



From the Assistant Head Boarding

Dear Parents and Guardians,

They say time flies when you're having fun! When we returned after the New Year, boarders and staff seamlessly fell back into the routines of the houses. Whilst work was of the utmost importance, boarding staff constantly kept a close eye on all the boarders' wellbeing, ensuring that they had a good work/lifestyle balance.

Staff are becoming more and more conscious of the importance of bringing the boarding community together and encouraging our



boarders to look up from their devices. Technology is part of our boarders' everyday lives, but it can encroach on their ability to step out of their comfort zone. Our role is to ensure that we give them the opportunity to move away from their screens and enjoy spending time with their peers, building positive relationships.

In this vein, we are continuing with our whole boarding community events. These have included a Silent Disco across the four boarding houses (hilarious fun!); an Art Workshop showcasing our boarders' artistic skills; and, to celebrate Lunar New Year, we held a party in Mymwood for those students who were not able to be at home for the celebrations. These events have proven to

be hugely successful and beneficial to our boarders' wellbeing.

And as we round up the term, boarders across the years have been hunting for chocolate Easter Eggs around the school! Happy Easter everyone!

Mrs Violaine Ludwick



Boarding: Behind The Scenes

Each term, we're going to talk to some of the unsung heroes, and get their perspective on boarding at Queenswood. This term, we spoke to Mr Davis (Housekeeping Manager) and Mrs Wilmot (Housekeeping Supervisor).

Working in Housekeeping means an early start! While boarders are still asleep, Mr Davis and Mrs Wilmot come into work at 5am, followed by the rest of their team at 5:35am. They liaise with boarding staff to handle any problems that have arisen overnight and then get started at 6am. The housekeeping team then come together for breakfast at 8:30am before moving onto the four boarding houses. The Housekeeping team also scrub all wet room floors, shampoo carpets and handle the weekly non-stop laundry cycle!

Housekeeping stay busy after the term finishes at Queenswood, cleaning boarding houses during the holidays and supporting the QEL summer programme.

Mr Davis and Mrs Wilmot agreed that the best bit of their job is their amazing team. The whole team combined has more than 135 years worth of experience with housekeeping at Queenswood!

A huge thank you from all of us to the entire Housekeeping team for all of their hard work in the boarding houses and the wider school site!

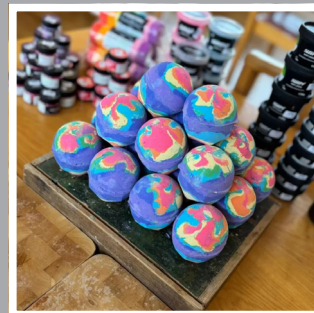


Lush Cosmetics Workshop

Just before half term, we were lucky enough to have two members of the Lush Cosmetics team come to Queenswood to lead a bath bomb and facemask making workshop. Boarders recreated two iconic Lush products – the Intergalactic bath bomb and the Rosy Cheeks facemask.



After making their own bath bomb and face mask, boarders had the opportunity to browse some of Lush's best products in a mini shop, held at Queenswood. The boarders particularly enjoyed products from the Lush x Wicked collaboration, having watched Wicked: Part One earlier in the term.



Well done to everyone who took part, and huge thanks to Arlinda and Kita from Lush Watford for leading an incredible workshop!



Community



You can say “community” in many different ways at Queenswood. Perhaps 社会 (Shèhuì), comunidad or Gemeinschaft? If they don’t sum it up best, then how about, コミュニティ (Komyuniti), gemeenskap or communauté? These are just some of the languages represented by our fantastic boarders.

Of course, community is not just about the language one speaks. It can be found in those with the same faith or religion, and where people have common interests. A sports team, a cast, a club – these are all communities that can be found at Queenswood. There are over 100 different extracurricular activities offered at Queenswood, and pupils can get involved in so much! From DJ-ing to Dog Walking, from Fitness to Fencing, we love to see boarders thrive in trying new things, finding new passions and becoming parts of new communities at Queenswood.

Watch this space for opportunities to get involved with organisations in local communities too!

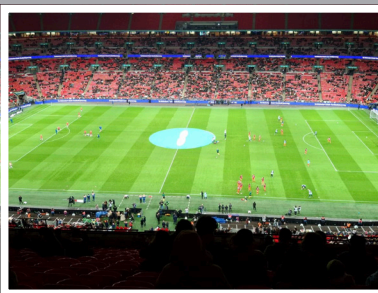
Lunar New Year



Mymwood House hosted an intimate gathering for boarders from all houses who wished to observe the Lunar New Year on Wednesday 29th January. Lunar New Year is celebrated in many Asian countries and by communities around the world. Boarders welcomed the Year of the Snake with traditional foods and tea and enjoyed coming together as a community to celebrate.

Thank you to Mrs Boyce for organising and to Dr Boyce and the Mymwood house team for decorating the house room superbly.

England v Spain Football Trip



Boarders in Years 11, 12 and 13 enjoyed an exciting night under the lights at Wembley Stadium in February. The girls were lucky enough to see a replay of the Women’s Football World Cup Final – England vs Spain. This match was part of the UEFA Women’s Nations League and was the first time the two teams had met since the World Cup Final in the summer 2023.

The atmosphere was electric, and the crowd was up on its feet when Jess Park (England and Manchester City) scored a goal in the first half. While there were



other chances for both teams in the rest of the match, Park’s goal ended up sealing the victory for England.

Boarders had a brilliant time seeing the excellent play and the fantastic sportsmanship on display. Womens’ football matches have an incredibly positive atmosphere and it was wonderful for the students to be a part of this.

Huge thanks to Miss Yaffe for organising this amazing experience for the senior boarders!

Boarding Art Competition

February saw boarders from all four houses put their creativity to the test and participate in an Art Competition. Boarders could create a self portrait, or take inspiration from existing artwork and recreate it themselves using acrylic paints or charcoal. Boarders enjoyed being able to use the fantastic Art facilities outside of lesson time to create freely, making artwork for their bedrooms or as gifts for family and friends.

The judging panel found it challenging to decide on the prize-winning pieces.



Eventually, they came to a decision and prizes were awarded as follows:

Overall winners: Tintin AA (Stamp, Year 8) and Sophia S (Swanwick, Year 9).

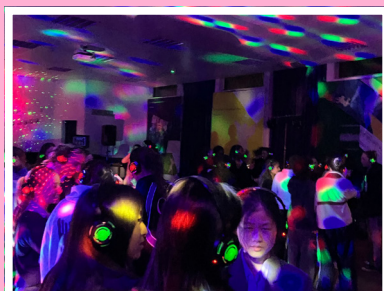
Highly Commended: Darrah D (Stamp, Year 8), Jeannie J (Stamp, Year 8), Zara O (Mymwood, Year 10), Hermione R (Stamp, Year 7) and Bryony S (Swanwick, Year 9)

Well done to all who participated and thanks to Mrs Shorrock for organising a great event!



Silent Disco

On Wednesday 7th March, boarders from Stamp, Swanwick, Mymwood and Trew came together to dance the night away at a silent disco in the Ernest Read Hall. The atmosphere was electric with boarders dancing altogether, although not necessarily listening to the same music! Girls could change between three music channels, one comprised of boarders' requests, one of 2000s and 2010s party classics and one created by DJs El and Em (also known as Miss Garrood and Miss Neale!). The latter proved the most popular playlist



of the night, with great songs such as 'Afterglow', 'Don't You Worry Child' and 'Peppa Pig Phonk'.

A wide selection of drinks and snacks were provided for boarders to refuel after all of their singing and dancing! Thank you to Super Silent Disco for providing the equipment and to the music department for allowing us to use the space. A huge thanks to Miss Sheeran for organising this and the boarding team for setting up and running the event.



Stamp Family Service



The first half of this term ended with a highlight in the Queenswood calendar, the Stamp Family Service. Held this year on St Valentine's Day, Rev. Kate led us in a service full of the love we have for each other, imagining what St Paul might write if he had written a letter to the Stamp pupils, as opposed to the Corinthians. Mrs Warren delivered an inspiring address, encouraging all of the girls to try their best, fail a few times, and learn and grow from this.

Boarders Ruth F, Charlotte K and Lorelle O (Year 7) read the beautiful poem, *Love (III)* by George Herbert. Darrah D and Jeannie J (Year 8) were joined by Prefects Juniper W and Olivia N-B to deliver the Bible Reading – The Gift of Love (1 Corinthians 13:11). During the service, there were also excellent musical performances from Cici R and the Year 7 Choir, who performed *The Beginning of Love* by Greg Gilpin, directed by Mrs Jackson.

Well done to all involved!

Sleep at Q

In the busy environment of a boarding school, prioritising sleep is crucial for our boarders' overall well-being and academic success. The unique structure of boarding life, while offering numerous opportunities, can also present challenges to establishing healthy sleep patterns. This year we have become part of the BSA (Boarding School Association) Sleep Champions and are keen to get this message across to all our boarders.

Memory Retention: Without sleep, your brain is like a sieve trying to hold water. You'll forget your locker combination, or what lesson you're supposed to be in!

Emotional Stability: Sleep deprivation turns you into a walking emotional landmine. One misplaced sock, one slightly burnt

piece of toast, and you're crying over spilled milk (literally).

Motor Skills: You'll be tripping over your feet trying to get yourself ready for school in the morning, or miss that crucial pass on the hockey pitch.

Social Interactions: Sleepy students are known for their brilliant social gaffes. You might end up being be that student who accidentally calls your teacher "mummy" in front of the whole class.

We need to prioritise creating a supportive sleep environment by establishing consistent routines, limiting screen time before bed, and providing comfortable sleeping accommodation. Remember, a well-rested student is a happy student, and a happy student is less likely to accidentally set off the fire alarm while making toast.

Boarding Awards

In each house, some boarders have gone above and beyond to model the values of boarding at Queenswood and we would like to congratulate them on their hard work this term.

Stamp

Year 7 – Ruth F
Year 8 – Yui K

Mymwood

Year 9 – Rachel F
Year 10 – Gisele C
Year 11 – Camilla T
Year 12 – Eliska B
Year 13 – Ivanna V

Swanwick

Year 9 – Sophia S
Year 10 – Emma J

Trew

Y11 – Abi T
Y12 – Ash K
Y13 – Isabella W



Volunteering in Boarding

At Queenswood, the boarding community thrives, not only in their houses, but across year groups. Stamp has been lucky enough to have some wonderful pupil volunteers this year, some of whom have shared their experiences below.

Sophie F (Year 11) volunteered in Stamp to get to know the Year 7 and 8s better. "It has been an amazing and fun experience. I enjoy listening to all of the girls telling me about their days and really enjoyed all of the treat nights I've been able to help out with."

"I love volunteering in Stamp as it's so fun talking to everybody and getting to know them, especially the little lights chats!" writes Jemima T (Year 11).

Eliška B (Year 12) says, "After spending some time talking to and playing board games with younger students, I've built connections and developed my communication skills. Volunteering has been a rewarding experience, and

I enjoy being a supportive presence for the younger students in boarding."

"From participating in high-spirited games and activities to observing hectic lights out routines, helping out around Stamp has been chaotic, yet incredibly entertaining", says Zoe U (Year 12).

Stamp Prefect, Juniper W (Year 13), writes, "I first volunteered in Year 10 as part of my Silver DofE and absolutely loved developing relationships with the younger year groups. It was then such an incredible opportunity to do this once again in Sixth Form when I became Stamp Prefect. I went from just being a friendly face, sharing the odd gossip with the girls, to a person that they could come to in confidence and discuss any worries or problems they were experiencing."

Consider how you can give back to your community and develop skills through volunteering!



The Great Boarding Easter Egg Hunt

At the end of term, boarders from all four houses took part in the Great Boarding Easter Egg Hunt, organised by Miss Milner. Boarders had to hunt for paper eggs with their name on around the school grounds and then exchange this for a chocolate egg at the end. 34 boarders took part across three days.

The girls enjoyed working together in groups to find not only their named eggs, but their friends' eggs too, in some very tricky spots!

Wishing you all a very happy Easter and a well deserved break!



Miles4Smiles

2025 marks the 40th year of Comic Relief. The charity was founded by comedian Sir Lenny Henry and writer Richard Curtis in response to the Ethiopian Famine of 1983-85. Over its 40 year history, Comic Relief has raised £1.6 billion for causes in the UK and overseas. The campaign's sketches, featuring iconic media personalities, have encouraged the UK to be funny for money, inspiring community and school groups to get involved too. The Red Nose Day 2025 campaign raised £34,022,590 nationwide!

On Saturday 22nd March, boarders took part in the Queenswood Miles4Smiles fundraising challenge! Boarders walked, ran and danced to raise money for Comic Relief, and had a lot of fun! A huge thank you to the amazing Michelle who led boarders and house staff in a high energy Zumba Fitness class.

If you are able, please use the QR Code to donate to a wonderful cause.

