier this year.

Nursery Round-up

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



The Nursery School children have had a fabulous time this week with activities that have supported their early phonic awareness, in readiness for reception. They had fun with a pop up pirate game where they had to choose a sword with a letter sound and try to think of something that begins with that sound before placing it in the pirates barrel to see if they could make the pirate pop up!

Kitchen garden club provided a pizza making tuff tray activity which was lots of fun. The children developed their dough making skills; slapping the dough between their hands, cutting a variety of herbs to top them with as well as looking at early mathematical concepts such as halves, quarters, more and less.

This weeks' Forest school trip to Fyne Court enabled the children to continue to practise their gross motor skills on the fallen tree and create pictures of themselves using the natural resources they found. The children made a request for a repeat of the "1,2,3 hide and seek" game in the trees and also had an opportunity to watch a very large crane unload a delivery of logs. What a busy week!



Prep Sports Report



Wow, what a scorcher! This week has been hard work for the children, with temperatures up in the late twenties, there has been plenty of sun cream, water and hats out on the playing fields.

Year 3 and 4 started our week of sport with cricket against West Buckland. We again fielded five teams and some of the matches we mixed up the schools which was lovely to see.

Tuesday saw our annual Primary School gala. It was fantastic to welcome around forty swimmers from some of our local Primary schools. Great racing from all the children, and even better support from the watching masses! Medals were spread across all the schools at the end, although Bishop Henderson went away with the Primary School Trophy for top scoring visiting school. The Queen's A team were triumphant in first place with Queen's B in third.

On Wednesday, four teams travelled across to Sherborne School. Once we had found our pitches and our parents had found us, we had some great matches. The boys put in a great effort despite the heat. The girls played well with the B team drawing their match, the A team displayed some accurate bowling limiting Sherborne's run.

Today we are hosting a Primary Cricket festival, where we are debuting some budding cricketers for next year. In addition, we have sent athletes to the South West IAPS Athletics event at Millfied, those who do well may qualify for the next round in a couple of weeks.



Welcome and Information Evening for Reception '23 parents

We recognise that starting school is an important day for both the child and their parents. To ensure a smooth and happy transition to school, our Welcome and Information Evening allowed Reception teachers to share tips and suggestions to help parents prepare their child for their move to Reception.

Lots of practicalities were covered, such as what happens on the first day, drop off and collection procedures, dealing with tired children, information about uniform, sports kit, changing for PE/swimming activities and answered any questions that parents had.

Over the last two terms, the children have enjoyed several' step up to Reception sessions' to ensure they are familiar with their new classroom, and then spent the whole morning on Thursday in the classroom with Mrs Baker and Mrs Penny, both of whom are confident that the children are ready and excited about starting 'big school'.

String Workshop



Our string players this week were delighted to welcome 28 Year 3 and 4 children from Oake, Bradford and Nynehead Primary School, with Mrs Morgan and her team. 24 violinists and cellists from Years 2-6 were waiting in the Birchall Hall to greet them with instruments at the ready!

Under Mrs Gullick's direction, the pupils played "Bellringer", "Pray give us some peace", "Reel, Sailing Home" and "Airport". The pupils learnt to pay attention to bow direction, posture and the sounds they were making.

They also sang a song about some outdated car models, complete with unusual actions! The Queen's string players performed the "Can Can" and Mrs Gullick and Mrs Morgan treated the room to a brilliant cello duet during the afternoon.

It was wonderful that our visitors could also join us for lunch, see some more of Queen's and start to forge friendships. It was special to hear the massed sound of well over 50 string players in the Birchall Hall, we hope to welcome Mrs Morgan and her musicians again next year.



Semi-finals of the Maths Club Quiz

Sam and Thomas (Year 6) Anya and Ben (Year 5) represented the school admirably in the Semi-finals of the Maths Club quiz.

Their excitement and enthusiasm was clear to see as they puzzled and worked together to come up with the right answers. What a great achievement by all the children.

Year 2 trip to Knightshayes



The Year 2 children had a fabulous time exploring Knightshayes Gardens.

They were amazed by the number of edible foods they could see growing in the kitchen garden before exploring the beautiful flowering plants in the formal garden. The pond was a hive of life with a variety of fish and stunning dragonflies. As always, the children were brilliant and a credit to the school.

Discover Queen's: Year 5 Science Day

Yesterday, our Year 5 pupils hosted pupils from Chard Prep School, Parkfield Primary School and Oake, Bradford and Nynehead Primary School for an exciting day with the Science Faculty in the Senior School.

Our Year 5s were field scientists for the day. The scenario they had been given was: they had been travelling by light aircraft from Jakarta to Sulawesi when they were blown off course by a huge tropical storm. The pilot ran out of fuel and ditched the aircraft in the sea next to the remote, tropical, uninhabited, volcanic island of Serua. Luckily everyone managed to swim ashore uninjured but the aircraft sank with all their equipment. With no way of communicating with the outside world, and not knowing how long it would take for a rescue mission to reach them, the Year 5s used science to survive. During the day they lit fires, purified water, made toothpaste, explored how we interpret vision and used plastic waste washed up on the beach to make ropes to build a raft. Our budding field scientists approached the tasks with enthusiasm and interest rising to the set challenges. A fun-packed day was had by all.



Senior School

Sports Report



It was an unwelcome return of the rain last weekend when many of our cricket fixtures were once again affected by the weather. The 1st XI and U15A teams managed to play some cricket at West Buckland School, despite poor conditions dictating the match. The girls 1st XI started their innings well against King's College, scoring well before the rain meant their match was abandoned. The U13/12 A and B teams had some competitive matches against West Buckland and the U14A team welcomed Exeter School for an exciting display of cricket.

Congratulations to the 17 Queen's athletes who represented Taunton Area Schools on Saturday in the County Track and Field Championships in Yeovil. All performed exceptionally well and 16 managed to secure a place on the podium in either 1st, 2nd or 3rd position in their events. A special congratulations to Osa, Finley, Franky, Yas, Jacky and Louis who have all been selected to represent Somerset Schools at the South West Track and Field Championships in Exeter on Saturday. Louis has also been named Somerset captain!

On Monday we welcomed The Maynard School for an U12/13/15 swimming gala. Some excellent displays in the water and some very close races meant for an extremely enjoyable afternoon for all involved.

Tuesday afternoon, the U14A cricket team welcomed The Castle School for a very competitive match played in great spirit. On Wednesday we welcomed teams from Sherborne, when our U12 boys and girls teams braved the heat to showcase their cricketing skills.

Richard Huish College were our visitors on Thursday for the 1st XI and Friday will see 16 athletes from Year 6 and 7 visit MIIIfield School for the South West Prep Schools Athletics Championships.

Today we look forward to the annual cricket match between the 1st XI and the Old Queenian's XI at 4:30pm for what is always a wonderful occasion with exciting cricket guaranteed!

Senior School





The College has recently taken delivery of a brand new automatic weather station to enhance its lessons and co-curricular sessions.

The station is managed by the College Weather Club, which is open to anyone in Senior School interested in learning more about the weather, how we predict it, and how it might change in the future as a result of our changing climate.

Well done to Brandon (Year 10), Edouard, Iven and Kofi (Year 9) who researched and wrote a proposal for the weather station and plans for its use. The new weather station will provide realtime weather data for the College and will over time become a valuable resource as an historical archive. It will be used in

lessons on data analysis and in Weather Club to provide a truth against which to check our weather forecasts.

The station will soon be broadcasting its data onto the Internet so look out for future updates. If you are interested in finding out more, Weather Club will be running again next academic year; speak to Dr Ferraro for more information.

UKMT Competitions

1. Which single digit should be placed in all three of the boxes shown to give a correct calculation? $\Box \simeq = 176$								
	A 3	B 4	C 5	D 6	E 8		0	
25.	 25. Tony had a large number of 1p, 5p, 10p and 20p coins in a bag. He removed some of the coins. The mean value of the coins he removed was 13p. He noticed that a 1p piece in his group of removed coins was damaged so he threw it away. The mean value of the rest of his removed coins was then 14p. How many 10p coins did he remove from the bag? 							
	A 0	B 1		C 2	D 3	E 4	d	
B6 .	6. The diagram shows five circles connected by five line segments. Three colours are available to colour these circles. In how many different ways is it possible to colour all five circles so that circles which are connected by a line segment are coloured differently?							

On Wednesday 14 June the final exams took place for this year's series of UKMT competitions.

At the end of April, 44 of our Year 7 and 8 students took part in the Junior Maths competition. The questions are designed to really put students through their paces combining out of the box thinking, logic and new applications of mathematics they have learnt.

Queen's students did exceptionally well and we saw a large number of

awards made to our students.

In Year 7 Teniore, Meli, Ava, Bea, Eliza and Madara gained a Bronze Award. Tilly, Talya, Finn, Max, Hannah and Kirk earned Silver Awards and Felix earned a Gold Award.

In Year 8 Alvaro, Maryam, Oliver L, Lily, Leyton and Oliver W earned themselves Bronze Awards, Makanaka, Freya, Jacob and Sam gained Silver Awards and Ben and Máté gained Gold awards.

Both Máté and Ben scored highly enough to make it through to the follow-on rounds which they sat on Wednesday morning. Ben made it into the top 10,000 Year 7 and 8 students in the country to compete in the Junior Kangaroo Challenge, whilst Máté made it into the top 1200 students nationally to attempt the Junior Olympiad.

Well done to everyone for the awards they have gained in the competitions this year, and I hope you can agree that Máté and Ben have done remarkably well just to make it through to their follow-on rounds and we now eagerly await their results. Some readers may be keen to see what types of questions they had to face, so do please have a go at the questions above.

Sixth Form

Law Academic Scholar Event - Ze and Joe



The Year 12 scholars participated in a mock court trial hosted by Mrs Perry (Queen's English Teacher) and her husband Mr Perry. Mr Perry is a local senior barrister. The students split up into two groups: those defending and those prosecuting where the students had to examine and analyse the given statements from both the complainant and the defendant. Following a brief analysis, the groups went head-to-head cross examining the opposing side's witness about discrepancies within their statements.

Between the questioning,

Mr Perry highlighted inconsistencies and gave valuable insights and examples on how to capitalise on an inaccuracy. The contents of the questioning were considered by the jury, consisting of staff, who after hearing each group's concluding speech, aimed at manipulating the evidence and persuading them, came to the conclusion of "Not Guilty". The students thoroughly enjoyed this mock trial and piqued interest among the students about law.



The students would like to give thanks to Mr and Mrs Perry for providing a valuable and insightful scholar event.



Inspirational Talk - Digby Year 12

On Wednesday during the careers week, Lexi Shore, a successful business woman who is a managing partner at A C Mole, spoke to Year 12. She talked about her inspiring journey, fighting her way from working in a teapot factory to a prestigious position in finance against all odds.

She then went on to tell the students how to deliver a strong interview. Ms Shore emphasised the importance of demonstrating hunger, ambition, and drive during the interview process to leave a lasting impression.

She also explained how employers are looking for candidates who are passionate about their work, and show a willingness to go above and beyond to achieve their goals. This included researching the company and expressing how you can add value to the organisation.

The talk was a brilliant experience for Year 12 as it was filled with indispensable information as well as being incredibly motivational.

Many thanks to Lexi Shore for taking the time to speak to Year 12 and giving us valuable insight. It is much appreciated.

Sixth Form



Army Visit - Sevin Year 12

In what was an educational, eventful, and deeply insightful careers' day, Year 12 had the pleasure of learning from experienced army soldiers of the Royal Corps of Signals. The day began with a talk spanning a wide range of topics. Not only did we learn about their roles: the inner workings of the signals, the benefits of pursuing an army career, but also the importance of the army's connected, self-sufficient structure. We also had the opportunity to hear a few personal anecdotes from the visiting soldiers. This was particularly insightful, giving us a more rounded view of what it means to pursue an army career.

After a break, we re-entered the room to a different speech – this one about cybersecurity. We had the opportunity to learn of the growing cyber threats that surround us in today's world, looking at

real-life examples and hearing from those who have seen the issue first-hand. This ultimately culminated in a cyber -themed escape room, where groups of the Year 12s analysed subtle clues until an interesting, high-impact problem was solved.

Overall, the day was an experiential one. Though our knowledge has certainly grown, the focus, organisation, and teamwork we used in the final task is definitely something all of us can take away and learn from in any walk of life, so thanks again.

Work Experience - Freya Year 12

I have been working with Claire, who is the Digital Marketing Executive in the Queen's College office. Claire introduced me to the rest of the marketing and admissions team. Claire and the team were lovely and very welcoming.

I helped to create some digital content for the school, particularly for TikTok. I also attended a news planning meeting where content was planned for the upcoming week.

I also worked with Miss Ridley in the drama department. I taught two Year 7 classes, the children were a pleasure to teach. I created a lesson plan explaining the techniques and how stimulating the brain is very important when beginning a lesson.

These experiences have definitely helped me think about my future after Queen's.



Representing Somerset Rugby



Congratulations to Will in Year 12 for representing Somerset Rugby U17 v Devon and Gloucestershire.

Sixth Form

Business Owner Visit by Charlotte and Jan Year 12

On Thursday, Emma Warren, a successful business owner and QC parent, together with her colleague Tanya Dicks came to speak to the Year 12 students.

It was an insightful experience for all of us, especially when they spoke about their career paths and how they had got to where they are today.

They spoke about many useful things such as how if you cannot find the solution to everything, and even if you do it's never going to turn out perfectly, and your job becomes easier once you accept that. Other useful tips included

how things sometimes get worse before they get better as well as ways to find jobs and present yourself to an interviewer.

They followed with a simulation of an interview for each one of us. After asking us a set of questions, they pointed out our strengths and weaknesses and gave us valuable advice on how to improve and refine our answers. It was emphasised how body language and other details like the tone of our voice, can really impact the outcome of an interview. Overall this has been a very important and useful experience for us Year 12 students and surely will be incredibly helpful in the future.





Business Owner Visit

Tom Samuel, QC parent and successful tech entrepreneur delivered a really informative talk as part of Year 12 Employability Week.

He focused on the establishment of his consultancy firm and taking the leap from being employed to running your own business. The importance of networking and providing a bespoke service was clear. Hearing about his career and from A-level side project to international business was a great inspiration to all.

University Visits

To mark the close of Year 12 Employability Week , Year 12 students set off to visit universities across the country including Bath, Reading, Salford and Bristol.

30 students travelled from school by coach to Bristol University and enjoyed walking around the departments and facilities, attending talks and generally having a few hours as university students taking the sights. A great day was had by all!



News and Announcements

Upcoming Dates

RAD Ballet exams	17 June
Sibly Society Lunch	17 June
FIH Pro League Trip	18 June
Year 9 Adventure Challenge	19 June-21 June
Nursery School Forest School Trip	20 June
GreenPower Race - Helston	21 June
Nursery School New Parents Welcome Evening	21 June
Highgrove Nursery Transition Visit	22 June
Gold DofE Final Expedition	22 June
Prep School Moving up morning	22 June
Year 6 Celebration Concert	22 June
Last day of regular Co-Curricular activities (Senior)	23 June
Prep School Sports Day	23 June
Highgrove Nursery Transition Visit	23 June
Art Scholars' Event	23 June
Year 11 Ball	23 June

Our online whole school calendar can be found here.

Our sports portal can be accessed here.

My School Portal can be accessed <u>here</u>.

Colour Run - 1 July 2023

The Edukid Charity team is hosting a Colour Run on the school site on Saturday 1st July 2023 in order to raise money for EDUKID. This fun event is open to all members of the Queen's community with a run, walk, skip or dance around the Lower (Sports pitches).

We are hoping that all pupils will take part in this whole College fundraising event. Please could you complete this <u>form</u> to confirm your child's (and yours) participation.

If you wish to donate, the JustGiving page can be found <u>here</u>.





Prep School - 09:30 - 10:15 Years 7, 8, 9 - 10:30-11:30 Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 - 11:30-12:30 On the Lower- outside 6th Form Centre

News and Announcements





Monday 26 June Book to watch the show now





Tickets for the Summer Ball are selling fast. We have just 6 remaining tables left and this is with the increased capacity we have created for this year. As a reminder, all parents, family, friends and OQ's of the College (Nursery through to Y13) are more than welcome to join us. The link with all details for both Speech Days and the Summer Ball is <u>here</u>. You may also wish to pre order your wine for the table from <u>The Fizzy Pheasant</u>, if you wish to do this, please use <u>this link</u>.

News and Announcements

Art Exhibition



FREETER

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 Photography

info@queenscollege.org.uk

Faculty of Art, Design and Food