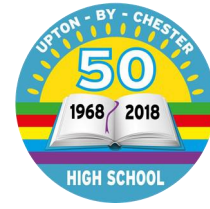




Upton Voice



Upton-by-Chester High School Newsletter

October 2019

Eco-Schools Green Flag International Award

Students and staff at Upton-by-Chester High School are delighted to be re-accredited with the Eco-Schools Green Flag International Award for the fourth time. The award has been given for continued excellence in improving the environmental performance and learning of the school and wider community.

After her visit, the assessor said that: "I was delighted to meet with such passionate, committed students, who care for their environment. Some have been members for several years, congratulations. I also wish them good luck with their upcoming presentations to external conferences. The Eco-Schools action team has had an excellent focus on all 10 topics throughout the year.

The ten topics include:

- Biodiversity
- Energy
- Global Citizenship
- Healthy Living
- Litter
- Marine
- School Grounds
- Transport
- Waste
- Water



The school has very visible Eco-projects throughout its site and students have a real passion towards the topics they are involved in. The idea of rolling any money generated from recycling projects, back into student social areas was exceptionally good and inspired the whole school to be involved in the projects as they benefited everyone. The school was a pleasure to visit and students had a lot to show and talk about. Well done and keep up the great work."

Hannah in Year 9 said: "Eco-schools is a fantastic scheme led by students, we have been involved at all stages of the decision making process and have gained valuable leadership skills. I am so pleased we received this International award as we worked so hard to achieve this result. I think that protecting the environment now is crucial for the future of our planet and I am looking forward to representing the Eco-Schools Action team and the school at the Climate Change meeting with the council in November." Toby and Bradley also said they felt proud that the school had received this award for the fourth time. Sofia in Year 7 added that she was excited to be a new member of the team and was looking forward to future community and international projects.

Ms Beuzit
Second Deputy Head

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IT Girls Allowed

On Thursday 10th October Barclays welcomed ten year 8 and 9 girls to their technology centre in Knutsford to think about careers in computer science and technology. After a muffin we were introduced to cryptography and its importance through time. They were challenged to work out the punch lines to jokes using different ciphers (some that had been used in WW2). They came a very close second in the number that they solved in the time allowed.



Then they coded robots to make shapes and navigate a line like an automated car would do. At the end we were all treated to a robot ballet.

Katie said 'I really liked the robots because they were challenging but funny.'

After lunch we went to 'design the future' where students thought about what product could make their lives better. Products ranged from homework time planners to robot helpers. An inspirational challenge.

Mrs Larkin Computer Science



Curry & Quiz Night

On Thursday 17th October the PTA held their annual Curry & Quiz Night in the World Cafe. This is always a popular event and it was lovely to see such a great turnout again.

The winners on the night were "The Book."

Mrs Hitchen Deputy Headteacher



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

Welcome to our first edition of Upton Voice for the new academic year. It's quite astonishing to think that here we are, half way through the autumn term already!

I'd like to highlight just a few of the many opportunities and activities our students and staff have been involved in.

On our results' days in August we were delighted to celebrate our GCSE and A level results with students, staff and parents. There were some superb achievements in terms of grades and also valued added progress, and I would like to congratulate all of our students and staff for their accomplishments.

On 26 September we held our Open Evening which was very well received. We welcomed several hundred visitors who were treated to a wide range of exciting activities, and received many glowing emails and comments about how much everyone enjoyed the evening and, in particular, how impressed they were by our wonderful student helpers and guides.

Our new Year 7 students are settling in well and we have received some excellent feedback from parents/carers at our transition evening on 21 October, when parents had an opportunity to meet their child's form tutor.

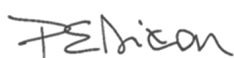
Geographers in year 10 and the sixth form, as well as our Eco School Action Team, were treated to a talk by Dr MacFadyen who spoke about Greenpeace and in particular their work on protecting our environment. Next half term a group of year 10 students will also be attending a climate change meeting with our local council, which promises to be extremely interesting and highly relevant.

We also hosted a most interesting debating competition between our sixth form students and a group of visiting Italian students, who experienced their first debate in English. The debate went very well and was enjoyed by all who took part and is an example of international collaboration at its best.

Finally we have had the wonderful opportunity to watch our multi-talented students performing Blood Brothers, which is the first play we have produced for some time and was a departure from our more usual musical theatre productions. It was a great success and the students were amazing, both cast and crew. Of course I must also commend our wonderful staff for giving up their time and the parents/carers and families of our students for their outstanding support as always.

I would like to wish you all a very happy and safe half term holiday and I look forward to working with you again in November.

With best wishes



Mrs P. Dixon
Headteacher

Blood Brothers

We have some received some amazing feedback from the audiences that attended the 3 night run of Blood Brothers (play version). Huge congratulations to Mr Daltry and the students and staff involved. Look out for Bugsy Malone in July 2020.

"Brilliant production of Willy Russell's Blood Brothers tonight."

"Fantastic performance I really loved it. Congratulations to all the cast, crew and staff involved. Great idea to do a non-musical production - look forward to the next one."

"What a fabulous cast and crew! Blood Brothers has blown me away!"



UK Youth Parliament Make Your Mark Campaign

On 8th November 2019, members of the UK Youth Parliament will come together to debate and decide, at the House of Commons meeting, the most important issue to campaign on for the year ahead. They will decide from the issues voted on by young people across the UK.

Results for our school have been submitted to the UK Youth Parliament and show the following:

UK issue

Protect the environment - 639 votes

Devolved issue

End to knife crime - 404 votes

Local issues highlighted by students included homelessness, the environment and mental health.

The Student Leadership Team at Upton should be proud of the very high level of engagement of students who took part in the ballot they organised. Altogether 1200 students voted and this is an excellent turn-out. This is exceptional so well done to everyone for organising this and for taking part. We will now discuss with the school council and the Eco-Schools action team how students can continue to be involved in decisions and take action at a local level.



Ms Beuzit

Second Deputy Head

U13s Goalkeeper on trial at Liverpool FC

I was playing for my local grassroots team, Saughall Colts JFC, at a tournament in June at Fleetwood Town's training ground. I was playing really well and without me noticing there was a scout for Liverpool FC watching everyone at the tournament. Before the third game he came up to me and said how well I was playing, he then invited me to Liverpool's summer trials at their Academy in Kirby, which took place 2 days a week for 6 weeks over the summer holidays.

I worked really hard and attended every session, to be given a place in the U13s LFC Trialist Team in a tournament held at Liverpool's Academy, which was made up of the best trialists from the summer programme. We won the tournament!

After the tournament, I was given an 8 week trialist contract which is the last step to being given a full contract with the club.

I started on Tuesday 10th September, training 3 times a week plus matches on Sundays. The sessions are a mixture of goalkeeper technical training, fitness training and training matches.

I will be working very hard and hopefully I can get a full contract with the team I support — Liverpool F.C.

Michael

Year 8



Safe School Hoole & Upton

We are delighted to be part of a new project which aims to make children's journeys home from school safer. Safe School Hoole and Upton is one of 22 projects across Cheshire which has recently received Safer Communities Funding to support crime prevention or meet the objectives within the Police Commissioner's police and crime plan.

St Werburgh's and St Columba's Primary School and ourselves have identified a need for 'safe places' in the community where children walking home alone can seek support if they feel unsafe. The schools will work with local shops to provide safe spaces for young people being followed or bullied on their way home from school. The funding from the police and crime commissioner will provide promotional material that the shops will display in their windows so they are easily identifiable as safe places.

Police & Crime Commissioner David Keane said: "It's important that children stay safe on their walk home from school and have a safe place from bullies or strangers. The project will work along the lines of the neighbourhood watch scheme, with local shops displaying a safe base symbol for children who find themselves in trouble or at risk. It will act as a deterrent for perpetrators in the area if they know children are aware of 'stranger danger' and know what to do if they are approached."

To find out more about the Safer Communities Fund, visit www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-im-doing/safer-communities-fund.

Accelerated Reader Scheme

The first half term has seen the continuation of our Accelerated Reader scheme in years 7 to 9. The main benefit of taking part in the Accelerated Reader scheme is that, with as little as 20 minutes reading per day, your child's reading age can increase at twice their chronological development.

While there are clear educational benefits to the Accelerated Reader scheme, it is still designed to be an enjoyable experience. We are promoting reading through regular practice in school. We also celebrate success through identifying the students who have engaged with the scheme most effectively.

All pupils have completed an online reading & comprehension assessment to identify their reading level. Please help us to ensure that your child gains the full benefits of this scheme by supervising their reading. Pupils then need to complete a quiz on every book they finish. As they pass quizzes they should choose more difficult books within their level.

So far this term our pupils have read 17 million words!

You can view your child's reading history and progress at the following link using their school username and password: <https://ukhosted61.renlearn.co.uk/1894449/HomeConnect/>

If you would like to help your child to select another book on the scheme at their level from school or home, please visit the Accelerated Reader Book finder catalogue (which has over 22,000 books listed) at: <http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/> If you enter this code (**QS016037**) in the "Enter Keycode" box on the left side of the screen, it will show you whether we stock the book in the Learning Hub.



Visitor from Greenpeace

Dr MacFadyen visited the Hub recently to speak to a selection of Year 10s, the Eco School team and some A Level students about Greenpeace, and what they do to protect the environment. Examples ranged from speaking at a protest, to scaling a power plant chimney. His talk also included projections into the future, and how we need to cut down on our carbon dioxide emissions. He suggested small ways that we could help the environment, such as recycling and using less electricity. On behalf of the school, the Eco school team answered questions as to what we have done to spread awareness, and help our surroundings in the best ways we can.

Toby
Year 10

GREENPEACE



Loggerheads Country Park visit

On 19th and 20th September Year 11 Geography students travelled to the River Alyn in North Wales to complete data collection to help develop their fieldwork skills. Students used metre rules and tape measures to measure the width and depth of the river channel. River velocity was measured too and students enjoyed a long walk around the country park in glorious sunshine.

The Geography Department



Anglo-Italian Debate

In early October we welcomed some Italian visitors to take part in a debating competition. We received some lovely feedback below from one of their teachers and a pupil. Thank you to our Staff, Pupils and Governors who helped with the debates.

Mr Fearon
Head of History & Politics

Prof d'Elia

“Our students spent a very interesting afternoon at Upton High School where they engaged in debating activities. It was a challenging event for the Italian students who were at their first experience in debating and they had a chance to learn from the expertise of their English counterpart. The event was also an excellent occasion for them to meet English students of the same age and interact with them.”

Student
 “On 10th October we went to Upton High School to experience what an actual debate in English looks like. We found this activity quite difficult because in Italy we are not used to debating. We also had the opportunity to practice our English, to challenge ourselves and to participate in or attend to a real English debate. The English students we worked with were very kind and involving.”



Athletics success

Emily in Year 12 recently competed in Exeter representing Cheshire, after being selected at the final English Schools Combined Events Championship. The Combined Events is a very difficult athletic competition as all the athletes have to compete over two days in 7 different events which are: 80m hurdles; high jump; long jump; shot put; 200m; javelin and 800m. Emily has been selected to represent the England team at the ESAA Combined Events in Glasgow on the 29th and 30th November, where she will compete against Scotland, Wales and Ireland.



Upton Orienteers Make An Excellent Start To The New Season

Upton are second out of thirteen teams after the first event of the Cheshire and Merseyside Schools League 2019-2020. 8 students took part in the race at Arrowe Park on Saturday 28th September. Upton students currently hold first place in three of the individual rankings with newcomer Ben W. heading the boys year 7, Libby H. leading the girls year 8 competition and Tom W. the boys year 9. Well done to all competitors.

The next event is due to take place at Birkenhead Park on Saturday 9th November 2019, anyone interested in taking part see Mr Bell in Lab. 2.

Mr Bell

Dates for your diary

Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November — Half-term break

Monday 4th November — First day of term

Tuesday 26th November — GCSE Presentation Evening

Tuesday 10th December — Christmas Concert

Friday 20th December — Last day of term (school finishes at 1.15pm)

Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January — Christmas break

Monday 6th January — First day of term

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

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

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