



# Upton Voice

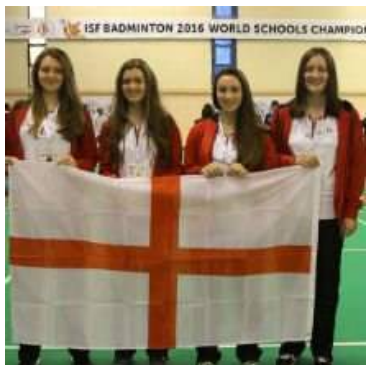
Upton-by-Chester High School Newsletter

May 2016

## National Champions fly the flag in Malta

The 2015 and three-time girls National Schools Champions Upton-by-Chester High School have flown the flag for English badminton on the international stage, representing England at the World School Championships in Malta.

Following their victory at the National Championships in May 2015, the team of Rachel, Alex, Beth and Laura were invited to compete with national champions from 16 countries from around the world, including teams from as far afield as China, Taipei, Brazil and Spain.



A late change, India having to withdraw from the competition, saw the team redrawn in a group with Brazil, Belgium and China. A victory against first opponents Brazil set the tournament off in the right direction. Following a very respectable loss to China all was set for a showdown with Belgium. In the best of five matches (two doubles and three singles), victory was secured with one match to spare and a quarter-final with Greece was the prize, but also a guarantee of a world top eight finish.

A strong Greek team, fielding two girls ranked at the top of the Greek senior players, just had the edge in a competitive match and this was followed by two further spirited performances against Slovakia and Bulgaria confirming eighth place for our English National School Champions.

The team were coached throughout the tournament by Mike Swindles whose insight and encouragement was invaluable to the girls. Mike travelled despite having only two weeks earlier ruptured his achilles! Head of Delegation Mrs Collinson, Head of Girls PE, provided the behind-the-scenes organisation and preparation of the team leading up to and during the event.

Also travelling with the team was Badminton England umpire David Martin who, when not umpiring, became an integral part of the team ensuring, along with the vocal English travelling support, morale was always at a high.

During the event and particularly in the friendly mixed doubles tournament on the last day, many friends were made in a very short time. The standard of badminton was very high from both the schools teams and the elite players, who played a parallel tournament. This was matched by the standard of sportsmanship.

Speaking about their outstanding achievements as a school team, Rachel said "It feels unreal and has been an incredible experience. It has been an honour for us to be a part of both the National and World Championships and it is something we will never forget".



Mr C. Newis



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## Upton High School global citizens making a difference

Our school has a number of international partnerships and has decided to encourage students to be active Global Citizens by taking part in a fundraising activity "in aid of UNICEF". The School is collecting any worldwide current currency in notes or coins and any of the older currency such as the German Marks, Spanish Pesetas, old UK shillings, old UK decimal coins including Ireland, Channel Islands, Scotland, Isle of Man and £5/£2 coins.

The **Cash4Coins** company can turn old money into a valuable donation through their scheme which will turn the money raised in pound sterling. Funds will be donated to help UNICEF support school children in conflict-affected areas around the world and purchase UNICEF school bags. £10 will provide exercise books, pens, pencils, textbooks and other school material to support the education of a child for a whole year.

How many UNICEF school bags can our community purchase?

It is estimated that there is £100 million in old or foreign coins across the UK that can be used for good causes so dig out yours and get it to the school today.

Thank you to parents, students, staff and members of the community who have already contributed to this scheme. If your place of work or your business would like to take out a collection to support our appeal, please get in touch with the school for free collection leaflets and posters.

**Miss S. Beuzit**  
Second Deputy Headteacher



## Shell Bright Ideas Competition

Teams of our pupils have participated in the Shell Bright Ideas National STEM competition to come up with the best idea of how to solve our future energy problems. The pupils had to imagine what it would be like to live in 2050 and use their creativity and ingenuity to plan out and design a realistic solution to meet our future energy demands.

Our Year 9 pupils were: Rhona; Megan; John; Peyo; Tom; Jasmin; Georgia; Vy; Jaycey; Ben; Sam; Tamsin; Jack; Ciara; Daniel; Bryony.

The teams worked really hard and we are very hopeful to be selected to receive a CREST award and money towards supersizing STEM lessons if successful. The winners will be announced at the end May.

Thank you to everyone who took part. Well done!

**Mrs Rogers**  
Physics





Mrs P. Dixon — Headteacher

## Goodbye & Good Luck!

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

As we end this half term we are heading into one of our busiest exam times. We have said our goodbyes to year 13 who are now completing their final exams, after all of their hard work and commitment spanning 14 years of education; what an achievement! I really enjoyed joining them at their Prom and seeing them all in their finery, a lovely occasion.

We are also saying goodbye to year 11 who have reached the end of Key Stage 4, and I look forward to welcoming many of them back in September when they join our Sixth Form. They too have been studying hard and also attending the many extra Exam Briefings provided by their teachers.

Year 12 are currently on study leave but will be back in June to start their A2 studies; they can't escape yet!

I would like to wish all of our year 11, 12 and 13 students the very best of luck with their exams; with continued perseverance, determination and effort I know they will succeed. I look forward to seeing them all on their results' days in August.

We are also preparing to host a wide range of partner primary school taster sessions and activities, as well as, of course, our new intake events and Open Evening. I am delighted that we will be welcoming a full complement of 280 youngsters into our year 7 from September!

During this half term we have had a lot of success across various subjects: in sport, including badminton, fencing and basketball; in music with such excellent exam results and in maths, in particular with the outstanding achievement of one of our Y11 students in the UK Maths' Challenge. All of these are covered in detail in this edition.

We have also held our annual art exhibitions to showcase the fabulous work produced by our GCSE and A level students. I never cease to be amazed by the creativity and originality of our students' work which is always of the highest standard. Congratulations to them all.

With best wishes for a very peaceful and safe half term holiday.

*P. Dixon*

## Cheshire Inter-School Book Quiz

A school team has taken part in the regional book quiz this year, posting some excellent scores for the 6 compulsory reads and the 6 general literature rounds. After 4 rounds we were 11th out of 26 schools, so we now await the final table when every school has submitted their scores from rounds 5 & 6. The team members were Daniel, Rhiannon, Jemma and Anya from Year 8 and Sam from Year 7.

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. Sam, in Year 7, said "I will do it again next year, I've read some great book series this year from reading the quiz books."

The team was presented with some prizes to mark their great effort throughout the year. Special thanks also to Mrs Johns in the English Department for mentoring the team.

**Mr Ryan**  
Learning Hub



## Amazing performance at the British Fencing Championship

One of Year 9 pupils, Elliot, took part in the British Youth Fencing Championships that took place at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield last weekend. He competed in U14 boys foil on Saturday, representing the North West which he qualified for in February.

There were 78 competitors. After the poules Elliot was ranked 25. This gave him a bye into the tableau of 64. His first DE (direct elimination round) was against a lad ranked 40. Elliot won 15-5 and progressed to the final 32. Next DE round he was up against a lad ranked 8th. Elliot won 15-9. Onward to the final 16 and a lad ranked 9th. A really close match, even all the way, but then at 12-12 Elliot took the last 3 points to win 15-12. He was now in the top 8. Everyone left now had stripes (national team members, except Elliot). There were spectators surrounding the pistes, it was so tense, an emotional roller coaster. In the quarter finals he faced a lad who had a fencing style he had not met before. He kept squatting down or charging with his head forward. A very unusual style. Elliot fought really well against him but unfortunately lost 10-15, but still a very commendable result and a great match to watch.



So overall Elliot finished 8th in the British Championships. An amazing achievement! Exhausting and bruising but anyone in the top 8 wins a medal for being a finalist and a certificate. They also automatically qualify for the championships next year!

## Supporting Children in Need

My name is Chanel and I want to thank everyone that took part in helping raise money for Children in Need. I decided to support this charity because it helps children all across the UK and gives them a chance to have a future and to have hope. I was determined to be the first to support this charity at school. I have organised Children in Need for 2 years and as a school we have successfully raised over £1000 both times. I hope after I leave, the school will continue to support this worthwhile charity.

**Chanel - Head Girl Mendes Hall  
Mendes Team & Mrs Melville**



## Outstanding mathematical achievement



Elizabeth (Year 11) recently received a Certificate of Merit from The UK Mathematics Trust for her entry to the Intermediate Kangaroo competition. This placed her within the top 1500 nationally. Mr Biard congratulates her on an outstanding achievement.

Here are a couple of problems that Elizabeth had to solve:

- ◆ What is the largest possible remainder that is obtained when a two-digit number is divided by the sum of its digits?
- ◆ It takes 4 hours for a motorboat to travel downstream from X to Y. To return upstream from Y to X it takes the motorboat 6 hours. How many hours would it take a wooden log to be carried from X to Y by the current, assuming it is unhindered by any obstacles? [Assume that the current flows at a constant rate, and that the motorboat moves at a constant speed relative to the water.]

## More badminton success

Jack and David (Year 12) competed for Cheshire in the U17 Inter County Tournament in April. The boys competed well for Cheshire and did Upton proud. There were 35 counties and 350 players taking part. It was a tiring and very loud event (lots of drums!) with matches going on as late as 10.30pm.

Jack was Cheshire's captain and led the team to 11th place which was a fantastic result as 4 of them were still U15 and 3 of the regular players were competing in Malta.



## D Block wildlife garden

Students from Year 7 to year 13 recently volunteered with Miss Wragg, Environmental Science & Geography Teacher, after school to construct a bug house, tidy and plant in D Block wildlife garden.

In order to increase biodiversity within the wildlife garden, Miss Wragg explained to the students the need to plant native species.

Students are needed for future sessions. If you would like to volunteer to help with the next stage please let Miss Wragg know.



## Hoops star

One of our best young basketball players, Jamie in Year 10, recently played in the National Club Finals for 'Cheshire Wire' at U16 level. The team had an excellent performance in Saturday's semi-final against the Southern League winners. Jamie dominated inside for 22 point, 10 rebounds and 5 assists. Cheshire Wire then narrowly lost to local rivals Manchester Magic in the Final on the Sunday - however it was another great experience, especially playing in front of a big crowd.

Now the season has finally finished, every weekend for Jamie is going to be taken up with either training, playing with Wales and hopefully mixed in with North West England, as he has trials for their U17's team over the next couple of weekends. If successful they have a national tournament against other regions in early September with 14 weekend training sessions to fit in.



## 101 Uses for your Ostrich

The publication of the book '101 Uses for Your Ostrich' was launched on Tuesday 10 May 2016 at Upton High School. Present at the launch of the book was the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, Mr David Briggs, Mr Barrie Hardern, Author of the book, Headteacher Mrs Dixon plus Governor and Addington Fund Trustee Mr David Rowlands.

The book contains plenty of suggestions, ideas and great Ostrich illustrations with contributors to the publication from, amongst others, Upton-by-Chester High School students and staff. Profits from the sale of the book will go to the Addington Fund, a registered farming charity supporting farming families living in England and Wales.

The book costs £5 from the School Shop or via the Addington Fund website:

<http://www.addingtonfund.org.uk/product/101-uses-ostrich/>



## Our musical stars

Here are some of our talented pupils' recent exam results:

Jack (Year 8) Grade 4 Clarinet Merit  
 Emma (Year 11) Grade 6 Piano Merit  
 Stella (Year 12) Grade 8 Piano  
 Charlie (Year 7) Grade 2 Clarinet Merit  
 Holly (Year 11) Grade 6 Saxophone Merit & Grade 7 Flute Merit  
 Hannah (Year 9) Grade 3 Saxophone Merit

**Miss C. Thompson**  
 Head of Music

## His name is Rio!

Upton will have a representative on the water at the Rio Olympics this summer. Former pupil Chris Grube has been selected by Team GB to compete in the Mens 470 sailing event. Team GB lead the way in sailing at the Olympic Games with 55 medals since 1986, including 26 Golds.



The British Olympic Association announced Chris' inclusion in the team at the beginning of May. Chris said "It's been a very long road, now it's finally here it is quite surreal. Even though it is something you have been aiming for ten or more years it's a fantastic opportunity to represent my country at the Olympics, I am very proud to be standing here and able to say that."

Best of luck Chris!



## My visit to The Gunjur Project Lodge, The Gambia

In February half term (18<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017) I will be going to The Gambia, on the West Coast of Africa. The Gunjur Project Lodge is a charity run lodge over there which aims to improve the education and health of local villagers through income generated by the lodge. The lodge provides volunteering opportunities for young adults such as myself to visit and help make a difference to the lives of those living there through community projects.

I am going as part of Live! New Scene Youth Centre's youth council group, the Youth Voice. Live! is a local registered charity, located on Newton Lane; a charity that offers opportunities for children, young adults and adults with and without disabilities to develop independence and promote social skills which greatly improve life prospects. Live! is running the trip to the Gambia as an opportunity for us to experience a different culture and to make a big difference to the lives of young people living in the community in The Gambia, which will be a once in a lifetime experience for me.

In order to raise funds to go towards the cost of the trip, I have decided alongside some of the other youth council members to cycle the distance to The Gambia! In total the distance is approximately 3800 miles. Personally, I will be cycling 540 miles over the course of the summer. I will also have a stall in the Learning Hub on the 30<sup>th</sup> June for the school's Open Evening, so please come along and see me. Any sponsors or donations towards my summer of cycling or the trip in general would be really appreciated and will be going towards a great cause. The income generated by the lodge goes towards improving the education and health of the community as mentioned before, so any donations will make a huge difference to the lives of those living in the Gambia, as well as allowing me to go over there and make a difference through community projects. Please visit my JustGiving page if you would like to donate (details below) or if you would like to sponsor me in person then please email me and we can arrange the details.

Thank you! Justgiving page: <https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/livesvisittothegambia>

**Amy**  
**Lower Sixth Form**



## More honours for Tom Heaton

Tom was an Upton student between 1997 and 2002 and has kept in touch with the school ever since. He officially opened our Multi Use Games Area and was the guest speaker at our GCSE Certificate Evening in 2014. Tom also opened up a garden project at Guilden Sutton Primary School which was in part created by Upton Students. This season Tom was an ever present in goal for Burnley in the Championship, a key factor in them winning automatic promotion back to the Premier League for 2016/17. His excellent form has now been rewarded with a call-up by Roy Hodgson to the preliminary England squad for this summer's European Championships in France.



## Accelerated Reader Scheme

Please can you encourage your child to be regularly reading, especially over the half-term 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/> 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.



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

## Attendance Stars

Here are details of our Star Forms for April & May 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	7y2me	99.6%
	7y3su	99.3%
	7x2me	100%
Year 8	8y3su	98.9%
	8y2me	97.9%
	8x4wo	100%
	8x1ma	99.5%
	8x5yu	98.9%
Year 9	9y1me	99.6%
	9x3wo	99.6%
	9x2su	99.5%
	9y5ma	98.8%
	9x4yu	100%
Year 10	10x4wo	100%
	10y4ma	100%
	10x5yu	100%
Year 11	11x2me	99.6%
	11y1wo	99.6%
	11y2su	98.9%
	11y5yu	98.2%

## Dates for your diary

Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June—Half-term break (school closed)

Tuesday 14th June— Sports Day

Thursday 16th June— Year 12 return from study leave

Thursday 23rd June—New intake evening

Tuesday 28th June—Summer Concert

Thursday 30th June—Summer Open Evening

Friday 1st July—INSET Day (school closed)

Tuesday 19th July— Awards Evening

Wednesday 20th July—Last 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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