



Upton Voice

Upton-by-Chester High School Newsletter

October 2017

Welcome To Our New Home

During the summer holidays the Support Department was relocated from the first floor in A block to D block. Staff from the Support Department volunteered over a 160 hours in August to clean, decorate and set-up the new department.

On Tuesday 5th September, the new Support Dept. was officially opened by our SEN Governor Paul Ivison during our housewarming party. Staff, students and parents were invited to the party to view our brand new facilities & home.

The Support Dept. is now located on the ground floor, with its own toilets, water fountain, kitchen, teaching rooms and garden. This allows us to be fully accessible for all students with additional needs who need support during the school day.

Our next big project is to create a sensory garden in the old wildlife garden, further enriching the teaching and lives of the students who need support the most.

Miss A. M. Farnin
SENCO



Macmillan Coffee Morning

On September 29th the Support Department held a coffee morning raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Both staff and students were invited to partake in coffee/tea with a delightful selection of cakes for a small donation. The total amount raised so far is £140.



Upton -by -Chester High School
St. James Avenue
Upton
Chester
CH2 1NN
Phone: 01244 981240
Email: admin@uptonhigh.co.uk
www.uptonhigh.co.uk

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

Staff and students have had a productive and meaningful eight weeks with lots of exciting events and initiatives and, of course, settling in to hard work! I am also delighted to report that the new Year 7s have had a great start to the year and settled quickly. The autumn term is extremely important in establishing good habits which stand students in good stead as the year progresses.

This edition of the Upton Voice demonstrates the enthusiasm and commitment of teachers and students to experience a range of enriching activities; I hope you enjoy reading it!

We hope all our families have a peaceful and restful half-term break.

Best wishes,

Mr J. Arnall
Acting Headteacher

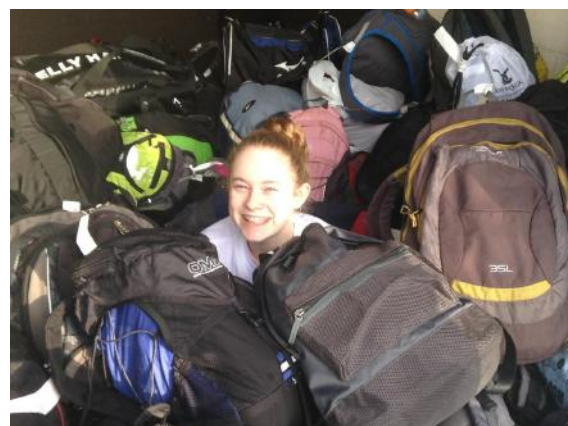
Volunteers at the Chester Marathon

Students volunteered at the recent Chester Marathon, Chester Metric Marathon & Fun Run and were responsible for collecting in and returning over 6,000 bags.

Welcoming runners and being on baggage drop/reclaim requires special skills including tact, patience & intuition. The physically demanding task was completed efficiently, with good humour and without any horsing around despite the storage location being the stables at the racecourse!

The students rose to the challenge and were true ambassadors for our school, the marathon organisers and the City of Chester. In recognition of the pupil's hard work, the organisers donated £250 to the school's Oxfam Youth Group which will go towards one of their global campaigns.

Mrs Smale said 'It was lovely to hear the positive feedback from the runners about our student volunteers. They really were a credit and truly demonstrated the Upton way.'



Following the Upton Way!

310 staff and students decided to brave the threat of Storm Brian and the annual reward trip to Alton Towers Scarefest departed Chester early on Saturday morning. The risk was worth it as the weather forecast turned out to be wrong and although it was cold, the rain in Chester never made it to Staffordshire. Many of our Year 8 and 9 had never been before and excitement levels were high.

As usual it was amazing to see our students interacting with each other across forms and year groups. Walking around the park seeing them laughing and having fun made the day so worthwhile. Our students are a credit to both the school and their parents and we look forward to taking them on the next reward visit.

Miss A. McLean
Wood Hall Leader



Success in a prestigious Oxford University Essay Prize

Congratulations to Connie in Year 13, who has received an award for being runner-up for the Tyler Essay Prize, Science Category, from Pembroke College, Oxford University. Connie's prize and certificate were presented to her at the Tyler Essay Celebration at Pembroke College on the 15th September by Dr. Nicholas Cole, Senior Research Fellow in History at the College.



Feedback received from the University said that Connie has a 'very clear writing style' and commented that her essay was a 'well written piece, a real joy to read' and was 'very well researched, with a good number of sources and with all points and numbers backed by solid citations'.



Connie is currently studying Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology for her A Levels and is applying to go to Cambridge University to study Medicine there next September.

We wish her all the very best in her endeavours!

PTA Curry & Quiz Night

On October 12th we hosted the annual Curry & Quiz night. This is always an enjoyable evening for the whole family and an important fundraiser for the PTA. Guests enjoyed a fun quiz, including a music round, and a delicious curry.



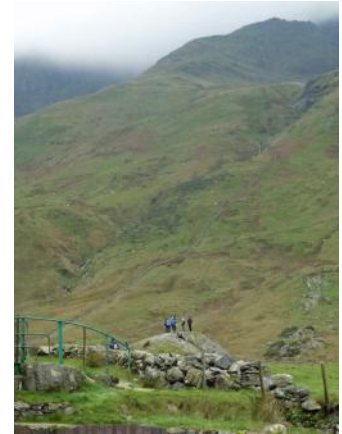
Geography - The Great Outdoors

This term lower and upper sixth geographers have been to the Ogwen Valley, North Wales with the latter collecting primary data for their independent investigations. Students had the opportunity to take a tour around the cwm and admire the huge u-shaped valley. Orientation of corries, striations and till deposits were all collected to help prove the direction of ice flow in the region.

On Friday 27th upper sixth geographers will visit Liverpool to collect data on the regeneration of The Central Business District. Students will have a bespoke tour of Liverpool One by staff and then collect data on land use as well as interviewing shoppers on their perceptions of the regeneration project.

With data collection complete, students will start writing up their investigations after the half term break.

Mrs Mitchell
Head of Geography



The Future is Bright, the Future is Green

Students and staff are delighted to be re-accredited with the Eco-Schools Green Flag International Award for the third time. The award has been given 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 generated from recycling projects, 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. They looked after me so well. Well done and keep up the great work."

Students were also congratulated for the way they managed to involve the whole school and the wider community both locally and internationally. The school has strong links with partner schools across the world and the Eco-Schools assessor thought "it was very interesting to see the results of a global environment survey involving schools in Yemen, Sri Lanka and Russia."

Amelia in Year 10 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. I am so pleased we received this International award as we worked so hard to achieve this result." Isabel, Nicole and Callum also said they felt proud that the school had received this award for the third time. Jack in Year 8 added that he was excited to be a member of the team and was looking forward to future community and international projects.



Awards Evening

On Tuesday 18th July we held our annual Awards Evening. This is always a special occasion which recognises the hard work and excellence of our pupils. Our special guest was Mr Gareth Boldsworth, Head of Sales at Lego Education International. Mr Boldsworth spoke about creativity and audience members were given a small packet of Lego upon arrival to demonstrate their creativity with the Lego duck challenge.

Full lists of Subject & Special Award winners can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/uptonawards2017>

Congratulations everyone on your awards!



Filmclub

Filmclub begins again on Monday November 6th and will take place in the Learning Hub on Mondays after school until 4.20pm (until the Easter break). Into Film is a national charity, working with over 7,000 schools enabling pupils to be united, inspired and educated via the exhilarating world of film.



Members of the club will receive a membership card, lanyard, and a login for the Filmclub website (<https://www.intofilm.org/clubs/>). There are also certificates and prizes for the best reviews at our club. In addition to watching a range of films, members will be able to post reviews on the website, enter national competitions, download resources, and suggest films for the club to watch in the future. Members can also work towards the Into Film Silver Filmbuff Award by watching and reviewing a selection of films from a specially curated list.



Anyone interested should collect a permission letter from the Learning Hub.

Mr Ryan
Learning Hub

Ms Tobias shines at World Rowing Championships

Ms Tobias (Head of Year 11) recently competed at the World Rowing Championships in Slovenia. She very kindly provided the following report from the event.



"The World Rowing Masters Regatta is held annually and moves from country to country each year. It is open to rowers 27 years of age and older. Rowers race in age categories starting at 'A' for those with a minimum age of 27. The categories continue through to 'K' for crews with an average age of 85 or more.

This year the World Rowing Masters Championships was held on Lake Bled, Slovenia. It had a record number of entries from all over the world, with over 4,700 athletes being registered, 1000 boats being used and 900 races taking place! Bled has hosted many rowing events in the past, including the World Rowing Championships (FISA) in 1966, 1979, 1989 and 2011. Bled also hosted the World Rowing Cup in 2010 and 2015 to name but a few. So it felt both exciting and overwhelming to be competing on a lake that great athletes have also competed on.



Preparation for this prestigious event started back in November 2016, when myself and three other members of Grosvenor Rowing Club decided that we would set our sights on the World Rowing Masters Championships. We would be racing in a quad, a boat for four people who propel the boat by sculling with two oars, one in each hand. The full crew arrived in Bled on Thursday 7th Sept, in preparation for our first race on Friday. On arrival at the 'rowing village', the atmosphere was incredible, with former Olympians and thousands of athletes from all over the world competing at this fabulous location.

Our first race on the 1000m course, was on Friday 8th. We went out on the lake an hour before the race, to warm up and practice our start. This gave us the opportunity to settle our nerves and get used to the conditions on the lake. Our first race went well, coming fourth ahead of Germany, Norway and Switzerland. However, we knew that this was not our best and that we could perform better and deliver a great deal more. Saturday was the D quad final. We knew that this would be a tough race, as we had seen our opposition the previous day and had already competed against one of the crews. However, we felt strong and confident and knew we were in a strong position.



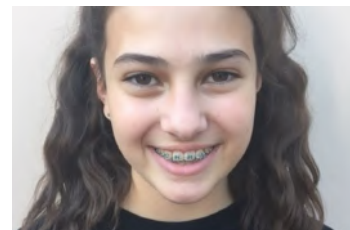
An hour before the final, we proceeded to the lake and took to the water. The conditions had become 'choppy' as the wind picked up and blew across the lake. This made steering a little tricky, but we knew that all crews would be experiencing the same issues. We attached ourselves to start line and waited, poised, ready for the Marshal's "GO!" we were off! By 500m we had everything to play for, we were neck and neck with France and Germany, Denmark were marginally ahead. With the last 250m to go, I called for our final push to the finish line. As we flew over the finish the 'pips' sounded consecutively, one after the other, we were unsure who had silver or bronze? Unfortunately, we missed 3rd place by a 10th of a second.

Despite not returning with a medal, the experience of competing at the World Championships was truly fabulous and one that I will cherish well into my old age!"

Performing Arts success

Lucy (Year 9) has been awarded a scholarship to attend a part-time theatre school for a year with The Stage newspaper, the oldest and most prestigious performing arts publication in the UK. She has been selected as the winner in a recent competition and will be awarded a year's free tuition, which equates to more than 100 hours of exceptional performing arts training worth up to £800. The scholarship is in association with part-time theatre school Razzamataz Chester, which is part of a national network of schools that have been offering scholarships with The Stage since 2010.

For Lucy's winning entry, she decided to perform a dance to show off her talents. The judges were particularly impressed with the way she performed to the camera and really showed how much she wanted to win! Principal of Razzamataz Chester, Chloe Lee, said: "We are delighted for Lucy and look forward to helping her grow her natural talent with the help of our highly skilled performing arts teachers. Lucy displayed a huge amount of passion, drive and raw talent which we couldn't wait to work with."



Lucy said: "It means a lot to me that I've won this scholarship; having this opportunity means I can build up my performing arts skills and I am determined to work very hard at this. I can't wait to meet new friends who have the same interests as me."



In other performing arts news, congratulations to former pupil Evan, who starred as Ariel in Tip Top's production of "Return to the Forbidden Planet" in September at Theatr Clwyd.

Mock Council of the European Union

On the 15th of September, Rachel and Sarah (Year 13) were invited to attend the EU Mock Council preliminary round in Manchester. They took part in a workshop to enhance their debating skills and then participated in a competitive debate around the topic of freedom of movement in the EU.

The girls had the following to say about their experience:

'I learnt new skills in navigating a debate and my confidence level grew as the day progressed. I think this experience will benefit me greatly in the future' – Rachel

'I learnt a new style of competitive debating, which really highlighted how beneficial the skills of debating can be in other aspects of life.' – Sarah

'We would both like to thank Mrs Vianello for chaperoning and supporting us on the day, we really enjoyed it and look forward to the next debate.'



Upton JuJitsu Club



Please contact us to arrange a free taster session

Opens 7th Nov Tuesday 6-8pm

Gymnasium
Upton High School
St James Avenue
Chester, CH2 1NN

Learn self defence
Respect & discipline
Build confidence
Meet new people

Children 10+ including adults

Sensei Aaron (head of club) - 07732122347
Sensei Gill (head of association) - 07751769279




COMMUNITY SPORTS AND LEISURE CENTRE

UPTON-BY-CHESTER HIGH SCHOOL FACILITY HIRE

OPENING TIMES
Mon - Fri 6pm - 10pm
Sat - Sun 8am - 10pm
Open all year round

Main Hall	£30	Multi Purpose Room	£20
Gymnasium	£25	Dining Room	£20
Dance Studio	£25	LRC/Library	£25
Drama Studio	£25	Conference Room	£18
Tarmac Games Area (Floodlit)	£20	Classrooms	£17
Activity Studio	£20	Specialist Classrooms (e.g. Art/Cookery)	£18

PITCH RATES	Hourly Rate			Future Rate	
	Full	Third	1hr	1.5hr	2hr
Astro Turf Pitch (Floodlit)	£55	£30	N/A	N/A	N/A

Prices are per hour unless stated otherwise and may be subject to V.A.T. - Events may be charged more - for up to date prices, see our website.

Visit our website for more information about facilities and 'What's on' at this venue.

WWW.UPTONHIGH.SCHOOLBOOKINGS.CO.UK

BOOK YOUR FACILITY
Contact your SLS manager to enquire about facility hire.

 uptonhigh@schoollettings.org

 **01244 439 066**

FOLLOW US ONLINE

 [SLSatUptonHigh](#)
 [@UptonHighSLS](#)



Dates for your diary

- Thursday 9th November — GCSE Presentation Evening
- Tuesday 5th December — Christmas Concert
- Thursday 21st December — A Level Celebration Evening
- Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November — Half-Term Break
- Friday 22nd December — Last day of term
- Monday 8th January — First day of term
- Thursday 11th January — Year 8 Parents Evening
- Wednesday 17th January — Sixth Form Open Evening
- Wednesday 31st January — Year 11 Parents Evening
- Wednesday 7th February — Year 9 Parents Evening
- Monday 12th-Thursday 15th February — School Production
- Monday 12th-Friday 16th February — Sixth Form Charity Week
- Monday 19th-Friday 23rd February — Half-Term Break

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

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

Follow us on twitter @UptonVoice

