

Termly newsletter from Upton-by-Chester High School

# UPTON voice

DECEMBER 2022

*Creative Writing*  
Competition Winners

**A DAY IN THE LIFE  
OF YEAR 10 WEX**

**Learner Leadership  
Award**

 **AUTUMN TERM  
SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS**

**Duke of Edinburgh Award**

 **Oxfam  
Youth Group**

**ENGAGE @ UPTON**  
**ROBOTICS**  
**GOLF STARZ**

Professional  
artist's workshop

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE  
**LITTLE SHOP OF  
HORRORS**

**Peer Mentoring**

**6TH FORM VISITS**

 **DOMINICA**  
**SNOWDONIA**  
**LIVERPOOL**



# CONTENTS

## ENGAGE @ UPTON

Each term we will feature different clubs in our Engage@Upton program. Our editorial team have been to Robotics Club and Golf Starz this time. See what it's all about on pages 4 & 5

## TRIPS & VISITS

There have been a number of exciting visits this term both in the UK and abroad.

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

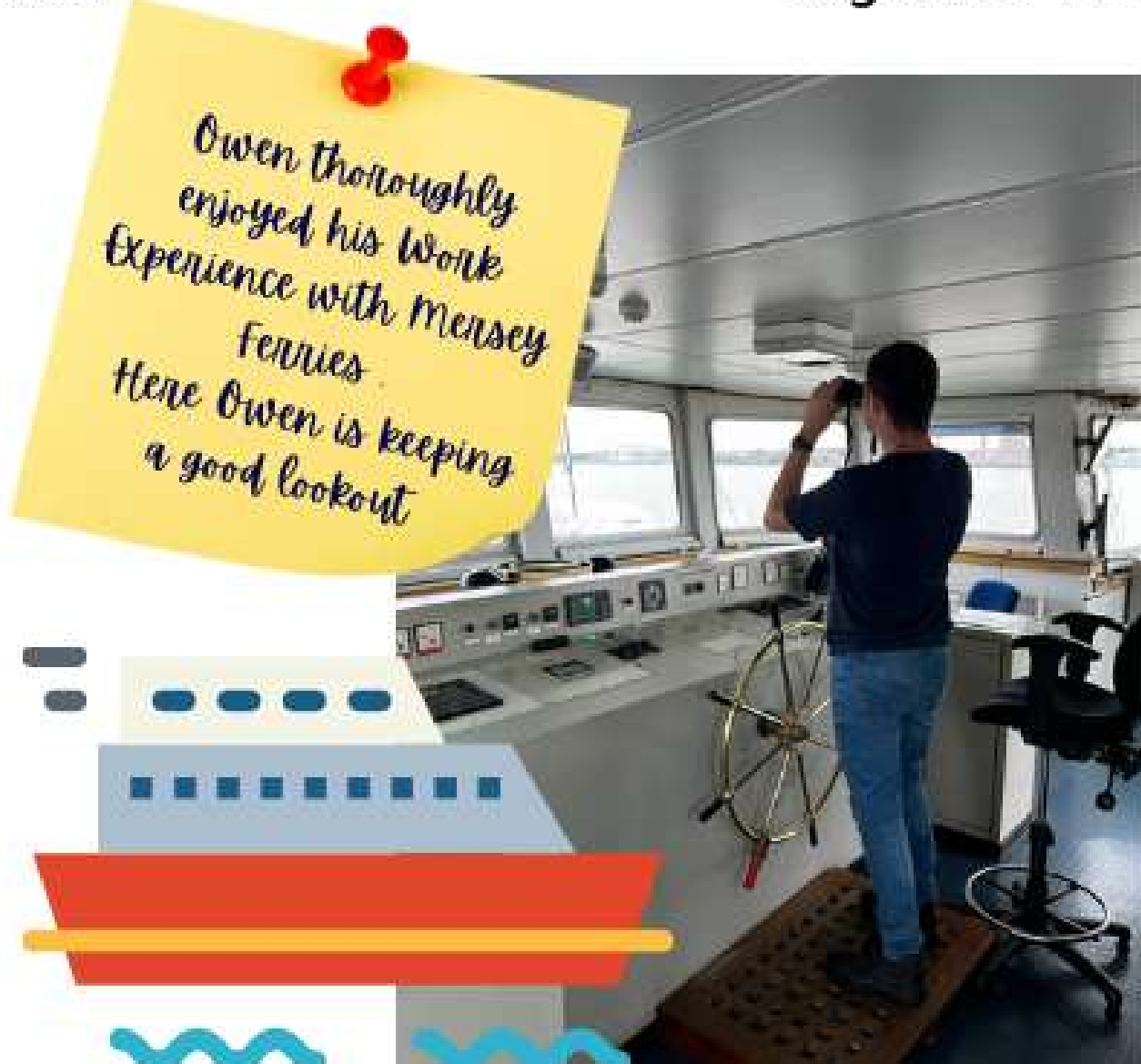
In October all Year 10 learners undertook a week's work experience. A couple of the Year 10 learners show you what they got up to. We also hear from some teachers about their work experience at school as well as Mr Cummins' views. Pages 22 - 25

## COMMUNITY

Many departments in school lead initiatives to connect the learners with the local community as well as the wider world. Some of these groups are celebrated here on pages 26 - 35

## SPORT

The PE dept. ensure that all learners have access to a range of sports both as part of the curriculum and through local and national competitions. Read about some of the many sporting successes this year on pages 40 - 43





# Editor's notes

The Upton Voice is a celebration of the amazing extra-curricular activities that go on here at Upton-by-Chester High School.

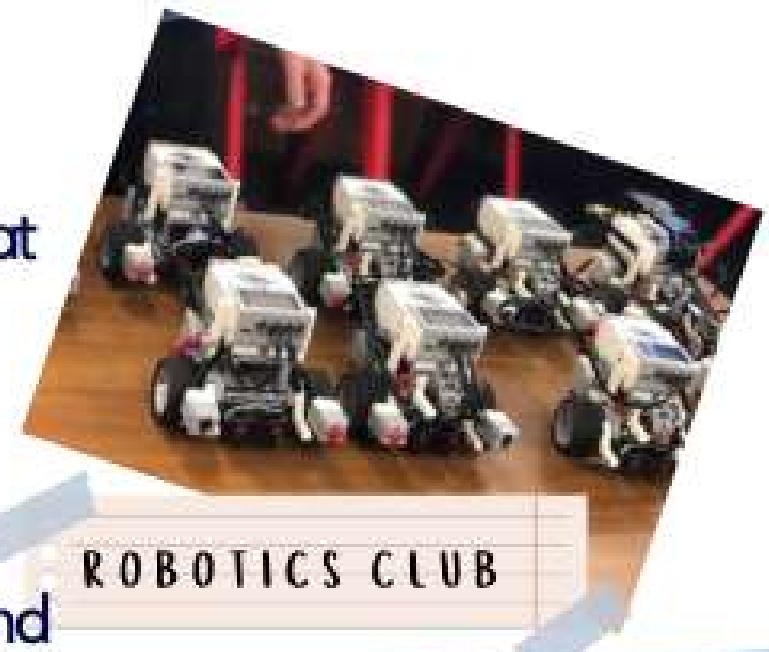
The pages have been put together by a group of Year 10 and Lower 6th learners. We have made it our mission to live up to the name 'Upton Voice' and hear from the learners and staff to give you an insight into the last term.

Some highlights include a look behind the scenes at the upcoming school production 'Little Shop of Horrors', the science trip to Dominica during the summer holidays and the many sporting achievements of our learners.

We would like to say a massive thanks to all the staff who have helped contribute to the Upton Voice either by running a club, a school trip or sending us photos and articles.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition.

Ms Seery & the editorial team



ROBOTICS CLUB



SCUBA DIVING IN DOMINICA



GOLD DOVE

Meet the Team!





# Engage *Robotics club*

One example of engage at Upton's computing clubs is our Robotics club. Every Friday learners from all year groups are welcome to spend time in the computer rooms. Here they will be able to create and programme robots, use websites such as scratch and more advanced resources or play educational games using the school's devices.

“ It's fun! You can code new things with your own robotics to the best quality you can. ”

George

“ We use simple programmes like Scratch and Spike, but there are also more advanced resources for older years! ”

Sophie



All with the supervision and guidance of one of Upton-by-Chester High schools computing teachers, currently, this is Mr Nugent. This club provides a wonderful opportunity for learners to expand their current knowledge of programming whilst having fun with friends.





# Engage *Golf Starz!*

Words and images  
by Grace (Y10)

To “Tee” off, imagine the amusement of adventure golf intertwined with the expertise and prowess of The British Open. A blend of ‘putting, chipping and long shots’ melded with lively games and “Caddies” of fun. This is your opportunity to improve from a beginner to a ‘GolfStar’!



“ We focus on different things including putting, chipping, long shots and fun games! ”



“ GolfStarz has developed my skills! ”

If you don't yet know your “bogeys” from your “birdies”, Wednesday after-school is the time for you! GolfStarz provides a chance to develop skills, connect with new friends and learn more about the sport. With high quality instruction and access to incredible school facilities, every attendee leaves feeling “Masters” of golf and with an improved sense of their own ability. One of the instructors commented that “it's a really good club for afterschool, it is always different”, a club member added ‘I enjoy what we do, doing the golf, and the driving range!’.



# OTHELLO

OCTOBER 2022

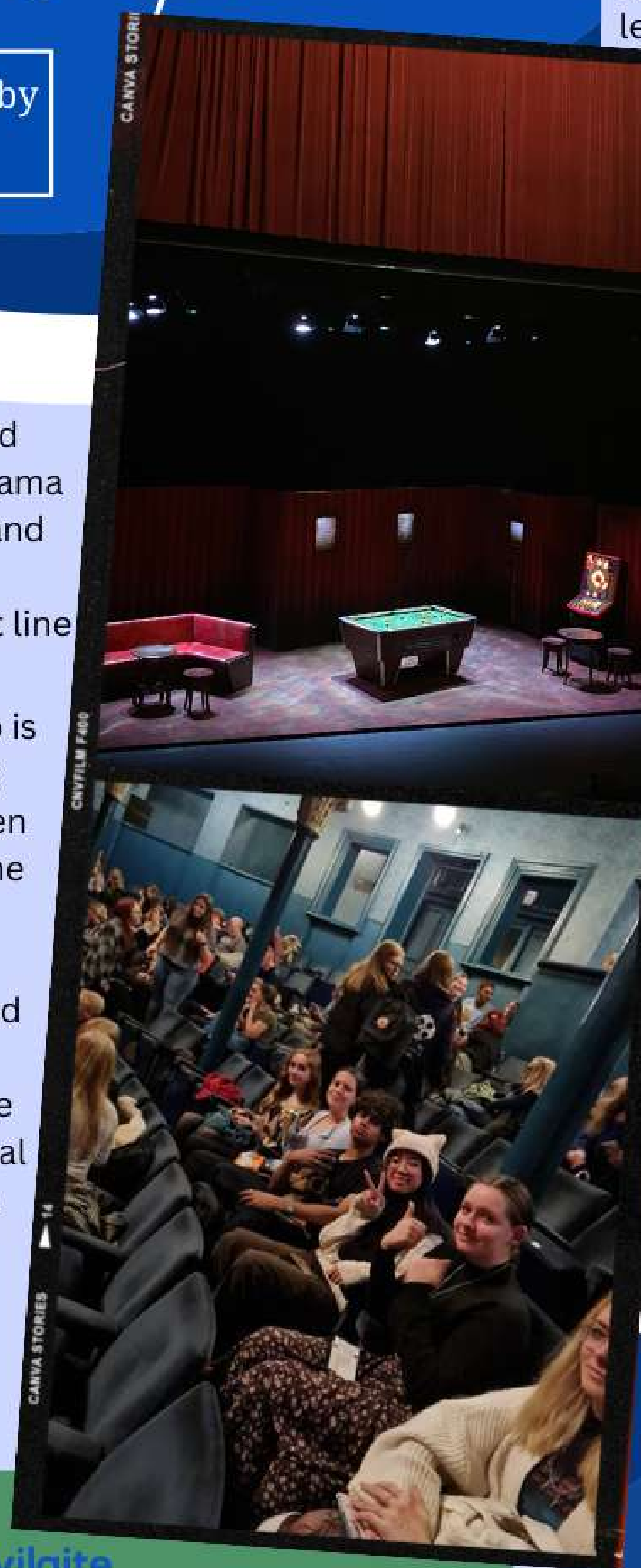
## *Sixth Form English Trip!*



Words and design by  
Daisy G (Y12)

In October, the Sixth Form English Literature learners, including myself, got a great chance to watch the Shakespeare play 'Othello' performed in the Liverpool Everyman theatre. This particular version was created by Frantic Assembly, a physical theatre company that many drama learners may also study at A-Level. Their integration of dance and movement brought to life the Shakespeare text; by using modernised characters within a pub setting they made the plot line much easier to follow, whilst keeping to the original text.

This trip was valuable for A-Level Literature learners as Othello is one of the main tragedy texts studied in Lower Sixth. One thing I really enjoyed, was the unique way that the set was used. When we arrived at the theatre in Liverpool, I was intrigued by how the story of Othello would fit into a pub environment, with a pool table centre stage, tables and chairs, an entrance to toilets and an arcade game at the side. I was certainly not disappointed as throughout the play the set was used in incredible ways to advance the plot and create moments of surprise, like when the pub walls were flipped inside out during scene changes to reveal a street with graffiti covered brick walls and a huge rubbish bin in the centre. One of my favourite parts was when the walls of the pub moved with the character Cassio, demonstrating his drunken state as he fell into them and they fell with him, following his movement in such a clever and comical way.



“ Miss Radvilaite

An immensely enjoyable production. The performances, music, and choreography were all great, but what shone the most was the creative use of staging. From the illusion of egalitarianism within a pub, to the fluid walls which mirrored Othello's disintegrating psyche, the setting felt like a silent cast member in itself.

”



Afterwards, the group were fortunate enough to stay for a Q&A session with the Actors and Director of the play. This was an amazing opportunity to learn more about the production, rehearsal process and elements the Actors loved most about being a part of the cast in Othello. Michael Akinsulire, who played Othello, revealed that he had never performed on stage before so this was his first time being a part of a professional theatre production and a huge learning curve. The Director, Scott Graham explained where the concept for the unique setting choice originated. He had been working on a film shooting project located in a pub whilst reading Othello because of a recommendation from a fellow theatre friend. Overall, the learners enjoyed the whole experience as it was a very engaging trip that brought the text studied in class to life.



“

**Lydia - Lower 6th**

I thoroughly enjoyed the Othello theatre trip. I liked the way the “Frantic Assembly” theatre company kept the Shakespearean style script, however the setting and the characters were modernised which made it more entertaining. I feel that the trip was really useful and will benefit my English Literature studies!

”

“

**Miss Willliams**

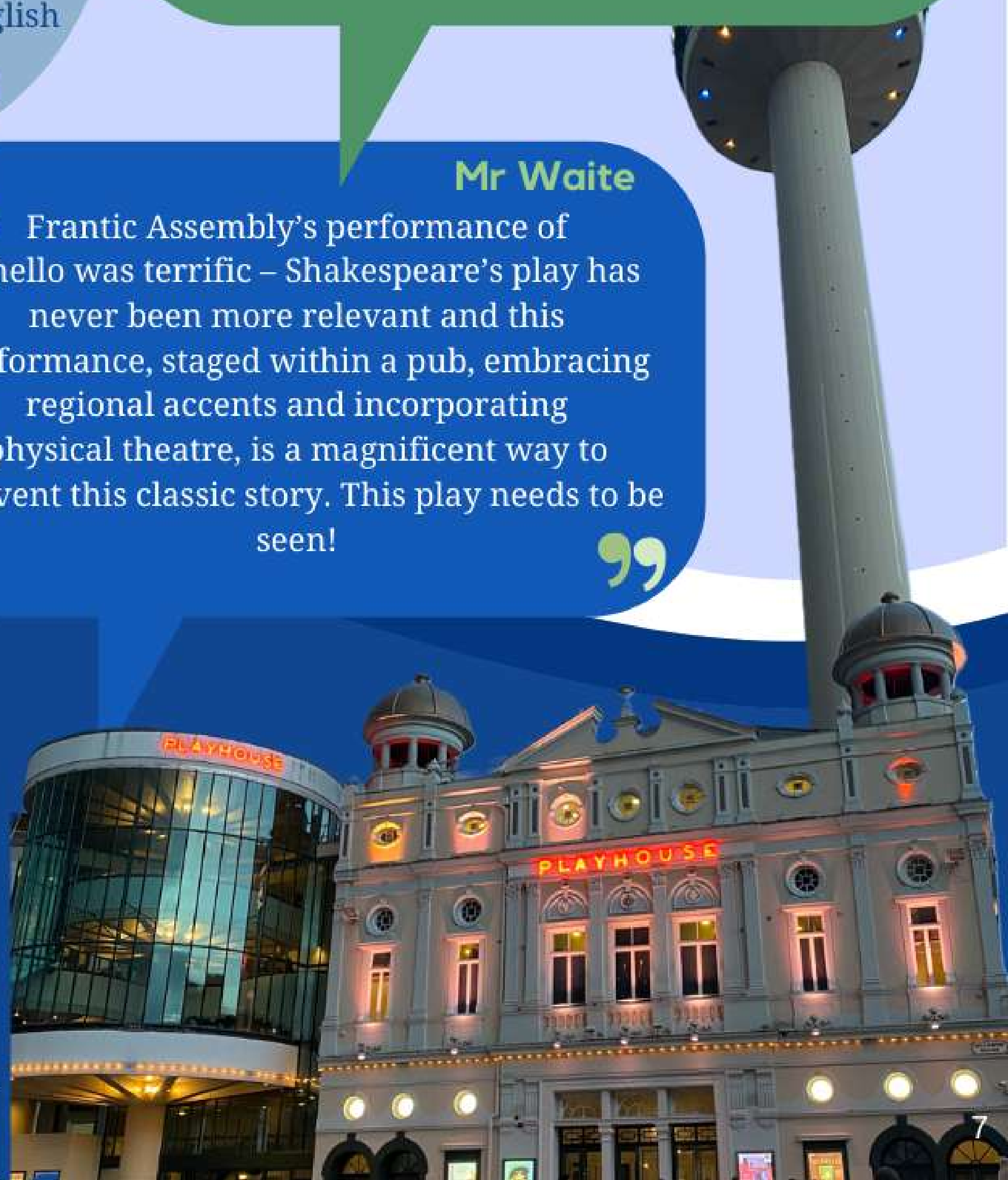
An explosive and contemporary version of Othello. It handled the themes of the play exceptionally well, making them even more relevant and understood in today's world, particularly with the idea of misinformation. The audience truly were immersed from start to finish with moments where there were collective gasps of exhalation followed by stunned silences. Perfection!

”

“

**Mr Waite**

Frantic Assembly's performance of Othello was terrific – Shakespeare's play has never been more relevant and this performance, staged within a pub, embracing regional accents and incorporating physical theatre, is a magnificent way to reinvent this classic story. This play needs to be seen!

”



# Ian Murphy Artist

## Art Department

Article from Ms French &  
Beatriz C (Y13)

On the last day of September, learners spent the day immersed in Ian Murphy's artwork and process as the Art Department welcomed him back with pleasure for the second year of his exciting workshop. Murphy is an established artist who produces architectural mixed media pieces informed by his extensive travels.

The day began with Year 11, 12 and 13 learners greeted with countless pieces, from sketches to paintings spread across the tables of the art rooms. He talked through his sketchbooks and artworks, simultaneously sharing his trips, before moving on to insightful tutorials. Those in attendance were introduced to different ways of preparing surfaces as he demonstrated new drawing techniques, all whilst being encouraged to improve their observational skills. As a result of the workshop, each learner produced two A3 sketches and one large scale A1 piece, all of which were applications of methods learnt from Murphy. It was an enjoyable experience for learners and teachers alike, and the outcomes were impressive.

“He talked through his sketchbooks and artworks. Simultaneously sharing his trips, before moving on to insightful tutorials.”

Beatriz C - Upper 6th





# Workshop

30th September 2022



“ It was a fantastic day.  
Having the opportunity to see Ian's  
artwork first hand and be able to  
work with different techniques on a  
large scale has inspired and  
enthused them.”

Ms. French - Head of Art





# LEARNERS TAKING INSPIRATION



## WHAT THE LEARNERS THOUGHT!

“

The school trip was good  
- I enjoyed sketching in  
the art galleries!

”

Freya F - Lower Sixth

“

The school trip was really  
good! I enjoyed all the galleries  
we visited, and overall, I  
thought it was a nice change of  
pace from the usual lessons.

”

Alex T - Lower 6th

“

It was a fun and  
productive day. I enjoyed  
visiting new places and using  
my photography skills.

”

Saffron H - Lower Sixth

Wri

OUR LOWER 6TH FORM  
LEARNERS FOUND THIS  
OPPORTUNITY TO HELP THEM  
IN CLASS, SEEING A VARIETY  
OF DIFFERENT ART GENRES.



# LIVERPOOL ART TRIP

October 2022

## — SIXTH FORM

ON OCTOBER 19TH, YEAR 12  
ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY  
LEARNERS ACCOMPANIED  
MISS FRENCH & MR PREST TO  
LIVERPOOL!



### ★ MISS FRENCH - Head of Art

First on the agenda was The Open Eye Gallery on Mann Island, a contemporary studio space for photography and community projects which challenge stereotypes and social perceptions. Liverpool Tate had some exciting contemporary art on display, challenging learner's perspectives. There was also an exhibition by British painter JMW Turner, which centred around the sea and ships, with sketchbooks and watercolours on display which had been made on Turner's visit to New Brighton in 1831. A slow walk through the architecturally rich city of Liverpool afforded learners with the opportunity to take photographs of contemporary and classical architecture to use later in their work. Finally, a trip around the Walker Gallery, looking at the permanent collection of John Moore's Art Prize winning works along with 18th and 19th century paintings, again opened learner's eyes to the vast and rich collection of art that Liverpool has on offer.



# SCIENCE TRIP

## Dominica

July 2022

In July 2022, we had a once in a lifetime, two week expedition to the Nature Island in Dominica. This was supervised by a conservation organisation called Operation Wallacea, who work in numerous places around the world. Recently they partnered with like-minded people to drive the reforestation of mangroves in the Bay of Fonseca, Honduras. Also, just north of there, the restoration of mangroves will protect the coastal communities of Sian Ka'an from devastating storm damage

Week one of our expedition was spent on their terrestrial site participating in biological studies with specialised experts. We used techniques like flight intercept traps and sweep nets to contain bird species (however, the speedy hummingbird ever eluded us), in order to measure their wings, beaks and tails. Bear in mind this is only one example, we also conducted similar research on anoles, insects, and the habitats themselves; all to understand the effect Hurricane Maria had on the biodiversity of Nature Island. Maria reached a category 5 on the Saffir-Simpson wind scale, so as you can imagine, it was quite destructive.

“ Taking part in active research with leading scientists was fascinating and allowed us to experience biological field work first hand ”

Ella S - Upper 6th

“ Fabulous jungle getaway and marine experience. Diving around coral reefs was especially interesting. I will never forget it ”

James W - Upper 6th



“ It was an investment into my future career that turned out to be the best experience to be a part of ”

Liz C - Upper 6th







Since another school visited with us, we had opportunities to make friends through shared and exciting experiences, like climbing Trafalgar falls. During this lovely day out we also went on an intriguing tour of the island led by a volcanologist (someone who studies volcanoes); and when the day was over, all of us had an insight into the origin of the island; how it was formed, and some understanding of its geology. When we weren't climbing mountains, we attended attentive lectures regarding the threat that climate change has on the most beautiful and biodiverse habitats on our coastal fronts, coral reefs. Reasonable conservation efforts that can be met to restore and maintain our coral reefs were also discussed.

Week two was very exciting for some of us because some of us achieved the PADI Open Water Diver qualification, during which we learned how to scuba dive! Those who weren't scuba diving took part in a reef ecology course, and studied the biodiversity of the underwater habitats.

“Being able to breathe underwater was the most incredible experience and let me explore habitats otherwise I would never be able to”

Hannah D - Upper 6th

All in all it was a fantastic experience and we would all do it again in a heartbeat! It was full of opportunity in regards to developing practical scientific skills and knowledge. And not to mention having a PADI qualification is recognised globally for its credibility and competency, so as long as the sharks aren't too big, we can go scuba diving anywhere in the world!

“An amazing opportunity to both learn new skills such as scuba diving and take part in actual scientific research. If you have any interest in biology this trip will be a fun experience as well as a tool to expand your scientific ability”

Szymon M - Upper 6th







October 2022

# Geography Field

The Lower Sixth geography learners went on a field trip to Nant Ffrancan to experience the relic glacial landscapes as a part of their scheme of work on

The day started with the 23 Lower 6th Form students splitting into 2 buses, taking approximately an hour to get to Nant Ffrancan Valley. The weather appeared to be much colder and rained a lot, but luckily, the Year 12 learners were prepared for the weather with their suitable clothing! They made sure to wear waterproof shoes and jackets, to keep themselves as dry and warm as they can. The learners had arrived in the morning at around 11AM, and took a quick break in the area with the nearby visitor shop, allowing them to grab a few snacks for the long walk ahead. Quickly, the teachers and learners took a group photo together, and headed off to the top of the valley!

Throughout the group's walk, the geography teachers would occasionally stop the group to explain all the geographical features they can see in their surroundings, like cirques (bowl shaped curves carved into mountains by glaciers), or aretes (mountains being eroded by glaciers). The learners arrived at the lake (or geographically known as a tarn), the main attraction of the landscape area; managing to have their lunch along the banks with the beautiful view in front of them, whilst some learners skimmed stones across the lake. After their lunch, they continued their journey more towards the edge of the valley, their aim being to be able to witness the valley in its entirety from this viewpoint.



Written & Designed by Ash  
Imya and Crystal Dengu (Y12)





# Trip

Valley, Snowdonia to  
on glaciation.

Satisfied with their end point they walked back to the buses with all learners having the opportunity to grab their own photos of the landscape on their phones. Before getting back, they reached the river and collected samples of deposits to use in their geographical studies and investigations - recording results of whether these samples were glacial or fluvio-glacial. Unfortunately, it started raining heavily whilst the learners and teachers were at the river, completing the most important part of their journey! Despite this, they arrived back at their buses and had a safe journey back to Upton, thoroughly satisfied with this unique experience! Not only did they learn more upon the topic of glaciation, but they also had the chance to witness the beautiful views and admire the nature around them - not forgetting to additionally mention the goats!

The group at the edge of valley



“The geography trip to Cwm Idwal and the Nat Ffrancan valley was very beneficial to my studies of glacial land forms. I got to see things I learnt in lesson on power point applied to real life- it was amazing to see real scale studies. I would like to go again, after my studies.”

Hannah D - Lower Sixth

“Personally, I found the geography trip enjoyable. It was an incredible way to explore the things that we learnt in lesson outside of the classroom, and really experience all of our theories applied. Everyone had a great time, despite some less than the ideal weather, and we all came back with a much firmer grasp of the formation of cirques and glacial troughs!”

George K - Lower Sixth

“As part of research, identify the deposits and enjoyed experiencing our



# Geography Field Trip *Investigations!*



of our project  
we were able to  
origin of the glacial  
and I thoroughly  
experiencing fieldwork  
t of class!

”

Vienna D - Lower Sixth



Written & Designed by Ash Imya  
and Crystal Dengu (Y12)





# LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS!

The talented posse of learners have already started the lengthy rehearsal process, but it will all be worth it!



"This is going to be the greatest show the school has ever seen. Fact. It will be as scary as hell!"

Mr Daltry

Tickets on sale now! Get yours on ScoPay for only £7!





# UPTON'S YEARLY PERFORMANCE...

This winter, Upton High School's drama department is putting on a spectacle that is Little Shop of Horrors!

*OPENING NIGHT - Tuesday 24th January*  
*SECOND NIGHT - Wednesday 25th January*  
*THIRD NIGHT - Thursday 26th January*

Upton-by-Chester's yearly performances are a great way for learners to gain confidence and get real life show experience. It also creates a close-knit friendship dynamic of learners that have the same interests.



"I feel very grateful to play the role of 'Audrey' in our school's production of 'Little Shop of Horrors'. I have wanted a main role since I was in year 7 and now I finally have my chance to perform in what will be an amazing production. I am so excited!"

**Lydia G Y12**

**BEHIND THE SCENES!**





# THE CAST

After a tough audition process  
the roles have been cast!



TOM CAMPBELL *as* SEYMOUR  
LYDIA GRIFFITHS *as* AUDREY  
THEO JONES *as* ORIN and AUDREY TWO  
CHARLIE SCARGILL *as* MR MUSHNIK  
MILLIE WRIGHT *as* CHIFFON  
ELEANOR MELIA *as* MILANDRA  
OLIVIA ASHFORD *as* CRYSTAL  
HATTIE PRICE *as* RONETTE  
CHARLIE HASLAM *as* PHIL McAVITY  
HOLLY GIFFORD *as* INTERVIEWER, MRS LUCE AND BERNSTIEN  
LIBBY MORRIS-JONES *as* DENTAL NURSE, SNIP, CHANG  
ASHE HYDE *as* PATRICK MARTIN

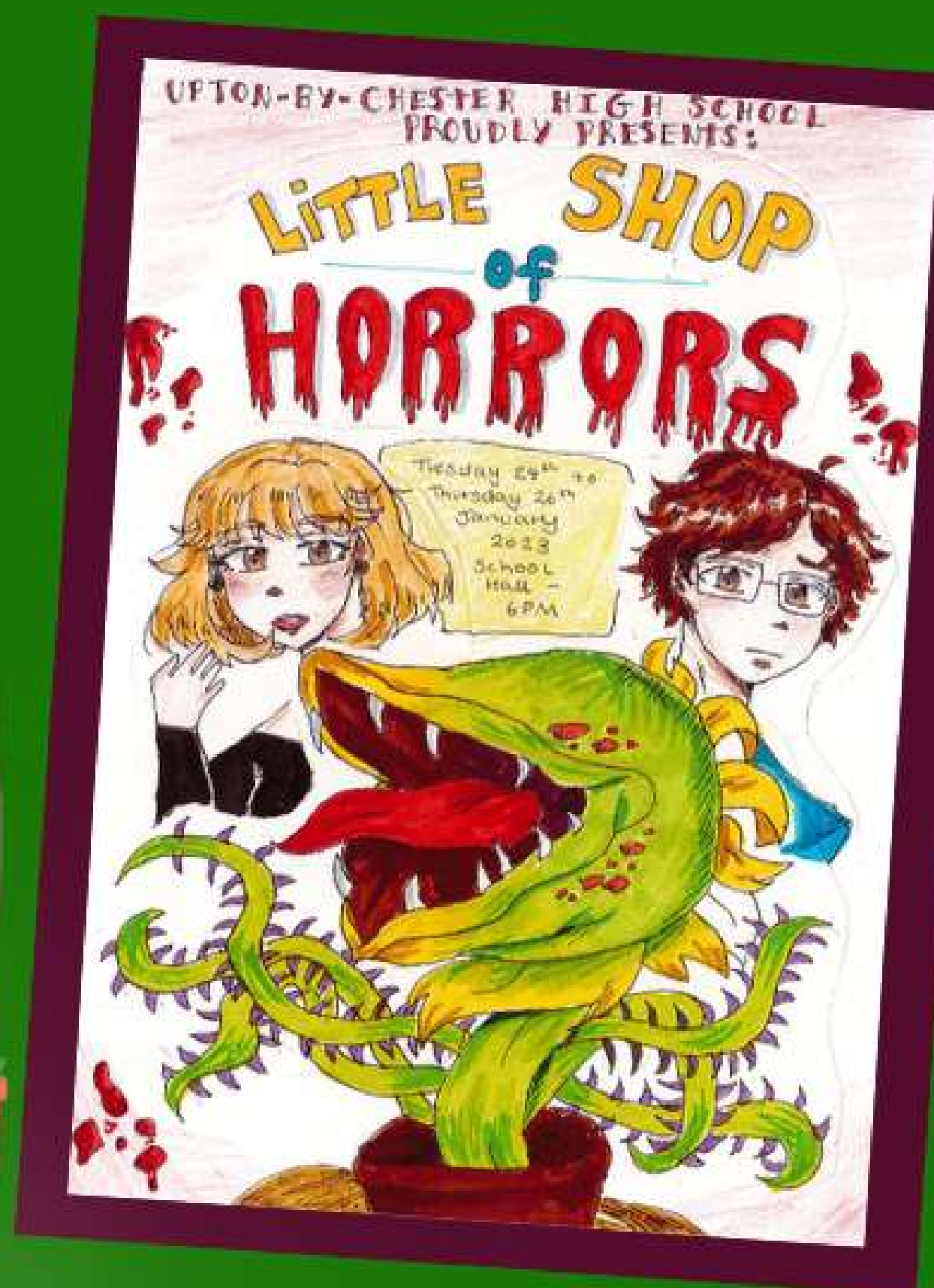
SUPPORTING CAST —  
ISABELLE DORICOTT,

— STAGE HANDS —  
SOPHIE PUMFORD, SIENNA MCLUSKY





"It feels amazing to put myself out there and be recognised. I can't wait to work with the cast - everybody is amazing!"



If you like love stories, if you like horror stories, if you like things that go bump, LSOH is for you! A super challenging, exciting, uplifting, murderous extravaganza of entertainment, performed by an excellent cast. We are singing our hearts out - literally - in rehearsal, so come and see us!

You don't want to feel the wrath of Audrey II if you miss it!

Miss Thompson - Head of Music







# Work Experience *teachers*

This year learners from year 10 did work experience and discovered what it is to have a job. From October 17th-22nd learners took various positions learning whether they could have a future in the career they chose.

What is Work Experience for Year 10 and why is it important?

“Work experience is an opportunity for learners in year 10 to have a real experience of employment. It is an important opportunity for learners to spend a week outside the classroom learning about the world of work. I think this is a valuable experience as school is about making sure you are ready to take your place in a global society. An important part of our lives is our contribution to society through our work. Work Experience gives a first-hand, if brief, opportunity to experience this. I also hope this opportunity earlier in Year 10 than in previous years gives our learners the chance to see how they can shape their own futures through an understanding of the qualifications and skills they may need for future employment. Many schools have stopped work experience. This is something I would not want to see happen in Upton-by-Chester High School.”

“I worked at a Law firm”

Mr Petty

“For my Work Experience I went to a pathology lab which is also where I got my first job after my A Levels”

Mrs J Jackson



Head Teacher, Mr. Cummins



Ms Tobias

“ I worked as a plumber's assistant for my Dad ”

“ I spent a week at a primary school and I loved it! ”

Miss Downs

How can WEX help learners to succeed?

“ I think work experience can be really motivating...it really helped me to become more motivated in school. I hope it also provides learners with an opportunity to see the relevance of their learning. Many learners are able to see why developing their skills in literacy and numeracy are so important following a period of work experience. would also hope that work experience gives learners the opportunity to see how the other skills they learn at school such as tolerance, respect, being kind, effective communication to name but a few are also very important if they are to be successful in their lives.

Did Mr Cummins do WEX when he was at school?

I did do work experience at school. I had two choices. My father would have liked me to go with him and learn how to be a plumber, this definitely seemed like hard work to me and so I thought about other options!. At the time I did my work experience, in Year 10, I thought I might want to be a teacher. I opted for a placement in a Primary School, in a unit for children with moderate learning difficulties. The children were 5-6 years old. I worked as a teaching assistant in the class for two weeks. I absolutely loved it. They really let me get involved in all aspects of school life. I was supported by an amazing teacher and teaching assistant (the teaching assistant later worked in the primary school my daughter attended so it was funny meeting her when I was the Headteacher of my previous school). Work experience made me realise exactly what I wanted to do and I did work really hard in school after this to make sure I could fulfil my ambition of being a teacher of children with special educational needs.

Learners acquired the necessary skills needed to survive the working world. Many learners were put in environments they had never experienced before, gaining knowledge and skills. After coming back learners have said that their work experience 'opened up new opportunities' for them and made them feel 'more confident' in themselves. This shows how positive it is for the learners and how it helps them grow to be better workers in the future.





# Work Experience

## Year 10

Here we discover what two of our Year 10 learners got up to on their work experience week and what they learnt along the way...

Page design-  
Emily S (Y10)



Sophia B (Y 10)

I personally really enjoyed work experience as it showed me how life would be after school and really made me excited about life in the future. I really enjoyed the variety and flexibility of working in an office and all of the different aspects of running a business. It made me feel much more prepared for my future and my career in general.

“The only negatives I can pinpoint about running a business is the unpredictability of it as well as the cost of it in general. However, I think that if I chose that career I would still believe that it was worth it mainly for the flexibility and independence.”

“Overall, I think that work experience was an incredible experience and I felt very privileged to be offered that experience at this time.”



## Chester Zoo

On the first day of Chester Zoo work experience Megan worked in admissions where she unboxed candles for the lantern display.

On Tuesday she was at membership and adoptions and packed together some adoption packs.

On Wednesday Megan was on retail where she restocked books and different items from the gift shop.

Then on Thursday she was on operations, which included her cleaning sinks in the bathroom.



On the final day Megan was on food and beverage where she was folding pizza boxes and restocking juice then went on to cleaning tables and emptying trays.



“My favourite part of the work experience was working in operation which was cleaning and recycling. I really enjoyed this because the people I was working with were nice people. My least favourite part was retail because it wasn't busy so I got a bit bored, and food and beverage because I was cleaning the table and it wasn't very sanitary. I would love to work in a zoo because I love animals and my favourite animal is a gibbon.”

Megan L (Y 10)



# Oxfam Youth Group

Upton's Oxfam Youth Group is part of the larger organisation and charity Oxfam. As well as raising money and awareness within Upton High, the youth group expands further and regularly gets involved with out of school events to raise money and spread recognition for the Charity. Being involved in a multitude of events such as Chester Marathon and Glastonbury festival

banners, the group has raised over £1000, last year alone. Involved with this club is the leading teacher, Miss Smale, and many learners from a range of year groups. The club is open to all years 7-13 and everyone and anyone is encouraged to attend. This organisation is incredibly important due to the charity that it is part of. Oxfam is a global movement of people fighting to end poverty and injustice- this is key in today's world as the masses of natural and manmade issues are rising almost everywhere across the globe. Around the world Oxfam works to bring change that lasts and commits to ground global equality and human rights.



**"Youth Ambassadors are really important to Oxfam – they help us take our message out through campaigning in their local area, and raise vital funds for our life-saving work. In the last few years especially we've also seen more and more that young people are providing leadership around social justice issues - and our Youth Groups are an amazing way for young people to take the lead. They shape the aims of their group and add to a global movement that's dedicated to ending extreme poverty and speaking out against injustice."**



**Tom from the Oxfam head office says...**

The Oxfam youth group is the longest running youth group in the country. It is important because we need to have a global responsibility for the human race and we always need to look out for each other and treat each other how we want to be treated, a famous Ghandi quote is, 'be the change you want to see in the world'. We need to make sure we level things and people are able to have the basic needs in life. We promote equality because that is what we want people to do for us.

Written by Elise &  
Designed by Stella (Y10)





“Working with Oxfam has been an eye opening experience which I have really enjoyed”

**Evie**



Every year our city hosts the Chester marathon. On Sunday 2nd October people from all over the country “raced” to Chester to run in ‘the UK’s best marathon, as voted at 2018, 2019 & 2020 Running Awards’. And every year our learners volunteer to help out at the marathon. The learners from our school hold and manage the baggage of the runners. As many of the participants are not from our city they need to bring their bags as well as all the necessary equipment for after the marathon. People who volunteered this year also got to have the pleasure of giving the medals to the little kids as well as the goodie bags after they had finished the mini marathon. To see the looks of joy on their faces as they received them was very special. The volunteers were happy to support the runners and be involved with the community. When asked why they volunteered one of the learners said that ‘volunteering at the marathon gives us a chance to become more involved in the community. It’s always fun.’

“The marathon was a great opportunity to get involved with the community and help out at the race through the school”  
**Elise**





# Peer Mentoring

## *At Upton High*

The transition from Year 6 to Year 7, from Primary to Secondary School, can be a daunting experience. However, here at Upton, our Year 10 Peer Mentors are here to make the journey a bearable and enjoyable one.

Peer Mentoring is a program, run by Miss Noel, attempting to allow Year 7 learners to easily transition from Primary School, with the help of our trained Year 10 Peer Mentors. Having experienced the huge step from Year 6 to Year 7, they offer support, guidance and advice to all new learners starting Secondary School, to make them feel less alone on the journey. It also involves them making sure the new learners know their way around our school, and that they get to know their teachers, which is why the Year 7 transition days are so important. This year, in 2022, they took place on 28th and 29th June, and the Year 10 Peer Mentors were all assigned a tutor group, and assisted the new learners throughout the entirety of both days. They were a success, and benefited the Year 7s, as it made their transition a smoother one.

“Being a Peer Mentor has taught me so many life lessons! It has developed my confidence and allowed me to help others through situations that I wish I had guidance on! It's a brilliant scheme.”

**Grace Y10 Peer Mentor**

**OUR YEAR  
10 PEER  
MENTORS!**





“Peer Mentoring has greatly boosted my confidence. We help the year 7s to navigate their way around school, like when they came to Upton High on a transition day. If they have any questions, they can always ask us.”

**Amelie Y 10 Peer Mentor**

“The Peer Mentors helped me to settle in at Upton. They also gave me an idea of where some of my lessons were, and they were a great help on transition days at our school.”

**Esther Y7**

Not only does Peer Mentoring benefit new Year 7 learners, it also greatly influences the Year 10s, who sacrifice their own time in school to help the younger learners. Peer Mentoring gives them a responsibility within the school, helping them to become more independent. It's also a great confidence boost, as Peer Mentoring involves communicating with new people. The Year 10 learners can also form new relationships and make new friends with one another.

## A word from Miss Noel...

“The Peer Mentoring Programme aims to provide support for our new Year 7 learners – individually and as a group, to help them settle into Upton, make progress and achieve their full potential.

Our Year 10 Peer Mentors receive full training on how to best support Year 7s and some Year 8s. Through training, mentors gain confidence, learn how to give guidance and support, whilst serving as positive role models; helping mentors deal with the current challenges they may be struggling with and inspiring our Year 7s to follow the Upton Way!

I would love to see our Peer Mentors program evolve allowing more learners to get involved.”

Written and  
designed by  
Hannah L - Y10



# Eco Schools

## *At Upton High*

The Eco-Schools Action Team is a group of learners from a combination of year groups who meet fortnightly to discuss environmental issues, and the active steps that our school can take in response.

Last academic year, we worked hard to renew our Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. We identified the amount of litter around the school grounds as a serious issue and endeavoured to improve this with regular litter picking. Mersey Forest visited the school and helped the team to plant trees; helping to limit pollution and providing a habit for animals while also making the school a nicer place to walk around. We plan to schedule another visit soon so that the Eco Team can learn more about how planting trees can help the environment.



A group of year 10 learners were successful in winning the 'School's Sustainability Competition', hosted by Chester Community Energy, with the plan to introduce more sustainable lighting. We were visited by the judges and school governors to celebrate their achievement.

Article by Lucy and Anna from the  
Eco schools team (y13)  
Page design by Daisy (Y12)

**Anna Clough - Upper Sixth**

*Being involved in Eco-Schools since year 7 has given me incredible opportunities to develop my personal and professional skills. as well as the chance to interact with other significant members of the Upton Community."*



A fashion show was also organised by Year 12 learners Lucy and Anna, in collaboration with Barnardo's, to raise awareness of the dangers of the fast fashion industry and the alternatives that exist. All clothes were donated by the local charity shop, and proceeds were given to Barnardo's. The event was well received by those who attended and the team look forward to running similar events in the future.



Learners redistributed green bags around the school to be used for paper recycling and we have encouraged all classes and teachers to continue to use them in order to reduce the school's waste. We are in the process of growing spider plants that will be distributed to all form groups in the aim to increase the number of plants around the school and spread awareness of their benefits.



“ This year the team have planted bluebells and wildflowers outside D Block and are currently working on a questionnaire about food and healthy living. ”

Mrs Mitchell





# HISTORY

## The Holocaust Memorial Project

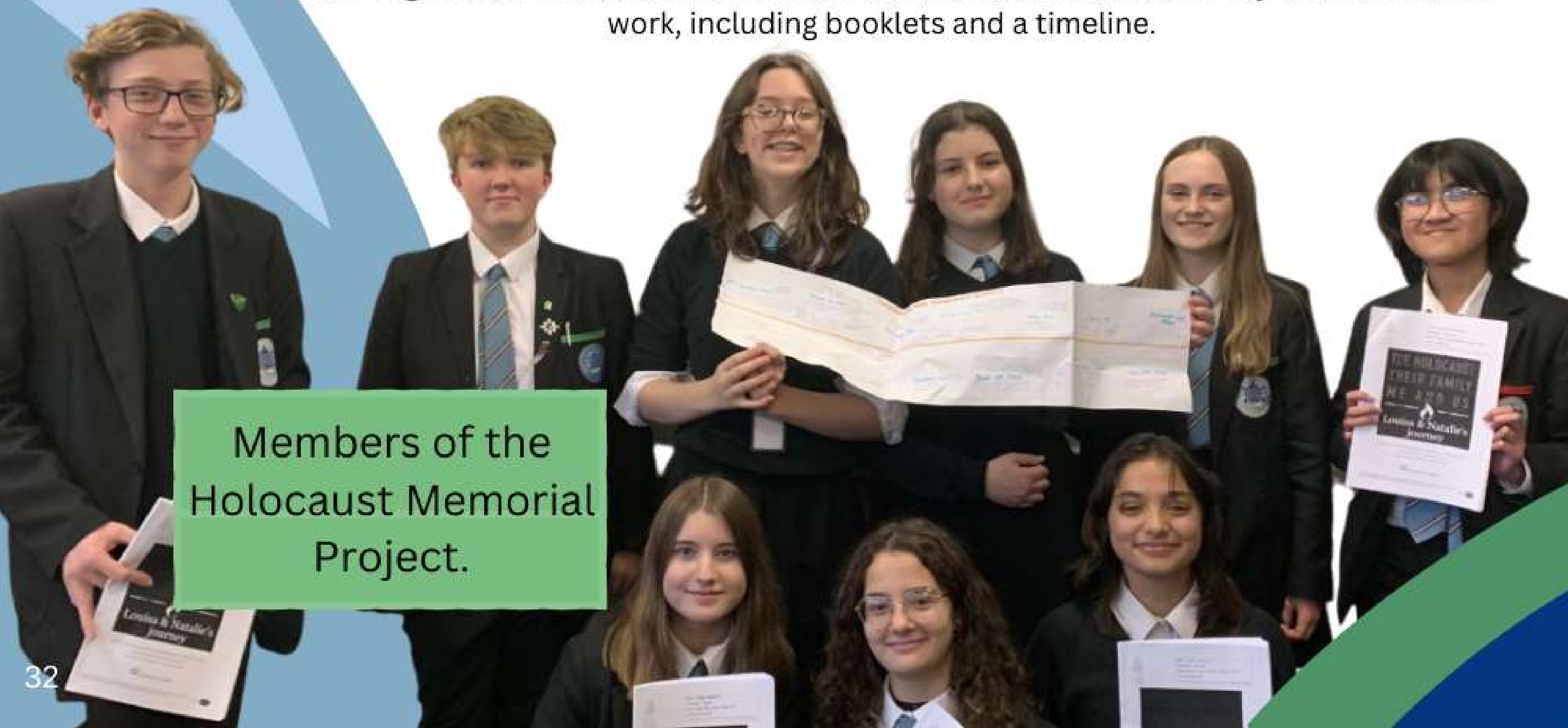
Written by  
Grace S -Y10

Conversation and Remembrance. Action and Memory. Hope and Restoration. There are hidden stories that need to be told, we must be history's mouthpiece, and honour legacies so that the past is no longer a one-sided tale, but a unified voice of change, a voice of truth, a voice of peace. No. A voice that brings peace. To be ignorant is to be uninformed, but, with understanding comes power, power to safeguard our future and our freedoms. Why be passive when you can be active?

Last year, led by Sixth Form learners, a group of year nine learners took part in 'The Holocaust, Their Family, Me and Us', through the medium of film and discussion, learners followed famous personalities and their families as they discovered their connection to the Holocaust. Upton followed the story of Natalie and Lousia Clein, their grandmother's sister Els died in the war, apart from this, they knew nothing. The Sisters travelled to the Netherlands and discovered her work with the Dutch Resistance and her career as a dancer. The journey, ultimately, led them to a former Nazi transit camp, Westerbork, where Els was held for refusing to wear the star decreed to all Jewish people by the Nazis. Further into the episode, they learnt about the cruel turn of events that led to Els' murder in Sobibor. Yet, their hope was not lost, they felt great pride for all she had achieved, and with that learners 'felt encouraged to carry her story, so that it never, ever happens again'. Inspired by the progress of other schools and educational booklets, learners have begun to create posters for different departments, to display both the subject and the families affiliation to the Holocaust. A member of the project commented that it has been a 'great way to learn about the Holocaust in more depth, also to help others to learn about it as well'. We have a responsibility to actively inspire and make a difference, through journeying into the past, we are reconstructing the emotional archaeology of the Holocaust. By making sure it is never forgotten, and that these stories are told, we have the chance to make sure it does not happen again.

The Holocaust is one of the most horrific events in human history; it was the persecution of over 6 million Jewish people as well as numerous other minorities. The epicentre of most these atrocities during Nazi control of Europe was Auschwitz Birkenau. Sadly when the Holocaust is mostly reported in the same figures 6 million Jewish people killed in total and 1.3 million people killed in Auschwitz Birkenau. But if we are to truly remember these people we have to put names to these figures.

The image below showcases members of the Holocaust Memorial Project and some of work, including booklets and a timeline.



Members of the  
Holocaust Memorial  
Project.



On the 9th of November 2022 four sixth formers Charlie, Hattie, Ruby and Miles went on a trip to Auschwitz Birkenau with the Holocaust Education Trust (HET) in order to rehumanise the holocaust, its victims and its perpetrators.

Here we find out from Charlie about the trip.



The day started early with a 6:30 am flight from Manchester to Krakow in Poland. After a short coach journey, we arrived at the town of Oświęcim. Walking through this typical Polish town was an odd experience as it looked so normal. It was almost impossible to tell that close-by there was a concentration camp where 1.3 million people died. Looking back, I think the Holocaust Educational Trust took us there in order to show how this town had been changed when the Nazis ruled, getting rid of all the Jewish owned businesses, but then after the war how it returned to a normal town which is still active today. We then took a short walk to a side street where there was a plaque to represent the site of the most beautiful synagogue in Europe which was destroyed on Kristallnacht. Oświęcim had a massive Jewish population before the war and this synagogue was really important to them.

This is the entrance sign to Auschwitz  
One which translates to 'Work will set you free'.

After this, we took a coach trip to Auschwitz. Following the very tight security, we were given a headset and assigned a guide who led us through the camp. We first went to block 4, which was once an extermination block. Displayed was a cabinet full of hair, we learnt the shocking truth that the hair taken from prisoners at Auschwitz was used to make mattresses! Then in block 5 there were more personal belongings and the camp rooms were full of: glasses, prayer shawls, shoes, prosthetics, pots and pans. This block was such an emotional experience as it brought to life the brutality of the treatment that the victims who stayed there experienced, having all of their possessions stripped from them.



This is the entrance to Auschwitz-Birkenau, with a train track leading up to it.

We then walked round to the side of block 10 where we visited a memorial next to the firing wall where many people were executed. This memorial was covered in flowers and candles which had been placed there in remembrance of the people who were murdered at this spot. The first of these firings was on the 11th of November 1941 where the Nazis shot 76 people in total. We then went on to learn about the perpetrators, we saw the gallows where the commander of the camp, Rudolph Holts, was hanged. He was responsible for the running of this camp for many years. The last place we went to in Auschwitz I was inside of a gas chamber which was an extremely cold, empty and dark room.

We then moved on to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the death camp, which had a very different feel to Auschwitz I. The scale of the two camps are really different: Birkenau is a massive place; Auschwitz I is probably half the size of Birkenau. The conditions in Birkenau were so much worse. The wooden huts were small and cold, they would have had several hundred people squeezed into them. We then finished the day with a candle lit ceremony as it was the 84th anniversary of Kristallnacht, considered the start of the Holocaust because it was the first major act of violence against the Jewish population.



# Learner Leadership Award

Congratulations to our 2021/22 Learner Leadership Team who were awarded their GOLD SSAT Student Leadership Award.

SLA gives learners a chance to champion and celebrate leadership skills our learners develop in and out of school, requiring learners to create a portfolio in which they gather and upload evidence to showcase their skills.



Well done and congratulations to Ash, Ben, Charlie, Daisy, Ethan, Hattie, Hazel, Maycie, Scarlett and Trinity!





HI!

BONJOUR

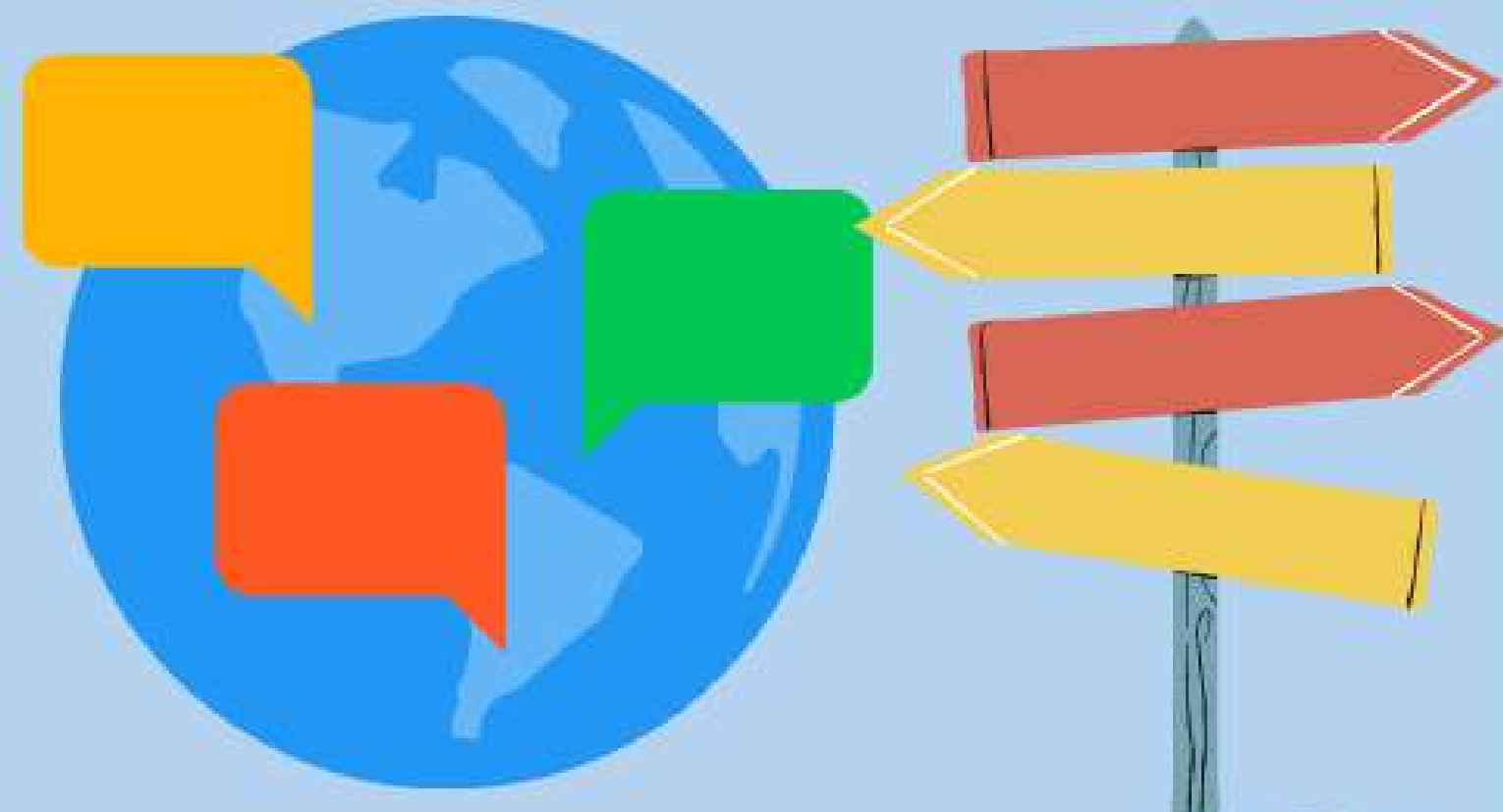
HOLA!

"Being a language leader has been very beneficial as it has helped my confidence to improve and I've been able to practise my Spanish outside of lessons."

Hannah - Year 10

# LANGUAGES

'Learning to Shape the Future'... ideologically. At the core of Engage @ Upton the desire to embrace diversity plays a pivotal role, learners have the opportunity to cultivate their understanding of foreign cultures whilst growing in fluency and confidence with the addition of 'La Biblio' in E15, revision and reading for pleasure has never been easier. We believe that languages spark connection, discovery and possibility, through monthly competition, there is a chance to enhance knowledge and promote inclusivity through creativity and conversation. Led by Mrs s with the help of year 9 and 10 'Language Leaders', support has never been more accessible. Mrs Stanisstreet explained that the 'team of year 9 and 10s have been working on new opportunities for year 7 and 8' and that in 'La Biblio' a 'wide range of French and Spanish books' are available. One of the 'Language Leaders' added that 'this ['La Biblio'] makes revision so easy! I wish I had access to it at the beginning of my Spanish journey!'.



Written and designed by  
Grace S and Hannah L - Y10





# Gold Duke of Edinburgh

2022

In July 2022 25 Gold DofE participants completed their qualifying expedition in Snowdonia. They spent four days orienteering on mountainous terrain whilst carrying their backpacks full of equipment, clothes and food. They camped each night on different fields and experienced a range of weather challenges but all passed with flying colours.

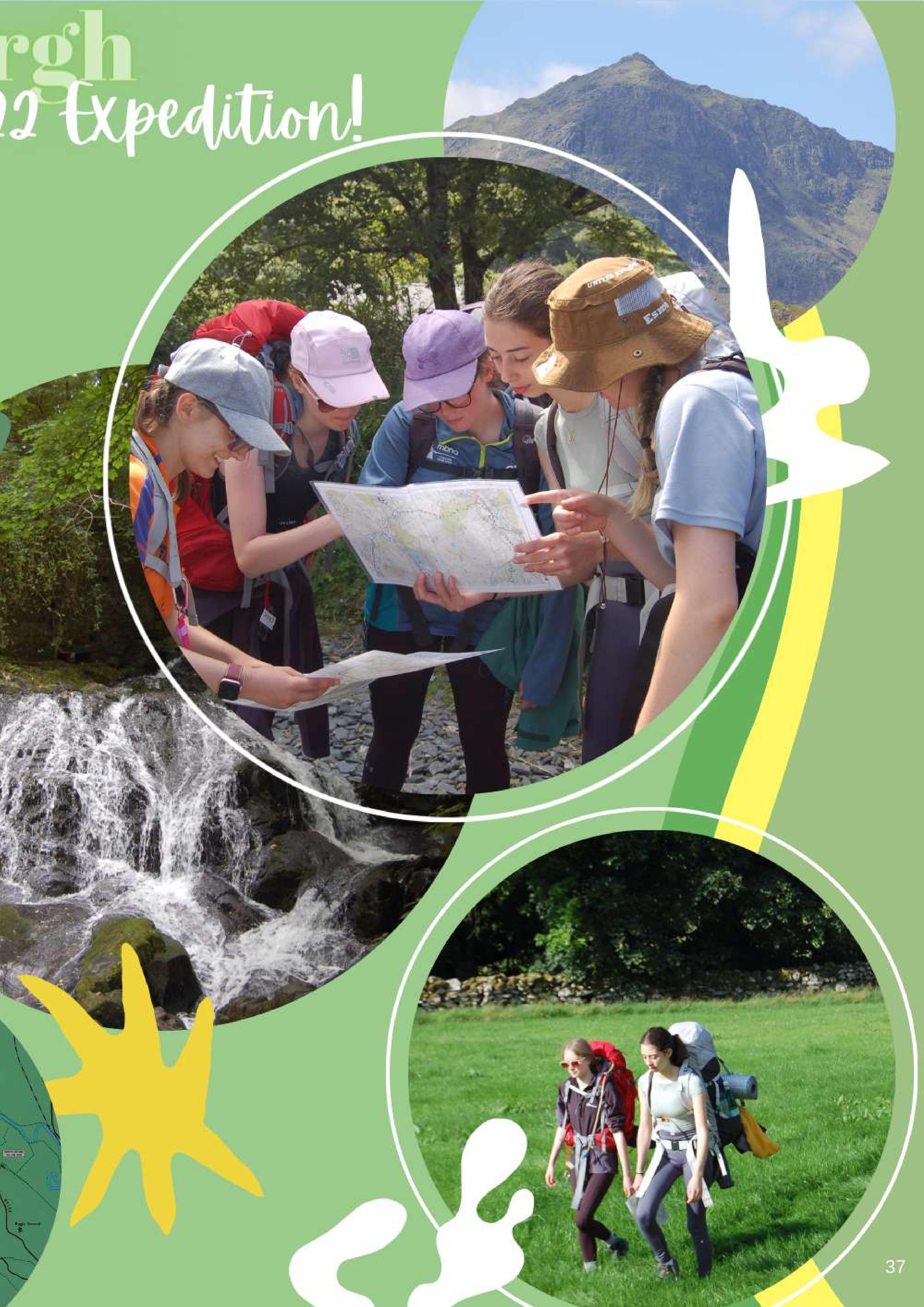
The participants will complete their other sections including weekly physical activities, development of a skill and volunteering to complete the award.

This year we have over 100 Year 10 signed up for their Bronze Award and over 40 Gold participants and we wish them all luck!





# ugh 2 Expedition!







# Creative writing competition winners

Mr Whelan and Miss Blumenthal have been working with groups of budding writers to create a festive description of this wintry scene. Here are the winning pieces.



## *One Snowy Christmas in the 50s* *Aleksander S- year 7*

A radiating layer of ice was a glistening sensation for the children and adults sliding and screeching on the sapphire of joy, as small mallard ducks slid past the humans' giant boots of contrasting shades. Low wooden fencing separated them from the youngsters playing in the pure white snow, letting their dogs ride on their miniature sleds. As it was being pulled down by a child, the face of a goldendoodle puppy was filled with a beautiful smile of happiness.

A leafless tree loomed over them all, like a giant skeleton in a frosty blanket, with dull birds on its limbs, the roots being legs engraved into the cushion of cold. Pheasants wandered and glided everywhere carefree, not scared of possible poachers, leaving little footprints on the great blanket of freezing. Ear-shattering music and tremendously loud chanting exploded out of the close-by pub, as ecstatic sheep dogs chased after vintage cars.

One single telephone box beamed in the snow, a ruby among the chalky white. An emerald car was stuck deep in the powdered vacuum for what looked to be a week, as motorcycles growled behind, and the roof of every brick-built house looked like an undyed wool carpet. What was once bursting with amber leaves, became a copy of the North Pole.





## A Christmas Fire Dunmininu A - year 7



A soft blanket of snow had laid onto a small but grateful village. Ice glistened like sapphires as frost hardened on the cobblestone streets. A pub fire flickered embers of fire on a grass green christmas tree. Children's laughter, giggles and chuckles could be heard from all around. Young and old strolled on the streets gossiping and chatting. Rusted, vintage cars sat on the white, powdery snow making it black with decay. On a white, brick fence sat a fat pheasant (watching the passers-by and people playing).

In the distance was a variety of humans and things; a young man riding his new Harley Davidson Softail; an old couple walking their Border Collie; two friends reuniting and riding their brown horses. Ecstatic, thrilled, delighted youngsters screamed and played.

Suddenly, a cinder of ash fell from the growing fire. It was a blur. Presents set alight and the wooden table I'd always loved ignited. Putrid smells of smoke blocked my nose and I was thrown onto the edge of the blazing tree. Panicking policemen had arrived outside and scratched against the splintered wood door. My body ached and bruised while I sat in the corner waiting frantically for my mother to appear and save me.

She never did.

The winter's sun rose slowly and instead of the people riding their horses and walking along the streets together, small whispers of smoke surrounded the once happy pub crying long tears of fumes.

*A Christmas Fire - Dunmininu A - Year 7*

## A Winter's Day Joel HP - year 8

The snow stood dormant to the ongoing bustle of the busy streets, unaware to what miniature stories may occur in this small-scale town. Meanwhile, glistening in the blanket of enlightening snow, light blazed out of the thin, tall pane of glass; a portal to another story: another tale. The beautifully decorated, neutrally coloured houses perched atop the gravelly stone pavement overlooked the amalgamation of different patterned vehicles; piercing through the weak, frail air surrounding it.

New animated figures appeared in the dark, frightening unfamiliar children from their concerned, parental figures standing in the distance. The blanket of snow coated the traditional striped black and white houses, endorsing the heart-warming festive sense. Joyfully, the children danced through the utter perfection of snow lying on the stone-cold floor, to the complete dismay of the surrounding passers-by.





Words and design by  
Vienna and Daisy (Y12)



# highlight



U16 footballers finished 2nd  
in the Chester football  
comp!

Year 7 footballers progressing  
through the rounds of the  
national cup!



U19's stormed through  
the rounds of the  
sisternsport netball cup  
and were narrowly  
defeated in round 3.

U14 football squad won to  
advance in the Cheshire  
cup.





# Highlights



2nd place in Cheshire for the U15 netball team. Amazing work!



Year 7 footballers are the Chester 5 aside champions! They have qualified for the Cheshire competition in January!



Year 9 rugby team finished all square against Tarporley High School.



Year 7 footballers became 5 aside champions!

“The lads played some lovely stuff and they are now going through to the Cheshire Finals in January. Well done boys!

Mr Hooley

”







Upton u13 footballers are crowned 7 aside champions



23 year 7s played football against Whitby in 7 aside teams! Lots of talent on show.



Year 8 gymnastics lesson about balancing!



The year 8 rugby team showed great attitude and potential in the Chester rugby competition!



Great win for the u13s football team in a friendly fixture against The Queens school. Amazing work girls!





“ The team were 4-1 down, then they brought it back to 4-4 and beat St Peter and Paul's on penalties. Superb attitude and application throughout! ”



A huge win for the year 9 footballers in the Cheshire cup.

U16 basketball team beat Bishops Blue Coats 54-36!



U14 basketballers in action on the court!

Make sure to follow @pe.uptonhigh on twitter for regular sports updates!

In the Netball National tournament U14s finished 5th overall, U19s came 2nd in the plate and the U16s were unbeaten and crowned champions ready to represent Cheshire again!





# Children In Need 2022

Every year at Upton High, we raise money for BBC Children in Need by holding an event that everyone can get involved in. This year we held a schoolwide non-uniform day and raised £1,302.45. During this event it gave us the opportunity to raise awareness of the organisation and the children it supports.



“BBC Children in Need believes that every child should have the chance to thrive and be the best they can be and are committed to being there for children across the UK when they need us the most. They fund thousands of charities across the UK, which support children in every aspect of their lives - from mental health and well-being to feeling safe and having equal opportunities to flourish.”

Thank you to everyone who took part to support this wonderful charity.