



## 'INSPIRATION AND INNOVATION AT QUEENS'

'Throughout Queens, students produce massive masterpieces and show superlative skills'



Queens College is renowned for its prodigious performing arts shows and spectacular sports. In recent years, we have seen numerous productions of multiple musicals; recently, audiences have been dazzled by the stupendous show of Grease (a 1978 musical).

Students from ages 11-17 were involved in performance, producing an array of skills when only given 6 hours to prepare and rehearse.

### **Influential information from Ian Trafford**

Grease in a day had a fantastic end result, where we saw family and friends enjoy the performances produced by many keen students. Ian Trafford [artistic director] tells us that it was "A great experience and enjoyable for all".

After the triumph coinciding with Mamma Mia In a Day- the play last year- the drama department decided to keep the tradition going based on the terrific turnout from the previous year. With the musical in a day already decided for next year, our standards were set high and were not let down!

Our interviewers Zachary Lyle and Eloi Verger-Chabot, interviewed Mr Trafford. He mentioned it went wonderfully, running calmly and smoothly.

He mentioned it went wonderfully, running calmly and smoothly. We have discovered he is considering changing it to 'We Will Rock You' which will be set in the future where humans will see people fighting the evil AI to get real music back!.

### **Queen's aspiring athletes!**

Sport at Queens teaches children to be motivated and capable to work in a team. Every child has access to do sport because it helps them develop healthily and into young resilient individuals while achieving inclusive, sustainable and enjoyable participation. To make pupils enjoy sport, we get them to experience professional training and matches in an exciting environment.



Ian Trafford: the director and head of the Queen's drama department.

### **A superb, succulent student masterpiece!**

The food and nutrition department has had an exciting day participating in some enjoyable cooking. Students with the [Head] of the food department (Mr Mann) have been producing delicious dishes consisting of aubergine appetisers and courgette cuisines which had been made by one of our own students: Thomas Nash. See more on page 6.

### **A brilliant blast from Shakespeare's past**

A Midsummer night's dream - written by Shakespeare- came to Queens! The Quantum Theatre Company performed this multi-rolled show and created a hilarious production. For the college's year 8's. The show was 2 hrs long and incredibly interactive for all students and teachers in the audience.

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## Some super sculptural textiles

### Marvellous modelling

I've always been shocked about incredible wire sculptures being advertised around cities or in the news. The wire models of famous people or interesting shapes that most people just seem to ignore as they walk by, for example in the nearby town of Lyme Regis, they are dotted around the town and are frequently overlooked. Bryony Fidell from Queens College has grabbed that wire sculpture idea and transformed it with her own creativity to a textiles piece and has sculpted a wire dress. She began with the inspiration from Karen Margolis who studied circles and created fascinating pieces of artwork just from the use of circles. Margolis stated this to us with her quote 'the enzo, Japanese for circle, is my inspiration for my imagery. Bryony's dress used wire to replicate the technique that Margolis used in her artwork of the 'synthetic garden'. Bryony Fidell started her experiments in circles with artworks such as burning holes in materials to create different textures. She also investigated looking at

joining the circles and creating different patterns and shapes using various materials such as plastic, copper and steel to decide which would create the perfect sculptural dress.

After looking through Bryony's sketch book for the project, I came across her final page where she wrote: 'For my final piece I wanted to make a sculptural dress. I will be more focused on making it sculptural rather than wearable as I would like it to have a lot of impact and to do that it will have to be a much more dramatic shape.'

The school got creative in the art department as the walls were filled with wonders created by some of our fantastic students.

Photos; paintings, sketches and collages filled the building with vibrant wonders. The well-known Taunton mayor also accompanied Mr Noad on a tour of the grand art exhibition held in the school on Wednesday.

Written by Charlotte Green



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## SCOTTISH ESCAPADES



### **Scottish Escapades**

We're now coming to the end of term and students are now starting to get ready for our jet setting holidays. We might be going to amazing locations such as the sunny islands of the Caribbean, the tropical rainforests of South America and Asia or perhaps going back to our homelands if you're a boarder. All these jaw-dropping locations are good locations, however there is an amazing location that is right under (or perhaps above) our noses: the small, yet mighty country of Scotland. It is culturally rich with a deep, intricate history separate from England and possesses a separate identity and is laden with striking landscapes and rolling hills - and all of this is less than an hour away!

#### **Scotland - Home away from Home?**

Last summer, I had the amazing opportunity to travel to the land of kilts, bagpipes and haggis: Scotland. Although part of the same island as England, there is a stark contrast in culture, history and landscape. Whereas England drinks tea and loves fish and chips, Scotland drinks hard whisky and loves deep fried Mars bars. However, many aspects of the country are very similar to England, of course being on the same island. They both have the BBC, the same currency and most importantly both have Tesco's. With this in mind, a trip to Scotland can

provide fresh, new experiences and exposure to a different culture yet remaining strangely familiar and comforting to England - and to an extent, the South West.

#### **A Tale of Two Cities - Glasgow and Edinburgh**

We set off from Bristol Airport in anticipation of the land up north. Our first destination is the modern, industrial city of Glasgow. Home to Holyrood Palace, the Royal Mile and multitudes of whisky distilleries and museums, it provides a wide range of experiences and amazing memories to last a lifetime. It is the largest city in Scotland and boasts a big-city, modern feel to it. An amazing destination yet it is the underdog to Edinburgh because it somewhat lacks a sense of historical buildings and a rich cultural heritage. With that being said, there are still many attractions to visit.

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## SCOTTISH ESCAPADES CONTINUED...

### A Tale of Two Cities

I recommend the Clydeside Distillery. It provides an interesting insight into the creation and making of Scotland's most famous drink: whisky. And at the end, you even get to taste it (however if you're not an adult, you get a drink of Scotland's second most famous drink, Irn Bru).

Edinburgh. The capital of Scotland. A rich tapestry of Scotland's history and past. From the gothic architecture of Edinburgh Castle, to the picturesque views of the city from the peak of Calton Hill, Edinburgh boasts an amazing array of attractions, cultural history and historical buildings for its modest size. It is the centre of Scottish culture and there are many tours of these awesome places and views. I highly recommend taking a tour of the spooky Edinburgh

Vaults, characterised with an infamous timeline of criminals, magic and paranormal activities, it is sure to give you a fright!

### The Loch Ness and Nessie

A must see destination of Scotland is the Loch Ness - world famous for being the supposed home of the Loch Ness Monster (or Nessie for short) and is a very popular tourist attraction in Scotland. You can catch a boat ride from any town or village surrounding the Loch Ness, however the boat rides from St Augustus are the most informative and captivating. When you're up on deck and taking in the cool Highland breeze

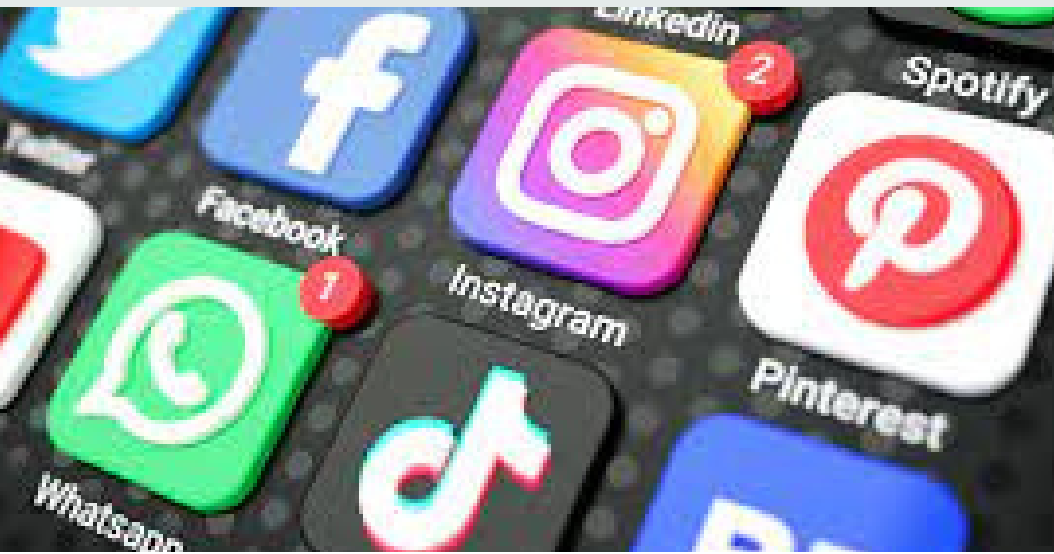
and taking in the striking Scottish landscapes, be sure to keep your eyes peeled to look out the side to try to find Nessie - however when I went it came to no avail unfortunately (was probably on holiday in Malacca). Try your luck and see if you can spot the monster!

### Conclusion

Scotland is a country packed with many adventures and attractions, which is utterly incredible for its modest size. There is so much to dive into: from the food, the culture and the attractions. No wonder it is a world famous location, and it's right at our doorstep! So if you're stuck on where to go for your next holiday, Scotland is a must-see destination and it is all for a relatively cheap price! Happy holidays!



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## The Blind Illusions And The Realities Of Social Media

*We know that social media has become almost essential for everyone at this time. But how beneficial is it to modern life?*

You don't have to be a genius or very intelligent to realise the significant impact that social networks have on our lives today. For almost two decades now, these networks have gone from a youthful pastime and a practical and useful way to connect with old friends, to a place where all kinds of things happen from item sales, posting ads, to falling in love and spreading explicit and personal content.

In principle, there is nothing to worry about, since social

networks are a revolutionary invention to interact with known and new people. In fact, social media do a brilliant job in social and community groups, as they allow the opportunity to suggest new ideas and ways to protest and make a big impact on the world. The purpose of this article is not to make people think that they should fear and avoid social networks, but it's a warning about how we use them and what we think of them, because normally behind social networks there is usually a vast hoax.

### Social media VS realities

A clear example of Social media VS realities are pretty much all reality shows. These started years ago, from a very traditional and simple

perspective. They all consist of very wealthy people living luxurious lives, can be recorded by a 'hidden' camera. It is just a form of entertainment and attraction to the audience.

However, sometimes in these reality shows, in which a few lucky people are given the opportunity to participate: beginner actors or normal people who (from that programme) went on to live a new life. During this process they earned large amounts of money, became famous or simply were loved or hated by the public. However, what really made these people's lives change were the industry and people that were in charge of the program.

And that is precisely what social networks hide from us. The change that has occurred overtime is much more insidious and the illusion has become more perfect since the social network has respectively improved. It promises us direct interaction with others no matter the distance or contact.

Overall, social media possesses very useful tools which today can be essential. Always stop to think about the information you read, and that it could not always be true, or anywhere near it in some cases.

By Alvaro Garcias- Tapias

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prepared by some of his peers. His meal consisted of Rosemary soup, Lemon tart, and 'Tom's plate. He described the soup as really good, and that it 'looked healthy and nutritional' .

The 'Tom's plate' had a 'perfect amount of spice and the lamb was perfect' according to Alvaro. He thought it was a promising meal for the students who wanted to become

pro chefs.

Alvaro loved his Lemon tart that was sweet and a desirable and incredible experience to be able to eat it!

Overall he is in awe of the young chef's that made his luxury meal and is working towards that standard with the weekly food and nutrition lessons that Queens College provide. written by Mary-Tess McAlonan and Alvaro Garcias-Tapias



## Queen's cuisines

Today, students were given a food critiquing master class by the one and only William Sitwell who has appeared on 'masterchef'.

Alvaro is a dedicated student at queens who enjoys the sports and food and nutrition at queens. Earlier today, he enjoyed some delicious food

(More text on the right)



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## A RESTAURANT OR JUST A CLASSROOM?



### A Restaurant or just a classroom?

*Four novice food critics report on an awkward culinary challenge*

Few people might imagine that a school has a restaurant. Ours is in the food department of Queen's College in Taunton. We had heard of it, but it was off-limits. It seemed to us it was only open to special visiting guests. But now we had the chance to dine there. We had a challenge to cook and eat. Some students cooked, others ate. Our job was to do the latter and to write about it.

The restaurant was lit with golden fairy lights and hanging bulbs, casting mellow light through the cosy room. Four large, round tables filled the space; embellished with silver

cutlery, china crockery and sweet-smelling flowers. The school spent a sizable amount of money to purchase all of this and created a unique atmosphere:

there were elements of a restaurant from the paintings on the walls, to the moody lightning, to the real silver cutlery and wine and champagne glasses; however there were also signs of a classroom everywhere.

Underneath the tablecloth were school desks and the flooring was a carpet you would usually find in the school. At the front of the classroom was a garish grey SMART board which would usually be used for displaying the material and on the ceiling was a large, clunky projector. This

so-called "Restaurant" was nothing more than a classroom with a bit of decorations that tries to give off the impression of a restaurant.

We were served an appetiser of a prosecco and lemonade jelly with an assortment of berries, apples and cucumbers. The taste was rather underwhelming. The fruits were bland and tasteless and the jelly was bitter from the prosecco and there wasn't any hint of lemonade anywhere in the dish, which did not reach my expectations of what I thought prosecco would be.

Soon the starters arrived; courgette, onion and garlic soup, seasoned with nutmeg and rosemary. Served in a small, china bowl; a creamy, pea-green dollop of soup sat with a sprig of rosemary decorating the course. Its appearance excited me; I was so disappointed when I realised it was cold. The actual taste was flavoursome and well seasoned, however the temperature really let it down. Would dishes be served cold in an actual restaurant?

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## A RESTAURANT OR JUST A CLASSROOM?



Following this disappointing dish, the mains came. We were served spiced lamb ragu stuffed in an aubergine; the aroma was delightful! I tucked in and immediately felt satisfied; the lamb ragu was a complete contrast to the previous dishes. With melted cheese topping the aubergine, the tomato-like sauce and lamb were simply delicious. I managed to eat almost all of this (unlike the first two meals).

We were then supplied with a beautiful lemon tart for dessert. It was a lemon filling made with the zest and juice, topped on a sweet, crumbly pastry case. The mixture of sour and sweet flavours from the pastry and filling added contrast. It was served beautifully with fresh raspberries and lemon zest on the side and sprinkled with icing sugar. Along with the other meals, it looked very professional and very

appetising and the presentation made the dish taste even better.

Although the food was decent, the service was absolutely appalling. The waiters were the other group of students and they tried minimally to act professional and act as real waiters and waitresses. They failed to deliver the essence of a restaurant as they often messed around, ruined the water they served with a multitude of ingredients that should not belong in water: salt, pepper and random fruits they found in the kitchen. There have also been rumours of hairs being present in food and the water being collected from the toilet! Absolutely disgusting! It's clear that this is not a restaurant and is just a bunch of teens mucking about.

The service can be vastly improved on, the decor was tacky but charming and the food we were served was decent, which improved as it went along: with the appetisers and starters being underwhelming, the main being decent and the desert being the best. The "Restaurant" was a disappointing. It certainly did not live up to its name. IWe do not recommend dining here

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## Is China Watching you?

Xi Jinping (China Government) is watching you. You read it right. Wherever you are in China, you are under constant camera surveillance. The country has over 700 million surveillance cameras, which means there is one lens for every two citizens. If you have TikTok, you could spot your face anywhere, and this scares the Chinese citizens.

In what appears to be a first time event, a former employee of ByteDance, TikTok's Beijing-based parent company, has outlined specific claims that the Chinese Communist Party accessed the data of TikTok users on a broad scale, and for political purposes.

This is alarming as there are over 1 billion monthly active users as of September 2021.

TikTok is the 4th largest social media platform in the world by monthly active users. For instance, the app has 30.8 daily active users. It was discovered that TikTok had been spying on every text you would copy on your clipboard. The app could read any text that had been copied on your phone and was used for tracking app users.

This unseen issue is affecting local foreign students from Queens college who feel unsafe anywhere they go when they return to China, their home that they have known all their life. They are concerned that no one else is aware of this pressing problem and it will grow to a national issue. So, the next time you are walking alone in China, you might wonder- Is China watching YOU?

By Aidan Kan

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## Tremendous times for Taunton Town FC

Sturmy's sensational squad goes global!

Kevin Sturmy's semi-professional Football Club goes global as enthusiastic supporters from Japan join The Peacock's journey to greatness!

Background to Taunton Town: What are Sturmy's ideas for his own club? Taunton Town is a semi-professional football club with a lot of hardwork and heart, formed in December 1947. Its players endure blood, sweat and toil to carry this team to success and goals for seasons to come. Kevin Sturmy is this local team's chairman and stated that "We are ambitious but sustainable" and that they strive to receive a place in the FA CUP next season (as they have reached the 1st round previously). He and his team also target the top 12 to "keep fans and new players interested".

Taunton Town's new route: What has changed?

Sturmy's tremendous start happened around 13 years ago. From 2011-2013 he would "stand around and watch the games"- The number of supporters jurrastically started to grow from 95 to 800+



recently. However, having a small number of supporters started to question Sturmy's career- "what the hell are we doing here?". They were in debt of £3000 after lacking supporters and funding, then the club started to grow more rapidly, from 2014-2015 when Taunton Town won their first game. "What a relief".

Japan Support to Taunton Town F.C: What's their link with Japan?

The strange but tremendous events of Japan expressing their love and enthusiasm for the club all began with Ben Mabbly.

Ben was born and raised in Taunton and studied Japanese at university in Somerset. He finally left home at 21 and travelled 8000 miles away to pursue his dream in Japan. On his TV channel in Japan, every chance he got, he would wear his Taunton Town shirt with pride; brandishing the logo to the Japanese citizens who watched. This arose from countless intrigued queries about his hometown and club, which led to a revolution in semi-professional football.

Follow on to our next sport article about Old Queenian Boys' return to their Cricket games...

Cricket

The first innings starts with the old queenians batting. In the first two overs the current queenians have got 7 runs which includes one 4. The 5th over has just past in the 1st innings.

By Megan Clark, Digby Lowery and Bahiya Hussein



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