

Strong Start For Our Sports Teams



1st XI Team

Mr Julian Noad - Head of College



The Christmas holiday seems a long time past: it's been a busy two weeks with plenty of bugs flying around - keep healthy everyone,

please. Teachers are now frantically marking mock papers; the early consensus is that our Year 11 and Upper Sixth have really stepped up to the plate with this challenge, putting them in good stead for the summer sittings. Well done, pupils and teachers!

In Monday's assembly, our catering team, along with Mr Mann and other staff and pupil contributors talked about food. This was to celebrate and mark the move of catering 'in house' this term. Our wonderful team now have more freedom to do what's best for our pupils, designing fresh menus and sourcing better food, more locally.

Do ask your children, but by all accounts the difference has been significant. We look forward to continuing our food journey, recognising the importance of eating healthily and looking after our planet.

By way of keeping ourselves healthy, I urge you to join me at this evening's parent talk on drugs and vaping, starting 6.30pm in the Queen's Hall. Dave Parvin, from Drug Sense UK, has worked with schools for the past 18 years and is superb in his advice to parents, of all ages.

Please also join our parent forum next Wednesday, 24 January at 8.15am in my study, with a focus on sport, with Mr Bell in attendance to answer any questions you may have.

Another strongly encouraged invitation is to our Friends of Queen's Skittles night, Friday 2 February at 7pm in the

Queen's Arms, Pitminster.

Looking ahead to this weekend, we are getting ready for Monkey (the middle school play on 25 and 26 January) with final rehearsals this weekend, including a dress rehearsal. The outdoor ed team will be getting wet with canoe polo - for the ladies this time - at Cheltenham, Gold DofE preparations on the River Dart on Sunday, and also some beginners/intermediate kayaking. Our boarders will be out to Ninja Warriors in Bristol or caving in the Mendips. We have a cross-country event at Ilton, boys' hockey versus Collegiate (Bristol), and netball training for all girls with Team Bath player, Amaya Herold.

Another busy weekend ahead; have a good one.

Julian Noad

Prep School

Mr Henry Matthews - Head of Prep



A warm welcome back to the first edition of the bulletin in 2024! We've certainly hit the ground running this term, even if the weather hasn't quite caught up with our enthusiasm.

Right from the start, we've been working hard to develop our High Performance Learning (HPL) skills and attitudes, with a particular focus on the key attitude of hard work. I've been incredibly impressed by the commitment and dedication shown by so many pupils in these first two weeks. Their efforts are certainly paying off and already we have seen many children achieve excellent outcomes and make great progress in lessons and co-curricular activities. The ability to face a challenge and keep working to overcome it will be a key part of our learning. In the months ahead, you may often hear the new mantra 'I can't do it... yet!'.

Speaking of inspiration, last week in assembly I set a little challenge for the children: to complete a secret act of kindness for someone in their class. It could be anything, from a small note of encouragement to offering a helping hand.

The response has been fantastic! I've already heard heart-warming stories of positive notes slipped into bookbags and trays, seeking out new friends on the playground, and children going above and beyond to support each other. These acts of kindness not only make the recipient feel great, but also give those doing them a sense of pride, helping children develop empathy – another core value and something that Queen's is very good at.

Beyond the classroom, some exciting adventures have already unfolded. Year 4 embarked on a fascinating journey back in time with a trip to the Taunton Museum, immersing themselves in all things Roman. Meanwhile, Year 1's animal project is in full swing, with some brave students even getting up close and personal with a real snake! I am sure you will enjoy the pictures within the following pages.

As we head into the weekend, I would like to share a thought that I saw from a LinkedIn connection and wellbeing advocate - Dr Hazel Harrison. January can be a tough time, with cold dark nights but these three little tips are something I think can help us keep pushing forward.

1. Connect with your strengths. Make time for something you are good at; bake a cake, go for a run, complete a mind puzzle. We all have our skills and it is important to enjoy them.

2. Make time in your day for awe. This week, we have been blessed with truly awesome sunrises looking over Cotlake Hill. Taking a small moment to reflect on the beauty and scale of the world can really help us to focus on what is important in life.

3. Keep connected. On tough days it can be hard to ask for help, but there are always friends, family and loved ones there to give us support when we need it. On this topic, I also share the closing speech from Joe Tracini. This has been well published in the media and many of you may have seen or heard this already. This [link](#) is his closing speech after playing the Good Fairy in panto this year. My take away... we can each make this world better because we are in it.

I wish you all a relaxing and happy weekend and I look forward to another busy and exciting week ahead.

Henry

Nursery Round-up

Nursery News From Mrs Donna Kershaw - Highgrove Nursery Manager



It's been a great start to 2024 for the Highgrove children. Christmas celebrations seem like a long time ago now, however we were able to stretch the seasonal celebrations into early January where children were able to connect their experiences to the activities and discussions in the first week back. We were very impressed by how much information the older children were able to recall and share with us.

This week has brought a great opportunity to explore the effects on the environment the cold weather has. The Puddleducks children have enjoyed exploring the frozen water tray, breaking the ice to free the underwater animals that have been stuck. They have also been learning about hibernation, which animals do this and where they sleep during the winter.

Tiggywinkles have been warming up on these cold mornings with yoga, based on their current focus story, 'Going on a Bear Hunt'. The children have also enjoyed music time where they have been learning the skills to create loud and quiet sounds.

Cottontails have been busy welcoming in a few new families to the nursery, and the new children have enjoyed exploring all the different activities available. There have been some lovely messy play trays to explore, such as rice and cereal, using different items to encourage filling and emptying. The children have also had other opportunities to work on their fine motor skills through painting activities. Lots of fun has also been had in the sensory den which has been draped with the organza scarves creating lots of opportunities to hide and seek!



Queen's Minis

Queen's Minis News From Miss Lizzie Hayes



In the first week back, we warmly welcomed new pupils and heard of the Minis exciting Christmas holiday stories. Early this week, the children enjoyed a visit from the College's Chaplain, Rev Kelley, who read a story about a grumpy monkey.

This term we are focusing on developing the children's storytelling skills with wordless books to take home each week to encourage comprehension and vocabulary skills. Our classroom book is 'The Three Bears' and we will be using this theme to develop mathematical skills and the concept of size in many different areas of the curriculum.

In PE, the children enjoyed running to different size spaces and moving using big, medium or small steps around the room.

In Forest School, the children, inspired by 'The Three Bears' story, made mud porridge and painted mud bear faces on plates, complete with googly eyes! In the sensory trays, the Minis enjoyed playing with porridge oats, comparing bears, spoons and bowls. The role play area is in the process of becoming the Three Bears Cottage!



Prep School

Sports Round-up



Welcome back to a very cold, but importantly, dry start of term! The children have settled quickly into Spring term sports and coped well with the cold - lots of layers, gloves and hats this past week.

The Year 5 and 6 children had their first matches on Wednesday, all the Year 5 girls travelled to West Buckland and the boys to Millfield. The girls played WB U11 and U10 girls as they only had a few U10 girls. It was great to play lots of Netball and the girls began to understand the rotation of positions that happens in Bee Flier Netball. The girls played with great enthusiasm and learnt a huge amount, they worked hard on the HPL skill of analysing, one of the strands is precision which involves being able to work within the rules of the domain!

The Year 5 and 6 boys played against Millfield, always a good test at the start of the season. The teams show both resilience and perseverance which are strands of the HPL attitude 'hardworking'. It was a tough afternoon but the importance of team spirit and realising that all performances are to be built on came through in the post match analysis from the Year 6 boys.

On Thursday, the U11 girls hosted Perrott Hill. The A team worked really hard in a closely fought game. Both teams need to work on shooting and driving towards the ball more effectively similarly to the Year 5 girls, lots to work on, but good to get the inter-school fixtures going.

Notices

A reminder that grippy gloves and school colour hats are acceptable in cold weather. Under layers are vital at this chilly time. Water bottles are still needed.

Swimming Hats are compulsory in the pool. The Prep School now has a stock of yellow hats that will be charged at £4 and named if a pupil does not have a hat for more than two swim lessons. Black wyvern hats are also available from the Senior front office.



Prep School

Year 4 Trip To The Museum of Somerset



Year 4 spent a morning at the Museum of Somerset this week where they had a fabulous introduction to their topic of the Romans.

The children were involved in handling 2000 year old artefacts and had to use their archaeologist skills to work out what they were used for.

Bertie became a Roman soldier and some others treated the class to a fashion parade of the clothes worn by different members of Roman society.

The children are all really excited to continue their learning in the classroom.



Year 1 Visit Vesper the Snake

This week, Year 1 were learning about animal classification and on Monday they were learning about reptiles. They went to meet Vesper the Royal Python who lives in Mrs Harrison's classroom in the Senior School and they learnt about feeding, her habitat and what characteristics a snake has, such as being cold blooded and shedding skin. The children were fascinated and all keen to touch her and feel her body!



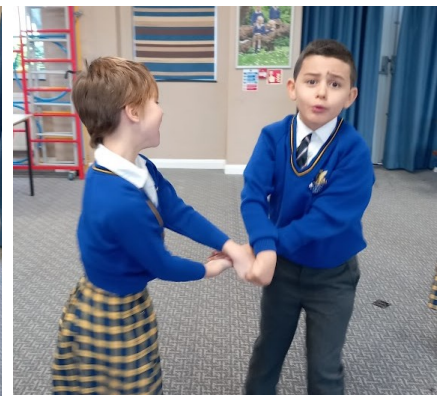
Prep School

Year 3 Explore The Law of Magnets



Year 3 created some superb work to start their Amazing Magnets topic. They challenged each other to describe the 'pushes', 'pulls' and 'twists' and worked beautifully in pairs and small groups.

They are looking forward to lots of experiments to explore ideas about magnets and forces.



Clean Up Crew



In the first Clean Up Crew club of the year, the Pre-Prep children have started to think about how litter gets into our waterways and eventually out to sea.

They were pleased to make a small step in preventing some of this by doing a litter pick around the Prep School. Thankfully we only discovered a small amount of litter in this area.

Year 2 Visit The Hens

In Science, the Year 2 children have been learning about the lifecycle of a hen. They were fascinated to see how a chick hatches from an egg and then develops into a fully grown chicken. Mrs Noad showed the children the school chickens and was asked some very interesting questions about them.



Senior School

Sports Report



Netball

This week has been a busy already with plenty of mid-week fixtures for all year groups.

Tuesday saw our first ever fixture with Stover school with the U14 and U15 teams. These teams are hardworking and displayed excellent defending in the D making countless turnovers for the team.

On Wednesday the U12A and U13B teams went to Perrot Hill. U13B Team took a convincing win and worked well as team on court. To develop further the team reinforced the idea of reducing the number of overhead passes as they are easily intercepted and worked on getting in front of the defender to receive the pass. U12As worked well and showed promise as team. They will continue to develop the variety and consistency of passes, and their sequence of play.

The U13A Team faced some tough opposition in the annual Millfield Tournament. They developed as a team and began showing some passing sequences down the court, and made some excellent turnovers through the afternoon. We struggled at times to get in front of our defenders which led to a loss of possession at vital times in the game. Overall, a pleasing start and lots to work with over the course of the season.

Netball Training Masterclass—With Amaya Herold (Team Bath)

Saturday 20th January

All girls are encouraged to attend the upcoming training session as it provides a fantastic opportunity to be coached by an elite player. The session will take place from 12:30-15:30

Hockey 1st and 2nd XI

The 1st and 2nd XI took a trip to Downside school. The 1st XI were up first in a tightly contested game. We scored 3 goals in the first 17 minutes, and then took our foot off the gas. There were 2 great finishes from Caspar, and a lovely worked goal from Alfie and Franky. The 2nd half Downside tried to work themselves back into the match, scoring an early goal. Queen's defended resiliently for the remainder and managed to come out with a 3-1 win.

The 2nd XI battled hard through the majority of the match, and it was extremely competitive. Queen's created chances and if more clinical could have scored a few more goals. Tadhg in goal made a few vital saves and clearances that continued to keep the squad in the match. On this occasion it wasn't to be, but a very promising performance ready for the next match vs Collegiate.



U15A Boys vs. Downside

The U15 Boys got off to a flying start last weekend against Downside School. With teams eventual matched on paper, Queen's opened the scoring shortly

after the toss with a fast paced attack and clinical finish from Alex. Queen's pressed for early dominance and within 5 minutes found themselves 3-0 up through an immaculate short corner routine and sublime top corner finish from Thomas. Thomas dominated the middle of the field and combined with the pace of Hartland, relentless efforts of James and skilfulness from Oliver, Queen's were quite simply unplayable. While the score line was impressive, the attitudes and determination of the U15 was testament to a collective team effort and group work ethic.

Read the full report on our [website](#).

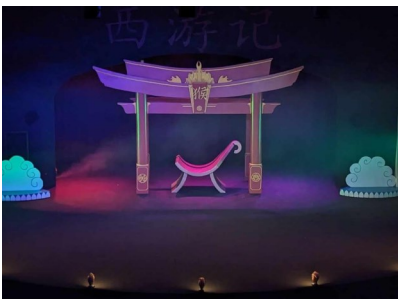
Senior School

Equestrian Endurance Success

Josh in Year 8 has had a fantastic season endurance riding. Josh and his pony Bobby won Wessex Junior Trophy and Wessex Novice Trophy. Bobby came second in the Collee Trophy, second in the National Junior Champion and National Snowflake Trophy!



Monkey - Journey to the West End



Barely a few weeks since the Queen's Hall Theatre was transformed into Victorian London for 'A Christmas Carol' with ghosts, floating beds and giant snowballs, the entire space has transformed again in preparation for the Key Stage 3 play, MONKEY- JOURNEY TO THE WEST!

The legend of the Monkey King is a hugely popular saga from China, that has been adapted into operas, numerous films and, of course, the unforgettable 1970's TV show; now Years 7 to 9 have adapted the story into a Kung Fu comedy that blends slapstick action with the traditional tale of the foolish ape who is seeking Enlightenment. Buddha sends Monkey, Pigsy, Sandy and Tripitaka on an eventful journey to fetch holy scriptures from India, and along the way they must face harsh terrains, evil demons and man-eating spiders!

The show is staged in the traditional theatre style known as Kabuki, which means the production team has been busy making beautiful costumes for the cast of forty-six! Once again, the set has been designed and built specifically for Queen's, to provide an atmospheric space in which the epic story can be told.

Dress rehearsals take place this weekend so the cast will have the chance for the first time to try on the beautiful costumes, sit on the Jade Emperor's golden throne and use the bizarre props, ranging from magical peaches to havoc tambourines! There are three performances next week so don't miss this interesting window into another culture that blends mystical philosophy with monkey flatulence!

Tickets are available from the [Queen's box office](#).



Senior School

Ski Trip - Mr Neenan



More photos
on [Flickr](#)

During the week before Christmas, 40 pupils from Years 6 - 8 travelled to the Italian Alps for a fun packed week of Skiing. We were based in the resort of Pila which is an up-and-coming ski resort close to Mont Blanc. The snow conditions were excellent and the group enjoyed 'blue sky' days for most of the trip which meant wonderful views of Europe's highest mountain. The resort was perfect for our group, with friendly nursery slopes for the beginners as well as some challenging black slopes for our experienced skiers to cut their teeth on. After some stunning progress from our less experienced skiers, everyone was skiing well by the end of day two and travelling around the slopes with ease.

Off the slopes the apres-ski and the food were both fantastic, with hot lunches provided in mountain restaurants and 3 course evening meals in the hotel. There were many memorable highlights; from the entire group and some brave staff singing karaoke, to acrobatics in the jump park, snow angels and snowball fights, Christmas markets and of course some excellent skiing.



Sixth Form

University offers



Rosie has received a prestigious offer to study Biology at Magdalen College, Oxford University.

Rosie in Year 13, received some fantastic news last week, she received an offer from Magdalen College, Oxford to read Biology. It is a great achievement to get through the gruelling interview process and secure a much sought after offer. A big thank you to all the staff who were involved in the mock interviews.

Another unconditional offer arrived for Ellie and it was again for Drama but on this occasion from Kingston University, who were obviously impressed with the audition recording that Ellie submitted.

The prize for the most excited student on receiving their first offer goes to Ferrari, who was more than overjoyed to receive an offer to study Media Communications from the University of the Arts London (UAL).

Year 13 Marketing



This week, Year 13 Marketing students had a visit from Mark Edwards (chair of governors) this week, to launch their Unit 3 coursework assignment for their BTEC in Marketing.

The students were challenged to produce a communications plan that will increase brand awareness and digital engagement for their clients. The students had lots of fun 'getting to know' the product before getting started with generating ideas for their coursework. The students will present their ideas after Easter.



Boarders' Corner

Overview Mrs Shearman (Head of Boarding)



It was lovely to see all our boarders return to Queen's after a welcome Christmas break. We are also excited to welcome new boarders to our community in the Prep and Senior houses.

This weekend saw the return of our weekend boarders programme, which involved a visit from Sport Stars to the College. They put together an afternoon of Glow Sport activities in Birchall Hall, which was a welcome respite from the cold weather outside. All pupils from Cotlake as well as pupils in years 8-10 in Hutton and School House took part before enjoying a Sunday roast supper.



News and Announcements

Upcoming Key Dates

Parental talk on Drugs and vaping from Drug Sense UK	19 January 18:30 (Queen's Hall)
Monkey - Tech rehearsal	20 January 09:00-12:00
Monkey - Dress rehearsal	21 January (12:00-17:00)
Prep Mid-Year Assessment Week (Children from Year 2 upwards will sit assessments in English and Maths.)	From 24 January
Senior Parent Forum	24 January 08:00
Accelerated Reading Information Evening	24 January 19:00
Holocaust Memorial Service	25 January 11:00
Year 12 Supper with Mr and Mrs Noad	25 January 19:00
Prep Own Clothes Day and Cake Sale in aid of Edukid	26 January
Pre-Prep & Prep School Discos	26 January Pre-Prep 15:45-16:30 Prep 17:00-18:00
Rotary Club Debating Competition	26 January 17:00
Scholars Morning	27 January

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

News and Upcoming Social Events



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

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

Bottles?



Bottle call out!

The Events Team are on the lookout for unusual glass bottles, of any shape, size and colour for a decorative Summer project. Don't recycle yours, instead please put them in the crate which will be outside Main Reception from Monday 22nd January.

The more the merrier, all shapes, colours and sizes gratefully received. (Please note, ordinary green wine bottles need not apply!)

Thank you.

events@queenscollege.org.uk



FRIENDS
OF

QUIZ *Night*

Minimum suggested donation £5 per person
payable on arrival

Please complete [this](#) form to tell us who is coming

All proceeds will go towards the Friends of
Queen's fund for luxury items

There will be a bar, please bring your own nibbles

FRIDAY 23 Feb

7:30pm for an 8pm start



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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

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limited availability | Sibling Discounts | Pay a deposit



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 fulfil 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.

You can expect top facilities, provision and food, along with the chance to win prizes and competitions with our innovative and creative coaching approach.

For more information, visit:
www.performancehockeycoaching.co.uk

A photograph showing several young hockey players in various uniforms (blue, white, grey) in action on a field, holding their sticks. A male coach in a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and a cap stands on the right, observing the players. The background is a solid dark blue.

Use Code:
RES2024
for 10% off

Candlelit Evensong for Candlemass

Sunday 28th January
4.00pm

St John the Evangelist Church
Park Street
Taunton TA1 4DG

Choir of Queen's College, Taunton

Refreshments served from 3:30pm



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£35**

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, 7TH MARCH, 7PM


QUEEN'S
COLLEGE
TAUNTON



9th February

7PM

CHINESE BUFFET

EXPECT A SCRUMPTIOUS BUFFET LADEN WITH CELEBRATORY CHINESE NEW YEAR DISHES, WASHED DOWN WITH A COLD BEER. BRING ALONG FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND ENJOY WHOLESOME FOOD AT THIS OPEN, INCLUSIVE AND ENGAGING BUFFET EXPERIENCE.

TICKETS £30 INCL 1 DRINK.

Book [here](#)