

# NEWS FROM Queenswood



## Countdown to Christmas: welcome to the season of Advent

News and information from [www.queenswood.org](http://www.queenswood.org)

Friday 1 December 2023

### Carol Service at St Albans: Form



Further to last week's newsletter, please complete this [form](#) if you wish for your daughter to leave with you directly after this year's Christmas Carol Service at St Albans Abbey on Friday 8 December.

**Please be advised that for safeguarding purposes, only students with exceptional circumstances and whose parents have informed us via the Google form, will be allowed to leave the abbey directly and not return to school.**

### Weekend fun: Christmas movie night



If you're feeling festive now that we're in December, why not enjoy a Christmas movie night this weekend. Netflix have some great films scheduled for this month - timeless classics and some fun new offerings. [Here](#) are our suggestions for festive weekend fun!

### This week I am reading...

*The Girl who Fell to Earth*  
by Patricia Forde



A beautifully crafted and emotionally resonant tale from the award-winning author of *The Wordsmith*. Nobody can ever know Aria's secret: she has human DNA.

Raised on Planet Terros, Aria was taught to hate humans and their destructive ways. But when she is sent to release a deadly virus and end the failed human experiment, Aria realises everything she thought she knew about Earth was a lie. The mission goes wrong. And now dark forces from Aria's past are out to destroy her.

### In brief

[Free online course from the University of Aberdeen: Nutrition and Wellbeing](#)

[U13A Netball secure their place in the Herts County Cup semi-final](#)



Welcome to the latest digest of news, events and blog posts from the website of Queenswood School. Click on the pink hyperlinks to read more.

[A Kind of Magic: Queenswood's Triumphant Production of \*We Will Rock You\*](#)



One of the largest casts ever assembled at Queenswood staged a thrilling production of the Queen musical *We Will Rock You* over three nights in the Clarissa Farr Theatre this week.

[Bebras 2023: Queenswood's Coders Invited to Compete in Oxford Challenge](#)



As part of Queenswood's Computer Science course, the school entered the Bebras Computing Challenge during the week of November 13–17. Bebras is a well-established competition that is carried out in over fifty countries and is sponsored by Oxford University and the Raspberry Pi Foundation.

[Introducing Mrs Vine, Queenswood's New Head of Learning Resources](#)



We are delighted to announce that Mrs Julie Vine, previously Exams Officer, has been appointed Head of Learning Resources at Queenswood - a role which combines leading the Library and the Q Archives. In this article, we also share news of a half marathon fundraising opportunity for the National Literacy Trust, who aim to provide all children with access to books.

[This Week in Chapel: Exploring the Five Pillars of Islam](#)



Continuing our multi-faith presentations in assembly, Mrs Khan spoke to us this week about the religion of Islam and what it means to be Muslim. In our services, Reverend Kate reminded us to consider the true meaning of Advent and that what matters most during Advent is to keep alert and awake to the coming of Christ.

[Presenting our Festive Companion: Elf on the Shelf!](#)



'Elf on the Shelf' is a popular Christmas tradition that originated from a children's book of the same name. Throughout December, Queenswood's elf will be perching around the School and reporting back to Santa! You can follow his antics on Instagram [@queenswoodschool](#)

[Artist of the Month – Ava's Self-Portrait Inspired by Bisa Butler](#)



Ava R (Year 7) was named Artist of the Month for November 2023. Her intricate self-portrait collage was produced in response to the work of Bisa Butler, and was entered into our Black History Month art competition in October. It is now on display in Mrs Cameron's office.

[Year 8 Learn App Design with Amazon Web Services](#)



Year 8s have just begun an exciting new initiative run by Amazon Web Services to encourage 12 and 13 year olds to learn about app design and development and stimulate interest in STEM subjects. The program utilises an online platform called Canvas that students log in to and perform a range of tasks within such as watching presentations and videos, filling out worksheets, brainstorming and quizzes.

### School Council Report Form

Pupils can use [this form](#) (anonymously if they prefer) to share any issues or praise with members of the School Council.