



# Upton Voice

Upton-by-Chester High School Newsletter

July 2017

## Year 7 Residential

At the end of June, there was another successful Bushcraft trip, which saw 206 Year 7 students take part in activities such as Wilderness First Aid, Knife Skills, Fire Making, Shelter Building and Tribe's Got Talent! Our students were popular with the local insect population but also with the Bushcraft leaders who were full of praise for the fantastic behaviour, enthusiasm and resilience shown by our students.

Miss Welch gave her verdict 'I am always amazed by the skills and sheer talent that these learning outside of the classroom experiences bring out in our students. On this trip, I have been proud of each and every one of our them. Well Done!'



Upton -by -Chester High School  
St. James Avenue  
Upton  
Chester  
CH2 1NN  
Phone: 01244 981240  
Email: [admin@uptonhigh.co.uk](mailto:admin@uptonhigh.co.uk)  
[www.uptonhigh.co.uk](http://www.uptonhigh.co.uk)



## A Royal Engagement

On June 27th the Duchess of Westminster opened a new building at The Hospice of the Good Shepherd. Lillian from Year 7 was delighted to represent our school at the ceremony and present some flowers to the Duchess.



## Art in the Community

The Art Department has been busy forging links with the local community by donating art work to Upton-by-Chester Library. Both staff and patrons are now able to enjoy the colourful artwork created by our talented students. Anne Jones, the Senior Customer Service Representative, commented that “the artwork looks great and it’s a wonderful addition to the library.”

**Ms Bennett**  
Art



## Oxford University Open Day visit

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June, along with seven other students and accompanied by Mr C. Jones (Higher Education Adviser) and Miss K. Main (Assistant Head of Sixth Form), we travelled to Oxford, where we were fortunate enough to stay overnight in Pembroke College, before attending the Oxford University Open Day on Thursday. We had a fantastic experience visiting the colleges including New College and Mansfield, our personal favourite. We also attended talks in academic departments and spoke to current students who gave a captivating insight into studying at Oxford, and the benefits of attending such a renowned university. Overall, the trip was highly beneficial, and we had a wonderful time!

**Anna and Cécile**  
Year 12



The new garden at  
Pembroke College.



Oxford's Bridge of Sighs



The Radcliffe Camera

## Inspiring Information Advice & Guidance

We have achieved **Stage One of Inspiring IAG** and we are now working towards the full award, **the Quality in Careers Standard**. This is awarded by **Inspiring IAG** which is a Licensed Awarding Body for the national standard. It is a well-deserved achievement that recognises the hard work of all staff.

Our school is now on the way to progressing to stage 2 of the award before gaining the full award.

**Ms Beuzit**  
Second Deputy Headteacher



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

The end of the year has finally arrived and the holidays stretch out before us! This edition of the Upton Voice continues to amaze us – students and staff continue to undertake exciting activities, such as the *Bushcraft* experience for Year 7, and many others besides. So many students and colleagues have put in an extraordinary amount of effort to make these events successful and enjoyable. As always, it's a team effort!

I would like to wish all our readers a restful break and we look forward to seeing you in September.

Best wishes,

**Mr J. Arnull**  
Acting Headteacher

## Speakers for Schools

On July 10th we were delighted to welcome Jason Cotterrell who spoke to our Year 12 Media & Sociology pupils and Year 10 Business students courtesy of Speakers for Schools. Jason is Group Development Director at Exterior Media, an out of home media company engaging UK's urban audiences. 47.4 million people see their adverts every week on London Underground, Buses, Westfield Shopping centre and National Rail.

Mr A. Petty, Social Sciences, commented "In the modern world, business awareness is vital for our students. Jason offered them an invaluable view of the contemporary working world. This has continued the broad based education that is so important to the development of Upton's students."



## Year 9 Students Attend Salters Festival Of Chemistry

Four Year 9 students (Becky, Amelia, Brendan and Nathan) took part in Salters Chemistry Festival at Liverpool University on Friday 7th July. The first part of the day involved an investigation based on chemiluminescence. We did lots of experiments using fluorescent chemical energy. These involved using lots of new equipment like fume cupboards, vacuum pumps, volumetric flasks, pipettes, burettes, magnetic stirrers and a dark room. As well as synthesising chemicals, we carried out the testing of drug store tablets for contamination and worked out the percentage of impurities they contained.

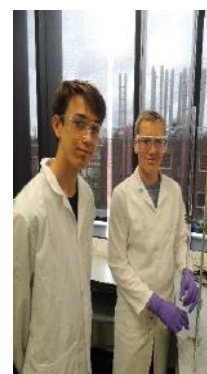
In the afternoon we were given a tour of the campus and took part in a real university lecture, giving us the real feeling of being at university. The day was challenging but interesting because there was new apparatus and we were completely independent and had responsibility for our results and safety. We got to know what it was like to be a chemistry university student and what chemistry can do. These pictures show us working, in our lab coats and goggles. Thank you to Alex and Tolly from Salters and Liverpool University and Mr Bell for organising the visit.

**Amelia & Becky**  
Year 9

Becky working in a fume cupboard.



Nathan and Brendan using a burette.





## Year 7 Cricket Tour to the Isle of Man

Twelve Year 7 students have just returned from a cricket tour to the Isle of Man. A three day visit included 3 games of cricket, a visit to an outdoor adventure centre for an assault course and rock climbing, as well as games of ten-pin bowling.

The action packed tour began with travel by ferry to Douglas before an afternoon match with Castle Rushen High School, Castletown. In an 18 overs game of pairs cricket (with reductions from the score for outs) the boys kept Rushen back to a total of 75. After a steady start to their innings, a run chase led to Upton losing wickets and a total of 43, a loss of 32 runs, with captain Tom G. top scoring with 11.



On the second day, the team visited Ardwhallen Activity Centre for some rock climbing and a go on their assault course on the way to our next match against Ramsey Grammar School in the north of the island. In an idyllic setting with the mountains in the background, a very close game played out. Upton batted first in another game of pairs cricket, this time reaching 48 with top scorer Matthew R. on 11. The innings of Ramsay included 9 wickets being taken, but they managed to hold their nerve on the last ball to reach a total of 52, winning by 4 runs, with Tom GT taking 3 wickets in one over.

The game was followed with a highly competitive visit to the local ten-pin bowling centre which saw a closely fought duel between Mr Owen and Mr Wearden, with the latter coming out the victor. Alongside this, Jack B. emerged as the Isle of Man Ten-pin Champion, closely followed by "Cool Hand" Luke M.



## Year 7 Cricket Tour to the Isle of Man (continued)

On the final day, early morning rain put the final game in doubt, but this cleared and the breeze through the Irish Sea helped to dry the pitch out for our meeting with the Isle of Man Under 12s representative side. The venue was the King William's College in Castletown, which was also our board and lodgings for the tour. After having breakfast and clearing out our rooms, we walked the remaining 100 metres to the pitch, won the toss and put the Isle of Man team into bat to see what they were made of. As it happens they were quite handy and raced to 100 in around 15 overs! Unable to find a breakthrough, Upton played well to peg the Manxmen back to 148 from 20 overs of regular play. The boys battled hard to score their runs and made an impressive start. However, wickets began to fall and as they did, our strength in batting diminished through the order, leaving captain Tom GT our best scorer with an admirable 34, assisted briefly by Tom GR with 9. Eventually, Upton were all out for 62, losing by 86 runs.



After a quick stop in Douglas, there was only time left to attack Tesco for some much needed sugar before our journey home. On the way back we were able to complete a presentation ceremony for King Pin Jack B., Bowler of the Tour – Sam C. and Batsman of the Tour – Tom GT. Player of the Tour went to Sam T. for his heroics behind the stumps in two games where very few byes were conceded despite Sam having never undertaken the role before.

We may have lost all three games, but we came on this trip not just to play cricket, but to visit a new location, go on an overseas trip and spend some fun times getting to know and make new friends. The boys were excellently behaved and had a fantastic time, being a credit to their school and families. A special thanks to Mr Owen for agreeing to come on the trip, these being his last few days at Upton before his departure to his new school, we wish him all the best.

**Mr Wearden**  
PE Department



DAVID WALLIAMS

## A letter from David Walliams

As part of the new GCSE English, students are required to write formal and informal letters. My Year 10 class had the challenge of writing a letter to a person they admired. Yasmin said that I would be giving the class "false hope" as they wouldn't get a response if the letters were sent.

How wrong Yasmin was. David Walliams has sent a speedy reply (they usually take three months—we thought it might arrive over the summer holidays). We are both really pleased that he sent a reply with a signed photograph.

**Mrs Johns**  
English



David Walliams  
Troika Talent  
10A Christina Street  
London  
EC2A 4PA

Dear Yasmin

Many thanks for taking the time to write to me.

I'm glad to hear that you enjoy my comedy and that I make you laugh. It's also very nice to hear that I inspire you.

I hope you enjoyed this years Britain's Got Talent.

With love

*David Walliams*

David Walliams



## Sports Update

We held our annual Sports Day in excellent weather on Thursday 15th June. A big well done to all pupils who took part, your efforts and commitment to performing for your Forms and Halls was tremendous to watch. Your positive behaviour really helped the day run smoothly, so thanks!

A huge thank you to our brilliant helpers; Year 8, Year 10 pupils and staff who did an amazing job for us, and made it, dare I say it, our best SPORTS DAY EVER! The winning hall overall was Wood Hall.



On June 26th we took a team to the Chester School Athletics at Coleg Cambria. Our Senior Girls led the way with a fantastic 1st place, Year 9 Boys took 2nd place., Senior Boys 3rd place, and there was success in the Shot for Katie and Mac.



This year's Sports People of the Year were Jamie (basketball), Sapphira (netball) and Brogen (dancer). Congratulations to all three!

Five girls from Year 7 recently represented our school at the Cheshire School Games, with Halle chosen as the spokesperson for the Athletes pledge.





## Year 11 Prom

Our students from Year 11 celebrated the end of their GCSE examinations with a Leavers' Prom. The Grosvenor Hotel and Spa in Pulford was the venue for the evening as staff and students came together to say their goodbyes. A significant number of students will continue into Sixth Form, with others moving on to college courses, apprenticeships and the armed forces.

Acting headteacher Jon Arnall said: "It is a pleasure to provide this opportunity for students to celebrate the end of an era. "They have worked extremely hard in the build up to their exams and it is now time for them to relax and enjoy themselves. We are looking forward to some excellent results later in the summer."

Staff at the hotel praised the conduct of the students, stating they were the best behaved and most polite Prom group they had ever hosted.





## School Uniform

The summer holiday is inevitably a time when many parents replace and renew school uniform. I would like to particularly draw your attention to girls' skirts. Over the year your child will have grown but their school uniform has not. This includes their skirt- which now appears significantly shorter than it was when they first had it in September. We expect school skirts to be within 10cm of the knee, and please ensure that your daughter has a skirt of the appropriate length. I would encourage you not to purchase tight fitting stretchy skirts, which are relatively fashionable at the moment, as these are not permissible as they are prone to looking very short as your child grows during the year.

In addition I would ask you to ensure that you purchase shoes which meet our uniform policy, you can check which shoes are suitable on the school website or in your child's planner, however, trainers are not allowed.

<http://www.uptonhigh.co.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=59>

Thank you for your continued support of our high standards of dress.

**Mrs Hitchen**  
Deputy Headteacher

## Music Instrumental Success

Here are the excellent results from the latest music instrumental exams. A magnificent achievement by Rebecca in Year 12 who achieved Grade 8 Distinction in **Clarinet**. Rebecca gained an amazing 137 out of 142. Well done Rebecca!

### Clarinet:

Cecile - Grade 8 Merit  
Amelia - Grade 1 Pass  
Emily - Grade 1 Pass

### Voice:

Anna - Grade 2 distinction

### Flute:

Vy - Grade 3 Pass  
Alex - Grade 4 Distinction  
Joe – Grade 3 Distinction  
Madeleine – Grade 3 Pass

## Activ4 Boardroom Indoor Climbing Wall Visit

During Activ4 we took a total of 48 Year 7 and Year 8 students to The Boardroom Indoor Climbing Wall in Queensferry. The attendees took part in a one and a half hour "Introduction To Rock Climbing" lesson. Although one or two students had already attended The Boardroom, it was a chance for many to have their first taste of this exhilarating sport. Many thanks to Mr Skilling and Mr Eunson with assisting Mr Bell on the visits.

## Dates for your diary

Thursday 17th August—AS & A2 Results

Thursday 24th August—GCSE Results

Monday 4th & 5th September—Inset Days (no pupils in school)

Wednesday 6th September—First day of term

Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November—Half term break

Friday 22nd December—Last day of term



Ruben tackles the Psicobloc



Students ready for action!

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

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

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