

BULLETIN

Queen's College Whole School Newsletter

06 October 2023

Tries Aplenty!



Mr Julian Noad - Head of College



Now well into the new academic year, has heen wonderful to see new pupils and new staff settle in quickly

to the Queen's College family. Autumn is always a full and exciting term and every year I am impressed by the energy and breadth of opportunities that Team Queen's deliver, alongside such robust academic teaching.

Last weekend's outdoor education fabulous weekend was opportunity for our pupils to challenge themselves. Thank you to all the staff who gave up their weekends to deliver. Our sports

teams have been out and about again and a particular shout out goes to our u12s rugby team who have kicked off the season well and secured another solid win this week. And to the u14s girls hockey who secured a silver medal in the County Cup tournament and now move in to the next regional level. Regular fixtures return this weekend with hockey versus Clayesmore and rugby versus Leweston. ever, attendance and support of our teams, home and away, is greatly appreciated.

There's more outdoor activity on Sunday, with climbing on the Mendips and kayaking on the

Parrett. The Greenpower car team will be at the 'glorious' Goodwood race track this weekend. Our boarders will be visiting Exmouth beach or Thorpe Park. I look forward to hearing all of the news and stories of their experiences and achievements, many of our pupils realising that they can indeed do things they perhaps had some nerves about.

During the week, I was in Stratfordupon-Avon for this year's HMC (Heads) conference. As ever, a great opportunity to catch up with and share tales, moreover gather fresh ideas and fresh initiative.







Tries Aplenty!

Mr Julian Noad - Head of College

The Friends of Queen's College met last evening to enjoy wine and cheese tasting and plan exciting social events for the year ahead. Watch this space and please do join us whenever you are able. The next big event is a Barn Dance, on the first Friday after half term, 10 November, 7pm in the Wyvern Hall. Details including ticket sales will be shared next week. In the meantime, do pop it in your diary.

This is the season for parents making decisions for schooling for next year.

Today, the Prep had record number of families in attendance for its Open Morning and, tomorrow, the senior school looks forward to many more. Mrs N and I are looking forward to being at Perrott Hill Prep this evening and then I will be on a plane bound for Nigeria next week, to meet yet more families, current and prospective. Interest in Queen's remains high, both locally and internationally.

I shall leave you now to enjoy another very full Bulletin

highlighting so much Queen's activity, including: last weekend's visit of a concert pianist, Patrick Hemmerlé; further sports endeavours, including basketball, football, swimming and equestrian; and exciting Sixth form activities.

Have a great weekend.

Julian

Advert



Mr Henry Matthews - Head of Prep





Another fantastic week has flown by here in the Prep School. As we head towards half term the school community

continues to thrive, and it is great to see so much happening each day.

We're over the moon about the newest addition to our school – the adventure play equipment on The Upper. Our intrepid explorers have taken to it like ducks to water, or rather more like mountain goats to the hills, and there is much excitement as they climb over the new clamber stack which rivals Vivary Park for size and scale. I am sure many fun-filled playtimes will be had by the children in the years ahead.

The completion of this project (although we are waiting on the final turfing to be laid down) draws to a close the end of the major summer improvement works and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Debs Cossey (Estates Manager) and the grounds and maintenance teams for their

brilliant work. With further improvements in the Prep School planned for half term, they certainly have been very busy!

As ever, sports took centre stage this Wednesday as our U11s took to the field for their hockey and rugby matches and once again we are seeing great progress and some highly competitive fixtures being played.

Our Pre-Prep pupils are demonstrating their perseverance and enquiring skills and independence as they settle into their routine. We're incredibly of their focus proud and commitment in class and how they adapted to their new timetables and classes. Thank you to our fantastic staff who are on hand to support them and be there every step of the way. If you do have any questions at drop off or pick, please do not hesitate to have a chat with the member of staff on duty.

Continuing the Pre-Prep theme, Thursday was all about celebrating our Pre-Prep superstars. They gathered for their weekly awards assembly, and the room was buzzing with excitement. We handed out certificates for perseverance, collaboration, and enquiring skills. Children learning valuable life lessons and developing skills and attitudes they will need to thrive as they move through the school. Well done to our youngest children.

Our Open Morning today was a great success and our busiest open day so far! We welcomed over 20 families who dropped by to explore our wonderful school. What's even more heartening is seeing so many future Pre-Prep boys and girls eager to start their journey with us. Many of those attending were looking at starting their journey in Reception and we would be pleased to welcome such a strong cohort of children to Queen's next year.

This weekend might be a bit quieter in the Prep School, but we're all set for the Senior School Open Morning on Saturday. It's a chance to showcase all the

Mr Henry Matthews - Head of Prep

incredible opportunities our senior school has in store and I know some Year 6 families will take the chance to have a look around ahead of the Discover Queen's day on 17 October.

Looking ahead to next week, we've got plenty more to look forward to. On Monday, we welcome Wellington pupils in Year 3 and 4 to fixtures. On Wednesday morning, we hold our first Prep School Parent Forum of the year at 8:15am (don't forget to click here to book), and a delightful lunchtime concert awaits our pupils in Years 3-5.

On a personal note, I'm really looking forward to some informal chats with our new staff members

over a cup of tea. Their fresh ideas and perspectives are highly valuable in helping us make our school even better.

We hope you take this weekend to unwind and recharge.

With best wishes Henry

Queen's Choir



Nursery Round-up

Nursery News From Mrs Donna Kershaw - Highgrove Nursery Manager





It's been another busy week. On Monday afternoon, we invited grandparents and special family members to join us for tea to celebrate 'Grandparents Day'. It was great to see so many families joining us and all of the children enjoyed spending time with all of the visitors. On Thursday, children across all rooms enjoyed the world food day with a focus on India. The food was enjoyed alongside some cultural music whilst they made their way through the two courses.

It's also been week one of parents meetings for the Cottontails and Tiggywinkles parents and staff have really enjoyed the opportunities to meet individually with parents to celebrate achievements over the last few months and plan for next steps moving forward. Changes in development happen so quickly in the early years and it is important to highlight and celebrate the huge changes that happen in sometimes just a few days!





Queen's Minis

Queen's Minis News From Miss Lizzie Hayes



The continuing warm and sunny autumn weather has meant that the children in Queen's Minis have enjoyed spending their time outside on bikes, playing babies in the cosy playhouse and developing their performance skills with musical instruments on our lovely outdoor stage area.

The autumn theme also extends inside with opportunities to investigate the concept of 'inside' and 'outside' using fruit and a basket which the children then used to print different fruits onto paper with paint to demonstrate their understanding of this concept.

Queen's Minis enjoyed being part of the whole College Edukid sponsored walk last week when they marched with great gusto down to the playing field to complete a 2km walk to help raise money for this worthy charity. On the way, they found lots of interesting things; such as signs, machinery and autumn leaves to look at and discuss and the treat of a biscuit half way round also added to the fun of the adventure.



Prep Sports Round-up



The Year 6 girls had a great morning last Saturday with seven schools arriving in great weather for a busy few hours of hockey. Our girls did really well, and our challenge to improve as we went through the tournament was certainly evident. The girls won three matches and drew one out of seven matches.

On Wednesday, the U10A and the U11 girls hosted Sherborne Prep School. The U11 girls responded positively to a training session on quick reactions and looking at the umpire for direction and this was more evident today which was great to see. The U10 girls continued their dominant performances with some good work by both Eleanor and Poppy.

The boys welcomed Perrott Hill, the U10 attacked well, with good speed and passing. The U11 boys continued with their positive attitudes in their rugby, listening well to coaching points and showing a greater understanding of when to add speed to the game.

Today our boys are out playing Exeter this afternoon and the U11A hockey team are at Kings Bruton for an IAPS qualifier.

Sports Notice



House Biathlon is next Friday. The boys will be in the swimming pool from 2.20pm and girls on the lower running. Then they will swap over.

Parents' tea will be in the dining pavilion throughout the afternoon. CC sessions will run as normal after the end.

Please let the form staff know if you wish to take your child earlier. Please note that some children have opted just to run. They will watch the other

runners during the afternoon as the pool will be tight for space.

Notice: Radio 2's 500 Word Story Competition





500 Words, the UK's most successful children's writing competition, opened on Tuesday 26 September and will run until Friday 10 November. The Prep School are encouraging the children to enter their own stories which should be written at home.

This year, the two age categories will be 5-7 year-olds and 8-11 year-olds.

Children of all abilities are encouraged to use their creativity and imagination to write a story they would love to read without the pressure of having to worry about spelling, punctuation and grammar.

The children will be encouraged to share their stories in their English lessons, once they have entered the competition.

More details, including how to enter a story, can be found on the **BBC** website

Year 1

This week, Year 1 have loved our Outdoor Education session. The children were asked to think about how to feed our birds ready for winter. They loved making bird feeders for our birds around our school. They pushed some sunflower seeds into some apples and then decided where to hang them around Pre-Prep and the Hutton Lawn. We can't wait to find out if the feeders have been visited by our local wildlife.











It's been another busy week of learning in Year 2. During Outdoor Education, the children explored different leaf shapes and used leaf identification charts to name the trees they came from.

There was more exploration in Science when the children investigated whether it is possible to make fabrics waterproof using wax crayons. They worked collaboratively to test their predictions and were surprised by the results.



This week, Year 5 had a live Q&A session with three PhD students from Germany who specialise in star formation, planets and galaxies, and materials within stars specific to heavy metals. Molly (Taunton, UK), Alex (USA), and Sebastian (Austria), all working towards being professors in their specialist fields, answered all the children's questions about the Milky Way, the universe, and beyond. They were thoroughly impressed with the in-depth and specialist questions the children asked.

Year 4 Chickens

Year 4 went to visit Mr and Mrs Noad's chickens this week, they enjoyed learning about the chickens and asked some very insightful questions.







Reception

Reception have had a great time at outdoor school. They have been exploring textures and creating crayon rubbings.











Cheerleading is a new sport to be introduced at Queen's College. The Year 5 and 6 children will learn a combination of gymnastics, stunts, dance, and jumps. The QC Cheerleaders have made fantastic progress in their stunting, and this week working on Preps. Stunting takes great athleticism, technique, teamwork, and trust. These photos show their first training session to the most recent.

Year 6

This week in Science, the Year 6 children continued their CSI investigations by manipulating shadows. Their findings illuminated Craig Ray as a suspect. Continuing their investigations at home, the children chose a suspect, exploring the distance of the light source to manipulate the length of the shadow.







Year 3

Year 3 have been learning about different types of teeth this week. They are looking forward to learning even more from a visiting dentist who will attend their lessons next week.











Senior School

Sports Round-up - Mr Bell



U18 Basketball: Queens vs. West Buckland School

The U18 Boys Basketball Team set the standard for performance this week with a 3 round cup tie versus West Buckland. Queens travelled away to meet their opposition in a competitive battle for next round of the South West league Cup qualification. An outstanding 1 sided affair took place with Queens pouncing on loose balls and developed set plays to record the teams highest points score to date with an astonishing 86-40 points win for Queen's.

U14 Girls Hockey: County Tournament

U14 Girls on Sherborne School and Wellington in midweek matches, with plenty of possession and shooting opportunities the girls team are in a great position to . The U13(A) team put on an improved display, being quick to react to movement patterns, first to the ball and playing with improved confidence. The U13(B) team displayed perhaps the stand out performance of the season to date, with a composed dominating display of work rate and possession. A full team effort completed a well earnt victory for Queen's.

U13(A) Boys Rugby:

What a game! The U13A rugby team's trip to Perrott Hill did not disappoint, with end-to-end tries galore! Queens took an early lead at the start of the match, scoring two well-worked tries, following some aggressive running and accurate ball handling. Perrott Hill responded with a try and so it continued. Each team would score, and the opposition would respond with another. With only 5 minutes to go, the scores were tied at 20-20.

Two strong individual runs by the Perrott Hill fly-half resulted in two breakaway tries and ended what was a very evenly fought encounter. The Queen's boys played some of their best rugby yet and have shown such huge improvements over the last year. They should be very proud of their performance.

U12(A) Boys Rugby:

The U12s travelled to Perrott Hill for the first away game of the year. Queen's started the game strongly, scoring five tries without any response through some good slight of hand and hard running. The second half was a contrast to the first with Perrot Hill scoring their three tries. Queen's showed a lot of character, defending for sustained phases of play but eventually getting two more tries to finish the game. Some fantastic rugby in both attack and defence throughout the game with everyone playing a key role in the win. (Fabulous picture on the front page of this Bulletin)

This weekend we look forward to both home and away rugby fixtures with Leweston School for our U12, U13, U14 and U16 teams.

U18 Football: Wyverns vs. Wellington School



The U18 Wyverns line up against Wellington this week, with Queen's fielding a strong team off the back of their 3-3 draw away last week. Video analysis and statistics have provided the cutting edge to training and feedback this week. Will the Wyverns perform at home in front of the school, will the additional pressure pay off - only time will tell. You can keep up to date with all scores via SOCS. Good luck Queen's!

Senior School

Sports Notice - Mr Bell (Director of Sport)





All fixtures are published in the College's <u>calendar</u>, which links with our <u>School Sports</u> page. For the benefit of the pupils, it also links to My School Portal so that training and fixtures appear on their timetable.

All of the information you and your child will need for fixtures will be available through the Calendar and School Sports. To view team sheets, you may need to use the password 'Queens College'. All fixtures for this term are all now available to view and will be kept updated.

We endeavour to publish team sheets 48 hours before a fixture, once pupils have taken part in training and we are aware of who is available. If your son/daughter is unavailable for a fixture, we request at least a week's notice for pre-planned events such as weddings but appreciate occasional illness and urgent family matters that may alter this timeline. It is important to note that last minute changes to team sheets do cause a knock on effect for fixtures and other parents. Once a pupil is selected for a fixture, it will show on their calendar in My School Portal.



Our Equestrian captain, Francesca took part in the NSEA Show Jumping at Bicton Arena last week she had a successful day with both of her horses and was awarded with 5th place.

Outdoor Ed

Outdoor Education Weekend





A weekend of outdoor activity started on Friday evening with a kayaking trip to the River Parrett. The group enjoyed some late summer sun on the river. For many, this was their first time in a kayak on moving water and everybody did really well. Some even managed a chilly swim before they finished!



Saturday was
DofE day for Years
10, 11 & 12 while
at the other end
of the school
Years 4 - 7
competed in the
Youth Climbing
Series, in
Exeter. Bronze

DofE (Year 10) were testing their navigation skills in the local area around Queen's while Silver DofE (Year 11) were also being put through their navigational paces on the Quantocks.

Gold DofE are paddling for their expedition this year, so spent the Day on Wimbleball Lake developing their basic boat handling skills and having a go at some deep water rescue techniques. They were joined at the lake by a very enthusiastic group of Year 7 - 9 pupils who

had spent the day trying out sit-on-top kayaks. They appeared to spend as much time jumping off them as they did sitting on top.



The group of young climbers were representing Queen's for the first time in the Youth Climbing Series the level competition from the various South West climbing wall squads amazing was

see. We didn't look out of place competing at this level and more than held our own. Performances were great throughout the team but special mention should go to Tom and Eve who were placed 2nd and 5th respectively. The group is now really looking forward to the next 'Bouldering' event in Wadebridge over half term.

On Sunday, all of our Ten Tors hopefuls were out on Dartmoor for the first training session of the Year. This year we are also hoping to field a 55-mile team for the first time in many years. Pupils were working in small groups with staff on the North Moor developing their navigation and familiarising themselves with the start/finish area that will be used for the Ten Tors Challenge event next May. There was a real buzz of excitement among the groups and everybody made an excellent start to the training.

It was a wonderful weekend of Outdoor Activities and I would like to thank the many enthusiastic staff and pupils who made it such a wonderful weekend. Well done to all!

Sixth Form

Round-Up



The sixth formers have been taking the lead in assemblies the past two weeks. Five Year 12 and Year 13 students spoke in our Year 11 Assembly last Tuesday and more spoke in the whole school assembly on Monday. The sixth form chose a theme of International Unity and talked about the importance of inclusion and equality. It was fantastic to have over 30 sixth formers on the stage today.

Year 12 had a visitor from NCS who promoted the 'Change it' week to them

happening in October half term. The week is a residential week away where students

have the opportunity to try new things and make a meaningful change to their community. It is a great experience to add to CVs and can count toward the DofE residential section. To find out more please see this <u>link</u>.

The Sixth Formers have all been thinking about their Futures after Queen's. They have put together these thought boards with a collection of ideas for their aims and aspirations. These are never far from our minds! Don't forget about the Sixth Form Open Evening on Tuesday 17 October.



Boarders' Corner

Round-Up

Last weekend, Hutton house celebrated the Mid Autumn Festival with Mooncakes and Bubble tea for everyone to try. The year 11 girls enjoyed a meal out at a local Asian restaurant. Vicky also brought a traditional Chinese costume to Queen's and helped Maryiam dress in the traditional clothing for the day. The older girls enjoyed a Sunday of relaxation with an afternoon cream tea and Spa session and the younger boarders made friendship bracelets and baked.

In school house, the boys enjoyed a graffiti workshop with aerosol art and some of the early risers took part in the longrun park run.



Concert Pianist Patrick Hemmerlé



Last weekend, we were privileged to host concert pianist Patrick Hemmerlé. An acclaimed recitalist with a number of recordings to his name, Patrick's programme was based on the complete 24 Preludes Op. 28 by Chopin and also featured works from the French school by Fauré, Debussy, Ravel and Roger-Ducasse. His recital on Saturday night in the Queen's Hall was quite astounding; a brilliant display of virtuosity with an incredible amount of shading. His performance of 'Gaspard de la nuit' by Ravel was breathtaking. The second half of the recital was the complete 24 Preludes played with the same consummate skill. The audience left completely enthralled by what they had heard!

The following day, two of our leading pianists, Shae Shen Kuar and You You Chin had the exciting opportunity to be tutored by Patrick in individual masterclass sessions in the Old Music Room. Both received an hour's tuition on their chosen pieces, with Patrick giving them detailed advice on the performance, including his demonstration of these. Completing the day was a concert by the attendees of the masterclass, showing a wonderful range of developing talent. An exciting weekend of music which we hope to repeat in the near future.





Upcoming Parent Social Events

Please join us at these upcoming parent social events:

Thursday 19 October, 7.00-9.00pm, Year 7 Parents' Drinks

Friday 20 October, 8.15 - 9.30am, Parents Coffee



The Friends of Queen's College

It was lovely to see everyone at our meeting last night. A selection of wines from across the world were sampled along with some delicious cheeses. At the meeting we discussed some exciting future events including the Barn Dance which is being held just after half term on Friday 10 November, 7pm. More details will follow about this in next weeks Bulletin.



Key Reminders

Greenpower Race at Goodwood	Saturday 7 October
Senior School Open Morning	Saturday 7 October
Climbing on the Mendips	Sunday 8 October
Year 5 Victorian Childhood Workshop	Monday 9 October
Year 2 trip to Rural Life Museum for 'Materials' workshop	Tuesday 10 October
Shop	
Gold DofE Canoeists Taunton canal	Wednesday 11 October
Tea Time Concert	Wednesday 11 October
Prep Lunchtime Concert	Thursday 12 October 12:30-13:30
St John's Lunch Time Concert	Friday 13 October 12:45-14:30
Years 3- 6 House Biathlon	Friday 13 October 14:00-16:30

Our online whole school calendar can be found here.

Our sports portal can be accessed here.

Queen's MFL department building links with Taunton's twin town'



Mrs Jones, our languages teacher, was invited by the Mayor of Taunton, Nick O'Donnell, to interpret his welcome speech to a group of Germans from Taunton's twin town, Konigslutter.

The Mayor brought along a piece of the Berlin Wall he had from his visit to the capital in 1990. The Germans were touched by his speech about breaking down barriers and the importance of connections and friendships such as the Twinning Committee. The MFL Department is keen to set up a link with a German school in Konigslutter to further strengthen this link.

Music at Lunchtime



Music at Lunchtime



Students from Queen's College

Shades of Autumn Friday 13 October

Retiring collection in aid of bibic and St John's Church.

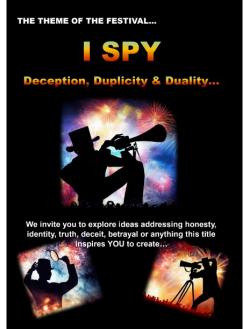
Venue: St John's Church, Park Street, Taunton, TA14DG

Performing Arts Festival 2023 (Senior School)



Our annual celebration of music, dance, drama and creative writing and contributing towards the House competition. The Performing Arts Festival offers a dynamic and unique showcase for group and individual creative expression, presented in a week that demonstrates the close connection between music, dance, drama and creative writing in integrated challenges. Finally, the Performing Arts Festival offers an opportunity for students across year groups to make new friends within their Houses and bond in creative and fun artistic pursuits. For more information speak to Mr Trafford.

15 October	10:00-16:30	West End Workshop
16 October	16:30-18:30	Final House Rehearsals
17 October	18:00-19:00	Creative writing rehearsed reading
18 October	18:00-20:00	House drama and dance completion show
19 October	12:30-13:30	Open Poetry Recital
19 October	All Day	House Singing

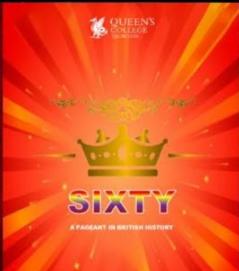


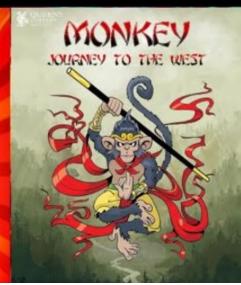
Early Bird Offers

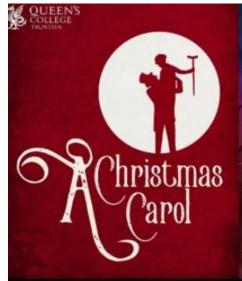
EARLY-BIRD OFFER

ALL TICKETS HALF PRICE UNTIL 7 OCT 23













EARLY-BIRD OFFER

ALL TICKETS HALF PRICE UNTIL 7 OCT 23

Book Now



Workshop

After the success of last year's workshop we are delighted to welcome back Liz Robertson from Walking with Blooms for her wonderful wreath making workshop. A fun evening where you can enjoy a glass of delicious mulled wine and a mince pie while learning how to make a beautiful festive wreath using natural, sustainable materials from known sources. Due to popular demand we have put on an extra 2 dates this year - with only 15 people per session early booking is advised!





RESIDENTIAL CAMPS 2024 **EASTER & SUMMER**

MALVERN COLLEGE & QUEENS TAUNTON

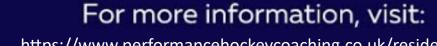
Join us for an action-packed Residential Camp in 2024.

We invite players from school years 7-11 to come and develop their knowledge, skills and overall game with us.

Matt and Performance Hockey Coach have supported Dozens of Internationals fulful their ambition, along with players wanting to achieve County, Club and School honours too.

World-Class coaching from an experienced team, including Olympians and professionals.









OPEN EVENTS

Senior and Sixth Form Open Morning
Saturday 7 October 2023 | 09:00-12:30
Sixth Form Taster Evening
Tuesday 17 October 2023 | 18:00-20:30

Register your interest via our website (scan the QR code) or contact our Admissions team prepadmissions@queenscollege.org.uk (Ages 1 to 11) or admissions@queenscollege.org.uk (Ages 11 to 18) www.queenscollege.org.uk 01823 272559







October Half-Term Holiday Camp

Join us this half-term for an Autumn adventure at Queen's College, Taunton. Academic Camp promises the perfect blend of outdoor adventures, creative activities and opportunities to make new friends in a safe and nurturing environment. Plus, for boarders who prefer to stay during the half-term break, we offer this relaxing and fun option as a great alternative to host families or flying home

Camps/Masterclasses from Monday to Thursday:

Week one: The Arts Camp or The Adventure Camp Week two: The Foodie Camp or the Halloween Camp

Friday to Sunday trips: Surfing, North Devon, London, Eden Project, Bristol and Exeter

	Dates	Fees
Day (Age 7-16)	23 to 26 October; 30 October to 2 November	£40 per day
Boarding (Age 12-17)	20 October to 5 November	£125 per day
Trip	27 October (Eden Project) 3 November (London)	£125 per trip









CHARITY CHRISTMAS MARKET

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER

Festive food, arts and crafts and festive gift ideas!

11AM - 3PM, FREE ENTRY

