

UPTON VOICE

SUMMER TERM 2026 EDITION 12



TRIPS AND VISITS
THE BIG BANG FAIR
PRESTATYN
WARNER BROS. STUDIOS
SCULTURE PARK

ENGAGE
BOARD GAMES
D&D
PRIDE EVENT
ECO SCHOOLS

CLIMBING INTERVIEW

with Georgina
the future of Team GB

SCHOOL + COMMUNITY
CHESTER HALF MARATHON
YOUNG ENTERPRISE



CONTENTS



ENGAGE



TRIPS+VISITS



COMMUNITY

SPORTS



Editors' NOTE

As the year draws to a close, we take a look back at all the captivating stories this term has given us. From trips, extracurricular clubs, preternaturally talented learners - and a spectacular update on the building of our new school - we are thrilled to share these exciting stories with you in our final term of the year, for what will be our 12th issue.

This term, we enjoyed a multitude of out of school endeavours: KS3 attended the Big Bang Fair; Year 10 and 11 watched a Macbeth production at Storyhouse; Year 12 visited Transmission Studios and the Bronze and Gold DoFE learners completed their expeditions. We are also incredibly proud to have had so many of our learners volunteering at the 2026 Chester Half Marathon!

On the 21st May, the Upton Voice team were given the extraordinary opportunity to tour the new school's building site. Site manager Jake Edwards showed us the blueprints and 3D renderings of the building, then showed us around the construction site. Read more about our experience and find all of your questions about the new build answered inside.

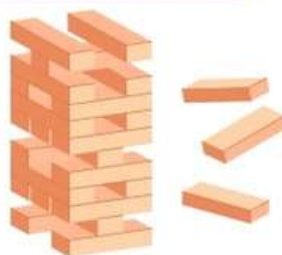
And of course, we were greatly privileged to be able to interview climber Georgina this issue - our cover star, and a star in her own right. On the path to becoming an Olympian, Georgina displays immense talent and is a tremendous source of pride for the whole school community. We hope you enjoy reading about this young prodigy in this issue.

Olivia, Daisy and Ethan - The Editorial Team

Board game club



Board game club is really fun, and a great opportunity to make new friends and get competitive in loads of games. It's a welcoming space to relax, play games, and make new friends. Everyone is welcome!



"Board game club is the highlight of my week! I love competing against my friends."



"I have learnt new games that are a lot of fun and even executed some tactics and strategies."



There are lots of different kinds of games you can play: Jenga, Uno, Doomlings.



Tuesday
3:10-5:00
A12
Mr Webster

D&D Club

By Finn & Esther



What is D&D?

D&D (or DnD) stands for Dungeons and Dragons and is played worldwide by a wide range of people. It is a role playing game where a team of fantasy characters follow different stories and quests whilst slaying beasts with dice rolls!



*'Its a great place
to go with friends!'*
- Adam

Don't worry if you don't have your own D&D equipment. There are guides, character sheets etc available for you to borrow.



*'D&D Club allows
people to express
themselves and
explore your
imagination!'*

D&D is a brilliant RPG that allows people to express themselves through fantasy characters and fun stories that you write yourself! If you enjoy reading fantasy and sci-fi this might be the game for you!



DEI ACTION

Our annual Pride event was a truly uplifting celebration of diversity. The learners in the DEI Action group have worked diligently behind the scenes in preparing the day and would like to thank all the staff and learners who came along to support us in celebrating, raising awareness and raising funds for local groups.

Feedback from learners is that they would appreciate the opportunity to contribute again and so we will be back in the Octagon on Wednesday 8th July over both lunches (PLaN A & B) so that everyone has the opportunity to help support us.



Members of the DEI Action group together with some other year 10 learners attended the Chester Schools Together EDI Conference at the University of Chester.

Learners took part in informative sessions from Professor Delan Devakumar from UCL on Health inequalities around the world, Matt Lindley, an airline and former RAF pilot on resilience & determination and Laura Bates, founder of the Everyday Sexism Project on how to recognise and challenge inequality. Learners were a credit to themselves and the school, asking some insightful questions.

STOCHAS 023 ECO SCHOOLS



Members of the Eco Schools Action Group participated in the Chester Zoo School Takeover Day. They spent the day talking to zoo visitors about water consumption and conservation. The group created a game to raise awareness of water consumption in the production of everyday items.

I found the visit informative, as it made me realise how much water it takes to make different everyday objects.

I had a great time at Chester Zoo and it was fun to educate people on conserving water and some of the surprising statistics that exist.

Education Hub



MACBETH

AT STORYHOUSE

Year 10 and 11 learners went to see the Storyhouse adaptation of Macbeth to help in GCSE revision.

The Storyhouse production of Macbeth brought a modern twist while remaining close to the original script. Most scenes remained, while the staging was interestingly re-imagined, with neon colours such as purple and green common throughout the production. Despite the modernity, the play was still a great source of revision, especially fitting since the GCSEs started not long after!

Overall, the play was very enjoyable!

"I thought the performances captured the shocking nature and brutality of the play very well."
Miss Seery

"I particularly loved the dance break. It suited the production style well."

"I thought Banquo was a conventionally attractive male."

"The actors in Macbeth were brilliant and watching their performances was my favourite part"

"It was a very interesting modern interpretation of the classic Shakespeare play. I enjoyed the set design and costume!"



Noughts and Crosses

"Why love, if
losing hurts
so much?"



A group of year 10 and 11 learners had the opportunity to see the production of "Noughts and Crosses" by Malorie Blackman, at the Lowry theatre in Manchester.

The play was presented by Pilot Theatre in association with Northern Stage and was adapted by Sabrina Mahfouz and directed by Esther Richardson.

2026 Cast:

Brianna Douglas as Sephy

Lewis Tidy as Callum

Melody Adeniran as Minnie & Ensemble

Daniel Copeland as Ryan & Ensemble

Fintan Hayeck as Jude & Ensemble

Chris Jack as Kamal & Ensemble

Emma Keele as Meggie & Ensemble

Elexi Walker as Jasmine & Ensemble



"Love doesn't
exist between a
Nought and a
Cross. And it
never would."

"My favourite part was
when Callum rescued
Sephy from the
bombing"



2:22

A GHOST STORY



**"NOT EVERYTHING CAN BE
RATIONALLY EXPLAINED."**

*"I loved it.
Laura was my
favourite!
I want to see it
again"*

Another group of learners travelled with the Drama Department to Venue Cymru, a theatre situated on the promenade in Llandudno, North Wales. Here they watched a thrilling performance of 2:22 - A Ghost Story, which is a hit supernatural thriller. The play won Best New Play at the 2022 WhatsOnStage Awards.

The story follows Jenny, who is convinced her house is haunted, and her skeptical husband, Sam, who completely disagrees. During a dinner party with their friends Lauren and Ben, their clashing beliefs take center stage as they count down to the mysterious time of 2:22 AM.

Cast members include Gary Lucy as Ben, Shvorne Marks as Jenny, Natalie Casey as Lauren, and James Bye as Sam.



**"THERE'S SOMETHING IN OUR
HOUSE. I HEAR IT EVERY NIGHT,
AT THE SAME TIME."**

venue
cymru
LLANDUDNO





Tv studios



Year 12 Drama, Media and Film learners hopped on the train to Transmission Studios in Brunswick. The Drama learners spent the day acting in front of the camera. Film learners spent the day filming the actors and getting themselves comfortable with the equipment before they started filming. The day started off with filming aspects for a teaser trailer for the drama summer showcase, including props and costumes. Shortly after that the drama learners got ready to perform their pieces which they had been working on in class, including A View from the Bridge and Abigail's party.



"It was a valuable experience that taught me how filming works and it informed me about the busy atmosphere of the industry."
Amelia Y12



The film learners spent the day trying out the other roles like directors, floor managers and camera men. The Drama learners were their actors. This allowed them to practice their camera skills which they can use towards their school work. The Media learners helped with props and microphones assisting the Film learners in their filming and other job roles.

After lunch, May, Ben and Olympia started to mark out their scene and then we started rolling. They performed the scene from Abigail's Party. Directed by Amelia. They did their first run with ease and recorded it one more time for luck, also to make sure they had different angles so it'd be easier to edit the scene together. Their play is about a party where a disaster occurs.

Poppy and Evie first performed their script of A View from Bridge by Arthur Miller. Their scene follows an auntie and her niece speaking about her growing up and her relationship regarding her uncle. Their director was Chelsea who had the vision to have both of the characters sat down. They used some props like a mirror. They filmed the scene a handful of times to get the best shot. It will be edited by the film learners to create a short filmed scene.



TRANSMISSION STUDIO

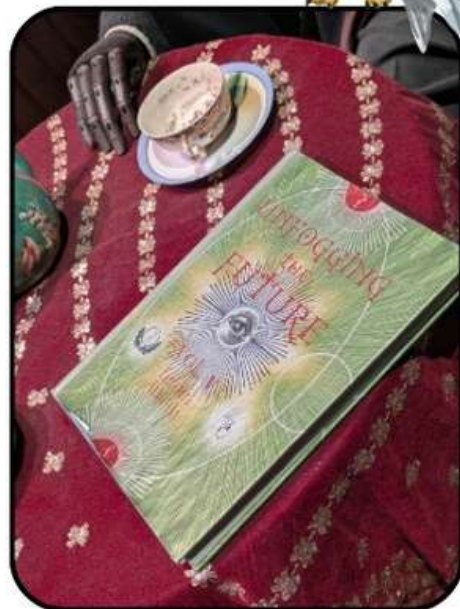
LIVERPOOL





A group of 50 year 10 media learners embarked on a 4 hour coach ride to the Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter, which first opened in 2012.

During the filming of the Harry Potter movies, the production crew held onto many of the unique sets, props, and costumes just in case they needed them for future films. Later, the creators of the Studio Tour decided to preserve and display these iconic items so fans could get a firsthand look at the magic of filmmaking.



THE MAKING OF Harry Potter

"I had a great time!
It was very interesting to
see behind the scenes of the
making of Harry Potter."



Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Year 8 Trip

On Thursday, 25th of June, year 8 went on a trip to the YSP (aka Yorkshire Sculpture Park), where we had a look at a range of different forms of art. Throughout the day we were split into numerous small groups and went around to have a go at capturing the beautiful sculptures in booklets that were provided prior to arriving at YSP. Some of the most memorable sculptures we came across were Unearthed Bronze Eroded Melpomene (By Daniel Arsham), The Virgin Mother (by Damien Hirst) and The Family Of Man (by Barbara Hepworth.)

Overall, the trip went well, and was fun/educational according to the learners that attended!

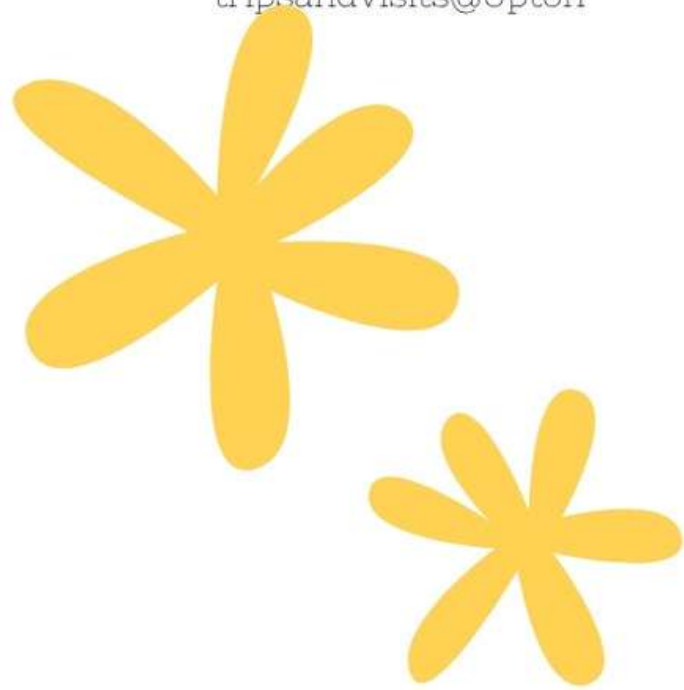
– Erika



The Virgin Mother (by Damien Hirst)

*"I had a great day, the sculptures were amazing and so extraordinary."
– Year 8 learner*





Unearthed Bronze Eroded Melpomene (By Daniel Arsham)



The Family Of Man (by Barbara Hepworth)

PRESTATYN

Year 10 geography trip



Over the week including the 8th, 10th and 12th June, many groups of year 10s, accompanied by the Geography department, headed 45 minutes on the coach to Prestatyn for a day of learning physical and human geographical skills. The day began with the arrival at Prestatyn beach, where the learners were given a booklet to fill out throughout the day. After this, they then walked along and across the beach from the sea wall to the coastline where there was a low tide, finding the length of the beach by counting their steps. They then were able to measure the groynes on the beach, which help to trap sediments and prevent them from being washed away by longshore drift.

The results concluded from the fieldwork were successful, and the learners had some good observations. Particularly on the 12th, where there was a high tide, in which the learners had to measure longshore drift. Examples of hard and soft engineering were spotted throughout.

"I enjoyed looking at the sea walls and groynes on the beach."





After finishing up at the beach, the learners had a nice lunch before setting off for the town centre, where they would focus on the human geographical elements of Prestatyn. In their booklets, they would count the number of vehicles passing by a certain area in 5 minutes, and tallying their results. They would also have a bingo sheet to cross off what they saw around the town centre, such as traffic lights, charity shops and areas with litter. After this they completed some survey questions about the surrounding area, before heading back to the coach for their journey back to school. Overall, the learners enjoyed the trip and found it interesting to explore an area with urban and also coastal areas.



"I enjoyed the trip as it helped me find out more about the natural and urban aspects of the UK"

Unfortunately for the learners attending the trip on the 8th and the 10th, the weather was unpredictable, from sunny spells to light rain and wind, however regardless they had an enjoyable experience. And for the learners attending on the 12th, the weather was in their favour. On a whole, the trips were successful and the learners have learnt some valuable fieldwork skills, which are particularly useful especially for those interested in pursuing a career in geography in the future.



"I think that the trip was an opportunity to learn skills that we can use in the future"

Leyla



DofE

From the 30th April to 1st May 80 learners took part in their DofE practice expedition. This prepared them for their qualifying expedition on the 4th and 5th of June.



The 30km walk took place around Whitchurch with the campsite located in Marbury



They learnt skills like map reading, route planning and cooking using a trangia which they will be able to use on their qualifying expedition. These skills will also benefit them for the rest of their lives!

I thought it was really fun and I had a great time learning new skills!
Amber



QUALIFYING EXPEDITION

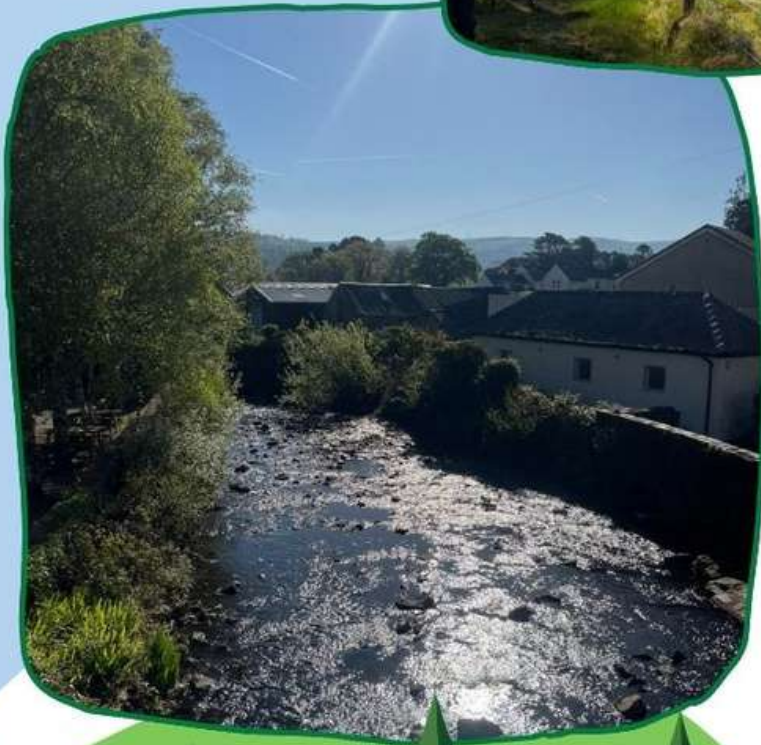


Completing DofE was one of the best experiences I've had, it helped me build confidence and gave me memories that will last a lifetime

Nikita

DofE Gold

From 29th of April to the 1st of May, DofE Gold took place where participants walked, cooked and slept in the wilderness with the items they brought in their bags. The 3 groups of learners started in Betws-y-Coed walking with their instructors. They passed waterfalls and stopped for their lunch by a lovely lake with the sun beaming down on them. They then carried on their walk to get to their campsite to spend the night, cooking their own meals in their groups. The second day was similar but with the group being split into 2 teams. One followed a more challenging route and the other a more simple route. The third day was sunny as the groups set off alone without an instructor. Guiding themselves on their maps. The last stretch before they reached the end, consisted of heavy rain with the teams pushing through it.



"This was an amazing experience which helped to further my independence and strengthen the bonds between my group."

Olympia





ESSAR 2026 CHESTER HALF MARATHON FUN RUN

The 2026 Essar Chester Half Marathon took place on the 17th May. 13 of our learners and Miss Smale volunteered their help with handing out medals, organizing the bag storage, and of course shouting words of encouragement to the participants.

"As 8,000 runners chased personal bests, our learners delivered their own: service, teamwork, and community spirit."

"Every bag tells a story, every volunteer makes a difference."



"The runners powered the race; our learners powered the baggage store."



"Behind every successful half marathon is a team of volunteers—and our learners ran the baggage station to perfection."

YOUNG enterprise



When thinking of hospices, most would associate them with death and grief, however, as 18 of our learners soon came to realise, this was not the case. In March, these learners travelled to the Hospice of the Good Shepherd for a tour and to learn about all the purposes the hospice serves for both patients and their families. This was incredibly inspiring to this team of learners, and motivated them into action. The Young Enterprise scheme is where the charity gives a set (and small!) amount of money to groups, and they have to turn this into profit, that will eventually go back to the charity as a donation to their cause. In this case, each group was given £10, with the aim to turn this into £100 for the Hospice.

Halfway through the fundraising in June, the teams were invited to a coffee morning at the Hospice. They were met with homemade cakes & cookies, and a lovely presentation about the hospice and their achievements. The learners were shocked to find that 75% of its running costs had to come from charitable donations- meaning without programmes like this, the Hospice would not be able to carry out all of its good work. In total, the three teams were able to send over £3000 to the Hospice, from bake sales, raffles and a sponsored triathlon! Additionally, the money raised from the upcoming non-uniform day (set up by one of the teams) will leave over £1000 in the pot to support next year's ambassadors.



HOSPICE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD



THE BIG BANG FAIR



The Big Bang fair is an event led by the educational charity EngineeringUK. It is the UK's largest annual Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) event for young people. Its primary importance lies in inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers, tackling the national STEM skills gap and directly supporting schools in meeting essential career benchmarking guidelines. It also plays a role in making learners connect with their role models and rewarding innovation.



“It was a very fun and educational trip. I got to explore a lot of different sciences.”

Johan Y9



The Big Bang Fair inspires the next generation with hands-on activities, experiments and workshops. The UK's biggest celebration of STEM for school was held on Tuesday, 9th of June till Thursday the 11th, 2026 at The NEC in Birmingham. The key themes for The Big Bang Fair competition 2026 centred on bold thinking, creativity, and real-world problem-solving. Our school's Key stage 3 had the opportunity to attend the event on the 11th. This was a very big accomplishment as it was our school's first year partaking in the competition. The shortlisted STEM projects awards categories were divided into 5 specific themes:

- AI, robotics and digital technology
- Design for people and communities
- Entertainment and hobbies
- Health, medicine and wellbeing
- Sustainability and environment



FairAchiever Award 2026

Leadership@Upton

We are one of the only schools (and the only secondary school) in Cheshire West and Chester to hold this award. This means we have fully embedded fairtrade into our daily lives and work to raise awareness of Fairtrade in our local community. We've enjoyed seeing the creative ways the learners got involved.

We have had our FairAchiever School status renewed for another 3 years!

We have proudly held our FairAchiever School award for the last 19 years!

Feedback:

"You've done a great job integrating Fairtrade products into everyday school life. The hut as a learner-run shop, is a great way to put learners at the heart of Fairtrade, and it's brilliant to see how much choice and responsibility they have running it."

FAIR TRADE



**Awarded to
Upton-by-Chester School**

**On
25th March 2026**

Next Renewal due:
25th March 2029

Efturris
Eleanor Harris
Chief Executive
Fairtrade

**WE ARE A
FAIRACHIEVER
SCHOOL**



Down Syndrome Awareness

Thank you so much to all the learners who participated in giving out or buying the gingerbread socks during the annual Down Syndrome Awareness week! Everyone's generosity is greatly appreciated and has helped the charity immensely!



**THANK YOU
FOR SUPPORTING OUR BISCUIT
CAMPAIGN IN 2026**



YOUR FUNDRAISING WILL HELP US TO CONTINUE EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH DOWN SYNDROME TO LIVE THE LIFE THEY CHOOSE.

World Down Syndrome Day is on the 21st of May every year and this year we managed to raise...

£598



"The biscuits were delicious and went to a brilliant cause!"

THE NEW BUILD

SAFETY
FIRST

On the 21st of May a selection of Y10 and UV team members were offered a chance to tour the building site for our new school. Jake Edwards, the site manager led the tour and shared the blueprints with the team, giving us an inside understanding of the project.

We learnt:

- The life expectancy of the new build is 70-80 years
- There will be 3 floors with approximately 240 classrooms
- On site there are 120 operatives.

Then, after safety equipment was put on, the UV team had the opportunity to go on site! Here, we travelled up to the first floor and saw the builders at work. Following this, we walked around the whole school experiencing wearing the proper safety equipment to help us remain protected on a dangerous building site.



"It will include 4 staircases, 2 lifts, 3 floors and approximately 240 rooms."



"The exterior of the new build is inspired by the historic tudor buildings in Chester city centre"



Chester Business Club's Young Person's Business Awards

Learners Oliver and Shareen won Vision Awards on the 6th of July. Their awards were presented by Nick Owens, Owner of MagnifiedPR, Gavin Floyd, chair of the Business Club and Roy Shelton the president. They were picked out of 66 other young entrepreneurs!

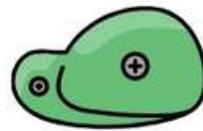
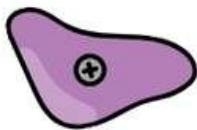
CONGRATULATIONS!



"These learners have shown incredible potential to thrive in the business world!" -Nick Owens

These learners will now receive brilliant mentoring from the Chester Business Club and as part of their award they were gifted a £150 voucher for Chester Businesses. This will help these learners turn their dream businesses into a reality!

CLIMBING WITH GEORGINA



Georgina is pictured coming first place in her competition!

When the UV team met climber Georgina D for her cover interview, one thing struck us: her utmost humility. Not many learners nationwide can say that they are trained by former Olympians, and have made Team GB's England Foundation Squad for bouldering (there are 29 others in her age category, to be exact). Georgina spoke about her achievements with nothing but passion - and these achievements are in no short supply.

For bouldering, she has placed 1st in competitions such as the Battle of Britain, the Slab Showdown, the Climbing Hut Inter-School Competition, the 270 Climbing Youth Open, reaching the podium in a host of others. Since making England's squad, Georgina has focused less on competitions and more on Olympic training. This is her ultimate goal: to make a career out of climbing as an Olympian. The hard work she puts in certainly points to her succeeding in this goal - she trains 4-5 times a week, for 1-3 hours at a time, citing Janja Garnbret, the best female climber in the world and the first woman to win an Olympic gold for climbing, as her personal inspiration.

Look out for possible climbing competitions with school!



Georgina with Hamish McArthur (left) and Molly Thompson (right) who both compete professionally as climbers for Team GB.



Georgina shown in action, focused and in her element.

Georgina is our very own inspiration (and in years to come, likely the inspiration for every young climber around the world). As the first climber in her family, having found this extraordinary talent at the mere age of three, her dedication and prowess for her craft are truly admirable. For new climbers, her expert advice is to start at the easiest levels and move up when you feel ready, instead of rushing to immediately start the most difficult climbs.

Above all, she says that climbing is good for you - it has been a great form of exercise for Georgina with a community feel to it. She says that it has been great for her mental health and we can clearly see the determination and resilience she has crafted with all of her hard work.



SPORT



"A brilliant afternoon celebrating all our Upton netballers this afternoon at our awards ceremony! Well done to EVERYBODY!"



"I have had a ball getting to know these girls and spending every Friday with them since September. They finished their first netball season at Upton playing all 8 school in the Chester District. No medals but lots of smiles, plenty of goals and interceptions and big improvements! Thank you for your company girls."



Well done Year 7 football who progressed to the Chester cup semi final, with a 6-2 win over Tarporley. Goals from JakeA , 2x JackP & a hat trick from LukeS. An excellent performance all round; strong defensively & creative in attack, well done all! 🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌



👍 50 💬 1 ↻ 1 🚩

uptonhighpe Chester and District Touch Rugby Champions 🏆 well done to both teams. Year 7's only played with 5 all tournament and only lost one game! Great to see learners playing a new sport and picking it up so quickly! @cheetahschestertouch



👍 46 💬 1 ↻ 1 🚩 2

uptonhighpe U14's Cheshire Champions 🏆 Goals by Caleb x2 Sam x1



SPORT & HEALTH DAY

June 30th was our first Sport & Health Day. Learners experienced a talk with Claire from Clarity One UK, about the importance of showing resilience and diligence in keeping themselves safe and healthy. Claire who also works with Cheshire netball, led a fitness session with some year 9 and 10 learners. They then journeyed over the bridge to the field to enjoy a variety of track and throwing events, including a staff relay.



Community
&
Inclusion



"It was a lot of fun, I loved
cheering on my hall"
Y10 learner

"Even when your
glasses fall off, keep
persevering!"
Dunmininu Y10

"Pace is a virtue"





"Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard!"

Jack Y10



Brave learners took part in some acting roles!



WINNER



UPTON-BY-CHESTER HIGH SCHOOL 2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS

