



# Upton Voice

Upton-by-Chester High School Newsletter

December 2015

## Christmas Stars

Our musicians have been absolute stars this half term, bringing much joy and happiness to our local and wider community, with their wonderful playing.

On Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup>, Senior Band travelled to Bridgemere Garden Centre to play for 4 hours in the wind and rain! Fortunately, we were indoors and very much appreciated by the public. It was a lovely day and after playing, we loved seeing the real reindeer! The Christmas Concert saw all of our ensemble groups come together for an evening of Christmas music. Too many outstanding performances to mention them all, but particular highlights were the solos from Chris, Stella, Rhianna and Alex. We all thoroughly enjoyed the concert and it was lovely to see so many new faces performing on stage for the first time.

Monday saw the choir sing at Chester Lodge Nursing Home. This has become one of our favourite events, not just because of the sweets after our singing, but it was particularly lovely to be performing on one of the residents birthdays, Emily, who was 96 years old!

Tuesday brought carol singing in Morrisons for our choir, collecting donations for Sue Ryder. As well as a test of keeping in tune with each other (as we are unaccompanied), it is also a test of stamina, as we stand for 2.5 hours!!

Christmas assemblies during the last week keep Senior Band on their toes. It has yet to be announced which Head of Year the band will give their prize to for the most exciting assembly, but Miss Stanley did well bribing us with candy canes, although Mr Wearden is keen to hold onto his lead with offerings of wine gums AND he announced our pieces!



To finish our busy season, we had our favourite Dorin Park Christmas concert on Thursday. We all enjoy coming together for this and having lots of fun singing with the band.

The music department would like to thank all harassed mums and dads for their continued support and also Mrs Dixon, who supports us in everything we do. Many, MANY thanks and a very Happy Christmas!

**Miss C. Thompson**  
Head of Music

@UptonVoice received this wonderful feedback on Twitter on Tuesday afternoon.

15/12/2015, 15:57

“@UptonVoice @chestertweetsuk Just heard Upton by Chester high school choir singing in Morrisons. Beautiful sound”

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## Christmas Fair

On Friday December 4th we held our annual festive event to raise valuable funds for the PTA. All money raised by the PTA goes towards improving the school for our students through the provision of facilities and activities. The figure raised from the Fair this year is approximately £2000, making it one of our most successful fairs ever.

Thank you to all of our students, staff and parents who volunteered on the night. Our Forms in Years 7 and 8 ran a variety of stalls to entice visitors to spend their money and Mr Keegan wowed the crowd with his festive Elvis.

**Merry Christmas to all from Upton-by-Chester High School PTA!**







Mrs P. Dixon — Headteacher

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

The Autumn term 2015 has come to an end and how busy it has been. Our Music Department has again been out and about in our community, spreading good cheer wherever they go, and our annual Christmas Concert was superb as always.

We are immensely proud of our students, current and former, for their achievements. I am delighted to tell you that the GCSE awards evening was a great success and as I write I am thoroughly looking forward to the A Level awards evening later this week. I was especially proud to welcome back to our school former students as our guests of honour for both occasions, Jennifer

Davies, a singer and composer, and Jessica Hunt, a talented dancer, both of whom have achieved notable success in their professional careers.

Well done to all of the students, staff, parents and carers who made these outstanding results possible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our new Year 7 students who have had a very successful first term as Upton High School students. They have settled in well and I look forward to working with them over the next 7 years and watching them achieve their goals.

I must also congratulate our Year 11 students who have survived their mock exams and are working hard preparing for their final exams. After Christmas it's the turn of our Year 13 students to prove themselves in their mock exams and I look forward to hearing of their successes.

As a school we have been involved with many charitable activities during this term as this edition of the Voice will show, including raising money for books for children in hospital and supporting the Big Toy appeal. Our students and families are always so generous both with their time and their money – a marvellous example of this is our annual Christmas Fair supported by our PTA which raised over £2000.

We have also been fortunate to welcome some very prestigious visitors during the last half term namely Sir Bert Massie, a Disability Rights Campaigner and the Lord Speaker Baroness D'Souza.

I must finally mention our amazing students who have brought so much pride to our school including the chemistry students winning first and second place in the Royal Society of Chemistry annual quiz; a number of Sixth Form students took part in the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) competition receiving either gold, silver or bronze awards and of course our Mandarin students making the national finals of the Mandarin competition, against some stiff competition, which will be held in London towards the end of next term.

May I wish you all a peaceful, safe and happy Christmas break and I look forward to working with you all again in the New Year.

## A phizz whizzing achievement!

Congratulations to Jemma in Year 8! Jemma has recently had her work published in "Phizz Whizzing Words - Whizzsnappers," a Young Writers book to commemorate the work of the late Roald Dahl.

Jemma's story, The Magic Carpet, explores the life of Aliya who discovers that she is in fact a Princess, thanks to a magic carpet. Well done Jemma on an excellent achievement!

**Miss S. Nelson**  
English



## ELF students visit to Chester Zoo

Year 8 and 9 e-Learning Facilitator students were recently given the opportunity to work with Chester Zoo on developing mobile technology. Whilst visiting the zoo, the students participated in an iTunes U course designed by Mr Keegan. The course gave the students the chance to explore the threats to wildlife. The students created some fantastic pieces of work using Pages, Keynote, Book Creator and Explain Everything.

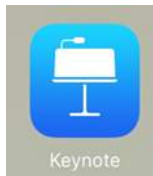
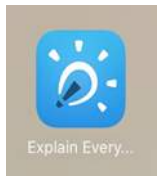


### Chester Zoo Murder Mystery

Chester Zoo  
Upton By Chester High School

*"I really enjoyed my day at the zoo. It was great to use my iPad to record my findings. I am looking forward to putting my project together using the Book Creator app."*

Elliot Year 9



*"Using our iPad skills whilst visiting the zoo was great. I enjoyed creating short films about the different species and their habitats. I had the opportunity to interview a member of the zoo staff and got some great footage of the beautiful animals."*

Cerys Year 8



Students discovering information about the Lion Tailed Macaque

**Mrs D. Keefe**  
Staff e-Learning Facilitator



## Success in the HSBC/British Council Mandarin Chinese Competition

Upton-by-Chester High School students recently took part in the HSBC/British Council Mandarin Chinese Speaking Competition in London against 30 other teams. They were selected for the national final which will take place at the British Museum on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February. Mandarin Chinese has been taught at the school over the past 4 years and the first cohort of students achieved outstanding results at GCSE last summer.

Students have chosen to continue with A' level Mandarin and view this competition as an exciting and unique opportunity to boost their confidence prior to examinations.

Will, Year 12, said "The competition is a great opportunity to use my Mandarin speaking skills and I look forward to broadening my knowledge and representing my school in the national final".

If students are successful, they will spend a week in Beijing paid for by the British Council and will have the opportunity to visit historical sites and interact with local students. Mrs Li-Hua Granville, Teacher of Mandarin, said: "I am immensely proud of my students' achievement. It was a pleasure to watch their confident and entertaining presentation in Mandarin in front of such a large audience. I wish them all the best in the national final in London."



## Over £600 raised to provide books for children in hospital

To encourage our pupils to read for pleasure, we completed a very successful Readathon sponsored read last term. Pupils rose to the challenge, reading hundreds of books and raising a fantastic £622.04 for seriously ill children in two weeks. Their achievement also earned the school free books worth £120, provided by Readathon in partnership with Scholastic Book Clubs to boost school library stocks.

Readathon, a nationwide charity, uses the sponsorship money raised to provide brand new books for children in hospital up and down the UK, as well as supporting charities who help seriously ill children. I recommend Readathon to any teacher or librarian who wants to get their pupils reading for pleasure. Readathon creates a real buzz about books in the school. I found children talking about books, sharing and swapping favourites and genuinely motivated to read. Parents became involved in what their children were reading and shared precious time together talking about books.

Readathon's founder, Brough Girling commented, "The wonderful thing about schools and young people is that even in today's economic climate, they are still eager to raise money for those less fortunate than themselves. To say thank you for their tremendous efforts, Readathon has teamed up with Scholastic Book Clubs to give Upton-by-Chester High School free books. We hope that these books will in turn inspire even more pupils to get reading - for good."

**Mrs S. Johns**  
Assistant Head of English



## Chemistry students win First and Second Prizes at RSC Quiz

24 Chemistry students from both the Upper and Lower Sixth played their part in consuming the pizzas provided by the Royal Society of Chemistry at the annual "Chemistry and Me Quiz" staged at Techniquest in Wrexham. As well as enjoying the pizza, the students listened to three short presentations from PhD students and industrial chemists.

The main event however was the Chemistry themed quiz which was enjoyed by all. Congratulations to the Upper Sixth Team (George, Katie, Ewan, Austin and Ed) who took first prize and to the team from the Lower Sixth (Matthew, Scott, Alex and David) who came second. Many thanks to Mr Bell for organising the visit and to Ms Kam for accompanying the students.



First Prize



Second Prize



## Visit by the Lord Speaker Baroness D'Souza

Baroness D'Souza, the Lord Speaker of the House of Lords, recently spoke to an audience of Sixth Form students. The visit was arranged as part of the outreach programme to engage the public in the work of the Lords, including the Peers in Schools programme, specifically aimed at young people.

As well as overseeing proceedings in the Lords chamber, the Lord Speaker acts as an ambassador for the Lords in the UK and abroad. Baroness D'Souza explained to the students the work of the House of Lords and its contribution to Parliament. The Lord Speaker outlined some of her duties including presiding over business in the Lords, attending and speaking at ceremonial occasions, meeting visiting dignitaries and heads of state, representing the Lords overseas and developing parliamentary relations in Commonwealth countries and emerging parliamentary democracies.



Grace one of the many Sixth Form students in attendance, said "It was an incredible experience, it was so current to our politics studies". Anna said "It was great to learn first-hand about the House of Lords". Alice said "Baroness D'Souza gave a fascinating talk including valuable advice for politics students who would like to pursue a career in this area. We are so grateful for this opportunity".



Mrs Paula Dixon, Headteacher, said "The 6<sup>th</sup> Form students thoroughly enjoyed the talk and the opportunity to ask questions on the House of Lords and really appreciated Baroness D'Souza's openness in answering. I would thoroughly recommend the 'Peers in Schools' programme to allow students further insight into UK politics and the workings of Parliament."

## PTA Curry & Quiz Night

Thank you to all those who attended the Quiz & Curry Night at the end of October. A packed World Café enjoyed a delicious curry and a fantastic quiz with a new round this year based on the Family Fortunes idea of "guess the most popular." The music round prompted a sing along from the Year 13 girls team which everyone joined in! The staff team were victorious and walked away with the trophy and chocolates.

A comment from a parent who attended: "Just a quick email to thank you for inviting us to the curry & quiz night, another brilliant night, the kids thoroughly enjoyed it and as usual your cakes went down a storm, looking forward to next year's already."

The event raised over £450 for school funds. Thank you to everyone for joining us at this fun event and special thanks to Spar on Long Lane for their generous donation of prizes.

## Upton-by-Chester High School PTA



Year 13 team "borrowing" the trophy



The Winners

## An inspirational visit from Sir Bert Massie

Upton-by-Chester 6<sup>th</sup> Form students were treated to a talk from Sir Bert Massie, a Disability Rights Campaigner with countless legislative achievements to his name. He gave an incredible account of what he has managed to achieve and the discrimination he has fought against to gain equal rights for disabled people. His milestones include pressuring Government to ensure that Buses, Taxis and new buildings are accessible by those with a disability.

As a Disability Rights campaigner he was an instrumental driving force advocating the passing of the Disability Rights Act and helping make amendments to improve the rights and lives of those with disability.

Throughout his career as a campaigner Sir Bert Massie has worked both within the House of Commons and House of Lords as a lobbyist; working with numerous influential individuals including former Prime Minister John Major and William Hague.



Sir Bert Massie impressed upon us the influence we as individuals can have and the effect we can have on society. Jordan, one of the many Sixth Form students in attendance, said "the talk gave us Sir Bert's unique insight into the inner workings of the English political system." Mrs Paula Dixon, Headteacher, said "I was inspired and humbled by Sir Bert's visit and heartened by all that he has achieved."

**James**  
**Year 13**



## North West Fencing Junior Series

Every year there are a series of competitions in the North West of England for all three fencing weapons - foil, epee and sabre. There are two levels of entry U11 and U14. My weapon is foil and I am part of the U14 series.

The last weekend of November was the final weekend of competitions for 2015. It was held at the new Manchester fencing centre. I was a bit nervous as I was in a good position to win the overall trophy and I wanted to make sure I did my best.

After two rounds of poules I was ranked second overall in the day's competition. I won 15-5 in the semi-final and met an older boy in the final. It was a very close fight but unfortunately I lost 15-10. I took the silver medal.

I was a little disappointed, however, as I had achieved lots of points in the rankings through several North West competitions in 2015, due to finishing first or second in every competition, which meant I was the highest ranking U14 foilist.

So I am now the North West U14 boys foil champion 2015. I received a trophy which I keep for a year. My aim is to retain it in 2016.

**Elliot**  
**Year 9**



## Upton's Accelerated Reader Scheme

This half-term has seen the continuation of our new reading scheme. **115 students across Years 7-9** have been awarded with certificates for successfully completing 5 or more quizzes on books they have read this term. Keep reading to join the Millionaires' Club! We will be awarding certificates and prizes to more word millionaires before February half-term.

Please help us to ensure that your child gains the full benefits of this scheme by supervising their reading. Twenty minutes of reading can be an enjoyable experience and it can make a huge difference. Please also ensure that your child brings their Accelerated Reader book to school with them every day.

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

All students involved have been informed of their Accelerated Reader score and have been supported in selecting a book at an appropriate level. If you would like to help them select another book at their level, please visit the Accelerated Reader Book finder catalogue at:

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

If you should have any further questions about this scheme, a parent guide is available within the English Department section of the school website.

**Mrs S. Johns**  
Assistant Head of English



## Football Report

6th Form beat Bishops Heber in the County Cup to move into the quarter finals. Upton made a quick start with 2 early goals from Callum (one an amazing effort direct from a corner), Heber then came back into the game strongly, had a lot of possession and at the start of the second half pulled 1 back, then 5 minutes from full time they scrambled an equaliser. With the game looking like it was heading for extra time Upton got a free kick with 1 min remaining. Callum provided the perfect delivery and Lewis applied the faintest of headers to score and steal the game 3-2.

Year 7 went through in the National Cup with a fine 3-0 win over Archbishop Beck. A strong defensive display particularly from Joseph in goal and goals from Peter (2) and a late deflected OG from a shot by Harry were enough to see off their feisty opposition.

Unfortunately we had several casualties in competitions this term, we said good bye to;

6th Form in the National Cup, out to Archbishop Beck

Year 11 in the County Cup, out to Christleton

Year 10 in the National Cup & County Cup, out to St Margaret's & Heber

Year 8 in the National & County Cup, out to Ormskirk & Wade Deacon

**Mr P. Medland**  
Head of PE





## The Mock Council of the European Union 2015

On the 27th November, 55 students from 27 schools from across the UK arrived at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in London for the Mock Council of the European Union. The event took place in the grand setting of the Locarno Suite. Each school had a responsibility either to represent one of the 28 EU countries in a debate or, in the case of Upton-by-Chester, to play the role of the General Secretariat. Our students did such a professional job that some students from another school thought that they actually worked for the European Union!



The topics debated were the Digital Single Market and the Circular Economy both of which are 'real live' issues currently being discussed by the real EU Council. The experience was as realistic as possible, the General Secretariat wrote down the arguments put forward by each country and helped the school representing the European Commission to write new proposals. After the morning debate the General Secretariat wrote and announced a short summary of the debate and counted the votes at the end.

The students involved were Claudia and Elinor, both of whom are in Year 12. They were accompanied by Mr Mulhall from the History & Politics department. Important European Officials such as Jaqueline Minor, Ruth Sinclair-Jones and Baroness Neville-Rolfe met with students to talk about the importance of language and European connections. Claudia commented that "It was an unforgettable day, we learnt so much about debating and negotiating. All in all a brilliant trip, we'd go again if we could."



## Smarter Spaces Project

We are taking part in the SSAT Smarter Spaces project. This is a new exciting action research project that empowers learners to take an active role in the design and application of innovative learning spaces. It also focuses on changes in the learning environment that impact on pedagogical practice, engagement and learner achievement.

We will receive £6000 from Dulux and a design team to work with our students to transform an underused area of the school into a digital work space.



**Mr J. Keegan**  
**Second Deputy Head**

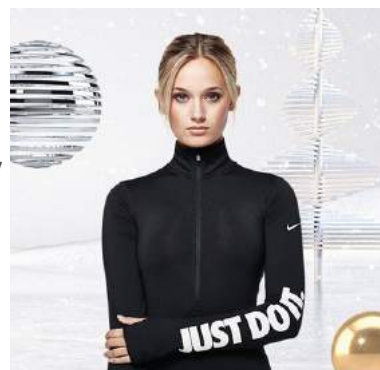
## A Model Student

Ex Upton High student, Charlotte Nicholson, is now appearing on the JD Sports Christmas TV advertisement. Charlotte, who attended Upton from 2006 to 2011, signed with Boss Model management in Manchester and has been with them since she left school.

"My first ever job was for boohoo.com. I was there for just over 2 years. And then obviously they like to refresh their images on the site. But it was the best thing that ever happened really."

Since then, Charlotte has modelled for;

- Jones Bootmakers
- Umberto Giannini's autumn and winter campaign
- JD sports
- M & M direct
- Rare, London



Charlotte has also done a catwalk show with Rochelle Humes for her range at Very and also walked with Lauren Pope for her latest range. "I also had to walk with Christopher Biggins for a 'bond theme' event, which was absolutely hilarious!"

"It's all hard work, but very enjoyable. And it's very rewarding, especially seeing yourself on TV, or in shop windows. I know it won't last forever, but while everything's going well, I feel like I should do it for as long as I can and I just take every day as it comes."

The staff at Upton would like to wish Charlotte all the best for the future.

## Mathematical Success

Upton students took part in the UKMT Senior Challenge on 5th November.

The UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) is a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of children and young people in mathematics. The UKMT organises national mathematics competitions and other mathematical enrichment activities for 11-18 year old UK school pupils. 82 000 students from across the UK entered the Senior Challenge this year with the top 10% receiving gold certificates, the next 20% silver and the next 30% bronze.



The following Upton students scored highly:

Matthew (Y13), Elliot (Y13), Austin (Y13), David (Y12), Emily (Y12), Zack (Y12) & Andrew (Y12) achieved Bronze certificates.  
Ewan (Y13), Ethan (Y13), Anna (Y13), Zed (Y12) & Joe (Y12) achieved Silver certificates.  
Daniel (Y13) achieved a Gold certificate.

Daniel scored in the top 4600 nationally and on 25th November he took part in the next stage competition called The Senior Kangaroo which involves students from across Europe. We are awaiting results.

The students answered some very demanding problem solving questions to achieve these awards. They should be very proud of themselves.

**Mr J. Biard**  
**Head of Mathematics**



## Year 12 visit to the Houses of Parliament

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December, the Year 12 Politics students visited the Houses of Parliament. After an early morning train journey from Chester, we travelled by Tube to Westminster. At 10.30 we were met in Westminster Hall by Chris Matheson, the Labour MP for Chester. Chris then joined us on our guided tour of the Houses of Parliament which included visiting both chambers, the Lords and Commons and the Queen's Robing Room, plus we had a guide to the voting system used in the House of Commons. Our tour guide Mike was very experienced and gave us a real insight into the history and the workings of Parliament. Chris Matheson joined us for lunch in the café and he told us some stories about the building that we hadn't heard on the guided tour.

Next we were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour where Chris took us to the base of Big Ben and into Portcullis House where we bumped into the Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, Tom Watson. We also posed for a photograph on the House of Commons Terrace. We then had gallery tickets to watch a debate in the House of Commons so we said goodbye to Chris, who had been very generous with his time and we watched the Speaker's Procession as the speaker, John Bercow, arrived to oversee the day's debates. The debate we watched involved the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Iain Duncan-Smith, answering questions from the Opposition.

At the end of the day we met briefly with the Lord Speaker, Baroness D'Souza in her office. The Baroness remembered some of us from her recent visit to the school. We then watched a debate from the gallery in the House of Lords before making our way back to Euston on the Tube. The political celebrity-spotting continued on the Tube as Michael Portillo got on and sat near us.

The whole day was an amazing experience and it has given us all a unique insight into the functions of Parliament that we will always remember!

**Juliana**  
**Year 12**



## An illustrious alumnist — Doctor David Steven Manley, RMN. BA. MSc. PhD.

David attended Upton-by-Chester High School from 1979 to 1985. In December 2015 he was awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy by Nottingham University. His Doctorate was awarded by the School of Health Sciences having completed his studies in his own time as well as working full time as Consultant Nurse and Clinical Director of Specialist Services for Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

David carried out a narrative, qualitative study for his Doctorate exploring practitioner's and user's perceptions of facilitators and barriers to recovery from complex mental health and co-existing substance misuse problems (commonly called « dual diagnosis »).

David has been a Registered Mental Health Nurse since qualifying from Sheffield School of Nursing in 1992. He worked with people with severe and enduring mental health problems for the first few years of his career and then as a clinical nurse specialist in substance misuse services. He left his job in a busy drug and alcohol clinic to develop and set up a specialist dual diagnosis service in 2001, developing a small team of nurses and allied health professionals to support integrated care pathways for people with dual diagnosis in Nottinghamshire. In addition to his clinical remit he now also has a leadership role as Clinical Director for Specialist Services which includes Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Intellectual and Development Difficulties, Substance Misuse Services and numerous other highly specialist teams, including eating disorders and gender dysphoria.

In addition David is currently chair of « PROGRESS » a national group of health care professionals working in dual diagnosis and substance misuse.

Dr. Manley lives with his wife in Nottingham.





## PE Students of the Term for November & December

The following pupils have been awarded the PE student of the term. This is for outstanding or improved effort and application in lessons. There is a boy/girl for each year group in core PE and one student per exam based course.

Year 7 - Lauren & Matt	Year 8 - Amelia & Lewis
Year 9 - Alice & Oliver	Year 10 - Dina & Julian
Year 10 GCSE PE - James	Year 11 - April & Michael
Year 10 GCSE Dance - Leah	Year 11 GCSE PE - Katie
Year 11 GCSE Dance - Hope	AS PE - Samhilda
A2/CAMTEC PE - Danny	

## Attendance Stars

Here are details of our Star Forms for November & December in terms of attendance. Well done to all!

Research suggests that the greater the attendance, the greater the achievement. Too many days off school will affect GCSE grades and future job prospects. Attendance should always remain above 95% to allow pupils to achieve their full potential.

Follow this link (<http://tinyurl.com/uptonhighattendance>) to our Attendance page for details of our Attendance Policy and helpful national advice on raising and maintaining children's attendance.

Year	Form	% Attendance
Year 7	7x2me	100%
	7y2me	99.3%
	7y1ma	99.3%
	7x5yu	99.2%
	7x3su	99.2%
Year 8	8y3su	100%
	8x3su	99.5%
	8x5yu	99.2%
	8x1ma	99.5%
	9x2su	99.2%
Year 9	9x3wo	99.2%
	9x4yu	99.1%
	9y2yu	99%
	9x5me	95.7%
	10y3su	100%
Year 10	10y1yu	99.6%
	10x5yu	99.2%
	10y4ma	100%
	10y2wo	98.5%
	11y3ma	100%
Year 11	11x1yu	99.2%
	11x2me	97.7%
	11y4me	100%
	11y5yu	99.6%

## Dates for your diary

Monday 4th January — First day of term

Thursday 7th January — Year 8 Options Evening

Sat 8th & Sun 9th January — School Production Residential

Thursday 21st January — Sixth Form Open/Options Evening

Thursday 28th January — Year 11 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 3rd February — Year 12 Parents' Evening

Week commencing 8th February — Ghost the Musical

Sixth Form Charity Week

Monday 15th to Friday 19th 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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