

UPTON VOICE

Upton-by-Chester High School Newsletter

July 2014

Volume 2, Issue 7

Upton-by-Chester
High School

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Headteacher: Mrs P.E Dixon

END OF A BUSY YEAR

Dear Parents and Carers

I can hardly believe that the end of my first year as Headteacher of Upton-by-Chester High School is drawing to a close. I have been privileged to witness the many successes of the wonderful young people in our school and I have received so many emails and letters complimenting our talented and hardworking students. Their behaviour has been exemplary whilst representing the school in drama productions, sporting activities, musical concerts, art exhibitions and school visits; I am very proud of them as I know you will be also. The school website, and the latest edition of Upton Voice, contain features on the vast array of our students' successes.

The Year 11 and Sixth Form Proms were very successful evenings and were enjoyed by all. A great deal of attention was paid to dress with very glamorous evening attire worn by both female and male students, two superb evenings which will be remembered for a very long time; we do hope that those not returning in September will keep in touch.

To those who have chosen to continue their sixth form education elsewhere, or who are going on to university or venturing into the world of work, we wish them all the very best for their future success.

Information regarding exam results days and the start of the new school year is detailed below.

Exam Results Days [Results will be distributed in the Hall.]

Thursday 14 August 2014

A Level results from 9.00 am - 10.30am

AS results from 11.00 am - 12 noon

Thursday 21st August 2014 - GCSE results

Year 11 students can collect their results from 10.00 am

Students in Year 10 can collect their results from 11am

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your on-going support over the 2013-14 school year and for making me feel so welcome. I would like to wish you all a good summer break and I look forward to the start of another successful school year in September.

With best wishes,

Mrs Paula Dixon
Headteacher

Forthcoming Events

- ◆ **SCHOOL CLOSED FOR SUMMER BREAK**- 1.30 pm on Friday 18th July 2014.
- ◆ **SCHOOL OPENS** to all students as normal on Wednesday 3rd September 2014 at 8.35am.

YEAR 12 VISIT TO LEICESTER SPACE CENTRE

Year 12 Leicester Space Centre Visit
Sponsored by the Ogden Trust 9/7/14

As a partnership school of the Ogden Trust, we had the tremendous opportunity to partake in an all-expense paid joint visit to The National Space Centre in Leicester.

The Key Stage 5 Physics master class we attended was specifically designed to support sixth-form Physics students like us with our curriculum studies. It provided a great introduction to many of the theoretical concepts we are to encounter in next year's A2-Level Physics course.

All of the sessions we took part in had practical based activities integrated into the programme and offered a hands-on approach to Physics. We particularly enjoyed making and launching our streamline rockets, one of which went on to win the competition we had between Neston High and Upton. This activity not only helped consolidate the work we have done this year on projectile motion but also offered a good platform to the mathematical application of momentum which we are currently studying.

Whilst there, we had the opportunity to watch a short film called 'We Are Aliens' within the Sir Patrick Moore Planetarium. The film addressed the current attempts to search for extra-terrestrial life on other planets and moons within the universe (the SETI project). They discussed the fact that all life on Earth is water based and so went on to explain how astronomers go about locating water based planets/moons by observing the light from their atmospheres. We all thoroughly enjoyed this activity and later that day we even saw a model comet being made using all of the materials currently thought to be present in most comets.

To sum up, we all genuinely thought the master class was a highly beneficial and gratifying experience. It provided us with a superb introduction into many new topics such as; gravitational fields, momentum and thermal physics, all of which we are to study next year.

Thank you Ogden!
Upton High Physics (AS-Level) Students.





PHIL ROPER

Congratulations to Old Uptonian Phil Roper, England hockey international. Catch him in action at the Commonwealth Games this summer if you're lucky enough to have tickets.

Sainsbury's Active Kids

This promotion is closed and we will soon be placing an order. Thanks to everyone who has sent in



District Athletics 2014

Upton Voice is always glad to receive reports that show that students have worked hard to record significant achievements. Many readers are aware of, and may even have taken part in, the Chester & District Athletics Championships. If you have taken part, you will know how hard it is to compete against other strong and skilful youngsters. The championships are now held in Deeside, and we have a proud tradition of success here. This year's crop of athletes did outstandingly well, posting the following team results:

GIRLS

Year 8	Sixth position
Year 9	Second Position
Years 10 & 11	CHAMPIONS

BOYS

Year 8	Second Position
Year 9	CHAMPIONS
Years 10 & 11	CHAMPIONS

Some of the competitions were very close and every point was crucial, making this a true team success. The behavior of Upton athletes over a long and tiring day was impeccable.

This success for older groups of students came hot on the heels of the Year 7 win in the combined boys-girls competition in May. As a result of those impressive performances, several Year 7 students were picked to represent Chester & District in the County Championships.

All in all, it has been a mightily impressive year of achievement in athletics. C&D photo gallery below:



District Athletics 2014 ... [continued]

GIRLS			BOYS		
Y9	Hurdles	Y. Elsayed	Y9	Long Jump	J. Russell
Y9	Javelin	A. Kirk	Y9	Triple Jump	J. Beeton
Y10/11	200 metres	V. Ozoemelum	Y10/11	Shot	D. Dagnall
Y10/11	Shot	C. Morley	Y10/11	800 metres	J. Hickson
Y10/11	Triple Jump	S. Carter	Y10/11	Long Jump	A. Buchanan
Y10/11	Relay	Relay squad	Y10/11	Triple Jump	H. Pickering

In the table above you will see our C&D championships individual winners for this year. That is a great achievement- very well done.

Meanwhile, here are our Year 7 athletes at the County Championships: Amy B., Sam Q, Sacha, Sam R., Luke, Amy Mc., and Olivia. One day those vests will fit you- just keep wearing them every year until they do! Very well done. Amy B. and Sam R. did so well that they were later selected for the full Cheshire team, which is quite an achievement in their first year of high school.



Highest Form attendance

WHOLE YEAR

1st

7Y1ME

Mr Owen's Form

98%

Very well done!!



Thank you Mr Davies... we love to receive letters like this. Our students contribute to the community in so many ways...

Dear Mrs Dixon,

I thought you would be interested to know about some of the activities in which pupils from your school have participated over the last six months.

Alias Buchanan was of course elected as a Member of the UK Youth Parliament in February and he has become very active. He is a co-opted member of the Council's Scrutiny Committee for Children & Education where he is representing young people in a very important and real sense. He is also involved with the Early Interventions work being done through a survey of schools in Cheshire West. He along with Rebecca Clough, Elinor Gray and Juliana Christianson will be going into their former primary to undertake a short consultation around the questions already put to teaching staff.

Alias has also taken part in the regional young people's forum and at the end of July he will attend the Annual Sitting of the UK Youth Parliament at Lancaster University. Speaker John Bercow will be speaking (as always) and Maggie Atkinson the Children's Commissioner for England will also be addressing the MYPs. Alias has already been able to use some of his UKYP activity towards his DofE award.

Rebecca Clough is also a co-opted member of Children & Education Scrutiny in her capacity as a member of the West Cheshire Young People's Senate.

Elinor Gray has just been co-opted to the Council's Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee and will attend her first meeting on Thursday evening next week at 6pm. She is also assisting with Councillor Nicole Meardon and SACRE's look at R.E.

Stella Dixon is on the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, also in her capacity as a member of the Senate. Matthew Banks attends the Senate and is a very vocal member, whose question and interventions are always timely and well thought out.

Will Ellis has now stood down from Corporate Scrutiny but his tenure as a young co-optee was distinguished and from time to time he encapsulated discussion in a way which is not always the case on council committees, where lengthy exposition rather than pithy observations are more frequently found.

I mustn't forget Laura Thompson, Molly Pritchard and Anna Reeves who helped me with the election back in January and subsequently took part in the council's budget consultation in Ellesmere Port along with another stalwart Beckie Corner. Beckie has been terrific on Health & Wellbeing and she continues to be a great help to the younger members of the senate.

The group of Upton students has picked up on the fracking issue which was highlighted during the survey which was run alongside the election. I am attempting to arrange an expert or two to come and speak at the October Senate as I hope the young people will be able to make their judgements on sound evidence rather than a sense of unease which is understandable but not sufficient. I was in another school this week talking with a group of year 12 students and found equally robust advocacy of fracking, so I hope we can bring them all together and they go away with knowledge that they can apply in discussion.

I do appreciate your school's commitment to young people's participation and particularly value the help and support of Sharon Hitchen and Lynn Loyley who have been brilliant.

I look forward to further excellent contributions from Upton's contingent, they certainly enhance the school's reputation.

Regards,

Ron Davies
Young People's Participation & Inclusion Officer
Cheshire West & Chester Council



Hair today, gone tomorrow!

Upton-by-Chester High School pupil Jessica Cain Kelly aims to raise £2000 by shaving her hair off in front of family, staff and students in aid of Cancer Research UK.

Toni & Guy Salon Director, Gary Maoudis, will cut off Jess' hair in school on Wednesday 16th July 2014 which she will sell for hair extensions to raise funds'

Jess aged 13 said 'I am really excited, although I will miss my long hair, I am confident it will grow again over the summer holidays and this is a small sacrifice in comparison to those suffering cancer.'

Miss Beuzit, 2nd Deputy Head of Upton-by-Chester High School, added: "Jess is an inspiration to us all and has taken this drastic step as she truly wants to make a difference to the life chances and the quality of life of cancer sufferers. As a school community, we are very proud of her and we are hoping that she exceeds the £2000 she is hoping to raise. We'd also like to thank Tony and Guy for supporting Jess.

Please support Jess on the justgiving.com, Jessica Cain Kelly or contact Upton-by Chester High School on 01244 981240



As you can see, Jess's brave and selfless act has now taken place. Jess is already close to the target that she set. *Upton Voice* has total respect and admiration for Jess and for so many other Upton students who help a multitude of good causes. If you have supported this cause, many thanks, and if not, it's not too late!

Some scenes from the Upper Sixth Leavers' Ball 2014.....



Goodbye and good luck to the superb Upper Sixth of 2013

Florida 2014

The recent visit to Florida had 'trip of a lifetime' possibilities. We are very grateful to Mr Caine for reporting on this amazing visit.

'Our students conducted and experienced science that is nothing like the science anywhere in the UK; they conducted educational programs at NASA, Everglades, Sea-World and Universal Studios.

Did you know NASA covers 220 square miles and is a wildlife conservation park. Whilst in this area they spoke with a female astronaut who has been to space twice. They learned about how space affects the physiology of the body, about the diet and food taken on a space mission. They touched part of the moon which was brought back from a mission! They saw Atlantis, the last space shuttle, which has been in space and back 36 times. Next to it was a replica of the Hubble telescope, which the shuttle serviced. They saw the gigantic vehicle assembly buildings and the tour guide constantly spoke about our students having the aspirations to one day becoming an astronaut - focusing on the STEM subjects and motivating students to work hard in these subjects. Really, there is much too much to include in a short account.

Students conducted educational programs at Universal Studios. These were all organised by staff at the venue and lasted up to 3 hours. We learned about roller-coaster construction and technology; we discovered the differences between gravity roller-coasters and self-propelled roller-coasters. We learned how Universal purchased Jet engines to fire the coasters and about how the rides have their own generators, otherwise the whole of Orlando would experience a 'brown out' every time the ride was launched due to the 2 megawatt electrical power needed! All of this is relevant to Physics GCSE. We also learned about the importance of design and model making in science due to development and research programs in place at these institutions.

At Sea World we handled real animal artefacts and learned about the habitats of the animals. We looked at animal behaviour and training. We were also able to experience first-hand a wealth of animals just not found in the UK today. We were also able to talk to some of the students about the moral issues surrounding areas of animal captivity.

At the Everglades students handled snakes and saw them feeding, handled alligators, saw 8ft alligators in their natural environment, up close and safe. We looked at and spotted baby alligators' predators, huge pelicans and cranes. Students saw vultures and the bald-headed eagle including their nests in their natural environment. They also learned about how the poikilothermic alligators retreat to deeper water during the hot weather and how the temperature of the eggs determines the sex of the new born. Also we discussed the native and non-native wildlife which was damaging and taking over the habitats. All of this is relevant to GCSE Biology.

The visit bonded the party members in a way that was heart-warming to see.

On our last night we held an awards ceremony (Upton Oscars) where the hotel went above and beyond the normal realms of service because, and I quote, 'The kids deserve this, as we have never seen such a large group of such polite and well-mannered children before'. This was true praise that was well-deserved by everyone on the visit.'



STRENGTHENING CULTURAL LINKS BETWEEN ARRADON AND UPTON

Upton-by-Chester High School's French exchange with Arradon follows the strong links developed by the Upton and Arradon Twinning Associations over the past 30 years. Students and staff from Collège Giles Gahinet enjoyed their visit to Chester and attended lessons at school with Upton students who will be travelling to Brittany next September. This superb opportunity has enhanced students' language skills and strong friendships have been established.

James Dewhurst (aged 13) said, "The exchange improved everyone's French and English and their cultural awareness."

Juliana Christianson (aged 15) added that, "The exchange had started to break down the language barrier."



In brief....

Dr Rees reports on a notable success for **Chad Jacobs** of Year 7...

In May Manga High ran a competition; the prize was a Gold Medal. Chad in year 7 was the only pupil to win the competition from our school.

Manga High is a Games-Based Learning package that uses computer games and Maths to provide a compelling and exciting addition to Maths education.

Chad is an excellent ambassador in showing how we can incorporate Maths and the use of ICT to make Maths more interactive and fun. Chad is also an excellent contributor to winning our last FAI-TO and to increasing our school ranking in the country. Keep up the good work Chad.

Chad commented, 'Today I am proud of myself for collecting the medal from Mr Keegan. When I was competing for the medal, it took a lot of time and dedication but I just believed I could do it and I did it in three days. It just goes to show that hard work brings success as long as we are focused.'

CONGRATULATIONS

Winners of Fairtrade Global Quiz on Open Evening 25th June were:-

First prize - Tom Ferdenci at Acresfield Primary School

Second prize - Lottie Chesworth at St Werburgh's and St Columbas' Primary School

An exciting new school partnership with Swarnapali Balika National School, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka will begin in September.

“CONNECTING CLASSROOMS” LINK WITH YEMEN

Upton-by-Chester High school has recently been delighted to welcome Miss Jamila Rajeh from Al Khansa High school, Sana'a, Yemen as part of a very successful "Connecting Classrooms" partnership established in 2008.

“Connecting Classrooms” is central to the British Council’s work in promoting intercultural dialogue. The programme has been designed to embed an international dimension in education systems worldwide. At Upton, we are very proud of our Connecting Classrooms partnership with Al Khansa in the Yemen. Over the past 6 years, staff and students from both schools have worked together on global citizenship projects across the age range and also jointly produced a film in Istanbul around the theme of friendship which won the British Council Middle East Competition.

The opportunity to welcome Miss Jamila Rajeh in our school again has had a profound impact on the whole school community and has enabled us to plan exciting new projects embedded in the curriculum. During her visit, Miss Jamila Rajeh also attended Religious Studies lessons with Year 7 students studying 'Islam' and spoke very warmly of her country and education system with Year 10 English students.

Speaking for the Religious Studies' department, Miss Hannah Clarkson said: "It was amazing to see students' reaction to Jamila's first-hand experience. Her visit was a wonderful enrichment to our curriculum. As a teacher, it was wonderful to have the opportunity to view education through a global lens, to see how we can link students to another school community in Yemen and how it impacts the way students think and respond. This enabled them to compare and contrast religious customs and practices. It broke down barriers and helped in the understanding of cultural differences."

Upton-by-Chester High School also organised a visit to Cherry Grove Primary where Miss Jamila Rajeh spent a whole afternoon. She was welcomed by Mr Bousfield, Headteacher, who said that "the school was very honoured to receive a visitor from Yemen and that it was a wonderful opportunity for children to discover life in other cultures." Led by Mrs Artist, year 5 teacher, the pupils were able to share presentations and folders on their school and also learnt some Arabic. Parents at the school were very pleased their children had had such a fabulous opportunity:

"Jonah said he had an excellent day today with your visitor and was really interested about her home city of Sana'a and her journey to Chester."

"Sally has taught me how to say hello and thank you in Arabic and had written down the numbers 1-5! We have learnt a lot tonight too!"

"Jack has got a map out and shown us where Sana'a and Istanbul is. I think he is inspired by her journey. He also told us about the similarities between Sana'a and Chester, particularly the walls and gateway."

Mrs Dixon, Head of Upton-by-Chester High school, said: "We have been privileged to welcome and work with Miss Jamila Rajeh who has now returned safely to Sana'a, the capital city of Yemen and are looking forward to the further development of our partnership for the benefit of our students, whole school community and Cherry Grove Primary. It is truly extraordinary that we are able to develop meaningful and outstanding projects with Yemen and we must thank Miss Rajeh's true dedication and all at Al Khansa for this."



Year 11 Prom gallery 2014.....



Good luck with GCSE results Year 11- you will make a great Sixth Form!

COMPETITION WINNER

At the Upton High Open Evening on Wednesday 25 June the Mathematics Department held a competition.

This involved working out how many squares were in a diagram and also some mathematical anagrams. The final question was how many sweets were in a container.

The person who correctly answered the questions and was only 1 away on his estimate of the number of sweets was William Yeoman from Upton Heath Primary School. Mr Arnall and Mrs Christianson visited Upton Heath and attended their assembly to present a very surprised but very pleased William with his prize.

Well done William



Maathai Hall Students Given VIP Treatment on the Opening of Guilden Sutton Primary School's Fruit and Vegetable Garden

In earlier editions of *The Voice* you may have read about Maathai Hall students involving themselves in a project with Guilden Sutton Primary School to create a fruit and vegetable garden. The project is now completed and our students were invited as VIPs to the opening of the newly titled "Cultivation Station", named by Katie in Year 4 at Guilden Sutton. This is a report on the event by Josh Allan, Head Boy, and one of the students who helped turn this idea into reality.



Guilden Sutton Primary School 'Cultivation Station'

'After sports day we rushed into the minibus and were driven to Guilden Sutton Primary School to be rewarded after 3 months hard work of gardening for their new vegetable patch 'Cultivation Station'. As we arrived we were warmly welcomed to their assembly which showed a power-point presentation of the development of the garden and some of the children planting vegetables. We were given a very generous £10 gift voucher and then treated to strawberries and cream which were presented to us when we sat upon the luxury table.



Tom Heaton, a former Guilden Sutton and Upton High School pupil, who is currently the Burnley Football Club goalkeeper, came to open the garden and gave an inspirational speech. Overall it was a great experience and I would definitely volunteer to help out again with any local primary school.

The following Friday, Guilden Sutton pupils, from Year 5, came to visit Upton High School on a taster day. I went to talk to the Year 5's about the garden and this is what they had to say: "The first great garden we've had which grows potatoes and sweet peas." - George and Connor. "I like the name as it's catchy and it's exciting to grow different fruit like strawberries!" - Lucy and Alice.

"The garden is interesting and watering the vegetables is lots of fun!" - James and Joe.'

Mr Wearden adds, 'Our students were an outstanding credit to the school, both in their delivery of the project and at the opening of the garden. They took time to talk to parents from the school to discuss how they had helped. Miss Crowe, Headteacher of Guilden Sutton, spoke highly of the group: how they displayed pride in being students of Upton High School and the time and effort they had generously given to complete the project.

It was also a delight to see one of our former students, giving generously of his time to both of his former schools. Premier League goalkeeper, Tom Heaton, spent a great deal of time talking, signing autographs and having photographs taken with those in attendance.

He was delighted to see the staff from Guilden Sutton, one or two who were there when he was a student many years ago.'



AWARDS EVENING 2014

Our *Upton Voice* photographer was in the garden to catch up with some of the award winners at the recent Awards Evening.



We are very grateful to Chester University Vice-Chancellor Tim Wheeler for his excellent address to parents and students.

Very well done to all award winners and to all of our hard-working students. It has been a good year. Let's work hard for further success in 2014-2015

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Summer term has again seen lots of successes and events in the Music Department. **Chris Graham** (year 10) passed his Grade 8 ABRSM piano exam and **Mark Graham** (year 8) passed his Grade 7 ABRSM piano exam. Congratulations also go to:

Jess Smith

Anna Burns

Alice Spall

Lauren Lees

For gaining distinctions and merits in their London College Music Exams.

Music Festival

On July 2nd, over 90 primary school students joined the music department for the day, for our “Detective” themed Music Festival. The day was full of musical fun, with students learning pieces such as “Poirot, Eye Level, Every Breath you Take, Jailhouse Rock, Sherlock Holmes and Scooby-Doo”. Special thanks must go to our peripatetic staff - Mrs Williams, Miss Filhart, Mr Millar, Miss Harrison, Mr Lambert, Miss Stanners and Miss Stevenson - who worked so hard preparing the musical arrangements and delivering the workshops.



Summer Concert

Our annual summer concert took place on July 2nd, and was a lovely evening of both Classical and modern pieces. I am increasingly impressed and delighted by the high standard of performers and talented musicians we have in school and they were certainly present at our concert! Although too many to mention all individually, special mention must go to Ruby Hart, who performed two beautiful solo songs; Ruby is an outstanding musician and she has won the Music Scholarship to attend Abbeygate in September. Over the years in school, Ruby has been a member of choir, a perfect solo soprano and flautist in the school band - we will miss her greatly! Mia Windsor is another promising talent; Mia plays piano for both Junior and Senior bands, but performed two acoustic songs that she has composed, with guitar, at our concert. Mia is a passionate performer and has an exceptional talent as both a lyricist and composer; I look forward to hearing more from her. Finally Hannah Woodman and Rebecca Barker, who composed a piece played by the Junior Band. Both students are in year 9 and it is NO mean feat composing for a WHOLE band with all the different transposing instruments! Very well done to both girls, and let's hope this is the first of many pieces.

ART DEPARTMENT VISIT TO BISHOP BLUECOAT



Transition work with primary schools has seen many projects come to fruition. New ground was broken recently when Mrs French visited Bishop Bluecoat primary to deliver clay workshops to Year 5. Upton Voice was also pleased to see Bluecoat children having a great day at the Harry Potter experience. We look forward to doing many more joint projects with this lovely school.

SUU KYI CHARITY PRESENTATION

The Upton tradition for fundraising for charity continued recently when Suu Kyi Head Boy & Girl, Matthew Banks and Francesca Searle, presented a cheque for £1303 to Cancer Research UK to 2 representatives from the Chester shop. They made the point of telling the students the amount we raised was triple what they usually get from schools. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this



LINGUAPHONE AWARD WINNERS- SUMMER 2014



We are sorry to see you go....

The end of term is always a time when some members of staff decide that new challenges await them. It is important to recognize the contributions made by the following members of teaching and support staff who are leaving at the end of the year and who will be missed by the students and by their colleagues at Upton.

Teachers leaving:

Mrs D. Bruce
Mrs K. Potter
Mrs K. Newman
Mr S. Langton
Miss S. Bolton
Miss S. Doyle
Miss C. George
Mr T. Idowu
Mr D. Wilson
Miss H. Yuchetel
Miss L. Macey

Teachers retiring:

Mrs J. Williams
Mr M. Hollindale

Support staff leaving:

Mr J. Pickstock
Mr P. Williams
Mrs H. Armstrong
Mr S. Olyott

Support staff retiring:

Mrs J. Ramsden

The staff members listed above have combined service in our school of close to 150 years. Their commitment to Upton High School has been immense. Many move on to new jobs, some have promotions in their teaching careers, and some have well-earned retirement to look forward to. One of the most exciting opportunities awaits our TA (and Old Uptonian) Sam Olyott who heads off to Keele University to study medicine.

We thank our leavers for their hard work, dedication and commitment over many years, and we wish them 'all the best' for the future.

On behalf of the leavers, an emotional *Upton Voice* editor can say to students, staff, parents and governors, we will miss you too!