



Upton Voice

Upton-by-Chester High School Newsletter

December 2017

Big Yellow Storage Toy Appeal

A huge thank you to all of our school community for their generous hearts ! Yet again our families and staff have surpassed last year's collection. On behalf of the Big Yellow Self Storage, I would like to thank you all! Times like this make me even more proud to be a part of our school community. This is a perfect example of the 'Upton Way' and what makes our community so wonderful. Over 10 big boxes filled to be sent and bring a smile to a child's face this Christmas. Amazing!

Merry Christmas everyone!

Mrs K. Smale
Head of RS & PSHCE



Yunus Hall leads a generous collection for our local Foodbank

This term as part of Yunus Hall's ethos of Generosity, we led a whole school collection for our local Foodbank (West Cheshire Foodbank). We asked our students to bring in items from a list provided by Foodbank. On Monday, over 25 boxes full of provisions were collected by Foodbank to be distributed.

West Cheshire Food Bank, provide emergency help for people who live below the poverty line, providing food to men, women and children in crisis around our local community. Yunus Hall's aim this Christmas was to spread as much love and happiness through our generosity to our local community. Year 7s designed boxes to hold the food as part of a competition, to continue the spreading of joy and festivities. If you would like to know more about West Cheshire Foodbank, and how they help to make a difference, details can be found on their website.

Well done and thank you for your continued support and for helping us make a difference in our local community.

Miss M. Noel
Yunus Hall Leader



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Dear Parents, Carers, Students, Staff, Governors and Friends of Upton High School,

It has been another wonderful term of solid hard work and celebration of students' achievements. Year 11 have completed their mock exams and Year 13 will have their mocks early in the new year. Students are working hard, determined to do their best, but this edition of Upton Voice also demonstrates, once again, the enrichment activities that make a lasting difference to the lives of young people.

Thank you to our school community for their very generous contributions to our charity collections, especially the Foodbank, and special thanks also for the superb efforts of the choir in bringing festive cheer to the residents of Upton.

Lastly, I would like to offer my thanks to all parents, carers and, of course, the teaching and support staff who are committed and dedicated to improving the lives of our students. Have a happy, restful break and best wishes for the new year!

Mr J. Arnall
Acting Headteacher

A visit from Baroness Newlove - Victims' Commissioner for England & Wales

Politics & History Teacher Mr Petty brought politics alive by inviting a Life Peer, Baroness Helen Newlove to school to speak to students. Helen Newlove was given a peerage in the 2010 and now sits in the House of Lords. The Warrington-based community reform campaigner was appointed as the Victims' Commissioner by the UK Government in 2012. She came to prominence after her husband, Garry was murdered by three youths in 2007. After his death she set up a number of foundations that aimed to tackle the UK drinking culture as well as providing support to young people.

The talk encouraged Politics, Sociology & Psychology students to become more engaged with the political and parliamentary process. Baroness Newlove spoke about the work and role of the House of Lords, followed by a question and answer session on various aspects of the parliamentary process and life at the Houses of Parliament.

Mr Petty said, "This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to interact with someone who knows the parliamentary system from the inside, as it can sometimes seem far removed from their daily lives, but today they have had a thorough insight into the workings of Westminster."

The visit was arranged through the Lord Speaker's "Peers in Schools" outreach programme, which was established across the UK in 2007 and has so far involved around 90,000 young people. Members of the House of Lords visit schools, academies and colleges to give talks in support of the citizenship curriculum.

6th Form Student Charlotte stated that "It was refreshing to see a politician who does not avoid questions." Nicole said "Not only did she give a moving speech about her personal experiences, but also gave me a great insight into the work of the House of Lords." Charlotte said that "she is an inspirational woman".



Filmclub news



Congratulations to Hannah in Year 7 who has just been awarded Review of the Week by IntoFilm, the national charity, working with over 7,000 schools enabling pupils to be united, inspired and educated via the exhilarating world of film.

Hannah submitted a review online of 'Rise of the Planet of the Apes' which we recently viewed in Filmclub and was delighted to receive her prizes this week. The club takes place every Monday after school in the Learning Hub.

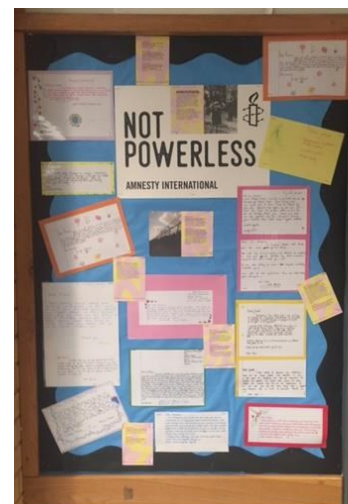
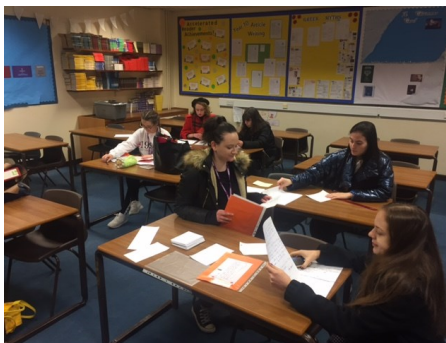
Mr D. Ryan
Learning Hub

Write for Rights

This half-term, Yousafzai Hall have again promoted Amnesty International's Write for Rights campaign. Students from across the school have written messages of solidarity and support for individuals who are denied legal gender recognition; those who are threatened with jail sentences for exposing abuses abroad; individuals who are held indefinitely in immigration centres and for supporters of women across the globe. It has been very pleasing to see so many positive messages written which supports Amnesty's message of 'together we are not powerless'!

Thank you to everyone who got involved, especially to the EDGE team who proof-read and organised the collection of work.

Miss S. Green
Yousafzai Hall Leader



Local author inspires Year 8 pupils

At the beginning of December the English Department were delighted to host Jon Mayhew, author of *Mortlock* and the *Monster Odyssey* series. Jon's visit was organised to coincide with the gothic fiction and writing scheme of work that Year 8 pupils focused on during this half-term.

Jon was able to impart his advice and 'top tips' for creating tension, suspense and horror in written work. These tips served the Year 8s well when they came to produce their own gothic work; there was some fantastic use of pathetic fallacy, vocabulary and figurative language on display by pupils of all abilities – well done!



Jon was also more than happy to answer pupils' questions about his writing process, his books and how he became an author (as well as sign books for pupils who wanted to explore more of his fiction!). When asked about the experience, Jon said that 'I really enjoyed working with the pupils and I thought they were a credit to the school. They were interested, involved and polite at all times. Thanks too for making me feel so welcome!'

Mr Waite
KS3 to KS4 Transition Co-ordinator



Orienteering success at Sefton Park



On Saturday 11th November, five determined Upton-by-Chester orienteers set off on various courses around Sefton Park, Liverpool. After an exhilarating and exhausting race, our team of only five bagged three victories: Alex on the 3.3km Orange, Tom G. on the 1.6km White and Tom W. on the 2.7km Yellow as well as two out of the ten top run in times by Alex who grabbed 1st and Justin who came just behind at joint 6th. Well done to new starter Ben who did really well despite having to improvise on the spot. On the whole the team were amazing and we have another great success to add on to our performance at Queen's Park.

Alex
Year 10

BBC's One Show reporter Kevin speaks to 6th Form pupils

Confidence and commitment is what it takes to succeed was one of the messages from BBC One Show reporter Kevin Duala during his talk to 6th Form pupils.

Kevin's visit had been arranged by Mrs Carmel Giansante, Founder of The Oscar Phillips Foundation, the charity created in memory of son Oscar. It aims to support children in their school life, to enable them to understand and speak freely about their emotional wellbeing and to look out for each other. She added "every young person should feel free to speak their mind – anything that lightens the load of simply being a teenager in Britain today."

Kevin said "We want to make a difference in improving emotional wellbeing education, motivating young people in some of the most stressful school days."

6th Form pupil George said "Kevin really opened our eyes to how communication, commitment, and confidence will help us achieve our goals" and Jack said "Thank you to Carmel for recognising the need of Emotional Wellbeing in young people, her strength in creating a legacy to Oscar is moving."

<http://www.theoscarphillipsfoundation.com/>



Swapping oar strokes for bike spokes

Ms Tobias, our Head of Year 11 and teacher of Drama & English (and champion rower), has signed up to cycle 1,000 miles before the end of January for Alzheimer's Research UK's new initiative, Cycling Down Dementia. She was inspired to take on the challenge by her mother, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in May. Ms Tobias' uncles are also living with dementia. Follow the link below to find out more about the challenge, sponsor Ms Tobias, or maybe take up the challenge yourself.

<https://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/chester-teacher-puts-pedal-power-test-1000-mile->



Cake Sale to help the Homeless

I had a cake sale this week to raise money to donate to a homeless shelter. This is very close to home and I thank everybody who contributed as I managed to raise just over £100.

Naomi
Year 11



Dates for your diary

- Monday 8th January — First day of term
- Thursday 11th January — Year 8 Parents Evening
- Wednesday 17th January — Sixth Form Open Evening
- Wednesday 31st January — Year 11 Parents Evening
- Wednesday 7th February — Year 9 Parents Evening
- Monday 12th-Thursday 15th February — School Production
- Monday 12th-Friday 16th February — Sixth Form Charity Week
- Monday 19th-Friday 23rd February — Half-Term Break

Please check our website for our latest news and any changes to the school calendar.

<http://www.uptonhigh.co.uk>

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