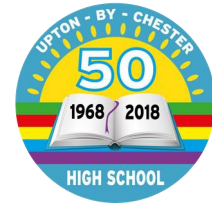




# Upton Voice



Upton-by-Chester High School Newsletter

December 2019

## FoodBank Appeal

West Cheshire Foodbank, provide emergency help for people who live below the poverty line, providing food to men, women and children in crisis around our local community.

We asked students and teachers to bring in items from a list provided by Foodbank. Over 50 boxes were collected and the provisions will be distributed accordingly.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping us make a difference.

### The Student Leadership Team



## Big Yellow Storage Toy Appeal

A huge thank you to all of our school community. Yet again your generosity and love has been overwhelming. We have filled every box with toys for the Big Yellow Self Storage Toy Appeal and the toys collected will be distributed to children across the North west this Christmas. This is Christmas Spirit at its best.

May I take the opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mrs K Smale  
Head of RS & PSHCE



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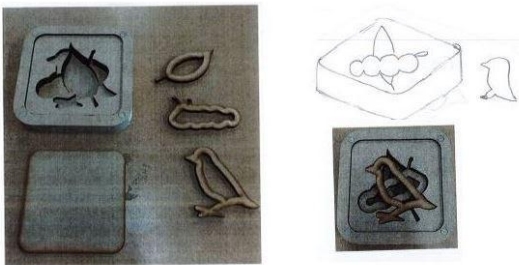
## Design Ventura Competition

Year 10 D&T students spent the Autumn half term working in teams to design and manufacture a product for the national Design Ventura competition. Students are challenged to design a new product for the Design Museum Shop with the winning product being professionally manufactured and sold at the shop.

At the end of November the shortlisted teams were announced, from 16,000 participants we had made the final ten. Charlotte, Alexander, Aaron, Elis & Louie were the successful team with their idea for a food chain puzzle manufactured from cork.

For the final we travelled down to London where the group had to pitch their idea to a panel of expert judges at the Deutsche Bank headquarters. The standard was excellent, Upton delivered an outstanding pitch which will give them every chance of winning. Fingers crossed as we now wait until February when the National winner will be announced.

**Mr Rigby**  
Design & Technology



## Have Faith

Students from Upton High attended Westlea Primary School this term to contribute to their World Faith Day. Our students presented to classes from Reception to Year 3 and spoke about how their faith was important to them and how it influenced their lives.

They were fantastic ambassadors for our school and Westlea really appreciated their input. Also thank you to Mrs Dey for accompanying them.

**Mrs K Smale**  
Head of RS & PSHCE





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

We have now spent 15 weeks in school since September, and traditionally the Autumn Term is the longest of the school year. Not only do we cover more work this term than in any other, but also there are more extra-curricular opportunities for our amazing students, as you will see from reading this packed edition of The Upton Voice.

It's also the time of year when coughs and colds start to spread but I have been particularly impressed with the resilience and character of our students and staff who have carried on regardless. Our year 11s have just had their mock results day which was a great success, replicating the real thing. I really enjoyed writing praise cards to all our students and talking to them about their strategies and plans for improvement, and I wish them all the very best of luck when they return after the holiday to their final 20 weeks of learning. There will be a tailor-made revision schedule awaiting them upon their return in January, with top-tips on how to revise effectively and **year 11 parents/carers are invited to a meeting after school at 5.30pm on Monday 6 January**, to find out what support, advice and guidance we are offering and other supportive strategies in preparation for the exams.

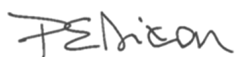
As usual this term Miss Thompson and her wonderful choristers and band have been entertaining our school at the annual carol concert as well as in our Christmas assemblies. They have also been performing beautifully around our local community in shops and care homes and schools, bringing Christmas spirit and joy to everyone who is lucky enough to hear them.

Christmas is also the time for a traditional pantomime and this year, thanks to Mr Daltry and Miss Thompson, we have excelled ourselves by putting on our first ever Staff Panto, Cinderella, in aid of Shelter. It was a roaring success and thoroughly enjoyable. For the whole of years 7 and 8 Miss Thompson also organised visits to Theatre Clwyd to watch Snow White (oh yes she did!).

It was also lovely to welcome back to school our highly successful 2019 year 13 leavers, who came in on the evening of December 19 to collect their A Level certificates and to have a good catch up with their former teachers and fellow students.

May I wish you all a happy, peaceful and safe holiday and a very happy and successful New Year!

With best wishes,



**Mrs P. Dixon**  
Headteacher

## Raising Standards Team Independent Learner Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved Independent Learner Awards for their fabulous work on a range of tasks outside of school hours. They have all been awarded medals and trophies or Amazon vouchers. Next term, there will be a competition to win an Amazon tablet and more Amazon vouchers.

Keep up the great work on all homework tasks!

Year 7 - Millie, Eira and Leo  
Year 8 - Jack  
Year 9 - Sam  
Year 10- Natalia  
Year 11 - Charlotte

**Mrs Stanisstreet**



## Accelerated Reader Scheme

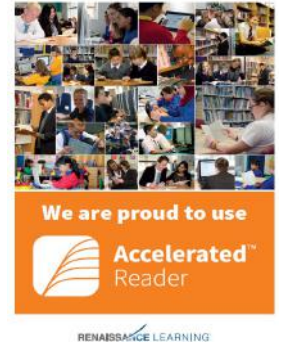
The first term has seen the continuation of our Accelerated Reader scheme in years 7 to 9. The main benefit of taking part in the Accelerated Reader scheme is that, with as little as 20 minutes reading per day, your child's reading age can increase at twice their chronological development. While there 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 over 60 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.



Some of our Word Millionaires and AR Stars for this term.



## Pupils bag over £340 at Morrisons

Our pupils turned the Saturday morning 'shop' at Morrisons in November into a successful fundraising event that bagged £346.01. Organised by the Head of the PTA, Mr Fergus Mackinnon, 9 students gave up an hour of their time to help Morrisons customers at the Bache bag their weekly shop.

Many thanks to the following students:

Evie; Max; Francesca; Oliver; Fatima; Muhammad; Sam; Minella and Natalia.

Special commendation to Minella, who hasn't missed a bag-packing event since she joined Upton 3 years ago.



## START CAREERS PLATFORM



### Help your child to explore their future

Our school is using an innovative online Careers Platform called **Start**.

**Start** will help your child to connect with their future career potential, develop their employability and help them to explore future career and study options at school or at home.

### How should my child use it?

Students have been given their own account for **Start** at school, but it is accessible anytime on any computers and compatible mobile and tablet devices.

Your son/daughter has been encouraged this term to develop his/her profile on **Start** with details about their skills, qualities, interests and work preferences. This provides a starting point for them to explore information matched to **their personal preferences and interests**. **As they update their profile, Start will personalise this** information, helping them to navigate the thousands of jobs, courses, providers and opportunities available. **Start** will help students to understand where they are on their journey and what is important as they make their choices at GCSE, post-16 and post-18.

We encourage you to use **Start** with your child at home. Encourage them to rate jobs, qualifications, colleges or universities so that we can see their preferences in order to support them better.

### What if I want to use Start myself?

Parents can also use **Start** to find out more about jobs, training and study opportunities.

**Please do not log in using your child's user details and instead register yourself** using the steps outlined below, creating your own username and password.

### How to Register: Parent Guide

These instructions explain how to register for Start. To create your own username and password, please follow the simple steps below.



Go to [www.startprofile.com](http://www.startprofile.com) and click **Register**



Enter your first name, surname, email address, postcode and gender

**Tip:** if you forget your username or password we will use the email address you provide to send you a reminder



Choose a memorable username and a secure password and click **Get Started**



Click **Login** and enter your username and password. Click **Login**



The first time you log in you will be required to complete the following:



Select **"I am a Parent and would like to use Start with my children."**



## Oxfam this Christmas

The Oxfam Youth Group have been busy campaigning and fund raising this term. They have been looking at how climate change affects those in poverty the most and at a campaign called Behind the Barcodes. This looks at just how ethical our supermarkets are when purchasing goods. They have done some great work with this, working closely with John MacLaverty .

They have also been fundraising through volunteering at the Chester Marathon in October and have done a Christmas Raffle. With the funds from this they have purchased gifts from Oxfam Unwrapped, including a Goat and a pile of poo! For more information on these life changing gifts, or to find out more, see the link below!

Happy Christmas from Upton Oxfam Youth Group.

<https://www.oxfam.org.uk/shop/oxfam-unwrapped>



## International Athletics Success

Emily in Year 12 has recently participated at the English school championships for 300 hurdles, where she competed over two days to win the English schools title. Emily also represented England to take the Siab international title with a time of 42.63 seconds which placed her 1st in England, 5th in Europe and 14th in the World. In November Emily was, for the second time this year, selected for the England team and represented her country in Glasgow where England won the Gold medal.

In the future Emily hopes to represent her country and compete at major championships and hopefully the Olympics. Emily would like to thank school for all the support that has enabled her to make it to these major competitions.



## Lessons from Auschwitz Project 2019

Earlier in the year, all Sixth Form students were given the opportunity to enter an essay-writing competition regarding the nature of Holocaust remembrance. We both wrote essays on 'the importance of keeping the flame of Holocaust remembrance alive' and subsequently were given the chance to attend the educational visit to Poland in November 2019. Prior to the trip, we had attended a preparation seminar in Manchester where we met the group we would be travelling with and learnt more about Jewish culture and history before the Holocaust. We discussed the idea that, when visiting Auschwitz I and Auschwitz Birkenau we would have to look further than the sheer magnitude of the horrific event; we would try our hardest to re-humanise the victims of the Holocaust, focusing on personal stories and gaining a true understanding of the personal impacts of the genocide. On the 12th November 2019, we flew from Manchester Airport with a small group of other sixth form students from all around the North-West, to Oswiecim, Poland. Upon our arrival, we had a short coach journey to the small town of Oswiecim, in which we learnt more about the history of the town, it previously had a very large Jewish community, making up nearly 48% of the town's population. However, now, post-Holocaust, not a single Jewish person occupies the town. From here, we had another short bus journey to Auschwitz I concentration camp. Our 2 hours at the camp were incredibly enlightening and emotional. We spent our time learning about the Holocaust's murder of millions of Jews and evidently, the sheer magnitude of the genocide was undoubtedly daunting, yet, we felt most moved by the experience when we focused our attention upon the experiences of specific families and people, this allowed us to reach a point of relatability and recognise how terrible the suffering those at Auschwitz suffered and how they personally were impacted by the Third Reich. At Auschwitz I, I felt incredibly emotional reading and viewing the accounts of numerous victims of the Holocaust. Each of us was considerably moved by the exhibitions showing the suitcases snatched from the inhabitants by Nazis.



*The iconic gates of Auschwitz I.  
Translates to: 'Work will make you free.'*

The exhibit of human hair exemplified the extent of atrocities committed against the victims in the camp, it showed how the Nazis not only stripped their victims of their lives and futures, but also their identities. Personally, I was moved by the room filled with disability aids. This exhibit showed a multitude of crutches, false legs and slings taken by force from those arriving at the camp. I found this room made me the most emotional as it caused me to realise that every single owner of these items was undoubtedly killed instantly due to their disability. I felt this highlighted the sheer inhumanity of the Holocaust more than any other exhibit, especially considering how we view disabled people in today's society.

Next, we visited Auschwitz Birkenau, which is notoriously associated round the world as the birth of the Holocaust. But, we discussed how it is incredibly important to look at the larger picture of the Holocaust and its impact around Europe, not only in camps like Auschwitz. Birkenau's most defining feature was its sheer size. Walking into the camp, it was impossible to view the camp as anything but a 'murder machine,' we saw the destroyed crematoria, the horrific conditions of the living quarters and the watch towers. Daisy felt the exhibit filled with family photographs was the most significant to her as she felt everybody could relate to the images: babies in baths, birthday parties and holiday snaps. It was so emotional to see these personal images depicting the lives of the Holocaust victims, who all had individual lives prior to the Nazi regime.

The entire experience was incredibly moving for us both and one we will never forget. In order to pass on our knowledge and our own experience we are planning to run informative lessons for classes within our school and hope these will inspire younger students to become involved in the project in later years.

By *Olivia and Daisy (Year 12)*

*If any students are interested in learning more about the LFA project, or simply want to hear more about our experience, please either contact Olivia or Daisy in Lower Sixth Form, or use the website link below:*

<https://www.het.org.uk › lessons-from-auschwitz-programme>



## Rewarding hard work in Languages

Congratulations to the students listed below for scoring the highest number of grade 1s in their year groups this half term in Languages and winning a chocolate selection box. Well done on your hard work and enthusiasm. The top 10% of students who achieved grade 1s in each year group also received a letter home. Well done to all our students in Languages for their hard work this half term. Keep up the good work next half term, we'll start counting the grade 1s again from 6<sup>th</sup> January.

**Mrs Thompson**  
**Head of Languages**

Selection box winners:

Year 7: Abel, Joseph, Leo, Marco and William.

Year 8: Samuel, Lara and Freya.

Year 9: George, Abi and Hannah.

Year 10: Evie, Edward, Lucy, Bethan and Toby.

Year 11: Dondu, Heidi and Ben.

## Upton Orienteers Regain Second Place In Schools Orienteering League

Having slipped into fourth position after two events, Upton Orienteers fought hard at the most recent event which took place at Eastham Country Park on 7<sup>th</sup> December and now lie joint second out of eighteen teams. Upton students currently hold first place in two of the individual rankings with newcomer Ben heading the boys year 7 and Tom heading the boys year 9 competition. Libby Hudson is currently second in the girls year 8 competition. Well done to all competitors.

The next event is due to take place at Speke Hall on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020, anyone interested in taking part see Mr Bell in Lab. 2.

Mr Bell

## Dates for your diary

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

Monday 6th January — First day of term

Thursday 9th January— Year 8 Parents Evening

Wednesday 15th January— Year 8 Options Evening

Wednesday 22nd January— Year 11 Parents Evening

Tuesday 28th January— Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 6th February—Year 9 Parents Evening

Monday 10th February—Sixth Form Charity Week

Friday 14th February— Last day of term

Monday 24th February— First day of term

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

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

Follow us on twitter @UptonVoice

