Queen's College Whole School Newsletter

26 January 2024

### There's No Business Like Monkey Business



### Mr Julian Noad - Head of College



The term is racing along, with just two weeks remaining before half term.

The week has been full of Monkey madness. If you haven't seen this middle school spectacle, there is one last chance tonight - just pop along for a 7pm start. Those of us old enough to have seen the 70s TV show will be 'ah, I remember'-ing along. It still makes little sense! The performing arts team never stop and it's full steam ahead with Les Mis rehearsals continuing weekend. There is much excitement about this one, and it will be a smash. Get your tickets here (indeed, take a look at the many other events ongoing and see if there isn't something else to take your fancy).

Mrs Litton and Mr Chislett led an introduction to our new Accelerated Reader Programme on Wednesday - we are all delighted by this positive initiative to encourage wider and more reading.

It's been a busy social week for Mrs N and I with three tutor group Tea Parties and a Lower Sixth Supper - all brilliant occasions to test the temperature of school life and to truly get to know our pupils. I hope they've picked up a few life skills on the way: the tea party and dinner party are, of course, staples of British social life.

In the morning tomorrow, we have our next scholars' morning: computing, poetry, and law amongst the many extension topics this week. The afternoon offers up boys' hockey versus Wellington and girls' netball against Leweston. I shall not be on the Queen's touchline this weekend, co-opted as I am to be a driver to Wellington - a great chance to nose around a competitor school!

Also this weekend, we have an exciting Model United Nations (MUN) trip to Bristol Grammar School. Kayaking and mountain biking is on offer from Outdoor Ed team and the music department will be supporting Choral Evensong at St John's on Sunday

evening.

Coming up we have 'Futures' meetings for Year 11 - a chance to review mocks and look ahead. Year 11 will be at the theatre for Macbeth on Wednesday. The Sixth Form quiz night will test general knowledge and provide a great social occasion.

The next social occasion for parents come next week in the form of the Friends of Queen's Skittles Evening on Friday 2 February (just rock up to the Queen's Arms, Pitminster at 7pm) and the Quiz Night after half term, Friday 23 February, 7.30pm, in the Wyvern Hall. Please enter your teams as soon as possible as this is a popular event in the school calendar.

Thank you for all of your wonderful support. Enjoy a super weekend.

Julian



### Whole School

### Hello From Our Catering Team - Andrew Parton, Catering General Manager



Our catering is no longer operated by the contractor Holroyd Howe and from 1 January we are back 'in house' and the team are all directly employed by Queen's. We are all really pleased to be back in the fold, even though many of the team felt they never left. Focuses for this year is very much on continuing the drive for delivering restaurant quality meals for Queen's pupils, teaching staff and support teams.

Moving away from HH will enable us to be even more innovative by sourcing improved quality and different ingredients, much of which with local provenance. For example, Ed Davies who is an OQ and co-

owner of The Meat Men based on The Quantock's, is one of the first to supply us directly with their amazing local produce. Buying directly, and developing our own supplier relationships will allow us to be more creative and introduce ingredients to the menus that was not possible in previous years.

We are excited to be listening to the feedback from all of Queen's pupils and continuing to develop balanced nutritional menus that everyone enjoys, aiming to please all of the people, all of the time.

Warmest regards,

Andrew



### Mr Henry Matthews - Head of Prep





Welcome to this week's edition of the bulletin following another funfilled and eventful week in the Prep School.

I begin with a quick note

Outdoor our Education teaching. Owing unforeseen staff absences, we've made some adjustments until half term. To ensure children are still able to enjoy and develop skills in this subject, teaching groups will be split into two. Year 3 and 4 activities will be led by Mr Marsh and another member of staff from the Prep School team. Meanwhile, Year 5 and 6 will be split, with one group taking part in climbing with Mr Marsh, while the others focus on core subject competencies guided by a cover teacher. The following week, they'll swap roles, ensuring every child gets to experience both climbing adventures and core skills development.

We extend a warm welcome back to Miss Nandakumar. She joins us as a student teacher from Plymouth University for the next seven weeks, bringing a great deal of enthusiasm. Miss Nandakumar is eager to teach the children at Queen's and will be fully supported in this by our fantastic class teachers. Supporting trainee teachers

like Miss Nandakumar is essential in shaping the future of education, fostering experience and confidence that contributes to the growth of skilled and passionate educators for our children.

This week, our assembly focused on High-Performance Learning attitude of empathy, exploring the importance of understanding our place not only in the classroom but also in our broader community and the world beyond. The children's response has been excellent, with acts of kindness and inclusive discussions throughout the school. Borrowing a phrase from Walt Whitman, I encouraged the children to 'be curious, not judgmental,' a mantra that we can all follow when working with others.

Our U11s have flourished on the sporting front. Both the hockey and netball teams achieved remarkable success, showcasing not only their athletic skill but also their outstanding teamwork. On the pitch and court, they embodied the true spirit of collaboration.

On Wednesday evening, Mrs Litton, Mr Chislett, Mrs Kelly and Mrs Wilde hosted an insightful evening on Accelerated Reader, providing valuable information and equipping parents with tools to support their children's reading journeys. We are excited to begin this journey with the children and value your support and feedback with this. If you do have any further questions or thoughts please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mr Chislett.

And, of course, what's a week at our Prep School without a touch of fun? We concluded the week with an own clothes day, raising funds for Edukid, our global charity. As you read this, the disco will be in full swing and I imagine there will be some flamboyant dance moves on display (mainly from the teachers). Mrs Matthews has asked me to extend our thanks to all of the parents who supported in making the disco happen. It was wonderful to have so many parents offer and without this help and support, events such as this can't happen.

I wish you all a restful weekend.

Best wishes

Henry



The Head of College Mr Julian Noad and Head of Prep Mr Henry Matthews warmly invites you to attend our

### **OPEN AFTERNOON**

Friday 1 March | 13:30-15:30

Register your interest via our website (scan the QR code) or contact our Admissions team 01823 278928 prepadmissions@queenscollege.org.uk

(Ages 1-11)

01823 340830 admissions@queenscollege.org.uk (Ages 11 to 18)

www.queenscollege.org.uk



# Nursery Round-up

Nursery News From Mrs Donna Kershaw - Highgrove Nursery Manager





Highgrove Nursery have enjoyed recognising and learning about their senses this week through a variety of different activities and environments.

Cottontails have been on some lovely walks around the college grounds visiting the metal giraffe at the front of School House, followed by some time spent practising their walking skills on the lawn.

Puddleducks have been on a sensory walk inside through a variety of different tough trays filled with items to replicate the book 'Going on a Bear Hunt' with their shoes and socks off. They also brought their camp fire role play to life this week by toasting marshmallows and drinking hot chocolate.

Tiggywinkles have had fun with the foamy paint this week, enjoying the texture on their hands, as well as the marks the paint made on the paper. The children have also been enjoying music time in the garden, they have had fun dancing outdoors as well as in the sticky kids sessions.







# Queen's Minis

### Queen's Minis News From Miss Lizzie Hayes





The Queen's Minis are continuing to enjoy the three bears themed activities this term with opportunities to develop their fine motor skills and pencil control by threading bear characters and giving their bears facial features.

In kitchen club, the children explored porridge making, how to make their porridge taste just right, as well as tasting a variety of scrummy toppings.

In Forest school the children explored the College grounds on a 'Goldilocks story walk' searching for things in three different sizes and finished with a stop at Mr Mann's kitchen garden to explore the herbs growing.

The pupils also experimented with dough to develop dexterity this week, including cutting dough with scissors, rolling dough and dancing their fingers in the dough to music.





### **Sports Round-up**









A great afternoon of sport for the Year 5 and 6 children on Wednesday! The girls had triangulars with Wellington and King's College, lots of netball which was fabulous to watch. The U10 girls have already shown so much progress in just the two and a half weeks we have been back, the U10s showed notable improvements in their marking, footwork and dodging from our matches against West Buckland.

The Year 6 girls went away to King's with depleted sides due to illness and injury still the girls battled. They defended well with some good shooting for some of the A players. Dodging is a focus for the B's for Friday's lesson.

The boys also faced King's. The U11As enjoyed a good, even contest of hockey and it was an opportunity to mix players around a bit and work on game understanding. The boys showed an improvement in their stick skills, and when they looked to move the ball quickly into space, looked dangerous. Goals were shared around and Harry made some excellent saves in goal. The Year 5s travelled to King's and enjoyed some intense matches, continuing to show off the skills they have learnt these past weeks.

Good luck to the U11A girls who have their first tournament of the term tomorrow and the U8 and 9 children who have their first Netball and Hockey with Wells on Monday.





### Own Clothes Day and Bake Sale











The Prep School enjoyed wearing their own clothes and selling cake to raise money for <u>Edukid</u> today. Edukid works with children who live in extreme poverty in various areas of the world and at Queen's College we are supporting a small village in Cambodia. Thank you to all our families for their kind donations to this worthy charity.

#### Year 6 Have Lunch With Mr and Mrs Noad





This week the Year 6 classes have been having their lunch with Mr and Mrs Noad. It was a great opportunity for them to get to know Mr and Mrs Noad and familiarise themselves with the Senior School in anticipation of next year.

### **Prep House Reading Competition**



Well done to all the children that took part in the Prep School House Reading competition which has also been linked to the Blue Peter book badge. We were really impressed by the effort that all the children put into their entries. Brendons was the overall winner, with Miles, Paige and Missy.



Both Isaac and Evan from Year 1, completed the next stage in their trampoline competition at the weekend. The competition was held in Worthing and both boys were up against some tough competition against the whole Somerset region, with the age range for the group being Years 1 -6!

Whilst the boys didn't qualify for the next stage in the national competition, they did fantastically well, coming 9th and 10th out of 17. Very well done to both!

### Accelerated Reader

Years 5-8 - Accelerated Reading Information Evening - Mrs Litton



This month sees the launch of Accelerated Reader for all pupils in Years 5-8. This is a highly successful programme which joins up pupils, families and teachers to foster a culture of reading and help develop their skills as independent readers. On Wednesday, Head of Faculty for English and Drama, Mrs Litton gave a talk to parents about reading for pleasure and the Accelerated Reader programme, watch the video <a href="here">here</a>, a link to the slides can be found <a href="here">here</a>.

### Senior School

### Celebrating the lives and cultures of those who were victims during the Holocaust



Cooking together is an engaging way of learning about different cultures and was used this week to celebrate the lives of the millions of people who were victims during the Holocaust, including six million Jewish people. Food is intrinsic to Jewish ritual, life and culture around the world. Jewish culture includes a wide range of symbolic foods: latkes at Hanukkah, hamantaschen at Purim, charoset at Passover, and challah on Shabbat.

During the Holocaust, the Nazis restricted food available in camps and as a result, hundreds of thousands of Jews starved. However even when faced with the everpresent threat of death by hunger, many Jews attempted to retain their faith and

culture. For instance, starving prisoners at the Płaszów concentration camp were so determined to fulfil the religious requirements that they saved their already limited food rations.

To encourage learning about the Holocaust and celebrate the lives and cultures of those who were victims our pupils at Queen's College made hamantaschen, one of the important symbolic foods in the Jewish community for the Holocaust Memorial Service at St John's Church in Taunton.

#### **Year 9 Tea Party**



This week Mr and Mrs Noad had a tea party with Year 9, it was a great opportunity for the pupils to speak with Mr and Mrs Noad, they enjoyed some lovely biscuits given to Mr and Mrs Noad by Will in Year 11.

### Senior School



#### **Cross Country**

It was a blustery and cold day at RNAS Merryfield on Saturday for our 15 Taunton Area Cross Country athletes.

It was certainly a tough course for all age groups, with both mud and ice to contend with along the way. Despite the challenges of the course, all runners did exceptionally well in a strong field of competitors, many achieving PB's.

A special congratulations to Ollie in Year 9 and Franky in Year 13 who have been selected for the Somerset squad to compete in the South West Championships in February.

#### Hockey

#### 1st XI

The 1st XI boys fought hard in tough conditions. After going 1-0 down very quickly Queen's fought themselves back to 2-1 up for a long period of the match. The pressure from Collegiate was non stop on a smaller pitch which eventually they took opportunities from. Collegiate went 4-2 up, Queen's were still in the match and with 5 minutes on the clock scored to make it 4-3. This ended up as the final score.

On another day there could have been plenty more goals and a win for Queen's! Well done to those that played.

#### 2nd XI

The 2nd XI were one of the best teams this weekend. Playing some of the best hockey I have seen from a 2nd XI. Reece and Ben had some good combination play in midfield, and Woody was strong at the back.

Tom had a a good forward performance. After going 2-0 up Queen's legs started to tire, while great hockey continued to flow in the 2nd half Collegiates pressure continued to come. Final score 2-2.

#### **Netball Masterclass with Amaya Herold**

Amaya took some time away from her netball commitments with Team Bath and Exeter University 1st VII to lead some fantastic sessions to our netball community.

Year 7-9 enjoyed some speed play, ball handling and passing activities before putting these skills to the test in a mini tournament.

Year 10-13 started the afternoon with a strength and conditioning session led by Mrs Foster in the gym and on the field. They then had a masterclass on defending and intercepting with Amaya. This proved both challenging and rewarding, as the match at the end of the session saw some excellent turnovers.

#### Netball

The U14s took on King's College on what was a blustery Tuesday afternoon on the bottom courts. U14A lost 9-13 but this closely fought game saw some excellent attacking phases. U14B played brilliantly but at times were rushed and made unforced errors. Continued work on landing, and pivoting will provide useful moving forward. This team was resilient and hard-working. The final score was 2-12. U14C lost 0-12 but displayed some good movement and tracking of the players. Successful first phase movement and passes from the centre also.

Read the full report here.

### Senior School

### **Monkey - Journey To The West**



In the past two years our Key Stage 3 students have performed a classic work of English, (well Scottish), literature in 'TREASURE ISLAND' and a landmark of European theatre in 'MOTHER COURAGE'. Continuing to widen knowledge of drama from across the world, this year we have explored Chinese traditions and Japanese Kabuki in our colourful and crazy production of 'MONKEY- JOURNEY TO THE WEST'.

The legendary TV show from the 1970s has been an inspiration for the wild and wacky story of the Monkey King, Pigsy, Tripitaka and a strange cannibal fish creature called Sandy, as they travel across China to collect holy scriptures for Buddha. The journey is a great excuse for epic battles with Havoc Demons, bandits, Spider Maidens, evil snakes and aggressive bushes, not to mention some great opportunities to create fantastical characters such as the Star Lady Vega, Great Sage and Demon Granny. This

production has a cast of 47, plus a student team responsible for stage management, spotlights and elaborate Kabuki make-up.

Given the representational style of this dramatic tradition, we have been able to dual-cast the four main characters, with Mia and Mary-Tess from Year 9 playing Monkey, Maka (Year 9) and Teniore (Year 8) as Sandy, Philip (Year 8) and Noah (Year 9) and Holly (Year 8) and Cora (Year 7) as the innocent monk, Tripitaka. The role of Pigsy has been made especially memorable after a costume suggestion from Millie in the cast, and Noah and Philip have no doubt had to adapt to their enormous outfits!

Once again, Years 7 to 9 have really risen to the challenge and produced a colourful and surprising show, full of laughs and gasps, showing their versatility and fantastic teamwork. **More photos on** <u>Flickr</u>.





### Senior School

### **Canoe Polo SW Ladies League match**



Last weekend saw a 'first' for Queen's in the pool. We entered a team in the newly formed South West Canoe Polo Women's league in Cheltenham. This was the first time our girls had competed as a team and it proved to be a steep learning curve! After some initial nerves, everyone played with real determination and competed for every ball. We managed to win a game and scored in most of the others. We were playing against adult club teams, many of whom were far more experienced than our side but the atmosphere was both competitive and wonderfully supportive. Our team got to experience some fantastic canoe polo and the opposition got to see some of the stars of the future! It was a great day.

Well done to All.

#### Holocaust Memorial Event at St John's Church

On Thursday morning, the musicians of Queen's were proud to once more support the moving Holocaust Memorial Event at St John's Church. An annual fixture in our calendar, this year saw us present one of our largest and moving works, the little known but beautiful 'Requiem' by Popper. This work for three cellos and piano was eminently suitable for the service and our Cello Trio, Shao Shen, You You and Charis, together with their director, Mrs Audrey Gullick, gave a superb performance of this work which perfectly complemented the words and atmosphere of the



occasion. As always, we were very pleased we could be part of this important event, marking and reflecting on both past and present situations with the gravitas they deserve. Many thanks to our musicians for their professionalism and contributing so magnificently to the occasion.

#### Metamorphosis Drama Trip



Last Friday, all GCSE and A Level Drama students visited the Bristol Old Vic Theatre to watch 'Metamorphosis' performed by the physical theatre company Frantic Assembly. This fast paced, dynamic, and aesthetically fascinating production was enjoyed by staff and students alike, with lots to unpack on the journey home and in subsequent lessons. In both GCSE and A Level courses, the students are required to analyse and be influenced by live theatre that they have seen-

this production certainly provided inspiration! It was a pleasure to be complimented by the theatre staff as we left on the immaculate behaviour and attitude of our students throughout the performance.

# Sixth Form

#### Unifrog

All senior students have now been given access to the destinations platform: Unifrog. Parents can also sign up to the platform to get expert advice and guidance on supporting students with their next steps. The sign-up code for parents is:QSCOparents, and you can sign up at www.unifrog.org/code. There is a handy newsletter that keeps parents up-to-speed with the latest opportunities and events for students too!

### **Round Up**



This week the Sixth Formers have been building on their skills and confidence with workplace visits and shadowing in the Care Sector.

Some of the pupils visited local Care Home Oake Meadows, where they met residents and learnt from staff about personal care and the skills needed for the role.

On Thursday, a group of Sixth Formers visited Musgrove Park Hospital where they took part in simulation activities in the treatment room and talked to staff about pathways into the NHS. The Sixth Formers will be hosting an assembly

next week with the NHS, to discover more about the different roles available within health.

### Boarders' Corner

#### **Round Up**





On Sunday a group of boarders in Years 8-10 visited Ninja Warrior in Bristol. It was a good opportunity to get off site and visit a local city and take part in a new activity. It was great fun and a good way to burn off some steam on a Sunday afternoon.

### Boarders' Corner

### Cotlake





Last weekend on Saturday afternoon, Cotlake went for a dog walk across the water meadows to Trull village, where the children enjoyed time either playing on the playground equipment or kicking a ball around, or in some cases both at the same time! In the evening, Mr Burlingham brought the big screen to Queen's and used Queen's Hall for movie night where the classic film 'Herbie Fully Loaded' was enjoyed by everyone.

On Sunday, the children travelled to the Mendip Hills, just south of Bristol, where everyone spent time underground exploring Goat Church Cavern and the cave system around it. The boarders showed they love to 'Live Adventurously' as they squeezed through tight gaps, slid down vertical rocks (upside down!) and clambered through the dark like experienced cavers! When not caving, there was time to explore the surrounding area and enjoy a hot chocolate!











### **News and Announcements**

Upcoming Key Dates	
Scholars Morning	Saturday 27 January 10:00-12:00
MUN - Bristol Grammar School	Sunday 28 January
Choral Evensong at St John's Concert	Sunday 28 January 16:00
Taunton Music Festival (Temple Methodist Church)	Monday 29 January
Art Scholars Event	Tuesday 30 January
Year 10 Parents' meeting (in person)	Tuesday 30 January
Prep Parent Forum	Wednesday 31 January
UKMT Intermediate Maths challenge	Wednesday 31 January
Year 11 Macbeth Trip	Wednesday 31 January
Sixth Form Quiz Night	Wednesday 31 January
Cambridge MUN	Thursday 01 February - Sunday 04 February
Year 10 Parents' meeting (remote)	Thursday 01 February
Friends of Queen's Skittle Evening	Friday 02 February
Southern Sinfonia Orchestral Day	Sunday 04 February

### Our online whole school calendar can be found <a href="here">here</a>. Our sports portal can be accessed <a href="here">here</a>.

### **News and Upcoming Social Events**



#### **Friends of Queen's Events**

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

23 February 19:30 Friends of Queen's Quiz Night

**Coffee Mornings (date change)** 

7 February 9 February 08:15-9:30 Parents' Coffee

### **News and Announcements**

### Work Experience Partnership with Aurora Foxes - Exec Chef Jordan Bradley



This week sees the start of our partnership with Aurora Foxes, Foxes is a SEN College in Minehead where young adults with additional needs receive specialist training to prepare them for a career within hospitality. Students attend Aurora Foxes from across the country, for 2-3 years. Whilst at Foxes they attend lessons to develop their functional and life skills, as well as working within the 7 bedroom hotel on Minehead beach front.

A huge part of their training is also accessing work experience across the local area, and I am now delighted to say we have 4 students joining us every week. We are also offering additional training throughout the year to provide a variety of experiences and additional learning in line with our events throughout the school.

As well as this we are also offering the teaching staff within the hotel a chance to complete their own CPD training with us.

This week the four students joining us enjoyed learning about how to use larger cooking equipment that we have on site, including the potato rumbler and chipper, ready for fish Friday. I am extremely proud of this partnership and can't wait to see our brilliant catering team help train and support these young peoples goal to gain meaningful employment within hospitality, improve their knowledge, skill set and confidence.

#### **Parent/Staff Netball**

Monday 19:00, Sports Hall. (weekly, term time).

All abilities are welcome, do come along for some fun!



#### **Bottles?**

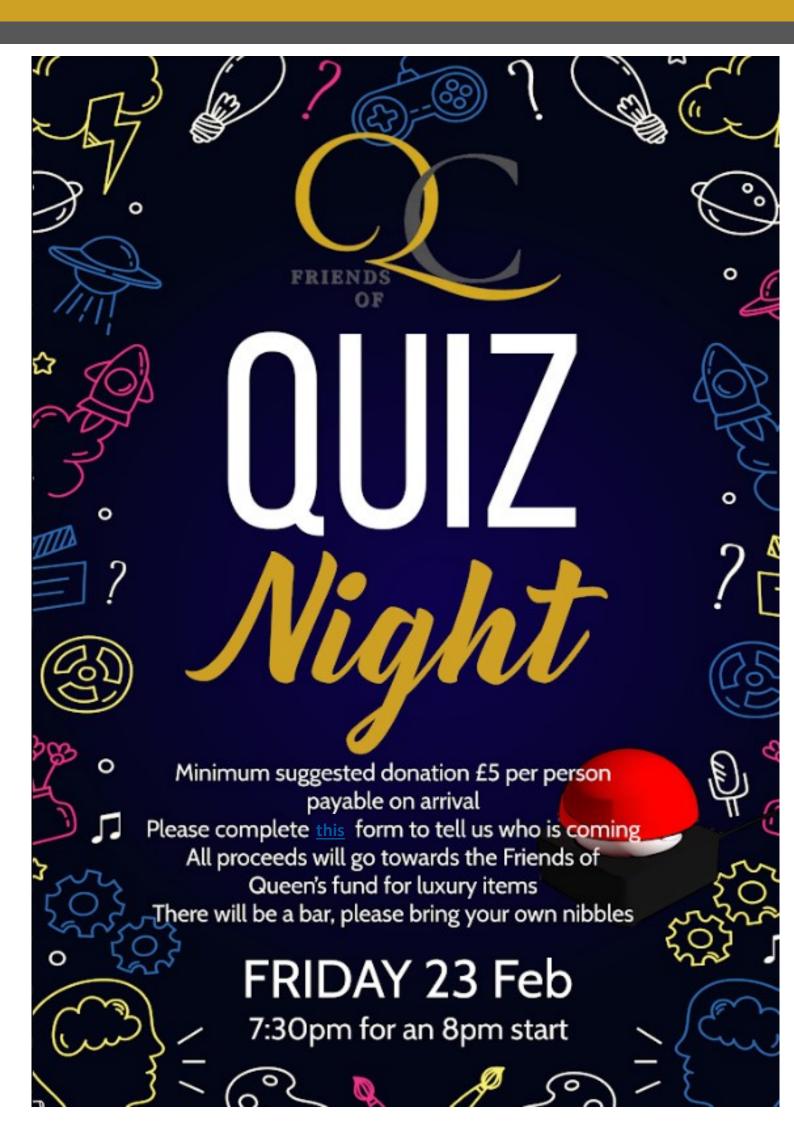


The Events Team are on the lookout for unusual glass bottles, of any shape, size and colour for a decorative Summer project. Don't recycle yours, instead please put them in the crate which will be outside Main Reception from Monday 22nd January.

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





# 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



- 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..."



# 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.





St John the Evangelist Church Park Street Taunton TA1 4DG

4.00pm

Choir of Queen's College, Taunton

Refreshments served from 3:30pm





QUEEN'S COLLEGE, 7TH MARCH, 7PM



9th February

7 P M

### 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