



# Upton Voice

Upton-by-Chester High School Newsletter

April 2016

## Charity Week

The Sixth Form has once again delivered a fantastic Charity Week, which this year was in aid of the Lewy Body Society, a charity supporting people living with dementia. The total amount raised was £4184.29! Activities throughout the week included: Onesie Day; Sponge the Teacher; Staff Karaoke; 5-a-side football; Fancy Dress Day; and Cake Sales. Director of Sixth Form, Miss W. Gordon, said 'We are immensely proud of the combined effort of staff and students to raise this fantastic amount for such a good cause.' We would like to once again say a huge thank you and well done to everyone who participated or donated and helped to make the week so successful, it was a great school effort and we look forward to next year!

### Sixth Form Leadership Team



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## Fairtrade Fortnight

Our Fairtrade Fortnight started with assemblies by Second Deputy Headteacher Mr Keegan for every year group to inform them of events, lessons and reasons why we should buy Fairtrade. He spoke about how the pupils could influence their parent's spending and change their buying habits. Pupils were asked to finish the fortnight with an own clothes day on the last Friday in return for bringing in a Fairtrade item. The ELF's (E-Learning facilitators on the iPad) made posters to advertise events throughout the weeks and the children helped by serving in the Fairtrade tuck shop, The Hut, every day.

Fairtrade lessons were held in every subject, with competitions set up for; ART – best design of Fairtrade pyjamas and socks; DT/FOOD – best Fairtrade breakfast plate; ICT - Fairtrade poster competition on the iPad; ENGLISH – Acrostic Fairtrade poem. A Fairtrade Quiz was written on Socrative for the iPad and the teachers used it in PLaN (Pastoral, Literacy and Numeracy) time at lunchtime for KS3. A Fairtrade Hamper raffle was organised.

### PRIZEWINNERS

#### Acrostic Fairtrade Poem

- 1<sup>st</sup> (& 10 Hall points) – Finley 8X5YU  
 2<sup>nd</sup> (& 5 Hall points) – Grace 7X1MA  
 3<sup>rd</sup> (& 1 Hall point) – Hattie 9Y3WO

#### Design iPad Fairtrade Poster

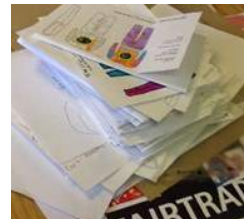
- 1<sup>st</sup> (& 10 Hall points) – Lottie 7X2ME  
 2<sup>nd</sup> (& 5 Hall points) – Eleanor 7X4WO  
 3<sup>rd</sup> (& 1 Hall point) – Holly 7X4WO

#### Design Fairtrade Socks

- 1<sup>st</sup> (& 10 Hall points) – Emma 8Y5YU  
 2<sup>nd</sup> (& 5 Hall points) – Nathan 8Y4WO  
 3<sup>rd</sup> (& 1 Hall point) – Vivien 7Y2ME

#### Design Fairtrade Pyjamas

- 1<sup>st</sup> (& 10 Hall points) – Cerys 8X3SU  
 2<sup>nd</sup> (& 5 Hall points) – Callum 8Y5YU  
 3<sup>rd</sup> (& 1 Hall point) – Joe 7X1MA



Throughout the fortnight the canteen provided Fairtrade breakfast grab bags, containing a Fairtrade; drink, banana and muffin. Fairtrade reps helped collect the food in throughout the final week. Mr Keegan dressed up as a banana (even when teaching) all day to raise money. For non-uniform day, this March, the pupils donated hundreds of items of Fairtrade Food which went to local care homes and the local Foodbank.

Members of the Fairtrade team delivered Fairtrade food (6 boxes) to Orchard Manor Care Home, it had 26 boxes of tea, 20 tubs of hot chocolate, 6 bags of sugar, 7pks of biscuits, 10 jars of coffee, 10 multipacks of Kit Kat, 15 boxes of Maltesers, 5 pouches of Maltesers, a box of chocolates, 2 jars of jam, a bottle of wine, and loads of Fairtrade chocolate bars. Lesley Catt, activities co-ordinator, is going to make up raffle prizes for Easter with the chocolate, to make money for the home and the resident's trips. She was amazed at what the students had achieved and she said it was rare to have so much donated. She also said 'you don't realise how much this is going to help with activities.'

The Fairtrade team visited Wealstone Care Home, Upton, with another 6 boxes, residents were excited with the amount of food the students had donated last year and were even more surprised this year. We handed over 12 boxes of Fairtrade food, with even more chocolate, for the local Foodbank just before Easter.

Throughout Fairtrade Fortnight the pupils renewed their awareness of fairtrade, the poor and poverty, but had fun doing it.

Mrs J. Hewitt





Mrs P. Dixon — Headteacher

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

I hope you really enjoy reading this edition of The Upton Voice which as usual reports on the wide range of exciting opportunities in which our students have participated.

It was lovely to welcome our new Year 7 students and their families to our iPad Launch event this week, and I am delighted to announce that we are oversubscribed in Year 7 for September.

As I write we are awaiting the results of our Year 12 girls' badminton team who are representing England at the World badminton Championships in Malta, and the final rehearsals for our annual

Dance Show are underway.

Year 11, 12 and 13 are now entering a critical time in their education as they complete their coursework and start to prepare their revision schedule for the imminent exams. I wish them all the very best of luck and hope to see many of them in school over the Spring break, taking full advantage of extra support for their learning being offered by many teachers.

Wishing you all a very happy, safe and peaceful holiday and I look forward to seeing you all again on 18 April for the start of the summer term.

With best wishes,

## Make It Enterprising Challenge

On 23rd March 2016, three Year 9 teams competed against local schools in the Year 9 Manufacturing Institute's Make It Enterprising Challenge sponsored by Essar.

Each challenge sees students from 12 schools forming their own companies and taking on one of a number of job roles from managing director, finance director, sales and marketing manager through to manufacturing manager, design engineer, logistics manager and quality controller.

During the course of the day teams compete against each other to discover who can create the best product and make the most profit. They have to complete a series of key tasks including; building a prototype of their product, creating financial plans and producing a marketing campaign within budget. When the teams have completed these key tasks they pitch their idea to a Dragon's Den line-up of manufacturing leaders and a get the chance to be crowned the winning team and go through to our annual Grand Final.



Upton-by-Chester High School (Team 3—Lauren, Liam, Benedict, Charlie, Lucy, Dominika, Daniel and Alfie) were crowned overall winners of the event. Amy (not pictured) also won an individual award recognising her outstanding leadership skills.

As winners of the event, Upton-by-Chester High School have been invited to undertake a site visit of Essar's Stanlow manufacturing facility. They will also compete in the Grand Final in June 2016.

**Mr J. Collis**

**Design & Technology**

## Ghost the Musical

"It was a great film, but I can't see how it's going to work on stage"

"Who's going to play Patrick Swayze, will he take his top off?"

"There's that famous scene with...you know... the potting wheel, can't see how they'd get away with that on a school stage"

Just some of the many obstacles needed to be overcome if we were to successfully produce the stage version of the iconic 1990 film and these were just the ones voiced by a sceptical public, one that we hoped would come and support us, our audience. Not to be daunted, we embarked on the very unique challenges the show presented; on a limited budget, how to create the illusion and magic needed to 'suspend the disbelief' of our audience.

Well, judging by the sell-out audiences, the amazing critical reaction, the prolonged, standing ovations and the genuinely moving atmosphere generated, we managed it. Thanks to a highly talented and motivated cast, crew and tech team, massively focused production weekend at Menai and tight, lean rehearsal schedule the show was created and wrapped in six weeks!

We said our goodbyes to a number of school show stalwarts in a moving ceremony after the final show, but a very satisfying fact is the increasing number of Old Uptonians who return to give something back, involved in all areas ranging from choreography, lighting, sound and directing. Long may it continue, we roll on to our 24th consecutive show, **Billy Elliot in Feb 2017**.

**Mr C.Tierney**

**Head of Performing Arts**



## UKMT Success

200,000 of the most mathematically able students from across the UK entered this year's United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Intermediate Maths Challenge. Year 11 Upton students Elizabeth and George received gold awards, placing them amongst the top 6%. Lucy, Katie and Holly received silver awards, placing them in the next 13%. Rebecca, Ben and Ze received bronze awards, placing them in the 21% below that.

Mr Biard, Head of Mathematics, congratulates these students who have performed so well in this prestigious competition.





## Collection of old coins and banknotes in aid of UNICEF

Following on from Hall & Year assemblies this week, we are fundraising to purchase UNICEF school bags for youngsters in areas of the world where they are most needed. £10 will provide exercise books, pens, pencils, textbooks and other school materials to support the education of a child for a whole year.

We are asking students to bring in any spare currency on the following list:

- foreign coins or notes
- old British/Irish currency
- old, obsolete or current currency

You can help by simply sorting out any old foreign notes and coins left over from holidays and business trips etc. So seek out old Spanish Pesetas, American Dollars, German Marks etc., even obsolete currency can help.

Once all the currency has been collected we send it to [www.cash4coins.co.uk](http://www.cash4coins.co.uk) who exchanges it into cash we can use to purchase Unicef bags.

Please remind your son/daughter to bring donations to their form teacher, their Hall Leader or the Learning Hub.

How many UNICEF school bags can our school community purchase?

**Miss S. Beuzit**  
**Second Deputy Headteacher**



## Year 11 Exam Success Evening

The GCSE exam success evening helped us to realise the many ways in which we could revise and how to go about it. The evening started with a series of brain games including a memory test and making acronyms to help us remember certain things for subjects. This helped give us an idea of ways to revise key areas and made the evening fun as we were taking an active role rather than just listening to a talk.

I found that the best part of the evening was when we moved into the gym and sat in groups with other people's parents and discussed what we found irritating things that parents/ children did during the exam/revision period and then discussed what could be done to help parents and children to work together to get the best results. I found this extremely useful as it allowed us to see what parents felt about our attitudes during exams and as it was another person's parents, I think that everyone listened very carefully and inputted to the discussions. When we then shared the ideas to the whole of the hall and came up with a list of things, which both parents and children could do to ensure we got the best results possible, this list was really useful.

Overall I would say I would definitely recommend this exam evening to people in younger years as it helped me get an understanding of how to revise/ manage my time and it also helped me to understand how my parents could help me with revision.

**Olivia**  
**Year 11**



## Our musical and dramatic stars

One of our Year 7 boys, Joe, has been selected to take part in this Chorister event taking place at St Pauls Cathedral in April. This is quite a prestigious event and he has done exceptionally well to be chosen for this. To hear Joe singing a solo with the Chester Cathedral Choir, visit the Music page on our website under Curriculum.



Congratulations also to Sam in Year 10 who will be representing Theatretrain Chester in Poland and Germany this summer.

A special mention goes to Jack in Year 8 who has recently achieved a Distinction in his Grade 6 Drum exam.

Lastly we must not forget for Mr Wilson, our Chair of Governors, who has been performing as Jeffrey Fairbrother In Tip Top Production's "Hi-de-Hi!" at the Forum Theatre.



**Miss C. Thompson**  
Head of Music

### An Evening with the Cathedral Choristers of Britain

Wednesday 27th April 2016  
7.30pm, St Paul's Cathedral

#### Our heritage, their future

A unique concert bringing together for the first time choristers from the nation's cathedrals, in support of the Diamond Fund for Choristers  
Conductor: Andrew Carwood

Tickets available from:  
[www.ticketmaster.co.uk/choristerconcert](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/choristerconcert)  
Call: 0844 844 0444  
Price: £35 / £25 / £40 / £70

Friends of Cathedral Music  
Diamond Fund for Choristers  
New initiative - launch 2014/15

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## Ski Trip 2016

Over February half term staff and students set off for the annual ski trip to the Aosta Valley, Italy. The beginner groups got off to a flying start and on day two were on the chair lift and cruising down blue runs in Pila. Meanwhile the intermediate group were tackling red and black runs. Both groups had a fantastic week and joined together for a superb run down the natural half pipe on the last day - no crashes this time!!

Alex was awarded "Most Improved Skier" and showed grit and determination during a challenging week. The students experienced all conditions— powder, sun and two days of snowfall. After a hard days skiing students enjoyed bowling, pizza evening and ice cream and a visit to the historic city of Aosta for some sightseeing and crepes!!

Next February we travel to Courmayeur. If you would like to come on the trip please collect a letter from Mrs Mitchell or follow this link <http://tinyurl.com/uptionskitrip2017> and return the reply slip. We have 40 places available open to all abilities and year groups.

**Mrs K. Mitchell**





## World Record Attempt

On Monday 22nd February over 120 of our Year 7s took part in a simultaneous World Record attempt with schools around the country. To celebrate the upcoming World Book Day we were asked to contribute to an attempt to break the record for "The most people participating in simultaneous book quizzes."

The book quiz was quite tough but the pupils really enjoyed the challenge and the buzz surrounding the event. The winners were the "Sassy Book Llamas" aka Caitlyn, Jasmine, Isobel, Morgan & Katie. They received their prizes from Mr Crozier (Head of English). Every pupil received a certificate for taking part.

The rules and regulations to qualify for an official Guinness World Record are very strict, so special thanks must go to our English Department for their support and our volunteers on the day who agreed to be independent witnesses and stewards: Mrs Lee and Mrs Fisher from Newton Primary School; Councillor Beacham from Newton; and our Governors Mr Wilson, Mrs Rudd and Mrs Barlow.

Our evidence was collated and submitted and I am delighted to share this announcement from World Book Day UK.

**Mr Ryan**  
Learning Hub



World Book Day UK @WorldBookDayUK · 2h  
Thank you to EVERYONE who took part in our world record breaking #BumperBookQuiz. You were amazing! @GWR



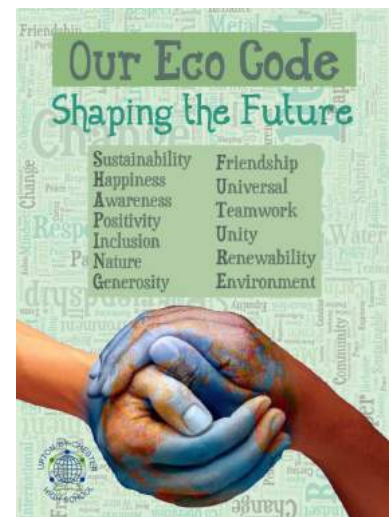
## Top 10 Environmental Issues Report

The year long project carried out with our partner schools in Yemen, Sri Lanka and Russia has culminated in the production of a final report showing Eco codes in all 4 schools as well as outlining students' views on the environment. The report can be read at:

<http://tinyurl.com/top10enviroreport>

Thank you to all students and colleagues across the world who have been so enthusiastic in their contribution and have made this project a truly international venture.

**Miss S. Beuzit**  
Second Deputy Headteacher



## A future star of Centre Court

Rhona, Year 9, has had a very successful 2015/2016 so far, becoming the 14u champion at the Cheshire Championships in August. She followed this up with regional titles at 14u singles & doubles in January, followed by 16u and 18u City of Liverpool Regional tennis titles during February half term.

Rhona has also been travelling around the country representing the Cheshire 18u County Cup team. This is a great achievement, as Cheshire are in the top tennis division in Britain. On 9th April she will compete in her second international event at the Tennis Europe qualifying draw in Nottingham.

Definitely one to watch out for on the sports pages of the future.



## Accelerated Reader Scheme

Please can you encourage your child to be regularly reading, especially over the spring break holiday.

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/>

If you would like to help your child to select another book at their level, please visit the Accelerated Reader Book finder catalogue (which has over 22,000 books listed) at: <http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/>



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

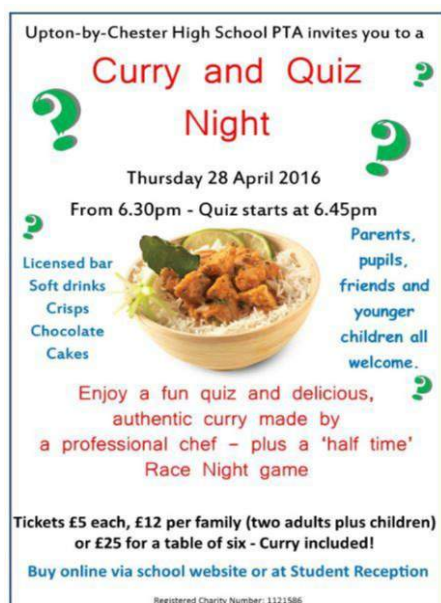
## Attendance Stars

Here are details of our Star Forms for February & March 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  | 7y3su  | 99.3%        |
|         | 7x4wo  | 99%          |
|         | 7y2me  | 100%         |
| Year 8  | 8x1ma  | 99%          |
|         | 8x2me  | 100%         |
|         | 8x4wo  | 99.1%        |
| Year 9  | 9x2su  | 99.2%        |
|         | 9y2yu  | 100%         |
| Year 10 | 10y5me | 94.8%        |
|         | 10y4ma | 100%         |
|         | 10x5yu | 98.8%        |
|         | 10y3su | 99.6%        |
| Year 11 | 11x2me | 98.8%        |
|         | 11x4su | 97.3%        |
|         | 11x5wo | 97.3%        |
|         | 11x2me | 99.6%        |
|         | 11y1wo | 99.6%        |



## Dates for your diary

Monday 4th April to Friday 15th April—Spring Break (school closed)  
 Monday 18th April— Summer term begins  
 Wednesday 20th April— Year 10 Parents' Evening  
 Tuesday 26th April—GCSE Art Exhibition  
 Monday 2nd May—Bank Holiday (school closed)  
 Wednesday 4th May— Year 7 Parents' Evening  
 Thursday 12th May—A Level Art Exhibition  
 Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June—Half term break (school closed)

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

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

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