

“Step Into Christmas”



Mr Julian Noad - Head of College



I write this final bulletin of the term in unusual quiet, but still with much industry about the place, with administrative and maintenance work ongoing. Please join me in a review of the week's festive activity.

Monday's house quiz, The Gauntlet, were accompanied by mixed-age lunching in Houses. Squeezing in the Queen's Minis nativity - joyful - before the Sixth form Christmas ball

at Oake Manor, with great food, dancing, and entertainment; well done to the 'executives' for organising.

Tinsel Tuesday was festive to the max, with the prefects leading energetic carolling in the dining hall and hosting our very own Taskmaster.

A final assembly on Thursday, celebrating very many pupil successes, was followed by the term's closing event, the Carol Service in Temple Methodist

Church - a fitting and joyful occasion; I thank all parents and friends who were able to join us.

Before I sign off, let us look ahead to next term. Years 11 and 13 will sit mock examinations upon return; they should have the resources and details they need. I hope that time is set aside over the holiday to prepare fully. A good mock performance is a significantly positive step towards ultimate high performance. Good luck. For other year groups, the annual

“Step Into Christmas”

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[GCHQ Christmas Challenge](#) is always worth a go.

For parents in the new year, I offer the first Parent Coffee on Friday 12 January, from 8.15am. We also look forward to a skittles evening at Queen's Arms, Pitminster, on Friday 2 February; thanks to Emma Stanley for organising. And then also add to your diaries the annual and brilliant Quiz Night, booked for Friday 23 February. Further details will follow in the new year.

For now, I wish you and your family a happy yuletide. These words from [Nancy Kline](#) chime with my message to pupils yesterday:

*“When we appreciate each other,
we think better.*

*When we think better, we love
better.*

*When we love better, we live
better.*

*And that is the point of it all,
anyway. Isn't it?”*

I thank you for your support of Queen's College. Enjoy a wonderful and restful Christmas.

Julian

View Our Fabulous Photos

We have taken so many fabulous photos over the past few weeks far too many to share on social media or in the Bulletin, to view all our photos head over to our Flickr [albums](#)!



Prep School

Mr Henry Matthews - Head of Prep



This week has been a whirlwind of Christmas activities in the Prep School with celebrations, and plenty of fun across the school.

On Monday, we were delighted to host the Queen's Minis Nativity, a charming performance that brought a touch of Christmas magic to the school. The children clearly enjoyed their performance and it was great to see our youngest members of the school on the stage.

Tinsel Tuesday was, as ever, a great success. With children coming into school in their festive attire and enjoying a day filled with fun, games, and Christmas cheer. The Wyvern Hall and Pre-Prep dining rooms echoed with the beautiful (and rather loud) sound of Christmas singing during a

wonderfully prepared lunch.

On Wednesday, we held our annual Christmas quiz with each class competing for the chance to be crowned the winners. It was a fantastic event filled with fun, laughter and a great level of knowledge of all things Christmas. Congratulations to 5ES for emerging as the winners by a narrow margin!

Our Christmas celebrations culminated in a beautiful carol service, held in the Queen's Hall and it was wonderful to see so many parents, grandparents, friends, and family members joining us. We were treated to carols, readings and choir performances which certainly got us in the Christmas spirit.

At the end of term it is important to say a big well done to the children. They have made a huge amount of progress this term and

their hard work in class is certainly paying off. Every day we are impressed by their dedication and resilience, ability to adapt and be agile in the problems they face. We are constantly astounded by their compassion and care for others, not only here at Queen's but in both the wider community too. I am already looking forward to what the spring term will bring.

Finally, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and I hope you all have a chance to enjoy time with friends and family over the festive period. Thank you for your continued support of Queen's and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Henry

Nursery Round-up

Nursery News From Mrs Donna Kershaw - Highgrove Nursery Manager



Festivities continued at Highgrove this week and will across the next few days before the nursery closes for Christmas next week, when we will have our Christmas party afternoon which will include party food, music, balloons and lots of games and dancing!

This week the whole nursery enjoyed our Christmas Lunch on Tuesday. It's the one time over the year where we join all the children together in one room to enjoy lunch together. Christmas hats and crowns were made in preparation with one little girl sharing that she 'felt like a princess!'. Children and staff enjoyed a Christmas lunch with all the trimmings, followed by either a gingerbread man or a chocolate rice crispy Christmas pudding, which everyone definitely. One child said 'I was so hungry and that was really good!'

Final touches to Christmas cards and crafts are being made in preparation to send home as children finish at the nursery to start their Christmas break.

On behalf of the whole team at the nursery we wish all of the children and parents a very magical Christmas full of fun and laughter, and we look forward to hearing all about it in 2024!



Queen's Minis

Queen's Minis News From Miss Lizzie Hayes



The last few days of the term in Queen's Minis has been a magical time for the children as all their hard work to learn songs and perform on stage came together for a Nativity performance. The children all sang their hearts out to their parents and thoroughly enjoyed wearing their costumes and playing their parts, so much so that many of them asked to do it again the next day! We also had our party in the nursery this week which comprised of decorating Christmas gingerbread cookies, festive dancing and of course pass the parcel. Tuesday was Christmas jumper day, many of the children proudly wore their festive and sparkly outfits to nursery which were complimented by an array of coloured Christmas cracker hats at lunchtime when they all tucked into a wonderful Christmas dinner. We were also treated to a surprise visitor in the morning, who was dressed in red and white! The children sat attentively to listen to Santa's stories about his dirty boots and Mrs Christmas' knitting! What a wonderful start to Christmas the Queen's Minis have had and we are truly now in full festive mode.



Whole School

Festivities and Tinsel Tuesday - Freya Year 13



Tinsel Tuesday happens annually and students and teachers get to accessorise with a range of Christmas decorations. From Mr Mann in a colourful Christmas waistcoat - and elf slippers! - to multiple Santa hats and pieces of tinsel, Queen's looked very festive! At lunch, the prefects sang all kinds of Christmas songs for the Senior School - with the Twelve Days of Christmas being an absolute favourite. The Prep School attended a fabulous festive Christmas Lunch in the Wyvern Hall. Christmas crackers were pulled, the Prep Staff performed and the children sang at the top of their voices. Everyone looked incredibly festive in their Christmas jumpers. The Senior School was also presented with a taskmaster video - created by Millie and Elizabeth. There were multiple pairs of prefects who completed a series of challenges in order to try and win the game. The final challenge was done live on the stage. It was judged by Mr Green, Sevin and myself took the win!



Whole School

Festivities and Tinsel Tuesday



Staff Nativity

Last Friday afternoon, the pupils in Senior School were treated to a Nativity play performed by some of the staff. The staff portrayed their roles excellently. Some notable and rather comical roles were Mr Noad as the donkey and Mr Green as Mary.



Prep School

Sports Round-up



A lovely end of the term came in the form of the House matches on Friday. It was great to see the improvement in so many players and those who had never picked up a hockey stick or rugby ball before September, playing with such enthusiasm and confidence! **More photos on [Flickr](#).**

Well done to the Year 6 group who played their last matches for the Prep School in an Autumn term!

We start the year with PE and Games lessons as normal on the first day, plus a full kit check. Please make sure that the children come in with all their kit so we can check it is named. Any items without labels will be named with a Sharpie pen to help minimise lost unnamed kit.

On Saturday 13 January there is Year 5 and 6 training for Hockey (boys) and Netball (girls) 10-11.30, all are welcome but those hoping to be in the A squads should attend.

Have a lovely Christmas!

The Prep PE and Games team.



Dragons Den



The Dragons

Over the Autumn term, the Year 6 children entered into a Dragon's Den competition. They had to develop their own festive decoration with a specific audience in mind.

The product had to include certain electrical components. Throughout the design process, the children have shown their linking, analysing as creating skills when developing their own electronic prototypes.

At the end of the project, the children presented their product to a panel of judges and their peers.



Prep School

Music Exams

Congratulations to the following pupils on their recent music grade exams:

- Ibrahim grade 1 saxophone
- William initial grade cello
- Timisayo grade 3 violin
- Isabelle initial grade piano
- Elizabeth grade 1 piano
- Anya grade 2 piano
- Samuel grade 1 singing

ABRSM

- Hannah grade 1 piano



Pre Prep Christmas Party



There were balloons and party games aplenty this week in the Birchall Hall at the Pre-Prep Christmas party. The children had a delicious Christmas biscuit (thank you Catering Dept) to give them some energy and then they began their party with some energetic dancing and keepy-uppy with balloons. They then played a Christmas version of stations, visiting the north and south poles and of course their favourite 'pass the parcel', all to some fabulous Christmas music provided by our resident DJ Mrs Penny. After another game of 'Santa's Coming' and some more creative moves on the dance floor, the children headed off to the Pre-Prep Hall for a mouth-watering Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. With lots of music, turkey, crackers and of course, terrible jokes!



Prep School

Upper Prep Christmas Party

Everyone had fantastic Christmas Parties! The children took part in a range of games and festive fun activities. They also had some delicious party food - which was definitely the best part!



Prep Carol Service



This was a great celebration: the joy of Christmas and sharing our music, readings and thoughts. Reverend Kelley gave an opening address in which he spoke about lighting up darkness at Christmas. He was followed by the Junior Choir, who sang 'Great News' and 'Herod the Great', capturing the appropriate dark mood for the latter. Pre-Prep sang next, sharing two songs from their recent Christmas nativity performance of 'Bethlehem's Buzzin', 'Follow a star' and 'A brighter place', complete with nativity tableau, big smiles and some energetic actions.

Senior Choir performed two songs, 'Midnight', a jazzy, syncopated number and 'Carol of the bells', which was dramatic with its calm opening, rising to a dramatic crescendo in the middle and then solemn, calm conclusion. The readers narrated the Christmas story clearly, speaking very audibly to such a big congregation. Thanks must go to Mr Jenkins for playing the organ and piano and for Mr Charles and Miss Male for their technical assistance. The staff were all very proud of the way in which the Prep and Pre Prep children conducted themselves, whether they performed on stage, read, or were part of the congregation. Thank you to everyone and happy Christmas!

Prep School

Year 3 Have A Visit From Year 9

On Friday 7 December, Year 3 treated some of the Year 9 Spanish group to a rendition of 'Feliz Navidad'. Year 3 had been very excited to learn the Spanish to this song and show off their skills to an audience. Year 9 were more than happy to oblige during their Spanish lesson! All were in fine form with Year 9 joining in with the sing song.

This was followed by an opportunity for Year 3 to speak to Year 9 about their Spanish learning and indeed anything else that they wished to discuss. Some dual linguists had the chance to speak their mother tongue with a Year 9 who shared the same language, so much so that we had both French and Russian being spoken as well.

It was lovely to see children of different ages sharing the enjoyment of languages learning and having the opportunity to speak to each other and cross the boundary between the Prep and Senior Schools. It has also been lovely to see continued waves and acknowledgement of each other around the College as this week has gone by.



Final Assembly



Pre-Prep Awards		
Reception	Corentin	For his ever-growing confidence when approaching his learning, he does so with positivity and a smile.
	Reuben	For contributing carefully during class discussions and always working with focus and determination.
	Anass	For working with such care and precision during all tasks and challenges, ensuring his work is the best it can be.
	Theo	For always demonstrating respect, kindness and care towards his peers and the resources in class.
Year 1	Alexandre	For his enthusiasm and persistence in all of his lessons.
	Isaac	For his commitment to all aspects of school life and for representing Queen's out of school too.
	Sam	For his perseverance and hard work with his phonics and reading.
	Toby	For working hard at his independent writing.

Prep School

Final Assembly

Pre-Prep Awards (Continued)		
Year 2	Frida	For always showing a hard working and positive attitude in all lessons.
	Paul	For his perseverance and hard work during all our English lessons and for the progress with reading.
	Alban	For working incredibly hard on his written work, especially his story writing.
	Olivia	For her hard working attitude across all areas of the curriculum.
Pre-Prep PE	Charlotte	For listening extremely well and working hard in all PE lessons.
	Ben	For listening extremely well and working hard in all PE lessons.
	Rory	For fantastic progress and effort in Gymnastics and Ball Skills.
	Elowyn	For always working hard in lessons and making fantastic progress in Gymnastics.
	Scarlett	For fantastic progress in Gymnastics and Ball Skills.
	Nozomu	For fantastic progress in Gymnastics and Ball Skills.



Learning Support

Luard Progress	Arthur (Year 5)	For showing extraordinary resilience and being a hard worker in all sessions.
Upper Prep Awards		
Year 3	Albie	For superb effort in all areas of school life and always being empathetic towards others.
	Amandine	For superb effort in all areas of school life and always being empathetic towards others.
Year 4	Megan	For showing great perseverance to be successful in all areas of the curriculum.
	Alfie	For exceptional effort and behaviour in all lessons.
Year 5	Ernest	For consistent hard work.
	Ellie	For incredible resilience and agility navigating her way through her diabetes.
Year 6	Charlie	For always trying his best and for showing how much he wants to learn and improve.
	Jack	For listening and looking out for others as part of a team.
	Anya	For her focused and determined approach to her work throughout the term.

Prep School

Final Assembly

Rugby	
Tackling Cup	Hunter, Year 6
Henry Cup (most improved)	Guillermo, Year 6
Colours	Freddie, Year 6
	Mitchell, Year 6
	Henry, Year 6
	Hunter, Year 6
Vincent Cup (all round contribution)	Freddie, Year 6
Bridges Cup (house competition)	Mendips
Hockey	
Eagle Cup (most improved)	Lucie, Year 6
Colours	Juno, Year 6
	Penny, Year 6
Dragon Cup (all round contribution)	Juno, Year 6
Shewring Cup (house competition)	Mendips
Sports Commendations	
Year 5	Poppy
	George
Year 4	Imogen
	William
Year 3	Emily
	Joey
Art	
Stanion Trophy (effort and attainment)	Ruby
Music	
Sasha Orchestra Cup	Oscar
Choir Cup	Kouyo
Instrumental Cup	Benjamin
Drama	
Drama Cup (Year 3)	All of Year 3
Horse Riding	
Most improved rider	Eva Gray
Biathlon	
Senior Boys Winner	Benjamin, Year 6
Year 5 Boys Winner	Ernest
Senior Girls Winner	Poppy, Year 5
Year 6 Girls Winner	Juno
Junior Boys Winner	Thomas, Year 4
Year 3 Boys Winner	Jonah
Junior Girls Winner	Imogen, Year 4
Year 3 Girls Winner	Amandine
House winner	Quantocks
General	
Cotlake house values shield	Guillermo, Year 6
Pillar Cup (most plus points)	Elsbeth, Year 5
Birch Cup (Kind, considerate, thoughtful and caring behaviour)	Sophia, Year 6
Elaine Dixon Cup (Most progress / improvement in a term)	Elizabeth, Year 6
House Points Salver	Blackdowns

Senior School

Rugby is Back at Queen's - Mr Cooling (Head of Rugby)



Rugby is back, at Queen's! There has been a real buzz around rugby this season. New faces have been a welcome addition to many teams, increased confidence amongst players and an overall sense of enjoyment and team spirit has lifted our teams to successes we could have only dreamt of last year.

Our squads, across all age groups, clocked-up an impressive 21 wins this season compared to just 7 last year. Although the focus of the rugby provision is for all to become better rugby players, the results give us that extra confidence and reassurance that we are indeed improving.

The U12 squad have continued to develop into an exciting prospect for the future. They have been tremendous in defence and shown brilliance in attack. Their free-flowing style of play has meant many opposition have struggled to cope with their off-loads and strong, front-foot running. We all look forward to seeing what they can achieve next year.

The U13s have played some of their best rugby to date. An abundance of pace in attack and some mazy running lines have meant they have been able to score tries a plenty! A little more work in defence will undoubtedly see them improve even further next season.

Our U14 have had a challenging, yet rewarding season. Despite facing some extremely tough opposition, their commitment to each other as a team and their efforts on the pitch have been inspiring - and not to mention brave!

The U15 squad has grown from just 8 players last year, to 18 this year. With this increase in player numbers has come a growth in confidence and inspired a real sense of team spirit and comradery. This in turn has led to some outstanding performances on the pitch.

Without a 1st XV this year, due to lack of player numbers, it was the turn of the U16 to step-up and take the title of Senior team. Along with a small number of Y12 and Y13 players, the squad has had another phenomenal season. Losing only two of their matches - both to U18 teams including much older and bigger opposition! The boys have shown a desire to compete at the highest level. Their commitment on and off the pitch, their desire to win, and their performances on match days have been a pleasure to be part of.

With such a talented and close knit group of players, the next two seasons will see the welcome return of a formidable 1st XV, and one that will undoubtedly put Queen's rugby back on the map.

Cross Country

On Monday, nineteen Queen's athletes travelled to King's Preparatory School to compete in the first stage of the Somerset Cross Country Championship.

Some outstanding performances across all age groups, 14 have now been selected to represent the Taunton Area Squad in the next stage of the championship. Well done to all the runners.



Senior School

Cross Country



The last session of this term's Cross Country CC, saw everyone wearing a Santa hat! The group ran through the centre of Taunton to the amusement of many onlookers!

Hockey

The second team had their 'hockey party' and awards on Tuesday after school following a fun-filled season. Award winners were:

Most Improved: Grace

Players Player of the season: Sara-Li

Coaches Player: Tasanee

We had our final block of hockey fixtures against Wellington on Friday and Saturday. The weekend started off with a great game to watch for our 1st XI. Under the lights on Friday night with a big crowd of parents and pupils spectating. The score line on this occasion favoured Wellington (2-1), however it was an exciting performance from our Queen's students with plenty of opportunities created. Well done to all our year 13 leaving students this season, it has been a pleasure.

All of the remaining games in our fixture programme were exhilarating affairs. Our U13A's coming out on top with a 4-3 win and our U13C's having a 6-0 victory to finish the season off, and our U14B with a 2-2 draw in a performance showing plenty of potential ready for the future.

That brings our hockey season to a close, well done to everyone who has committed and dedicated time to the programme this year.



Sports Notices - Mr Bell

As the current sports season draws to a close, we begin to look towards preparation for the start of the next. I would like to thank you for the support and commitment to a brilliant first term of sport, that has seen our rugby teams play with renewed determination, focus and team unity. The school's hockey teams compete with the very best, challenge against teams in Barcelona and have an active lead on development in the area. Our sports performance this term extends well beyond our major sporting provision with a number of individual accolades across a multitude of disciplines.

Pre-Season - 2024

You will already have had information about Pre-Season which starts for all senior year groups on **Monday 8 January** (11.45 - 15.45). These sessions are designed for students wishing to play in the schools 'high performance' pathway with a view of playing in 'A' Teams. It is an expectation that all sports scholars are in attendance.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Senior School

The Gauntlet By Heads of School (Emily and Tadgh)



The Gauntlet, the most academically rigorous test of all. Representatives from each year gather to represent their house, answering questions on a host of topics from Biology to English to Christmas, Sport and Music. The competition reached its pinnacle during the nail-biting finale. The top teams, Ray and French, went head-to-head in a battle of wits, answering tricky questions that kept both participants and the audience on the edge of their seats. Well

done to French for winning the Gauntlet this year!!! Many thanks must go to Mr Green for his amazing costumes and being the Quizmaster this year.

Robin Cleverly and David Spears In Art



Robin Cleverly came and showed us some inspiring images he has taken all over the world using his drone. He has had a very exciting career, where he now specialises in advising states on their maritime (principally) boundaries, on cases that go to international courts and tribunals (especially the International Court of Justice in The Hague). Current clients include Timor-Leste, Nicaragua, Belize, Albania, China, Singapore, Ghana, Nigeria, Thailand, Israel, and Venezuela – most of the hotspots in the world today!

David Spears did a zoology degree and then went on to work in neurobiology as part of the Bain Research Group. He then went into TV looking at Microscopy for BBC and ITV films, including working with David Attenborough! David has also been involved in so many other things, including science festivals and completing over 300 programmes!

Our photography pupils were honoured to meet both David and Robin and they even had a go with Robin's Drone! David gave some fantastic advice for future careers with getting into TV, fusing science and photography. David gifted us one of his incredible books.

Senior School

Year 7 Social

The Year 7s enjoyed an evening of Secret Santa and pizza in the Year 7 Dayroom and then a film screening in the Drama Studio. The pizza was fantastic and everyone had a great time.



CREST Club



Students in CREST Club finished the term with a demonstration of the power of pulse jet engines. Well done to Axel in Year 10, who has carried out a research project into how these engines work. CREST Awards are a chance for young people to carry out independent research projects on a topic of their choice. Recent topics include: designing and making a solar oven, making a food delivery robot, and investigating the psychology behind optical illusions. CREST Club will be running next term on Tuesday CC1 for Years 7-9 and Thursday CC1 for Years 10-13.

Karate Success

Over the weekend, Naomi in Year 8, successfully graded as a black belt in Shotokan karate. This comes after 5+ years of training. For every 500 people entering a dojo, only 1 goes on to achieve their black belt.

Congratulations Naomi achieving a black belt shows your determination and dedication to karate!



Senior School

Senior Carol Service - Rev Kelley



As Christmas draws near, and as term draws to a close, what better way to mark the transition from term time to holiday than a carol service full of joyful singing? I can't think of one anyway. Wednesday's Prep Carol service in the Queen's Hall was a joyous occasion filled with the wonderful singing of our youngest students and only a small amount of technical mishap (the microphone took an instant disliking to me - you can't please everyone I guess). Thursday saw the seniors down at Temple Methodist and everyone was in full voice for a joyous end of term. Lovely! And my apologies to all those parents who now have children wanting to put strange things in microwaves - I've told them they're not allowed to (but if parents want to on your own head be it). Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year everyone!

House Climbing



The Outdoor Education team rounded off the term last Saturday with the House Climbing Competition. This was a fantastic event which showcased how climbing has developed at Queen's over the last few years. A mix of experienced climbers and novices tackled some really challenging boulder problems, roped climbs and a speed climb. The competition was fierce and incredibly close with the seniors being decided by less than a tenth of a second on the final speed climb. Despite this, the atmosphere was very supportive with climbers from all Houses offering advice on how to complete particular routes or making lots of noise when encouragement was needed to make that final, scary reach to finish the climb. Huge thanks to everybody who took part in the event and made it such a memorable occasion.

Senior School

Design Technology Update



The design technology department were very excited to have taken delivery of a brand new laser cutter just in time for Christmas.

This piece of specialist equipment will allow the pupils to develop their CAD/CAM skills and aid the delivery of new inspiring and innovative Design and Technology pieces of work as part of our pupil's teaching and learning. Each year group will be able to benefit from the speed and accuracy of the new modern machine in producing new cutting-edge work.

Year 11 French

The Year 11 French class enjoyed some tasty French treats yesterday as they practiced their language 'buying' food and drink in a French café scenario. This formed part of a lesson on role-plays which is one element of the GCSE speaking exam. Madame Loyer (who is French) helped out and had even baked genuine French delights... *"des cannelés bordelais et des meringues"*!



Wreath Making



As part of the CPD programme, Miss Spall organised a Christmas wreath-making extravaganza. Twelve lucky members of staff took part and everyone created beautiful wreaths to take home. A special mention must go to Pat Fox, the expert!

Senior School

Cups and Colours

Girls' Hockey

Junior House matches (Years 7 and 8)	Barnicott
Intermediate House matches (Years 9 and 10)	Ray
Senior House matches (Years 11-13)	Ray
Half Colours awarded to:	Jana, Megan
Full Colours awarded to:	Emily , Emily , Freya, Bea



Rugby

Junior house matches (Years 7 and 8)	Barnicott																
Intermediate House matches (Vince Cup) (Years 9 and 10)	Woolmer																
Senior House matches (Brigstocke Hitchings Cup) (Years 11-13)	Woolmer																
Half Colours awarded to:	Caspar, Alfie																
Head of College's Team of the Term	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Rugby</td> <td>Hockey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Senior Rugby - Digby</td> <td>1st - Claire</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U16 - Harrison</td> <td>2nd - Hannah</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U15 - Theo</td> <td>U15A - Lily</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U14 - Ilya</td> <td>U14A - Megan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U13 - Max</td> <td>U13/12A - India</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U12 - Oliver</td> <td>U13/12B - Willow</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>U13C - Carlota</td> </tr> </table>	Rugby	Hockey	Senior Rugby - Digby	1st - Claire	U16 - Harrison	2nd - Hannah	U15 - Theo	U15A - Lily	U14 - Ilya	U14A - Megan	U13 - Max	U13/12A - India	U12 - Oliver	U13/12B - Willow		U13C - Carlota
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	U13C - Carlota																

Senior School

Cups and Colours



Music

Half Colours awarded to:

Ellie, Flora, Aria, Jonathan, Florence, Archie

Full Colours re-awarded to:

Georgie, Hannah, Sophie

Full Colours awarded to:

Shao, You You, Charis

Performing Arts

Half Colours awarded to

Ellie, Evan, Sophia

**Speech Festival - Ewing Cup for
Festival winners**

Makanaka & Mary-Tess



Senior School

Cups and Colours

Climbing

House Climbing Competition: Individual winners (Years 7 and 8)	Ella and Max
Intermediate (Years 9 and 10)	Emily and Oliver
Senior (Years 11-13)	Chloe & Will
House winners (Years 7 and 8)	Barnicott
Intermediate (Years 9 and 10)	Woolmer
Senior (Years 11-13)	French
Half Colours awarded to	Jan-Albert, Adam



Senior School

Cups and Colours



Public Speaking

Half Colours awarded to	Christian, Alec, Will, Florence
Full Colours awarded to:	Olivia, Tadhg, Josh, Elizabeth
Maths Challenge:	Silver: Rosie, Olivia, Adam, Kin Hei, Leyun Gold: Sevin, Francesca, Jan-Albert Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo: Sevin, Francesca, Jan-Albert

Business Enterprise

Enterprise Competition at QEH Bristol:	Second place: Alice, Jake, Edouard, Keira, Chenye, Martha, Tim, Sophia, Angelica, Victoria
Enterprise Essay Competition:	Year 11 - Karis Year 12 - Tim
Enterprise Class Charts competition:	Key stage 3: Isabella Key stage 4: Alice, Alaaddin Key stage 5: Tim

Wellbeing Mentoring

Wellbeing mentor badges: Ellie, Emily, Francesca, Mollie

Head of College Cup (Endeavour Cup)

Year 7 - Edward
Year 8 - Duru
Year 9 - Bea
Year 10 - Evie
Year 11 - Adam
Year 12 - Princess
Year 13 - Toby
Winner - Duru

Sixth Form

Round Up - Mrs Chanter

Time has absolutely flown by and I can't believe how quickly the term has disappeared. Every student will be going home for the holidays ready for a rest following an eventful last week.

It seems a long time away at the moment, but the new year will soon creep up on us and students will immediately go to sixth gear! Year 13 have their mocks, they will come back and then go onto study leave from Thursday 11 - Monday 15 January, expected back in school as normal on Tuesday 16. I know you may be supporting your child's revision for mocks and I hope these three links are useful to you.

[Revision Timetable Maker / Study Planner](#)

[TED-Ed: 3 tips on how to study effectively | TED Talk](#)

[App — Smiling Mind](#)



Year 12 will start the [Queen's Diploma](#) an exciting new initiative which inspires our students to extend themselves beyond the usual. The Diploma will become a key ingredient in application writing highlighting transferable skills, desirable character traits and providing examples for competency based questions they will later rely on. Through this Diploma our students will build new skills, gain a range of attributes and develop a habit of lifelong learning and commitment to citizenship. To find out more about the Queen's Diploma and how it works please read our Information booklet (hyperlinked above) and join our webinar on Monday 22nd January 18:00-18:30. If you are unable to join the webinar a recording will be made available. The link to the webinar will come out in the new year.

What does the rest of the year look like for the Sixth Form? I hope [this infographic](#) gives you an insight into a range of topics each year group will explore and how they will be prepared for UCAS or next steps on from school.

Finally please can I take this opportunity to wish you a restful and Merry Christmas!

-Mrs Chanter

Edukid Christmas Market



Isla in Year 13 our very own Year 13 Mrs Claus, with assistance from her merry band of elves hosted a most fantastic Christmas market in aid of [Edukid](#).

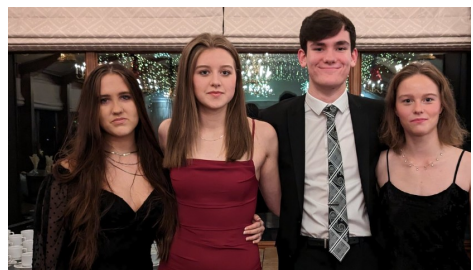
A wonderful array of more than 35 stall holders selling festive wares including decorations, local produce and gifts greeted a large number of people from both the school and local communities. Mr Jenkins and Miss Wills along with members of the choir entertained the guests with carols as they enjoyed a break from shopping to enjoy mulled wine and minced pies. The Christmas market was a huge success, raising £1,285 for Edukid, a charity that helps children living in poverty and conflict, to have an education.

Sixth Form

The Winter Ball



On Monday, Queen's Sixth Form were welcomed by Oake Manor for the annual winter ball. Everyone dressed to look amazing for this black-tie event. The night kicked off with a game of heads and tails, Arsallaan came out on top this year, followed by a sublime carvery and an array of desserts. Hayden and Yasmine acted as the hosts for the evening, organising the classic Year 13 songs, with the boys performing a memorable performance of 'last Christmas' and the girls with 'shut up and dance with me'. This year, there was a short awards ceremony, these ranged from best dressed (Mr and Mrs Noad) to the best Sixth Former of the term! The evening finished with a disco and lots of photos. All in all it was, as usual, a spectacular evening. Special thanks must go to Mrs Chanter and Oake Manor for organising this event. **More fab photos [here](#).**



EPQ Presentations



It's not just Christmas presents getting wrapped up at the SFC - Year 13 have been wrapping up their EPQs with end-of-qualification presentations, including two excellent - and very different - short films. Ferrari looked at a sensitive topic in her own country of Thailand, and Alec looked at Mongolia and the sense of what it really means to be home. They were a sharp contrast to Jan's 3D-printed bionic hand. Thanks to all Year 13 whose EPQs have been as fun as they have been fascinating.

Boarders' Corner

Senior Boarders Formal - Mrs Shearman (Head of Boarding)



On Saturday evening we hosted our annual boarders formal dinner. The evening is an opportunity for the senior boarding community to come together and enjoy a three course meal and celebrate the successes of the term. The fantastic food consisted of prawn and mango salad, pulled beef Wellington and Mars bar cheese cake. This was followed by our boarding awards for the term which go to those pupils who have demonstrated the qualities that we celebrate here at Queen's such as kindness, helpfulness and being a team player. This term the awards went to Maka, Kamto, Jaime, Natasha, Petar and Polina. Well done to all of them.

The evening was rounded off with a disco in the drama studio. [More photos on Flickr.](#)



Boarders' Corner

Cotlake

On Saturday, Cotlake has a lovely afternoon making ginger bread Christmas houses. The dusting of icing on every surface made it feel even more Christmassy! On Sunday, the boarders went ice skating followed by some Christmas retail therapy at Cribbs Causeway. Some amazing values were in evidence, helping each other on the ice.



School House

This week, School House took part in secret Santa's within their year groups. They very much enjoyed trying to guess who were each others secret santas.



School House



Head of School House, Franky, asked the School House residents to donate a toy that the Salvation Army could then gift to children who will not receive gifts at Christmas due to poverty. The boys used their own pocket money to buy a gift which Franky and a few of the boys delivered to the Salvation Army volunteer, Major Linsey Toy.

The generosity of many of the boys was heart-warming and symbolized the true spirit of Christmas.



Vintage Lunch

The Annual OQ Vintage Lunch



Many OQs and some former teachers gathered for the annual Vintage Lunch on 8 December. They were hosted by the Heads of School, Emily and Tadhg, Mr and Mrs Noad, the Chaplain Reverend Kelley, Mr Bisson and Mrs Hickey. The six decorated tables and the splendid Christmas tree gave the Wyvern Hall a festive feel. More seasonal cheer was provided by a group of pupils led by Mr Jenkins and Miss Wills who sang a selection of well-known carols.

In his Christmas message the Head of College expressed his pleasure at having the chance to meet so many OQs and to welcome them back to the school. He was pleased to provide a positive view about the state of the school and its prospects. The food provided by our wonderful catering team was excellent and enjoyed by all.

These occasions are an opportunity for OQs to meet contemporaries they may not have seen for many years and to meet others of a different generation. There is always a lot to catch up on and experiences to recount including reminiscence of school days. Modest displays of photographs and other material from the 1950s to the 1970s helped stimulate memories of sport, drama and life at school. These were prompted further by a tour of the school after the meal.



News and Announcements

Upcoming Key Dates

Boarders Return	Monday 8 January
First Day of Term	Tuesday 9 January
Year 11 and 13 Mock Exams	Thursday 11 January
Parent Coffee	Friday 12 January

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

News and Upcoming Social Events



Parents coffee morning Friday 12 January 8:15am

Friends of Queen's skittles evening, Friday 2 February, 19:30, Queen's Arms, Pitminster

Friends of Queen's, Friday 23 February 19:30

Raffle



We are excited to announce our upcoming fundraiser auction, and we need your help to make it truly spectacular! Thanks to the generosity of our

community we've already secured some incredible prizes, like a day's sailing with our very own Head of College, Julian, a thrilling climbing experience with Mark Neenan as well as Afternoon Teas, some legendary sporting memorabilia and a magical treehouse stay.

However we are actively seeking additional prizes to elevate our auction and maximise the fundraising potential. If you or someone you know has a unique experience, item, or service to contribute, please reach out. Your support really does mean the world to us and we can't do it without you.

Please speak with Sarah Hickey, or pop an email to development@queenscollege.org.uk to donate any fab prizes!

Save the Date - Prep Disco

Friday 26 January

Pre-Prep 3:45-4:30pm

Upper Prep 5-6pm

In the Birchall Hall

More information to follow after Christmas!



Best Game School



We are again through to the top three Best Educators out of all schools, colleges, and further education establishments in the UK in the National Eat Game Awards for our food teaching and promoting the use of game in school and consequently Queen's College, Taunton officially remains the Best School in the UK for teaching about Game! Please help us by voting for Queen's [here](#).



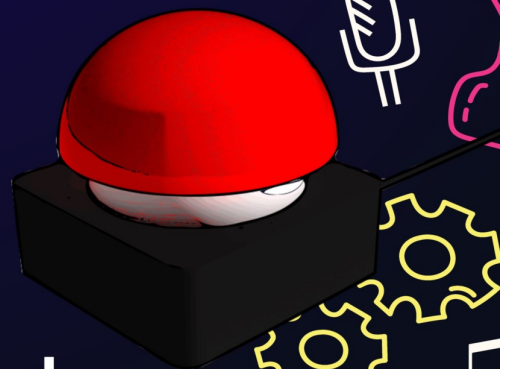
FRIENDS
OF

QUIZ *Night*

Save the date!
Details to follow

FRIDAY 23 Feb

7:30pm for an 8pm start





QUEEN'S
COLLEGE
TAUNTON

Flexi Boarding

Prices

From £55 per night

Termly rates available for
regular flexi boarders

Why Flexi Board?

- Dinner and breakfast included
- Home from home comfortable boarding houses
- Convenient, fun sleepovers with friends
- Encourages independence
- Qualified, caring and experienced staff



Contact

Carla Shearman, Head of Boarding
cxs@queenscollege.org.uk



Drug Sense UK

Free talk for Parents & Guardians

Friday 19th January, 6.30pm - Queen's Hall Theatre

Let's talk about drugs and vaping...

This evening will provide vital information on how to recognise and resolve the early signs of the use of vapes, smoking and drug misuse.



Book

[here](#)

Southern Sinfonia
The Chamber Orchestra
of Southern England


QUEEN'S
COLLEGE
TAUNTON




Orchestral Festival

Sunday 4th February 2024
10am-4pm

- A fabulous day for young musicians up to 18 and from Grade 3 upwards
- Featuring sectional rehearsals with professional musicians from the Southern Sinfonia and their Artistic Director, Simon Chalk
- Concert to end the day for all family and friends
- Completely free, including brunch and refreshments



Or click [here](#)



We are delighted that Simon Chalk, a conductor of international standing and Artistic Director of the Southern Sinfonia will again be joining us to lead the orchestra.

Simon has appeared at many of the world's most iconic venues, from the Royal Albert Hall and Sydney Opera House to the O2 in London and Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas to name but a few, working alongside some of the finest soloists.

"...second to none..."
"...a wonderful event..."

MONKEY

JOURNEY TO THE WEST



23 - 26 JAN 24

QUEEN'S HALL THEATRE

WWW.QUEENSCOLLEGE.ORG.UK/NEWS-EVENTS/EVENTS