



Upton Voice

Upton-by-Chester High School Newsletter

February 2015



Mrs P. Dixon — Headteacher

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

I know it is a cliché but 'time flies' (tempus fugit!), especially in a busy school environment and this half term is no exception. There is always something exciting happening or being prepared for.

As I'm sure you'll be aware, we have been busy rehearsing the school production of 'Grease' for which students and staff have worked tirelessly, putting in long hours after school and at weekends – including a residential at the Conway Centre. None of this would have been possible without tremendous support from all the members of staff who have given their time so generously, along with the parents, families and friends who have supported our students in so many ways. Thank you to each and every one.

There have been many other events of course, including our annual 6th Form Charity Week. All proceeds will be going to MIND this year – a fantastic charity chosen by our students. They always do such a wonderful job of raising funds and they manage to put a smile on the faces of students and staff as they do it.

I am also delighted that we have gained re-accreditation for the prestigious Green Flag International Award, a really top achievement; well done to the Eco School Action Team for all their hard work and dedication. The assessor commented on what a pleasure it had been to visit our school and on the 'real passion' that our students showed for their eco projects.

Our visit to the World War One battlefields is taking place as I write this and our ski party will be leaving at the weekend for Italy; I wish the staff and students all the very best and look forward to hearing all about their experiences upon their safe return!

With best wishes for a safe and happy half term break,

Paula Dixon

Shared Numeracy Task

2015 kicked off with a buzz of excitement as students in all classes from Years 7 to 11 took part in the Shared Numeracy Task, attempting to find calculations that used the digits 2, 0, 1 and 5 and gave answers between 1 and 50. Students puzzled over this for the first two weeks of term.

In some cases whole forms collaborated such as 7Y1MA and 8X2S (pictured). In other Forms small groups participated. Two students found full solutions for all fifty individually, they were Stella Dixon (Y11) and Elizabeth Dearden-Wiliams (Y10) (pictured).



Mr Biard



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Year 7 Conway Residential - 24th-28th November 2014

In November a large group of year 7 students attended the Conway residential to work on their team building skills.

During their two and half days students were submerged into outdoor activities with sessions including mountain biking, raft building, sea level traversing, gorge scrambling, ropes courses, rock climbing, canoeing, abseiling, mountain walking and via ferrata.

During free time students took part in the nightline, bingo, dragon racing, music quiz and a disco. A great time was had by all!

Mrs Collinson



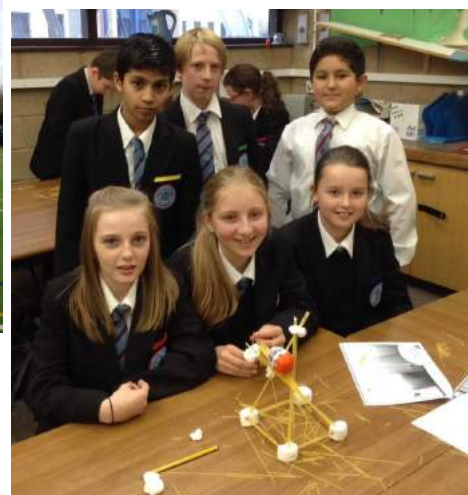
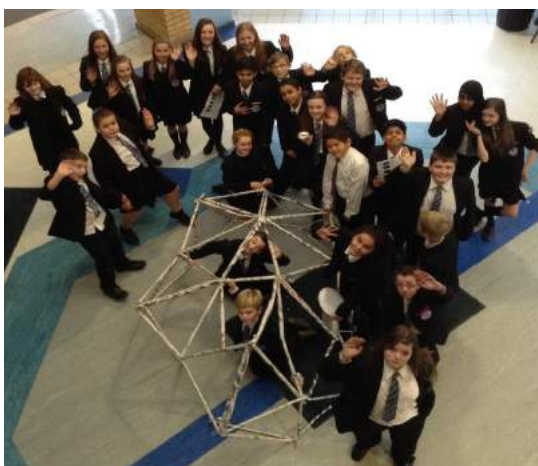
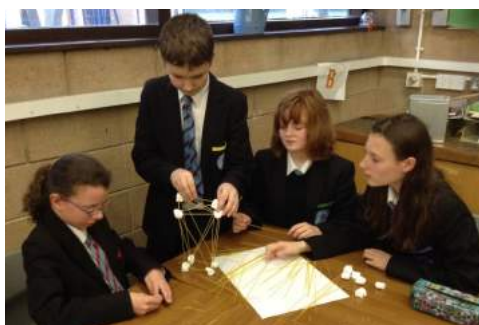
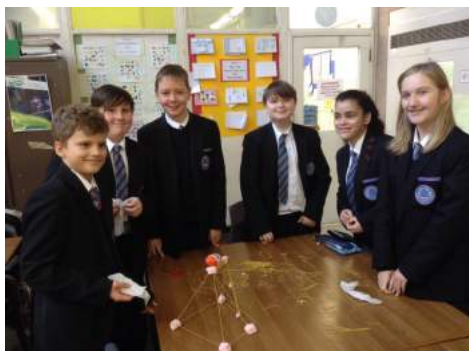
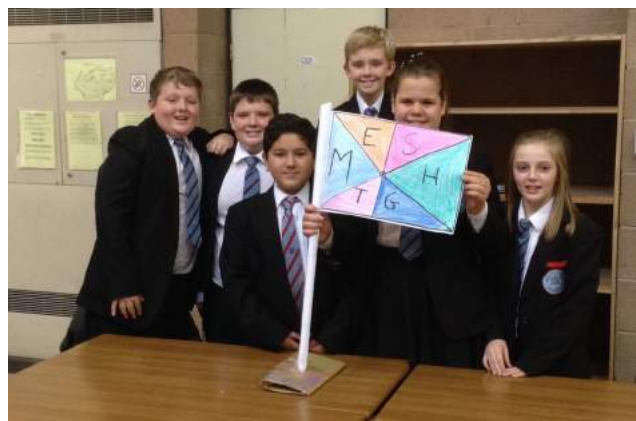
Year 7 Team Building at Upton — 24th-28th November 2014

During this week a large group of year 7 students attended the Conway residential to work on their team building skills. However, the students who remained in school were treated to a simulated school based experience.

Students were off timetable to work in groups to complete a number of team tasks including, design and creation of a safe casing for an egg drop, a marble run, a spaghetti and marshmallow structure, a board game and even a geodesic dome!

Students also had a visit from the Royal Marines who discussed the importance of working as a team before treating our students to some team games on the MUGA. A great experience and thoroughly enjoyed by all involved.

Miss Welch



A prestigious invitation to the 750th Anniversary of Parliament on January 22nd

Alias Buchanan (Year 11) received this very prestigious invitation as a member of Youth Parliament. He was the only representative in Cheshire West & Chester invited, one of only six from the North West, and one of only 60 in the UK.....

"On behalf of Mr Speaker, The Rt. Hon. John Bercow MP and the Lord Speaker, The Rt. Hon. Baroness D'Souza you have been specially selected as one of 60 Members of Youth Parliament to take part in a celebration to mark the 750th anniversary of Montfort's Parliament of 1265 and represent the UK Youth Parliament."

"This special event celebrates the 750th anniversary of the Parliament, summoned by Simon De Montfort, which met from 20th January to mid-March 1265. It was the first time that representatives of both towns and shires were summoned simultaneously to discuss matters of national concern, something which ultimately paved the way for the emergence of the House of Commons."

Alias submitted this report and picture (he is on the right) from the event:

The event as a whole was a celebration, not so much a day where I had to do any work as an MYP. It was a celebration of 750 years of parliament and 800 years since Magna Carta. We have one of the most sophisticated parliaments in the world now. That's all that matters right? No. This day was all about celebrating, not where we are today, but where we have come from. It's about all sectors of parliament, whether it be the Lords, Commons or Youth celebrating together, the outstanding progress made in 750 years.

Being in the presence of both members of the Houses of Commons and Lords was magnificent. Not only could we be in the same room as them, but chat with them too! Having the chance to speak to the likes of the Lord Speaker Baroness D'Souza was a terrific opportunity. I'm so happy I was invited and extremely proud to represent my area in such a monumentally important event.

Alias Buchanan (11Y5YU)



Upton gets the Green light again

Students and staff at Upton-by-Chester High School have been delighted to be re-accredited with the Eco-Schools Green Flag International Award for continued excellence in improving the environmental performance of the school and wider community. After her visit, the Assessor said that: "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 saved, 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."

Students at Upton-by-Chester High School were also congratulated for the way they managed to involve the whole school and the wider community both locally and internationally. This year alone, the school managed a 45% reduction in the general waste it produces and was praised for all its many recycling schemes.

Sarawar in Year 12 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 in the process. We're not stopping here and will now aim for the Ambassador level."



Miss Beuzit



Chester RTC

We are delighted to have been designated with Apple Regional Training Centre status.



Regional Training Centre

What is an Apple Regional Training Centre (RTC)?

The Regional Training Centre programme is to provide teachers with training, expertise and access to best practice to support their use of Apple technology in the classroom. The programme brings together a wide community of experienced educators and experts who provide free and easy access to Apple's creative learning technologies.

Every RTC has unique skills, a different curriculum or subject focus but all share the same objectives:

- To provide a focus on pedagogy, for sharing best practice and gaining skills
- To introduce planned, effective, digital solutions to schools using Mac and iPad
- To train teachers to use Apple's tools and help enable active and transformative teaching within the classroom
- To support, enhance and transform teaching and learning outcomes



The RTC Programme is a community programme and as such the ethos is about sharing learning experiences and knowledge between peers. The RTCs in the UK are learning-hubs within local regions, promoting collaboration and the sharing of resources and practices. Having achieved RTC status in 2015 we are honoured and privileged to share our success story and knowledge with our educational colleagues.

All of the Apple technology courses we offer at Upton-by-Chester are **free** to attend for any of our **educational colleagues**. The RTC program allows us to share with others the successful iPad implementations we have undertaken. We are excited and proud with what we have so far achieved with Apple Technologies in the classroom and welcome all those, at whatever stage along their own journey, to come and see how we do things.

Literacy and the iPad - 27th January 2015

This session explored how the iPad can aide and work alongside traditional teaching methods to deliver literacy to all Key Stages. It was well attended with over 30 delegates. These pictures show some teachers from our local primaries exploring apps and QR codes to enhance literacy.

Course Schedule

All courses begin at 4pm, with coffee and registration from 3:30pm. We have Wi-Fi access for those bringing their own iPad and we are also happy to provide iPads for the session.

Numeracy and the iPad - 26th February 2015

Science and the iPad - 24th March 2015

Programming and the iPad - 29th April 2015

The iPad in SEN - 12th May 2015

The iPad in MFL and EAL - 23rd June 2015

Creativity and the iPad - 14th July 2015



RTC Official Launch - TBC

We are in the final stages of organizing our RTC launch event which will be run in conjunction with Apple and JTRS. The event will give attendees a chance to understand the RTC programme and what it offers, and to hear what Apple have planned for the future. The event will also feature breakout sessions for our educational colleagues to understand more the benefits of Apple Technology in the classroom.

Mr Keegan

Good practice at Upton (1)

In December we showcased our innovative use of iPads for learning at the SSAT National Conference in Manchester. Here is a photo of Hannah and Lauren, Year 8, receiving certificates from Mrs Dixon (Headteacher). The girls took part in delivering a workshop on Feedback using iPads for Learning at the conference. Well done!



Good practice at Upton (2)

In Science Year 7 have been learning about specialised cells and have produced some fantastic models and cakes for a homework task. The photographs are from **Mrs Bradbury**.



Good practice at Upton (3)

Year 9 students are currently reading *Stone Cold* by Robert Swindells. Students have been inspired by the gritty reality of this novel about a homeless teenager called Link. One sentence in the novel seemed to really be the turning point for the two groups – 'I found a doorway'. Students based their descriptive writing and poetry around the idea of what it would be like to be 16, homeless and sleeping in a doorway for the first time. Their completed work has been phenomenal. Here is a picture of a display produced by Miss Farnin's class and inspired by *Stone Cold* and a picture of the class with Headteacher Mrs Dixon, 2nd Deputy Mr Keegan and School Governor Mr Ivson.



A Level Certificate Presentation Evening

On Thursday 18th December 2014 over 80 former students, parents, carers, governors and staff attended the 'A' Level Certificate Presentation Evening. It was a fantastic opportunity to formally celebrate our students' outstanding 'A' Level results and hear their tales of foreign travel, university life and exciting employment opportunities.

Our guest speaker was the amazingly talented former student Greg Russell.

Since leaving Upton in 2011, after completing his 'A' Levels, Greg embarked on a musical career which he has successfully combined with his University studies.

Greg's musical collaboration with Ciaran Algar resulted in the duo signing to Fellside Records in July 2011 and they released their debut album 'The Queen's Lover'. Numerous tours have followed and they have become one of the most sought after young acts on the English Folk scene.

Russell and Algar have received critical acclaim and are two-time BBC Folk Award winners.

Greg spoke fondly of his time at Upton and reminisced about his experience in the school's productions of 'Buddy' and 'Beauty and the Beast'.

The highlight of the evening was Greg and Ciaran's musical performance which thoroughly entertained the crowd and received tumultuous applause. On behalf of the Sixth Form I would like to say thank you to Greg and Ciaran for giving up their time to present the certificates.

Finally, special thanks goes to Hannah Jones for a fantastic solo singing performance and Georgia Robson and Ed Nelson for hosting this truly memorable evening.

Miss Brown



Sports Report

Gymnastics

Our Year 8 Girls team collected a silver medal in the group competition event. Well done to Rebecca Hesketh, Pippi Dunn, Bella Lopez-Randall, Chloe Crowton, Katie Spall and Sasha Ravetz.

Sportshall Athletics

These competitions involved all the schools in the Chester and District area.

Year 7 - Thursday 29th January @ Christleton High School

Upton Boys came 2nd & Upton Girls came 5th

Year 8 - Tuesday 27th January @ Queens Park High School

Upton Girls came 3rd



Badminton

We are for the second year running, Key Stage 4 Chester and District winners for both boys and girls. The teams progressed through to the County Final on Wednesday 4th February, where they retained their boys and girls titles, winning every match they played! Congratulations to Beth Newis, Alex Goodwin, Laura Williams, Rachel Barrett, Jack Wild, David Baird, Alias Buchanan, Owen Meredith & Callum McKew.



Rugby

Our Year 7 Boys are undefeated this year and through to the semi-finals of the Chester and District Cup.

Football

Year 10 Boys are playing Lymm in the 3rd round of the County competition after beating Mosslands in the last round. Year 9 Boys won the Chester and District Astro 7-a-side competition. Year 8/9 Girls lost in the quarter finals of the county cup against Wilmslow.

PE Department

Mock Council of the European Union

Katie Oliver and Edward Hawksby, Year 12, represented Belgium at this prestigious event held at the Commonwealth Office in London and debated on EU Energy Efficiency.

Edward said that the event increased his political awareness and his understanding of how the EU council works. Katie added that she really enjoyed the debates and gained valuable public speaking skills. This experience showed students the importance of compromise in Politics.



Year 7 Science of Conservation trip to Chester Zoo

February saw the start of the Science of Conservation program, run by the Science Department in conjunction with Chester Zoo.

We want to highlight the fantastic work that the Zoo performs around the world, and importantly the essential role of the various science disciplines that allows this to happen. We did not simply want a visit to the Zoo, we wanted to enthuse our students into the science behind the amazing work that the Zoo performs, and what a success it is. So over two days we descended on the Zoo with over 130 excited bubbling young conservation scientists.



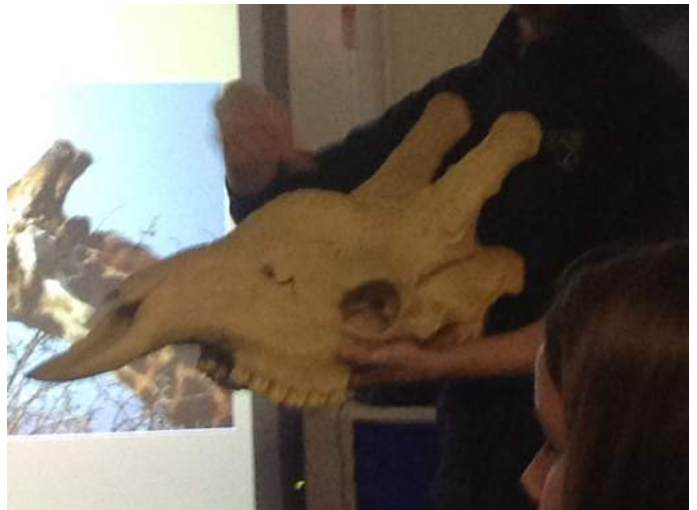
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Our Year 7 students were blown away at the wonderful world of science, and the topics which were explored included: nutritional diet in the Zoo (healthy eating); how to teach an animal positive reinforcement; sustainability and energy conservation; sound and acoustics in the animal world; venom and delivery in the natural world, along with an examination on skulls, form and function. The educational workshops took place in the Zoo's surroundings and at the education centre in the Zoo, and what a fantastic experience it was for the children. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mr Adam Fryda and the Educational Team at the Zoo for devising and delivering such brilliant workshops.

The Year 8 and Year 9 trips are booked for mid-March and all years will be exploring different aspects of conservation science. There are still a few places left on both trips and anyone interested in such a great educational experience should see the trip organiser Mr Caine in school.

A huge thank you to Chester Zoo, our staff supervising the trip and of course our young scientists for making this experience such a wonderful success.

Mr Caine



Cheshire Inter-School Book Quiz

Our school is currently taking part in a regional book quiz. The quiz is designed to foster an interest in, and enthusiasm for, reading in pupils and to focus attention on the school library, and its role in developing literacy. This year our school is represented by six Year 8 pupils: Amy McDermott (8x4yu); Elisha Candlin (8x4yu); Eve Dixon (8x4yu); Katie Spall (8x4yu); Lucy McHugh (8x5me); Sasha Ravetz (8x5me).

There are 6 rounds from January to May, with the highest scoring schools in Cheshire competing for the Cup in the summer term. Each round of the quiz comprises 20 questions: 10 relate to a specific set book, and 10 are general literature questions. The team posted some excellent scores for Rounds 1 & 2 and this photo shows them doing some last minute revision on "The London Eye Mystery" by Siobhan Dowd, before competing in Round 3. Special thanks to Mrs Johns in the English Department for also mentoring the team.



Mr Ryan

Student ELFs (E-Learning Facilitators)

The Year 7 ELF Group recently ran a competition for all year 7 students to design a logo that would represent the ELF Group. We had over 60 fantastic entries and managed to select a winner and a runner up.

The winner was Susie Oliver 7Y5YU, who was awarded an iPod Shuffle and certificate.

The runner up was Daisy Saxby 7X3SU, who was awarded a selection of Fair trade goodies and a certificate.

All students who entered the competition were awarded Hall Points.

A big thank you and well done to all who participated.

Mrs Keefe

Dates for your diary in 2015

10th March — Year 8 Parents Evening
31st March — Dance Show
1st April — Year 7 Parents Evening
17th June — Sports Day
25th June — Open Evening
9th July — Year 10 Parents Evening
15th July — Awards Evening



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

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

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