

# UPTON Voice

DECEMBER 2023



## COMMUNITY

FLORIDA  
SCIENCE TRIP,  
BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH,  
SEND MY  
FRIEND TO  
SCHOOL,  
CHILDREN  
IN NEED

## EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

ESME, UPTON ALUMNI  
& STAR of ITV's MAMMA MIA:  
I HAVE A DREAM'



## ENGAGE @ UPTON

NEW CLUBS  
INCLUDE  
WESTERN  
FILM CLUB,  
WRITER'S  
WORKSHOP...

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH

GOLD  
EXPEDITIONS  
& SECTION  
SPOTLIGHTS

## 'OUR DAY OUT'

REVIEW  
+ SNEAK-PEEK  
INTO OUR NEW  
PRODUCTION...

## 'OLIVER!'

## REMEMBRANCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

MADE BY LEARNERS,  
FOR LEARNERS.





# CONTENTS

AUTUMN  
2023

## EDITOR'S NOTES

We are celebrating a full year of the new and improved Upton Voice magazine. The Year 11 and 13 who started the magazine last September have helped put together one final edition before they fully pass the baton over to the Year 10 and 12s.

I am forever indebted to Daisy, Ash, Crystal & 'The Freyas' for their dedication and creativity. Without them, this magazine would not exist and I am so grateful for all of the energy and time they have given to this publication. The U6 learners have launched our social media presence @upton\_voice on instagram and will be choosing some of the new team to create the content for the rest of the year.

Our Year 11 learners have grown in skill and confidence throughout this year. They have shown immense maturity and excellent time management alongside the full on pressure of GCSEs as well as all their other extra curricular activities. It has been a real pleasure to work alongside them and I can't wait to welcome them back into the Upton Voice team when they are in the Sixth Form.

We are so lucky to be in a school where the staff here provide and organise so many opportunities for growth and development outside of the classroom. Whether that is running an engage activity, organising a guest speaker or giving up time to go on trips and visits we are so grateful that there is so much to report on. The Upton Voice content, structure and house style has been created and managed by this talented group of teenagers but we would have a very flimsy pamphlet if it wasn't for the amazing team of staff and learners who build and develop this school community.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition and we look forward to what the rest of the year brings. We hope you enjoy reading this term's edition

*Ms Seery*  
December 2023



Year 11

Upper 6th



## ENGAGE @ UPTON

**pg. 4 - 11** Our Upton Voice team have been to a number of Engage activities this term. Libby in Year 11 has done a wonderful report of Mr Petty's Western Film Club.

## TRIPS & VISITS

**pg. 12 - 29** Our Year 11 learners have reported on the exciting Florida trip that took place in the summer. Field trips for Geography learners as well as Art Gallery visits & experiences.

## SCHOOL PRODUCTION

**pg. 30 - 33** We have a review of the summer term's first all KS3 production of 'Our Day Out' as well as behind the scenes insight into the upcoming Oliver musical extravaganza!

## COMMUNITY

**pg. 34 - 43** The school community has been as busy as ever volunteering at the marathon and collecting for charity. We have voted democratically for our learner leadership team as well as welcoming a new year group of peer mentors.

## CAREERS & ALUMNI

**pg. 44- 59** A school wide careers fair and Year 10 WEX have given the learners lots to think about for their futures. We have a bumper alumni section this term with some inspiring ex-students and lots of wonderful advice.

## CREATIVE ARTS GALLERY

**pg. 60 - 73** Imaginative work is on display in our Creative Arts Gallery including lots of delicious food.

## SPORT

**pg. 74 - 75** More amazing sporting achievements from our learners this term. Well done to the PE department for delivering such an extensive programme of extra-curricular activities. Congratulations to all of the teams on their success this term!

### Autumn Upton Voice New Team

Emily B  
Maria H  
Olivia S  
Anna R  
Evie S  
Rosa H  
Aleesha A  
Alice M  
Grace B

Alice L  
Georgia B  
Elouise F  
Harriet W  
Jess G  
James B  
Owen S  
Callum N  
Ella S



FILM NEGATIVE



# Engage Tennis

Beginner tennis club invites learners from Year 7 to Year 13 to get started and dive into the sport. On a Tuesday, after school, the MUGA is where tennis players come to practise and develop skills. Every training session starts with a fun warm up to get the muscles ready and prepared. Then young tennis players pick up the rackets and start to do activities to learn how to 'feel the ball'. They also compete against one another in order to gain better techniques and tennis skills through this practise.



*"We do fun games to learn how to control the racket."*



*"I go to tennis club because it gives me opportunity to practise so one day I will become a great tennis player."*



Tuesday  
3:10-4:15 pm

Mr Nathan  
MUGA



# Engage DANCE

Maria H (Y10)

Miss Downs' dance club welcomes any learner from Year eight to thirteen, as an incredible opportunity to develop dance skills and meet new friends. It's a safe and fun environment where everyone can express themselves freely.

*"We've got some seriously strong choreographers who are also great helpers for younger year groups and create wonderful dances for everyone."*

**Miss Downs**



Miss Downs organises a dance show in the hall every March, including the whole dance club team and BTEC Dance students. Last year, there were over 20 spectacular dances, both group and solo.



Monday  
3.15-4 pm  
Miss Downs  
Dance studio



*I think it brings out the passion you didn't even know you had. You can make both new friends and memories.*

**Mia W**



Engage

Emily (Y10)

# Band Club

Miss Thompson's Band Club is held every Tuesday after school. Band Club is a great place to go if you want to learn how to play an instrument or enhance your musical ear, and it's an incredible opportunity to develop new skills and meet new friends. Learn how to play your favourite songs as well as songs you have never heard before with others.

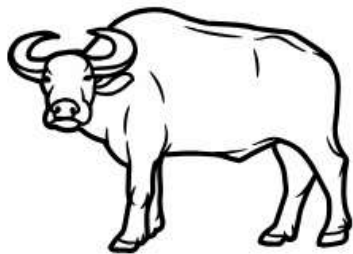
Currently, Band Club is practising Christmas songs, such as 'Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer', 'Winter Wonderland', and many more! Whether you play trumpet, clarinet, guitar or flute, there is a place at band club for you.

*"It was really entertaining and I got to play new pieces I didn't know. Music is my passion and meeting other like-minded individuals is amazing!"*



Tuesday  
3.15 - 4.15  
A3  
Miss  
Thompson





Engage

# WESTERN FILM CLUB

Libby (Y11)



Watching movies or consuming various other forms of media, such as books, that relate to the course helps learners understand the course on a deeper level and will aid them in their studies and exams. In this movie, the learners are able to see many factors of Plains Indian life that are graciously pointed out and explained thoroughly by Mr Petty. One of these being the very obvious language barrier between the Plains Indians and the white settlers, this is shown by the Lakota and Lieutenant Dunbar having to form a relationship through actions, Mr Petty then explained that that would have been a factor in why most white settlers and Plains Indians didn't get along since they couldn't communicate their issues with each other properly.



Tuesday  
3.15 - 4.15  
C16  
Mr Petty

Western Film Club is a club run by Mr Petty as a fun way of revising GCSE history. At the moment, the learners are studying the American West which includes learning about the Great Plains and the Plains Indians who inhabited them.

This month, the movie of choice is 'Dances with Wolves' where Kevin Costner plays a civil war soldier who develops a relationship with a group of Lakota Indians, captivated by the simplicity of their way of life. He then leaves his former life, joins them and later falls in love with a fellow member of the tribe. However, disaster strikes when Union soldiers arrive with designs on the land. As he is accepted by the tribe, he gains his official name, "Dances with Wolves".

“Seeing aspects of my history course in film and being explained by Mr Petty helps the knowledge become second nature and much easier to remember while being entertaining”  
Lucy D

Mr Petty also educates us on the lifestyle that the Plains Indians used to have, they used to be nomadic - move around a lot - and mostly live on buffalo and maize (corn) snacks. Since these would be very hard to obtain nowadays, Mr Petty provides us with a modern maize snack such as Doritos or frazzles.





Engage

# Italian Club



*I'm really interested in learning a lot of languages and this is a great way to do that.*



*My Grandad is from Italy, and both my parents speak it, so I thought this was a really good opportunity*

Ms Ferries, who joined the English department in May, runs an Italian club after school on Tuesday in E6. Like lessons you've had in French and Spanish, this club is an educational yet enjoyable experience. Whether you already know a little Italian or none at all, this is a brilliant opportunity for everyone of all year groups and staff are welcome too.



Members of the club have said it's fun and not hard at all. One member states that it is the perfect chance to learn some basics while another says "I took French and Spanish. Why not Italian?"

*"It's really fun!"*

*What's really great is you get to do it with your friends.*

Tuesday  
3:15-4:15

Ms Ferries  
E6

Alice (L6)



# WRITER'S WORKSHOP



Engage



Our Writers had a lovely session with Miss Williams on Wednesday 8th November in which they created some beautiful poetry in honour of Remembrance Day and in particular the 'Christmas Eve Truce'.

This week we've been working on some traditional Japanese Haiku inspired by nature - Josh wrote a powerful one and successfully included anaphora, too!

Miss Blumenthal

Haiku

Nature tell us truth  
Nature tell us of beauty  
Nature tell us love

Josh C YR 9





# WRITER'S WORKSHOP

Here are some of the fantastic entries we received for the latest competition. It was called 'This Is Me' and the learners had to write a poem in which they express who they are, what they believe in or something they struggle with.

*Mr Whelan & Miss Blumenthal*

Today I am a girl by Etty

Today I am a teenage girl in fear that tomorrow will be different

Today I will panic about homework ;  
I will worry about my outfit the night before I'm going to wear it ,

I will learn that if a boy likes you he will pull on your pigtales

'Trip you over' and bully you ,  
But that's ok because he likes you ,

Today I am a teenage girl who learnt that people try to help by yelling at you , putting more and more pressure on you ,

They yell at you because they care without noticing that they're making it worse ,  
But that's ok because they love you ,

So as a girl we learn to swallow it all down , we learn to smile through the pain no matter what people say to us ,

But we learn that's ok because they don't mean it ,

We learn that if we talk about it all we're just too sensitive but if we don't talk about it we have no heart , are skin is too thick ,

But that's ok cause being a girl is easy , right ?

Wednesdays  
3:15pm Week 1  
Mr Whelan &  
Miss Blumenthal  
KS3 Learners

Identity by Josh

Today, like any other, I take refuge to my house because life is very hard.

Today like any other day I take refuge to my house because I feel petrified by the outside world about who and what they want me to be.

Today, like any other day, I take refuge to my house because I want to take a break from both society and my thoughts about who I want to be.

Today, like any other day, I take refuge to my house because sadly not just me but everybody only has one life.

Today, like any other day, I take refuge to my house because even though I know what I want to do when I am older, there's so many more options I want to do and it breaks my heart I can't proceed or consider studies in: Philosophy, Media studies, Social sciences, Psychology, Computer sciences, an author, maybe even in the military!

C'est moi by Martha

Dreaming to weave and pour through crevasses of time, pausing the rapid world from slipping by, I meander aimlessly, the inevitable crashing wave of sadness disrupts the peace,

A whirlwind of sums and equations carve my skull leaving me distraught and yearning to understand, Daggers of anguish pierce my skin when I overhear the vessels of annoyance, the nonsense they preach diminishes my mind

And so, I begin waiting and craving to be save again,

Yet when I am alone, the thoughts and feelings wither,

Idyllic instruments Revolve and vibrate softly through speakers, soothing my tender head, Euphoric words Replenish and cascade in-between the waning cavities of my once balanced conscience, Your lyrics saunter to and from the boisterous branches of the psyche, suddenly resonating with a lovely heart,

I long to voyage to a place of warmth, where I could be in your presence once more To witness your voice for a final time, it would cure the lifeless rose within me, The future forms an abstract jigsaw and I am unaware where I fit in the puzzle, where will I place my piece?

Tick, Tick, Tick am I running out of time?



### The Voices by Joel

It's your time to shine  
You're ready to speak  
But all of a sudden; out of the blue  
You hear the most minute noise  
A doubt: a worry: a voice  
"You'll never say the answer in time!"  
"You'll just mess it up!"

The anxiety kicks in. Suddenly, sweat starts to bead on your face  
Heart beating like a motor: hands quivering; lips trembling

All eyes on you, the time is now!  
But it persuades me to stop: to hesitate  
Your time has passed, words too quaky, eyes too wide  
The letters forming on the tip of your tongue  
Nevermind. Gone.  
Embarrassed. Shamed.  
Just two seconds too late...

### A Queen in a world of Peasants by Queenie

On an Earth created for men  
She is not supposed to thrive  
On an earth created for men  
She is supposed to conform  
They will undermine  
They will belittle  
She will retaliate  
They will not listen  
She will shout and scream and cry  
They will laugh  
Again, again, and again still  
The only question left is when will she break?  
When will she be driven to agreement?  
When will they win?

The puppeteers of our world  
When will those strings finally break?  
When will she be set free?

No peace  
No happiness  
No freedom  
All gone  
"What happened? You're so quiet"  
Quiet

Quiet is what you made her  
Quiet is the outcome if your relentless bullying  
Quiet is what you wanted  
Right?

Quiet is the reason you did this  
If not for quiet, then why?

The world never understood her beauty  
The world never understood her kindness  
The world only understood that she was a woman

### This Is Me by Eira

This is me  
This is my mind  
My intrusive line of thought  
Welcome  
Welcome to intensity  
No going back

### This is my struggle

I feel a negative charge  
It fills the entirety of my head  
My brain  
It wants to be empty  
But this is hard  
To find someone who'll listen  
Someone who won't judge

But no  
I don't want to  
I don't want silence  
I can't keep silent  
I can't let them win

Whoever it is  
Whoever is manipulating me from the inside  
I need my freedom  
I need it back  
I want my mind  
I want my thoughts

This is me  
This is my mind  
My intrusive line of thought  
Welcome  
Welcome to intensity  
No going back

### This is my struggle

But now after processing  
Maybe a little too much  
Relief  
Refuge  
I'm in someone else's story  
I don't have to think  
I don't have to remember  
All of my problems  
Finally a miniscule escape

This is me  
This is my mind  
My intrusive line of thought  
Welcome  
Welcome to intensity  
No going back

### This is my struggle

Until they disappear  
Take everything from me  
Don't care

This is me  
This is my mind  
My intrusive line of thought  
Welcome  
Welcome to intensity  
No going back

### This is my struggle

Now they're back  
Stronger  
Worse than ever  
I thought there was an exit  
I was wrong

There is no escape  
Ever

This is me  
This is my mind  
My intrusive line of thought  
Welcome  
Welcome to intensity  
No going back

### This is my struggle



# SCIENCE TRIP TO FLORIDA



On the 18th of July, Year 9 and 10 learners travelled to the sunny state of Florida. Throughout the week they explored NASA, Universal Studios, Animal Kingdom, the Everglades and a mall. It was a fantastic opportunity to develop scientific knowledge and friendships whilst having loads of fun whether that be exploring rockets or screaming on roller coasters.

“It was an unforgettable experience and a once in a lifetime opportunity that I will never forget. I really enjoyed the freedom.”  
Eden (Y11)



Photos taken from various places and parks the learners visited, including Universal Studios, Disney's Animal Kingdom and NASA.





Larners are pictured visiting Universal Studios and exploring the tour guides exclusive sites with incredible views of the entire theme park.



The real Atlantis Space Shuttle Launched on 3rd October 1985

“Florida was a fantastic experience, and one that I will never forget! I got to go to a different country with my friends and had so much fun!”

Amelie (Y11)

“It was an excellent trip and it was a very educational experience. We had lots of fun and learnt a lot about science.”

Madoc Y11

Amelie and Grace (Y11)





# Art Trip

## Year 12



On Wednesday the 18th of October Year 12 Art and Photography learners took a trip with Miss French and Mr Prest to Liverpool. A busy day, we visited four galleries and museums as well as taking the opportunity to take photographs for the 3x one shot photography challenge set by Mr Prest.

*I really enjoyed the day and had fun sketching the artwork for our gallery books.*

**Georgia**





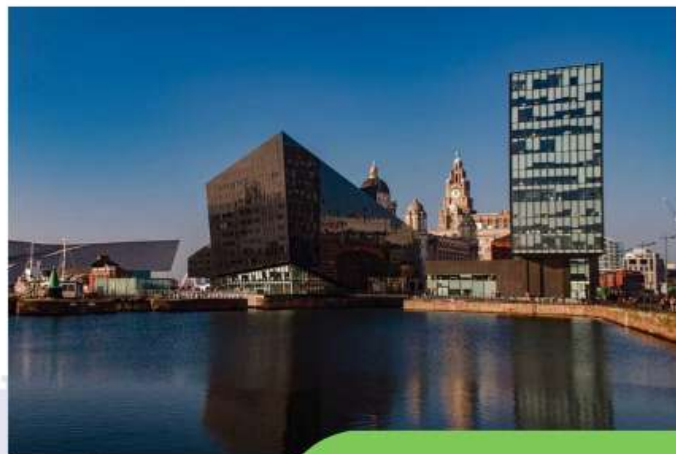
*I had a really fun day and enjoyed taking photos of Liverpool as well as the art*

Tallula P



First stop was the Open Eye Gallery at Mann Island, exhibiting work from three community projects across Liverpool and Chester. Local artists work with and within the local community and the resulting exhibition is a collaboration between photographer and resident.

A short walk to the centre of Liverpool finds the Bluecoat gallery hiding behind a wall on College Lane just off the town centre. An exhibition of work by artist Tim Spooner featured work from the last 15 years alongside a new commission, 'A New Kind of Animal'. Well - this installation caused rather a stir as a huge room filled with pulsating wire and fur 'animals' had us all wondering what they were. Was it a new type of sheep? Was it creepy? A comment on animal slaughter, reminiscent of genetic engineering or a bit of fun? Whatever the conclusion, it was certainly interesting!



After lunch a visit to the Walker Gallery and World Museum. At the Walker Gallery learners had access to one of the largest collections of art outside London. An added bonus was the exhibition of the John Moore's Painting Prize. The neighbouring World Museum has many cultural artefacts as well as an exhibition of Greek and Roman Statues of mythology. In each museum or gallery tasks were set to record thoughts and feelings as well as to sketch and photograph favourite artworks. A lot of work to pack in to one day but a challenging and enjoyable trip.

Back in school, learners are busy presenting their work in their gallery books which are a permanent record of their trips and visits.

*Going to the galleries was a great trip and I liked looking at the paintings*

Dylan A





# Fieldwork Investigations

## YEAR 11

On Thursday 28th and Friday 29th Year 11 Geography students took a trip down to Prestatyn. They began the day by taking a coach down to the beach and looking at all of the different views of mountains, towns and the coast line. The learners then gathered in their groups and discussed the plans for the day.

*I enjoyed seeing the town of Prestatyn and the beach.* Ben (Y11)



*It was really exciting to see everything we had learnt about come to life!* Tabitha (Y11)

First, they began by heading into the town and completing a bingo of human geographical features. The groups had a great time exploring the town and spending time with their friends. After counting traffic, they headed down to the coast to have lunch and buy a treat from the coffee shop!

As the wind was blowing and the sun was shining the groups gathered for the final time. Struggling, due to the windy conditions, they began filling out their booklets and trying to draw the groynes and sea walls. Next they went on a walk along the sea wall and picked up the floats. Learners then watched the floats get carried by the sea and measured the distance whilst some avoided getting splashed.

After class photos they headed back to the coach and travelled back to school. Everyone enjoyed the day and learnt more about the coast in the process!

*It was good to be able to spend time with other learners and discover more about geography* Charlie (Y11)



# YEAR 12

Menai  
Centre  
Anglesey



“It was fun to get out of the classroom.”

Claire (L6)



This September the Year 12 Geographers visited North Wales for the 2 day field trip. They completed Human fieldwork in Betws-y-Coed looking at land use and the impact of tourism in the area. They then travelled to Conway Outdoor centre where they enjoyed an afternoon of Stand up paddling on the Menai Straits. On Friday the group hiked around Cwm Idwal and also collected primary data from the banks of the River Ogwen as part of their glaciation unit which was then used for their investigation write up's.



“Seeing glacial landscapes in person helped solidify my learning.”

Bronx (L6)

Tabitha (Yr 11)



# BTEC Film

Year 12 studied Adam's planning process



“ It allowed a clear insight into the fascinating world of screenwriting.  
Dan W - L6 ”

## Screenwriting Workshop

In October of 2023 the BTEC film students attended a Screenwriting workshop organised by the media department.

During the workshop Adam, a professional screenwriter shared a unique and first hand insight into the process and structure of producing screenplays. Adam has written for Waterloo road and Hollyoaks as well as a number of original plays.



“ The one-to-one feedback helped me see what changes I needed to make to engage my audience  
Charlie- U6 ”



Year 13 worked on their short film screenplays

You can read more about Adam in our Alumni section on page 55.



# STORYHOUSE PERFORMANCE

On the 6th October Performing Arts learners enjoyed a modern interpretation of the William Shakespeare classic "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by the Storyhouse. The cast took the classic story and using a range of dramatic methods created a whole new meaning to the classic tale.

*It was so interesting to see such a unique type of theatre, and was very beneficial to my course to view a modernised reinterpretation of a classic text.*

**Rosa H L6**



The production also involved audience interaction with Learners volunteering to be involved with the play. Halfway through the performance the learners were picked to play the part of the "Bulb" and "Wall" and help the characters in the play. This made the performance extremely enjoyable and helped make the students involved more passionate about drama and seeing what it is like to perform on a stage. As well as learner involvement the actors used music and song to help tell the story which helped captivate the audience and appeal to the story to the younger audiences.

*I really enjoyed watching the production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream". It helped inspire me for future devising and interpretations in drama.*

**Jess G L6**



A Level learners enjoyed a Q&A after the performance to give them an insight of working as an actor & into the skills needed for interpretation.



# A-Level History & Politics Talk

History and Politics Lower 6 learners went to The King's School to hear Dr Charlie Easom talk about racial prejudice, history and the impact of prejudice on the world. They learnt about the prevalence of racism in society and were recommended some books to read about prejudice which link to their coursework which is based on US civil rights.



*“ It was a very interesting presentation and discussion about the impacts of prejudice and potential future consequences and solutions. Emily G L6 ”*

*“ The talk covered a wide range of topics, some of which I wouldn't have thought to explore previously. The speaker was patient and informative. It made addition to our A Level study and had real impact on me. Dasiy K L6 ”*



# A-Level Politics & Geography workshop

In October of 2023 the A level politics and geography students attended a talk from a current Camden Councillor Adam Harrison. During the workshop Adam shared his story with how he went about becoming an MP and Councillor of Camden. We were then asked to think of questions which produce good answers and interesting debates. Adam spoke a lot about climate change and how he plans to tackle it as a councillor.

His main aim is to cut down on traffic by encouraging people to use public transport or cycle to places rather than use their car. He believes that he is very ahead of other councillors in creating ultra low emission zones and that these are the key to his climate change success. Adam also spoke about how important it is to ensure that all green spaces in London stay as green spaces and so not become high rise housing buildings.



*“ I was great to have the opportunity to ask a man like Adam any question we wanted to. Harry O L6 ”*

Daisy G (U6)



# L6 Chester University Trip



University of  
Chester

On the 1st of November, the Lower 6 learners visited Chester University for a day and did lots of activities throughout the day such as a self guided tour, a day in the life of a student, a critical thinking and study skills workshop.

During the Day in the Life of a student at Chester Uni there were student examples which were shown, which presented all the opportunities that you can do whilst studying your chosen course. This includes all different societies, sports clubs and new opportunities for young adults



*"I found it very insightful to learn about the day in a life of a uni student and enjoyed the activities through the day*

**Jess L6**



On the self guided tour you were allowed to go anywhere you wanted on campus. You could stop and get a coffee and have a look in the shop. Along side this there was a quiz to complete whilst making your way around and photo challenges that everybody had a look at, at the end of the day.



*"It was intriguing to see all of the facilities on the campus and I was shocked at how big it was*

**James L6**





# A-level Politics Talk *Samantha Dixon*



On the 26th of September Samantha Dixon came to our school to visit the current year 12 and 13 politics classes. Dixon is currently the local MP for Chester, representing the residents for a voice in parliament. Dixon brushed over many topics in her visit, answered questions and made many insightful comments on the life of an MP and also her own personal upbringing which definitely helped students relate to Dixon on a more personal level.



The first Question Dixon received was on giving the NHS funding and where she (and Labour) stands on the matter. Dixon said that Labour still saw the NHS as an important funded commitment and a key part to the labour party all the way from 1948 when it was founded- but it needs to be rebalanced. She also put light onto the reputational issues of the Countess of Chester hospital regarding the recent court case of Lucy Letby which provided more personal and proved to the students that she remained informed on the contextual matters of her constituency. She raised concerns and criticisms of the current conservative government that if oil companies were taxed fully, more financing would be available to fund the NHS. The Labour campaign is to expand the workforce and not just the buildings.

Other contextual issues like Net Zero were discussed where Dixon expressed her disappointed attitudes about Rishi Sunak, but nevertheless portrayed the message that we as a nation need to tackle climate change. She saw this as urgent and not optional; we cannot rely on fossil fuels and Dixon disagrees with recent climate change action put into place with the government and that Dixons point of view is we need to take more immediate action to help the crisis.

We then all saw more of a personal aspect to Samantha Dixons life, where many could relate themselves. Dixon grew up in a council home after the age of 6 when her parents divorced and was always encouraged with socialist ideologies which made her who she is today. Dixon recognised the difference and unfairness of class divides which lead onto the next question being how is Inequality in Parliament displayed? Dixon responded with the example that the name 'Baby of the House' is used to refer to the youngest member of parliament currently being Keir Mather.



Dixon questioned whether this could be portrayed and viewed as an inequality? She also expressed that having a younger member of parliament brings new needed perspectives and helps solve the challenges that may only target the younger generation.



Again, Dixon discussed the possible inequalities of classes in parliament-questioning that parliament could possibly be just an extension of private education of the elites.

Samantha Dixon's current life entails a very busy schedule, mentioning the not so long ago train strikes interrupting her schedule, and seeing this as a matter that needed to be resolved. Dixon also deals with a lot of military concerns- as she described Chester as a very "grounded city" with "historical connections and roots" with the Dale Barracks and even Upton having military students from across the country.



The most relevant issue touched upon Dixon's visit, was the question that how do you decide what Chester wants? Dixon responded that door knocking is done weekly, to investigate relevant concerns of local residents. Dixon said that they "need to hear unheard voices" Dixon also said that her office wants to give people of this city a good value for their money and that people who need help should be "entitled" for it. The MP believes that politics is about finding the small issue that is collectively agreed upon and building outwards.



Overall, Samantha Dixon provided insightful answers to some questions that were difficult to remain neutral and unbiased to answer, but still represented Labour's core values in herself. She even critiqued her own responses by saying she needed to be more prepared with statistics which many appreciated her informed words and educated manner.



*It was great to meet the year 12 and 13 A-Level Politics students at Upton High School. Thank you to Mr Fearon for hosting the lesson and to the students for their excellent questions about topical issues and life as an MP.*

**Samantha Dixon**

Written by Megan (L6) &  
Designed by Daisy (U6)



# GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION

JULY 2023



Words and Design  
by Ash I (U6)

Completing the hardest part of their DofE Sections, our persevering learners conquered the expedition through Snowdonia mountains & valleys! Meeting at Llanrwst, the 7 groups planned their own routes on their maps, and prepared their bags full of waterproof clothes, food, Trangia stoves, tents, sleeping bags, and many other items. As the rain started to pour, the group walked across the River Conwy, and through the Snowdonia Slate Trail. The first night showed how tired the groups were, and before they knew it, they were ready to begin Day 2's 20km journey across Moel Siabod! When arriving at the campsite, the tent and cooking routine was noticeably more slick. Day 3 had a more promising forecast of weather, with a more enjoyable and easier



walk through the Snowdonia Slate Trail and the ascend to a hill below Yr Aran, the overall distance for the day being 15km - which made the DofE learners much happier for an early night in preparation for the next day!

## DISTANCE

- DAY 1 (Conwy) 17km
- DAY 2 (Moel Slabod) 20km
- DAY 3 (Snowdonia National Trail) 15km
- DAY 4 (Moel Tryfan) 20km

“ It was a great bonding experience for my team, and I'd definitely do it again! ”

Crystal D. (U6)







The final, 4th day was unfortunately forecast with the worst side of the weather: a heavy downfall of rain! Despite this, the seven teams continued with their determination to walk through an old slate quarry, between Myndd Mawr and Moel Tryfan. They started to descend into Betws Garmon, ascending a 380m high point with a beautiful view of Llanberis - their destination point. This final day consisted of about a 20km distance, and the learners were estatic by their final destination point on how much distance they have achieved over the four days and three nights.

From my personal experience of completing this Gold DofE without having camped before, or completed any of the other DofE Awards, I have found the experience really rewarding! Not only am I able to learn new skills like map-reading,

camping and walking long distances away from the city; but I've also noticed that friendships have become stronger with more dependancy on teamwork throughout the expedition, morally supporting each other. Despite there being tensions over map-reading and speed of walking, all groups seemed at ease when arriving on each campsite! We also had the opportunity to celebrate two learners' birthdays with a special treat from Upton teachers of slices of cake for everyone!

“ It was very challenging but rewarding! Worth it in the end for the rainbow and finding a four-leaf clover ”

Daisy G. (U6)

## SKILLS LEARNT

- Map-reading
- Teamwork
- Perseverance & Independence
- Problem solving
- Cooking & Camping





# DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SECTION SPOTLIGHT

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is made up of 'sections'. The Expedition section, which includes the hiking and camping, gets the most attention but did you know that there are four other 'sections' that make up the Duke of Edinburgh's Award?

All participants will spend at least an hour a week on each of the following sections: Volunteering, Physical & Skill. Bronze will complete these activities for up to six months and Gold for up to 18. The Gold Award also includes an independent Residential opportunity where the participants will stay away from home for four nights and work with a team of like minded people working towards a goal.

## PHYSICAL



I chose volleyball for my physical aspect of my Bronze DofE. My aim for my physical was to improve my overhead serves by making them more consistent. I play for Frodsham volleyball club in the under 18's flames. I was playing for 2 years prior and did it for 6 months for DofE. I really enjoyed having a focus for my training and thought it was great how it contributed to something.

## VOLUNTEERING



I choose to volunteer at Bren Bikes for the Volunteering section of my Gold DofE award. Bren Bikes is the social enterprise of the Bren Project a Chester disability charity founded in 2005 in the memory of Brenda Goodwin who was a leading light in supportive employment. The Bren Projects aim is to bring more people with learning disabilities and autism into the workplace. Bren Bikes is its main source of income as a bicycle sale and repair shop it aims to make cycling more accessible to the local community. My role as a volunteer involves repairing bikes for sale and selling bikes.

*"Volunteering at Bren's Bikes is something I have done in my spare time for five years. To be able to bring focus to the charity through the charity has been great"*

Charlie U6 Gold



# SKILL



*"Learning piano again was a really enjoyable experience as I was able to learn new songs and practised reading music!"*

Hannah Yr 11 Bronze

*"I really enjoyed having a focus for my training and thought it was great how it contributed to something."*

Faye Yr 11 Bronze

I chose piano as my skill for my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh. My aim was to learn three new songs and improve my skills on the piano. I downloaded an app called 'Flow-key' which taught me new chords and songs so I could get better at playing, as I hadn't played for around four years! I also practised songs from my piano books, which helped me to read music again and I learnt new songs, as well as practising ones I had learnt previously. I really enjoyed practising piano for my bronze DofE. I practised every day for three months.

I had the opportunity to travel to China as part of a group of young people from the North West. I was able to stay with a host family and experience a wealth of Chinese culture. During my time there I realised that China wasn't too different to life at home. Their country was very modern and capitalist and I was surprised due to the political communism. I completed a presentation about the cultural connections to submit for my DofE evidence.

*"It was a unique opportunity to experience life in another culture and society - very different from a holiday!"*

Alex L6 Gold



# RESIDENTIAL

Well done to all our participants. Keep up the great work.

The DofE Staff Team: Miss Seery, Mrs Lynch, Mrs Bain, Mrs Vigus-Hirst, Ms Brown & Mr Iqbal



# SEND my FRIEND



**AT THE CONSERVATIVE  
PARTY CONFERENCE  
CAMPAIGNING FOR  
EDUCATION FOR ALL.**

Meeting politicians at the Conservative Party Conference

On the 3rd of October, Elise and Emily, our school's SMFTS representatives visited the conservative party conference to represent the charity coalition, Send My Friend to school. This entailed lobbying MPs and hosting roundtables. The charity aims to inspire and solidify national and international educational agreements.

Elise and Emily met many MPs discussing the importance of a quality education for all - specifically whilst in crisis. They also participated as part of the panel in two roundtables at the conference, allowing other MPs and charity representatives to see what they had to say on education facing some of the world's most pressing emergencies.



Manchester Central - conference venue



**SEND my  
FRIEND  
TO SCHOOL**



# TO SCHOOL

*"Being a part of the SMF campaign was amazing! We've had opportunities to do incredible things and we have met so many wonderful people"* Emily Y11



With Lisa Nandy in the Houses of Parliament

Elise and Emily, Year 11, visited parliament with the charity coalition, Send My Friend to School to meet with parliamentarians and campaign for an education for all. The youth campaigners met with important figures like Lisa Nandy (shadow minister for international development) and Melinda Bohannon (director general humanitarian and development FCDO).

## CAMPAIGNING FOR EDUCATION AT THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT



*It was amazing to see learners from our school advocating for an education for children across the world who do not have the same opportunities we do*

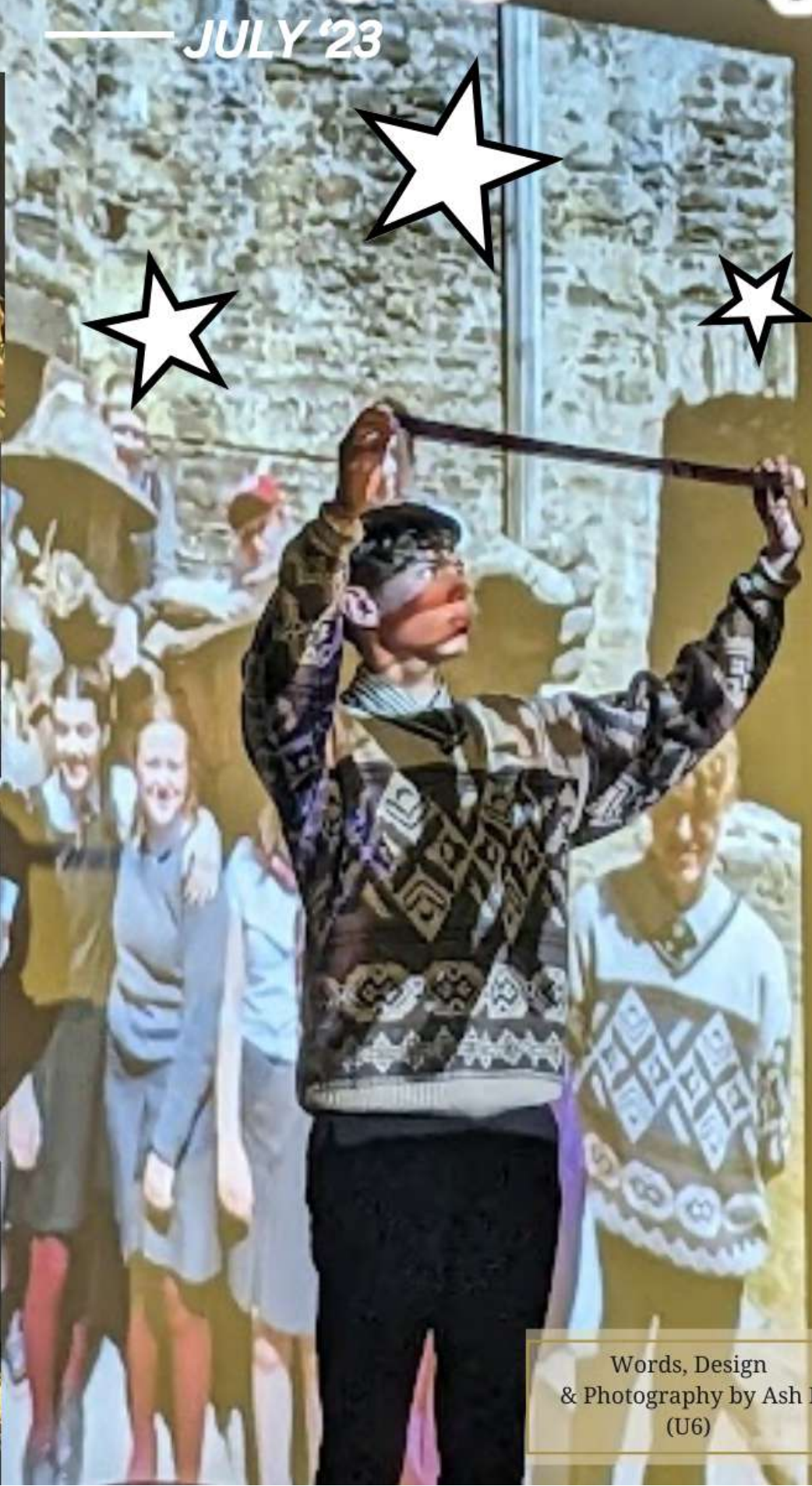
Miss Atkin

Written by Elise Yr11



# OUR DAY

JULY '23



Words, Design  
& Photography by Ash I  
(U6)



# OUT

Bring on your best Scouse accents! Our Lower School Year 7-9 learners performed 'Our Day Out' in July 2023, originally written by Willy Russell and commissioned by the BBC. Not only did our young Drama learners put a lot of effort into this multi-media spectacle, but also our 6th Form BTEC Film learners filming in the original locations in the TV show. Learners in the Fashion department contributing to the costumes, and the Drama department's heads, Mr Daltry and Ms Thompson.

Combining both film acting and theatre acting, the production showed the potential of all learners in the show, especially with the pressure of it being the first KS3 production! When entering the audience, the created stage of bus seats allowed you to experience as if you were really there, with the screen set up to show the multi-media acting.

Being part of the production allowed learners to make new friends with a similar passionate interests, and also allowed our A-Level learners to showcase their film skills to an audience. I had the opportunity to witness the awards ceremony in the drama department for the young actors, and was delighted to see the friendships made and the support they all had for each other! We want to give a massive congratulations to the Drama department, the stage crew, and the young actors! It's easy to see the potential the learners have, and we hope to see them in future school shows!





# School Production!

## ...Oliver!

This year, after much contemplation, Mr Daltry - Head of Performing Arts- and Ms. Thompson - Head of Music - have decided to stage the musical Oliver! for their school production. This is the first whole school production since the hit Mary Poppins in 2022 and the audition numbers for this were through the roof! A mix of year groups including the brave brand new Yr 7 learners auditioned. One very accomplished Yr 7 learner impressed the directors with her exceptional talent and Isla Armstrong has been cast as Oliver. A very big congratulations to all of the cast from the Upton Voice team!



*A great classic musical and another opportunity to work with new talented people.*

Tom C Y11 (Fagin)



*It is nice to be able to work with different years groups. and see the range of talent*

Rosa H U6 (Nancy)

This is the first time in Upton's history that the traverse staging will be used. This involves two stages at either side and a long runway in the middle, this involves the audience into the performance and helps the audience create a strong connection with the characters in the production and inverse themselves completely into the performance.

*I was really nervous for the audition but I did it and I really enjoyed it! I cant wait to do it for real.*

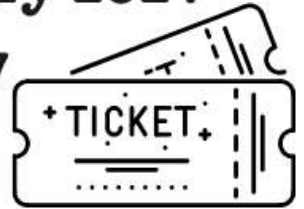
Isla A Y7 (Oliver)





# Tuesday 13th - Thursday 15th February 2024

## Tickets available on ScoPay £7



### CAST

Oliver- Isla A, Yr 7  
Artful Dodger- Flora D, Yr 7  
Fagin- Tom C, Yr 11  
Nancy- Rosa H, Yr 12  
Bill Sikes- Gabe W, Yr 11  
Mr Brownlow- Maya B, Yr 10  
Mr Bumble- Charlie S, Yr 11  
Widow Corney- Olivia A, Yr 11  
Bet- Lily Jo A, Yr 8  
Mr Sowerberry- Charles C, Yr 7  
Mrs Sowerberry- Olivia B, Yr 10  
Noah Claypole- Sam C, Yr 10

Oliver Twist (played by Isla A) spends their earliest years in a squalid workhouse, suffering great hardships and cruelties. They run away to London where they are 'befriended' by a gang of thieves: the ringleader Fagin (TomC), the brutal burglar Bill Sikes (Gabe W) and his girlfriend, Nancy (Rosa H), and the sly young pickpocket known as the Artful Dodger (Flora D). This burly bunch whisk young Oliver into a whirlwind of adventures while teaching him the love of a family. This action-packed, heart warming, gut-wrenching production will be fun for all the family!

Every year Mr Daltry hosts a competition for the design of the tickets and the poster that will be used to advertise the production all around school. This year the winners were...



Congratulations to Joanne P, Yr10, for winning the ticket design competition!



Congratulations to Melissa N, Yr12, for winning the poster design competition!



This promises to be the greatest production the school has done. We have been so impressed by the emergence of new talent

Mr Daltry

Libby M, Yr 11  
Evie S, Yr 10  
Rosa H, L6

Good luck to all those that are performing in this fantastic spectacle and even to those behind the scenes, skill-fully making costumes, on lighting and sound and on makeup and hair. Break a leg!





Last half term the Learner Leadership Team organised a collection of Pyjamas for the charity Children's Hospital Pyjamas.

'Children's Hospital Pyjamas' collect brand new pyjamas and baby grows which are delivered to local Hospitals and Children's Hospices, in Cheshire and North Wales. The donations are collected in time for Christmas. On Christmas morning hospital staff across the UK hand out the donated pyjamas to children staying in the hospital or hospice over the holiday period.



Learner Leadership Team with the donated pyjamas

All pyjamas donated will have a pair of hand stitched hearts added to them. One of these hearts will stay with the child in hospital, on their pyjamas, and the other will go home to their family who may be unable to be with them at the time.

Thank you to everyone who got involved. As a school community, we collected 46 pairs of pyjamas that will be donated to this amazing charity.



Last year, STEM club worked really hard in their engage sessions to achieve the STEM Club Quality Mark Bronze Award. This award validates the success of the learners and the high standards of the STEM Club. It showcases their commitment to learning all about STEM and equipping them with the skills and knowledge to fulfil their potential.

Well done STEM Club!



Our Geography department are celebrating being awarded a £250 Eco Trip Grant from Evolve to help fund a trip for learners to the BIFoR project in Stafford. The judges were impressed with our school's approach to learning about sustainability, in particular our plans for A-Level students to advocate for sustainability through role modelling to younger cohorts, embedding this in school life.



Thank you to all the learners who donated to this year's Children In Need collection on our Non-Uniform Day.



In the October half term, three Lower Sixth learners completed a Lifeguard training qualification as a part of the 'Chester Schools Together' programme. Well done Ryan, Thomas and Otto.



# CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL

The annual Chester Christmas Toy Appeal has been launched. Last year's Toy Appeal raised a record £15,000 worth of new toys and gifts donated by the generous public of Chester and surrounding areas. At Upton, we have supported this campaign for many years and are collecting donations again this year.

Over the last decade the appeal has seen a staggering £100,000 worth of donations distributed across many local children and family charities that support the sick and under privileged. Charities that have benefited from donations included Miles of Smiles, Local Solutions, Save the Family, The Countess of Chester Hospital Children's Ward, KidsBank Chester and Age UK.



Last year's donations from Upton.

**We are collecting donations of unwrapped toys for children of all ages.**



**Please bring any donations into school by the 11th of December**





# CHESTER MARATHON

*It was such an amazing opportunity to help the best runners and athletes in Chester. I can't wait to do it again!*

On 8th October 2023, a group of learners made their way to Chester racecourse to volunteer their time for all of the runners. On the day the metric marathon, marathon and mini marathon took place. After a team meeting, all of the volunteers made their way to the stations and got everything ready for the runners.

Everyone had lots of fun greeting the runners and helping them with their bags. After cheering on all of the runners as the race began the team began on the organisation.

Some of the learners headed over to the mini marathon to present the runners with their medals. All of our learners and the little runners had smiles plastered on their faces.

They were proud to be able to greet all of the runners who completed their race and prepare their bags for them. Unfortunately, learners were located at the top of the stairs so runners weren't exactly over the moon to climb stairs after a race but it did provide some laughs and funny conversations.



*We are proud of all of the learners who gave up their time to volunteer and support the community. It was a great day for all learners who were able to demonstrate their brilliant teamwork, leadership and communication skills.*

**Mrs Smale**

The school received lots of compliments from race participants and organisers. Thank you to Mrs Smale for organising this wonderful event!

*It was so wonderful to see lots of people push themselves to complete such a hard challenge.*



**Tabitha F Y11 & Izzy D Y11**



# The UKMT Challenge

Congratulations to all the learners who competed in the nationwide Mathematics Trust's Senior Challenge in October, competing against thousands of 6th formers from schools throughout the United Kingdom. Together with junior competitions, the Mathematics Trust receives over 700,000 entries. Special mention to Kirutika, Rose, Adham, Ewen and Emily who achieved the silver certificate and to Jack who achieved the gold certificate meaning he was in the top 6,000 of learner entries. Jack has earned a place in the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo follow-on round.



I took part in the UKMT senior maths challenge in which I had to answer up to 25 maths questions in 90 minutes. The questions were unrelated to the A level or GCSE maths curriculums and focused on problem-solving skills. I found the questions very challenging and there were some questions that I couldn't answer. However, I was very happy to find out that I'd done really well in the challenge – I got a gold award and an invitation to take part in the next round of the competition next month. It was an enjoyable experience and I look forward to hopefully doing well in the next round too.

Jack B



“It was challenging but enjoyable”

Jack B





“The school is inclusive and I feel supported if even I need help!”

As a school, we understand how important it is to value diversity and the different cultures there are within the school's learners! As part of Black History Month, students were encouraged to watch informative videos in their Form classes about the history of Black History Month, with group discussions about the impact of the important, influential Black women that are shared on posters displayed around school hallways and the Hub. The library staff have also contributed to recommending Black authors on the board in the Hub, whilst motivating learners to participate in a poetry competition uplifting the historical Black women and learners' own impactful Black historical icons!



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH



A few suggestions from the team for future school events celebrating

Words and Design  
by Ash I & Crystal D (U6)

Black History Month to engage learners are to create visuals & informative posters on individual Black historical figures, talks from speakers about the impact Black Britons have made and assemblies by learner leadership teams!

— OCT '23



## JOIN US IN SALUTING OUR SISTERS





# Peer Mentors



## What is Peer Mentoring?

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 2023, the Year 10 Peer Mentors were all assigned a tutor group, and assisted the new learners throughout the entirety of two days. They were a success, and benefited the Year 7s, as it made their transition a smoother one.

*I love being a peer mentor because it's great to help out the younger learners.*

**Anna, Year 10 Peer Mentor**

*Being peer mentors has been a really positive experience for us.*

**Emily + Evie, Year 10 Peer Mentors**

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

*Our Year 10 Peer Mentors receive full training on how to best support the Year 7s. 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.*

**Ms Noel**



# Remembrance Day

On the week leading up to the 11th November, some Upton learners volunteered to help sell poppies around school and in forms to commemorate Remembrance Day.

Donations were made and learners proudly wore their poppies. Also, on Friday 10th November, learners were invited to wear their cadet uniforms as a mark of respect for our fallen heroes.



I enjoyed helping out with the poppies. It was nice to see everyone donate to an important charity.

Juju - Y8





# Army Youth Club

Army Youth Club completing a stacking competition during their lunch club. They are a great group of learners and lots of them supported during Remembrance Day.



# Art Spotlight



These were created by 7xAR4 , the coloured pencil wreath pictures above and 8YAR6 , the felt pen wreath on the left. They are created from the flags of all of the countries that fought alongside us in World War One.



# Learner Leadership Team



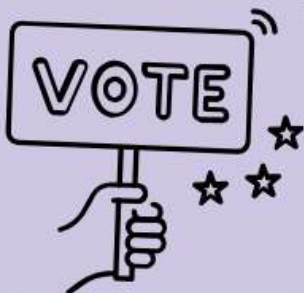
On 10th and 11th October, learners took part in a vote to elect Form Representatives (Years 7-10), Head Learners and Prefects (Year 11) as part of a democratic process. Congratulations to all Learners and a huge thank you to everyone who applied, it was a pleasure to read all of your applications - Ms Noel

## Year 11 Head Learners

				
11X1MA - Head Learner Phoebe B	11Y1MA - Head Learner Conor D	11X2ME - Head Learner Taylor K	11Y2ME - Head Learner Emily M	11X3YO - Head Learner Ksenia M
				
11Y3YO - Head Learner Sophia B	11X4WO - Head Learner Eden G	11Y4WO - Head Learner Kareem E	11X5YU - Head Learner Aileen I	11Y5YU - Head Learner Chloe B

The Learner Leadership Team will be meeting on a regular basis working with other members of the team to develop and run programs that support the needs and interests of our school community. Form Representatives can be seen around school promoting our three rules; Prepared, Respectful and Safe whilst proudly wearing their badge.

Congratulations to all of the Leadership Teams and thank you to Ms Noel for organising the vote



## Year 11 Prefects

			
11X1MA - Prefect Yalinya E	11Y1MA - Prefect Niamh R	11X2ME - Prefect Grace S	11Y2ME - Prefect Edward D
			
11Y3YO - Prefect Emily S	11X4WO - Prefect Isobel D	11Y4WO - Prefect Libby MJ	11X5YU - Prefect Charlie S

Maathai

Yunus

Mendes

Wood

Yousafzai





# Sixth Form Leadership Team

We have a brand new leadership team of Upper Sixth Learners that have recently been appointed. Our Head Learners, Lydia G and Ethan C, pictured to the left, work alongside our Deputy Head Learners, Milica V, Charlie H and Ash I who will be crucial in organising the yearly Sixth Form Charity week and will make some important decisions regarding Sixth Form Prom in the Summer. Congratulations to all the learners involved!

# SSAT Award

In September, our Lower 6th learners received their Gold SSAT Student Leadership Awards which they worked on throughout their time in Year 11. The SSAT is an official leadership qualification that will benefit this group of learners as they progress into their future careers. They worked on three different categories in their portfolio which were: Contributing to my community, Working with others, Developing myself.



*'Please congratulate all your students from us for their portfolios and for achieving their award as it is really well deserved. Their enthusiasm in everything that they have accomplished has been so impressive, and they have shown great leadership. All of your students should be really proud of their portfolios and their hard work in completing them.'*

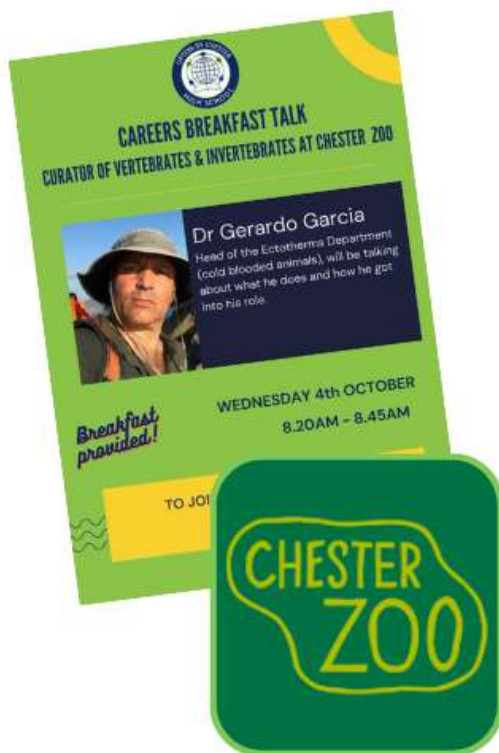
Feedback From SSAT

Daisy G (U6)



# Careers Talks

At Upton, career opportunities are important for learners and we aim to inspire them through some of our visits from experts from a variety of industries: in class, assemblies and talks. Our Careers breakfast events in the Hub have been a great chance for our learners to learn about different careers and grab some free breakfast before school. Upton also held a great careers fair where universities, employers and colleges displayed the opportunities they have for learners who are currently exploring Post-16 and Post-18 options.



Dr Gerardo Garcia from Chester Zoo came to talk to learners all about his role and the journey he has been on to get into his role of Curator of Vertebrates and Invertebrates at Chester Zoo.

They all found the talk fascinating and learning about Gerard's work with cold blooded animals and the best bits of his career was insightful. The learners who attended took some great advice from him for their future.



A group of Year 11 learners took part in a motivational speech/ Q&A session with Cal McIntyre - Manager of Chester FC. Thank you to Cal for giving up his time now that pre-season has started.







**CAREERS BREAKFAST TALK  
CAREERS IN RETAIL**

Daisy, Co-op Member Pioneer and Year 13 learner at Upton, and Danielle, Store Manager at Kingsway (former Upton pupil), will be talking about their roles at the Co-op. It will include how the organisation plays a big part in the community, the ins and outs of running a food store and the great career opportunities at the Co-op.

*Breakfast provided!* Thursday 16th NOVEMBER  
8.20AM - 8.45AM

TO JOIN THIS TALK, SIGN UP AT THE HUB



Hi, I'm Daisy, a Sixth Former here at Upton and I also work for the Co-op as a Member Pioneer. I recently led a careers breakfast talk alongside one of my colleagues, Danielle W, former Upton pupil and the Store Manager of the Co-op Kingsway Store.

We are both so grateful for the chance to come into school and share about our experiences at Co-op and the great career support and opportunities they have given. Firstly, Danielle explained about the career journey she has been on, working from Customer Team Member to Store Manager. She also talked about the apprenticeships available within various sectors of the Co-op and the ways Co-op ensure everyone is paid a fair wage, right from the age of 16.

I was then able to talk about the work I do in the community as a Member Pioneer, bringing together Co-op Members, colleagues and local causes. I have gained lots of valuable experience through this role by taking on new challenges like leading networking forum events, shortlisting charities for funding and connecting with various local organisations and supporting community projects in my area. I also wanted to take the chance to share about a great new funding opportunity for young people in social action. Take a read below...



The Co-op Foundation, in partnership with Co-op and the #iwill Fund, are tackling this through the £4.5m Young Gamechangers Fund.

We're looking for young activists, campaigners, disrupters, co-operators, and social entrepreneurs to lead youth-led social action across the UK. There are two types of funding available:

- Funding for individuals
- Funding for groups or organisations with an annual income of less than £250,000 We will prioritise support for young activists who are committed to creating communities that are prosperous, safe, diverse, equitable and inclusive, healthy, and sustainable. In particular we're seeking to support groups and communities that prioritise youth activism and shared power.

To find out more about this incredible funding opportunity, search up 'Young Gamechangers Fund' online. Applications close on the 19th December.



# YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE



Annually, our Year 10 learners, take a week off-school to engage in a different type of education - in the workplace. They managed to find job placements which linked directly to their GCSE options.

Mr Quirk (Head of Year 10) and the pastoral team visited lots of the different workplaces. Here is a selection of what they got up to!

“We spent a large part of work experience week going out and visiting Year 10 learners at their WEX placements. We were very proud to see our young people out there, in the real (working) world representing our school so well. The feedback from their employers and colleagues was nothing but positive and they have done themselves proud. A big thank you to Mr Peace and Mr Lewis for organising and co-ordinating this invaluable experience for Year 10.”

Mr Quirk (Y10 HOY) and Miss Carter (Pastoral Lead)

**RETAIL  
INDUSTRY**



**Vets Pets**



**VETERINARY  
PRACTICE**

**COMMUNITY**



**CLOTHING  
AND FASHION**





I enjoyed work experience because it shows how other people live and work on a daily basis. During my placement, the other members of staff challenged me which gave me an insight into how hard work can be. In the future, I may return to get a job or complete an apprenticeship

## BEAUTY SALON

## THE ARTS

## HOSPITALITY

## FOOD MARKET

## THING SHION

This cohort of year 10 work experience learners explored their career interests and learnt about the world of work in a variety of interesting placements.

Mr Quirk HOY 10

Callum (L6) & Daisy (U6)







# CAREERS FAIR

On Wednesday the 22nd of November, All learners were invited to attend Careers Fair, where in which they were given the opportunity to walk around and talk to the individuals representing the brand or company at each stall. There were over 40 different Exhibitions, including, Chester University, City of Liverpool College, Lipa Sixth Form College, Steven Gerrard Academy, Reaseheath College, David Campbell Soccer and many more!



The City  
of Liverpool  
College



THE CHESTER GROSVENOR



LIPA

SIXTH FORM  
COLLEGE



University of  
Chester



DAVID CAMPBELL SOCCER

COACHING COURSES AND EDUCATION IN SPORT





# Awards Evening



Mr Cummins

Upton Award for Outstanding Achievement in Art: **Amelie H**

Business Studies Apprentice of the Year: **Mujtaba K**

Lovelace Award for Computer Science: **Conor D**

Dolores W Award for Dance: **Ava R**

Tom Hughes Drama Trophy: **Charlie S**

Masterchef of the Year: **George C**

Sewing Bee of the Year: **Olivia S**

Sheilagh Fowler Award For Outstanding Achievement in English: **Annabelle H**

Palin Geography Award: **Ben N**

Chris O'Donnell Award for Outstanding Performance in History: **Grace S**

Euclid Award for Outstanding Achievement in Maths: **Rhys O**

Julia Williams Award for contribution to the musical life of the school: **Tom C**

Star Linguist Award: **Daria D**

Laughey Ward for Media: **Hannah L**

Victrix Ludorum Award: **Emily C**

Victor Ludorum Award: **Joseph D**







Inspiration Award: **Sam H**

The Storyhouse Award for Literacy: **Rhys O**

Highest achieving KS3 student in Maathai: **Marcel G**

Highest achieving KS3 student in Mendes: **Anna J**

Highest achieving KS3 student in Yousafzai: **Oliver G**

Highest achieving KS3 student in Wood: **Dylan W**

Highest achieving KS3 student in Yunus: **Izzy L**

Diamond Jubilee Award: **Anna Jones**

Holland Peace Prize: **Emily M & Elise H**

Hall Attendance Trophy: **Mendes**

Hall Champion: **Yunus**

Paula Dixon Award for Resilience: **Freya P**

Governor's Award: **Toby A**

Headteacher's Award: **Lucy M**



An excellent performance  
from our school choir!



Design by Alice (L6)





# Awards Evening Alumni



Stella - Class of 2018



At this year's Awards Evening, alumni Stella Dixon gave an impassioned speech about not always making the right decisions. She has kindly shared her speech with us at the Upton Voice. We hope you find her words both inspiring and comforting!

Ten years ago I was in Year Nine at Upton, and I was sat right where you are. I remember listening to the speaker that year – someone explaining his career in truck driving – but I couldn't imagine myself having 'a career'.

Really, I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life. I was interested in too many things – I absolutely loved everything Japan and Japanese, I played keyboard in Band, I did tap dance classes, I read books like *I ate food*, the list goes on. I didn't know what to do. One day I wanted to be a doctor, the next I wanted to be an author. That question, 'What do you want to do with your life?' is one you hear more and more as you get closer to GCSEs and A Levels. You've probably heard it already! But today I'm going to talk about why it's OK to not know what you want to do with your life. That sometimes it's better to let things change along the way and see where you end up.

I decided I would apply to study Japanese at university. The perfect opportunity to finally learn the language I'd always wanted to learn! And not only that, I aimed high and decided I wanted to apply to Cambridge. I had this romantic dream of studying in picturesque libraries and writing essays all the time. So I threw everything at my application. I went to exhibitions, read books, entered an essay competition. I learned the Japanese alphabets, hiragana and katakana, and I did an EPQ about the history and social perceptions of the Japanese national anthem. It was a lot of work, and at the end of it all, I was really lucky to get a place at Cambridge. But - when I got there, it wasn't what I thought. Although they started from scratch, they emphasised intensive language learning. I was supposed to learn hundreds of words a week, and I had to work through two massive textbooks of grammar patterns. I physically couldn't learn the words at that pace! It was the first time I ever failed at something.

To be honest it was really demoralising. I thought I'd finally found my thing, and I'd worked really hard for it, but I just couldn't do it. I eventually realised all wasn't lost. I worked up the courage and spoke to my tutor about it, and he told me it might still be possible to change subjects, if I could persuade the college to let me. And so, after a bit of research, for the first time I looked at a subject I'd heard mentioned but didn't know anything about – social anthropology – within the Human, Social and Political Sciences course.

So what is anthropology? Broadly, it's the study of what it means to be human. Some anthropologists look at bones and evolution. But social anthropologists research culture. And looking back at my personal statement to try and find my motivation again I found the following sentence: "All of my interests - history, language, literature, sport, music, politics - are united under the common theme of culture." I'd been interested in anthropology all along, I just didn't have the words for it. I had so much imposter syndrome the first few weeks of that course – there was so many essays to catch up on – but once I got started I totally fell in love with anthropology. I had an amazing time.





“  
sometimes it's  
better to let things  
change along the  
way and see  
where you end up.”



“  
there's a lot of  
things I can do  
within my life.  
I want to  
learn and  
grow.”

Fast forward to graduation in 2020. When you graduate, the ‘what do you want to do with your life?’ question rears its head again, but this time with an added side of financial stress and, in our case, the pandemic-hit job market. During my degree I enjoyed urban anthropology – studying how people live in cities, and how cities are made the way they are – so I applied for a few jobs in urban planning, as well as a masters. I ended up with one job offer. It wasn't exactly what I wanted – it was transport planning rather than city planning - but I took it anyway because it paid the bills.

So that's how I, an anthropologist, got a job in the rail industry. My work was often very technical, but it was interesting. I learned a lot about how transport policy is made and how it interacts with other government priorities. I learned how to use Excel formulas to make spreadsheet models calculating how much building a new rail line might cost. I talked a lot about climate change and net zero. I even spoke to Chris Boardman who was in charge of cycling in Manchester at the time. But as I got to the end of the graduate scheme, I realised it wasn't what I wanted to do any more. I needed a change again. So on a day off I stepped back and looked at what I'd done. I enjoyed doing research and writing reports. I enjoyed getting out and talking to people, through interviews and individual transport planning sessions. Most of all, I enjoyed bringing anthropology to my job - putting the people back into discussions where they're too often forgotten (as anyone who's taken a train recently will know).

So it was back to university again. I didn't do a dissertation in my undergrad, so I wanted to develop my research skills, but I also saw an opportunity to follow up on my old interest in Japan, and to do some research about how people like you and me think about climate change, rather than looking at it through policies or the UN. Based on all this, I chose to do a Masters in Research at SOAS down in London, researching how city dwellers' relationships with nature are changing due to climate change in Japan. I finally got to study Japanese, but at my own pace this time. I went to Japan in June to do a month of fieldwork, and I just finished my dissertation a couple of weeks ago. I applied for funding from the Economic and Social Research Council, and I'll be starting my PhD at SOAS next week. So it's a new beginning for all of us - we're here to celebrate your achievements last year, but we do this looking forward excitedly to see what you might get up to. That said, I hope by telling my story you can see that it's all right to not know where you're going to end up. I did a subject I'd never heard of, worked in a field I'd never thought of, and now I'm doing a PhD I'd never dreamed of. You all have choices ahead of you – whether it's GCSE and A Level subjects, job choices or just getting out of bed in the morning. It's enough to choose what makes you happy. And ultimately it's less about what you choose, and more about what you learn from it, how you reflect on what you've done, and how you use that to choose where you'll go next.

I'll leave you with a quote from the amazing Morgan Harper Nichols, who I follow on Instagram. She says: "I've stopped asking myself what I want to do with my life. Instead I ask what I want to do within my life. Then I realise there's a lot of things I can do within my life. I want to learn and grow within my life, I want to explore, I want to just be within my life. It takes a lot of the pressure off."

*Stella Dixon*



# Alumni

A focus on learners of the past to see how they are shaping the future.



Kate - Class of 1996



Kate gave a careers breakfast talk in The Hub last year - featured in the Summer 2023 edition of the Upton Voice. Further opportunities throughout the year are organised by Mrs Gwyther and publicised in the bulletin.

**Current job:** Director of Development at Storyhouse

**Responsibilities:** I manage the funding portfolio including Arts Council England & CWaC council. I work alongside the CEO to manage stakeholder organisation locally, nationally and internationally. I lead on a new fundraising strategy for 7.2 million turnover and report directly to the board of trustees. I oversee income generation from corporate partnerships, trusts, foundations and major donors. 2.2m for 20/21 to date. Alongside this, I manage the development and learning team as well as external T&F consultancy. I set up corporate giving scheme in 2019 and led on design and development of a Membership scheme with c5,000 members in first 6 months.

**What do you most enjoy?** I like the variety. One day I may be pitching to a large corporate sponsor & another day interviewing young people from our youth projects.

**Further Education:** University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, BA hons Sociology and Social Anthropology (1997-2000)

## Previous jobs & responsibilities:

Head of Fundraising at *R Charity (Royal Liverpool University Hospitals)* and *Countess of Chester*. Fundraising Manager at *Kurdish human rights project* in London and *Youth Federation*.

I have worked in fundraising since graduating and across these companies and charities I have developed corporate bids and managed grant portfolios. Early on in my career I managed corporate relationships including Bank of America. I have worked with partner organisations including Universities and the NSPCC to deliver high value fundraising support and advice for smaller companies.

I have led delivery of income generation from corporate partnerships, trusts and foundations, major donors as well as developing fundraising events. I have management experience of motivating & leading a team of fundraisers, establishing & implementing donor engagement as well as stewardship strategies.

For the hospital I was the Trust Strategic lead to deliver £10million pound new hospital appeal. A member of the Charitable Funds Committee, helping to distribute up to £1 million across the Trust annually. I was Deputy to Director of Communications actively networking and influencing senior level key decision makers across Merseyside and the wider region. I represented the Trust to identify areas of excellence that could benefit from charitable support.

**Any advice?** Think about the skills different subjects give, you not just the academic goal of going to University.

**How did studying at Upton help?** Drama A level hugely helped with confidence and being able to speak publically. English Literature helped with critical thinking and set me up well for essay writing at University and bid writing in my career. I also found extra curricular activities at Upton good for making friends across the year group and for giving me interests outside of school too.



**Current Job:** I'm a playwright and screenwriter and I lecture in screenwriting at Liverpool University

**Further Education:** BA Hons English Language and Literature, University of Sheffield English PGCE at Liverpool University

**What do you most enjoy?** I love the satisfaction in knowing that you'll receive a response from your audience. I love the immediacy of TV – and knowing your work will potentially be seen by an audience of millions. It's a strange feeling. I embrace the Dennis Potter view (look him up!); he knew the power of TV for people who didn't have season tickets for the National Theatre or enough money to go to the cinema; that TV was and is the true National Theatre. TV can be an instrument for education and enlightenment. It's about communication. It triggers imagination, sparks conversations, piques curiosity and gathers millions around common stories – that's the rewarding thing.

**Career highlight?** A definite highlight would be writing a series for BBC1 called Moving On with the great Jimmy McGovern.

**Any advice?** Rejections, knock-backs and 'nearlys' are inevitable. Knowing this, it's best not to hang your ambitions or self-confidence as a writer on any one platform's acceptance of your work. Don't indulge in any romantic but unrealistic notions of what it means to be A Writer.

But most of all: just write. Anything. Then keep writing. Ideas are one thing but writing and finishing something is another matter entirely. So finish it. And be at peace with the idea that it might be rubbish – it's fine, everyone's first drafts are rubbish! Accept that your official 'first draft' will probably be something more like your seventh draft. Re-write. Stick it in a drawer for a week. Read a load of great scripts. Annotate them. Learn from them. Then re-write again. The oft-quoted admonitions are true: writing is re-writing. It's application of backside to seat.

Keep writing. Get it finished. Never fear the blank page. Then see what happens.

**How did studying at Upton help?** I studied English and History at A Level. Essay-based subjects helped me to understand that writing is a craft – planning, re-drafting, proof-reading, editing. To look at this through the prism of English, the theory of spelling and grammar may be 'right or wrong' but from there we get poetry, prose, speech, theatre, social skills, performance, listening and comprehension. To enjoy phrases, sentences and paragraphs, it helps to know how they're put together; how language works; it helps to know what to do with a comma or a semi-colon; how to navigate and switch between different forms of communication and vocabulary use. And this doesn't stop at English!

**Future goal?** I'd love to write an original series for Netflix. And there are loads of actors I want to write for: Tom Hughes (another Upton alumni), Cillian Murphy, Maxine Peake, Helen Mirren – it's quite a list!



Adam delivered a workshop to our 6th Form BTEC Film class about screenwriting. You can read more about it on page 18.



# ESME BOWDLER

CURRENTLY  
APPEARING IN  
ITV'S MAMMA MIA  
I HAVE A DREAM



CLASS OF 2016

**What year did you leave school?**

I left Upton in 2016 after Year 11

**Further education:** At 16 I studied at Rare College in Liverpool for two years where I received a BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Musical Theatre. I then got offered a place at ArtsEd in London where I spent three years on the BA (Hons) degree in musical theatre. I graduated in 2021.

**Current role:** I am currently appearing in an ITV reality show called Mamma Mia I Have A Dream! Which is a competition to find the next Sophie and Sky for the West End production of Mamma Mia!



WITH MR TIERNEY  
HEAD OF PERFORMING ARTS



WITH HER GCSE DRAMA  
CLASSMATES IN 2016



### How did studying at Upton help?

The drama department at Upton was the reason I was able to find my passion for the arts and they helped and supported me through all my decisions about where I should study after year 11. I made so many true friends during my time in our drama lessons and it helped me find who I was as a person as well as a performer.

*The Drama Department at Upton was the reason I was able to find my passion for the arts*

### Any highlights of your career so far?

Mamma Mia I Have A Dream is definitely the highlight of my career however I did get to do some incredible things during my time at ArtsEd such as sing at the Olivier Awards and perform in a choir at the Royal Albert Hall.

### How different do you find life in London compared to Chester?

Life in London is amazing! There are almost two versions of the city. One where everything is so calm and scenic and one where everyone and everything is just buzzing! Its amazing but SO busy at times and that's probably when I start to miss Chester.

*London is amazing but so busy at times and that is probably when I start to miss Chester*

*I did get to do some incredible things during my time at ArtsEd such as sing at the Olivier Awards & perform in a choir at the Royal Albert Hall*

### What advice would you give learners hoping for a career in musical theatre?

If you believe in yourself, everyone will believe in you too. That's the hardest part but i promise if you work hard and believe in your talent and your passion, there is absolutely nothing that can stop you! It can be so hard to keep motivated and in a positive mindset when you face lots of rejection in this career, but if you focus on what makes you happy and let that be the reason you are pursuing this dream, nothing can stop you. Also, practice makes perfect!



ON SET IN CORFU FOR MAMMA MIA: I HAVE A DREAM





### **Tell us more about the Mamma Mia process:**

The audition process was very long and it started in March 2023. I almost didn't audition for the show as over 10,000 people overall applied so I didn't think I would stand a chance. I had been a graduate for just under two years at this point and I was yet to book any kind of big acting job. I sent off my application on the last possible day that you could and I had an audition the following week. I think overall there were 13 rounds to audition, lots of in person recalls along with some online surveys and phone interviews! I was genuinely very happy to make it down to the final 50, never mind being picked for the final seven!

### **Did you enjoy spending time in Greece?**

We had limited time to ourselves; the filming schedule was very intense! But I loved being able to perform every couple of days and the workshops were so much fun!

*The most inspirational judge for me was Samanrha Barks. I have always followed her career.*

### **Which judge was your favourite?**

My favourite judge was Alan Carr because he was just as funny and as genuine as he comes across on TV. However, the most inspirational judge for me was Samanrha Barks. I have followed her career and she knows exactly what we are all going through as she took part in the program for Finding Nancy for the musical Oliver.

### **Have you made any lasting friendships?**

I have absolutely made lifelong friendships with all of these contestants! We all grew very close as the pressure was so high and we were all we had to confide in. We still all spend a lot of time together and usually watch the episodes together each Sunday!

*I would just love to perform for the rest of my life.*

### **What have you most enjoyed about the competition?**

The thing I have most enjoyed so far has definitely been showing the audience and judges that I have what it takes to be in the West End. After not being able to express my passion for the arts for so long, it's nice to feel that I am pursuing my dreams! I wanted to be able to inspire people who have struggled in this career for whatever reason. As a 5ft 11 girl I have found it very hard to book any roles that I think I would be perfect for, and I want to change that!

### **Would you recommend the reality TV experience?**

The experience of reality TV is very strange. Because it is your real life and you don't get to hide behind a character which is sometimes the scariest part! I consider myself very lucky that I got to work with such a well established and trustworthy team. ITV have been so supportive of us through everything.

### **What future career goals do you have?**

I would just love to perform for the rest of my life. whether that is in the West End or above my local pub. I want to be able to tell stories from other worlds and take on challenging characters and I would one day love to be as successful as the legend that is Hannah Waddingham!



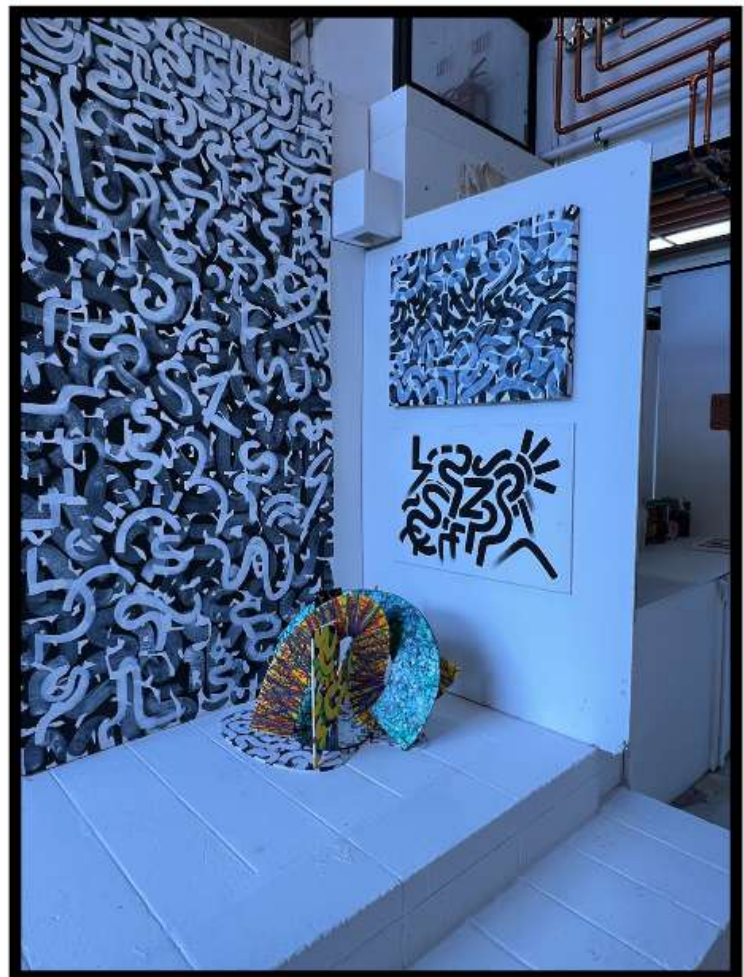
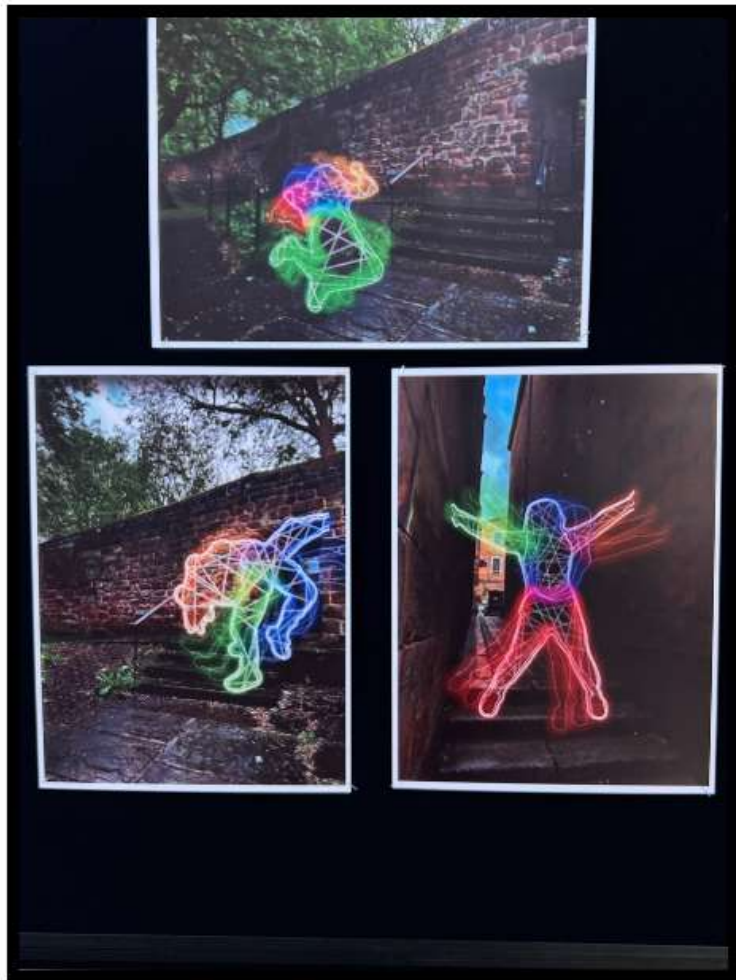
Watch on ITV1 every Sunday.  
The grand final with a live public vote is  
Sunday 10th December 2023  
Catch up on all episodes on ITVX



*I would one day love to be as  
successful as the legend that  
is Hannah Waddingham!*



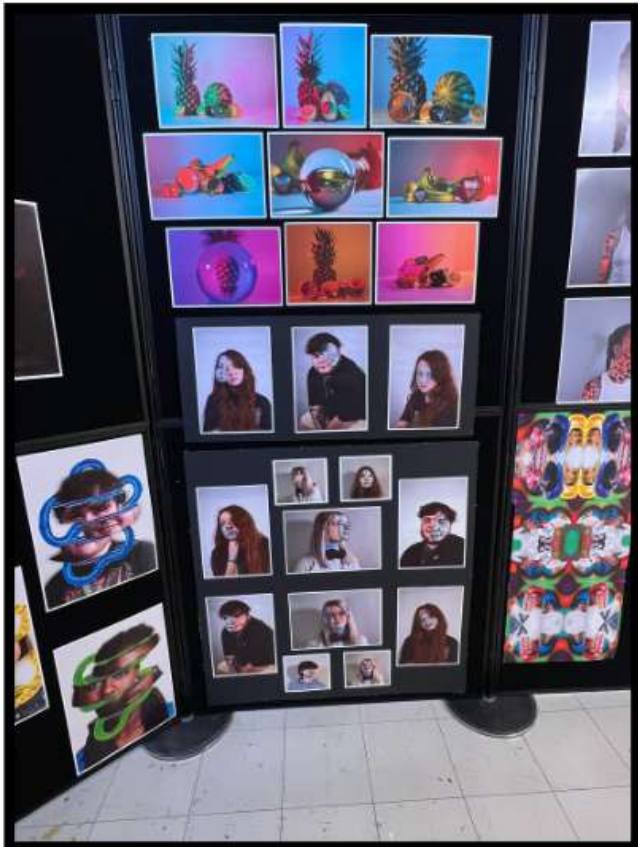
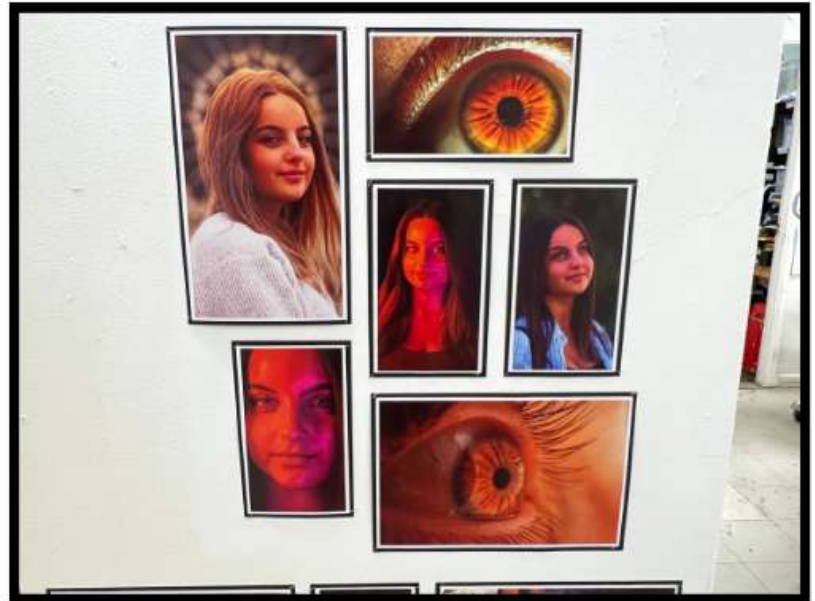




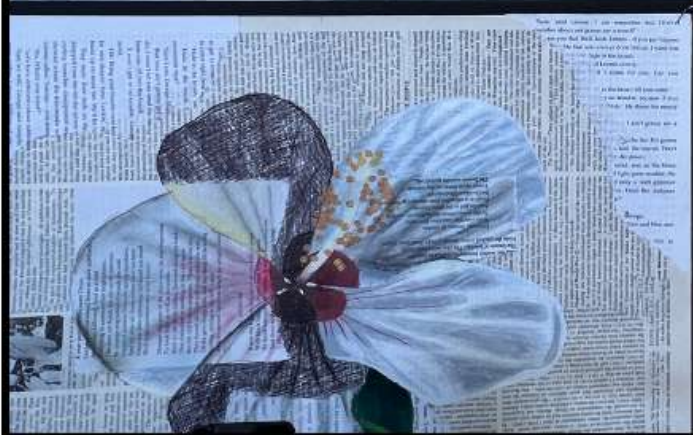


# Creative Arts Gallery

A selection of this year's A Level  
Fine Art & Photography showcase



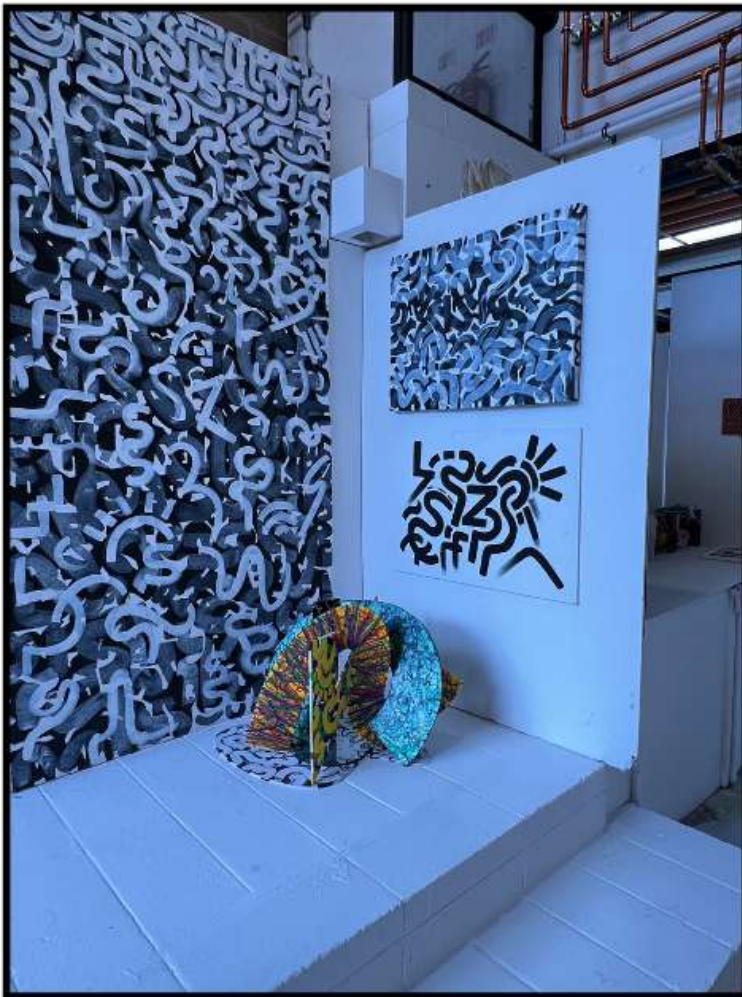






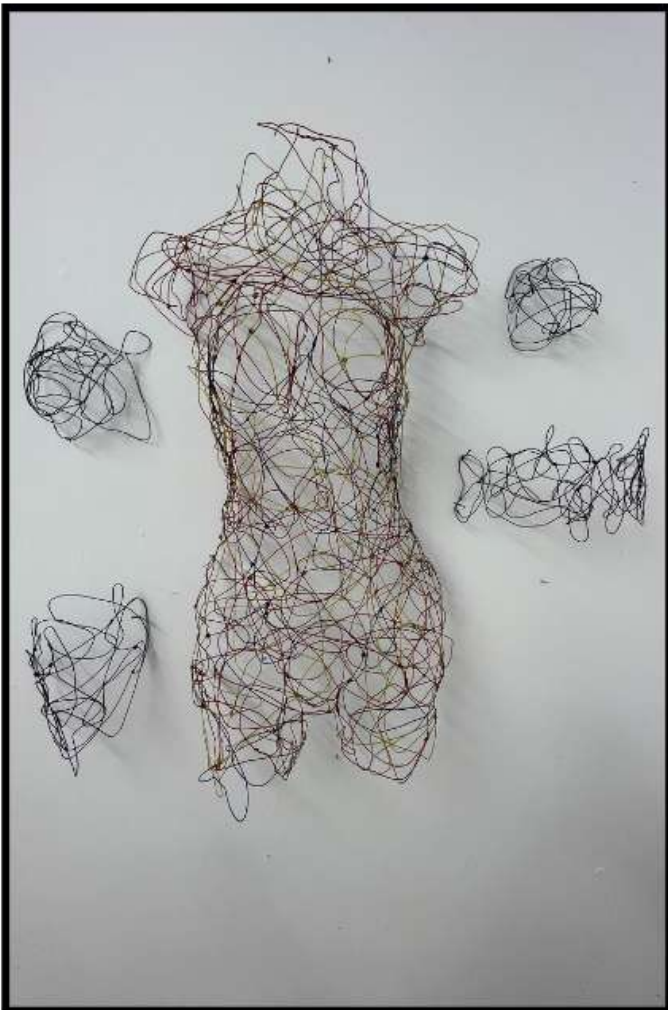






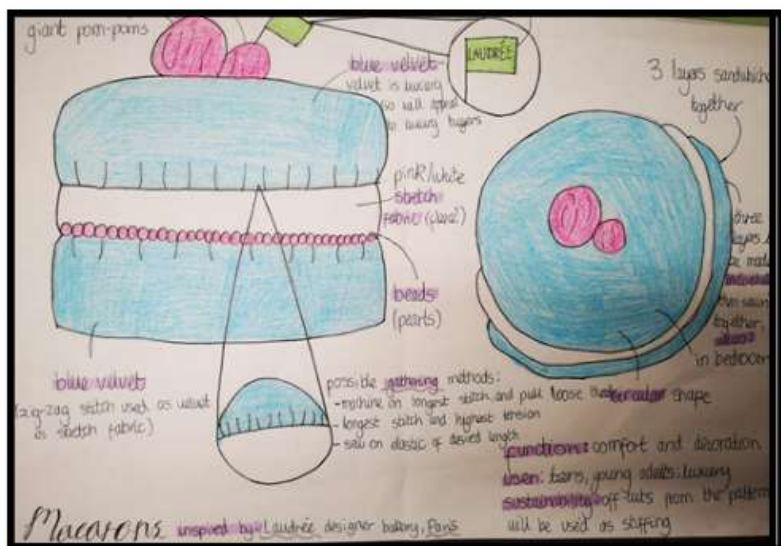
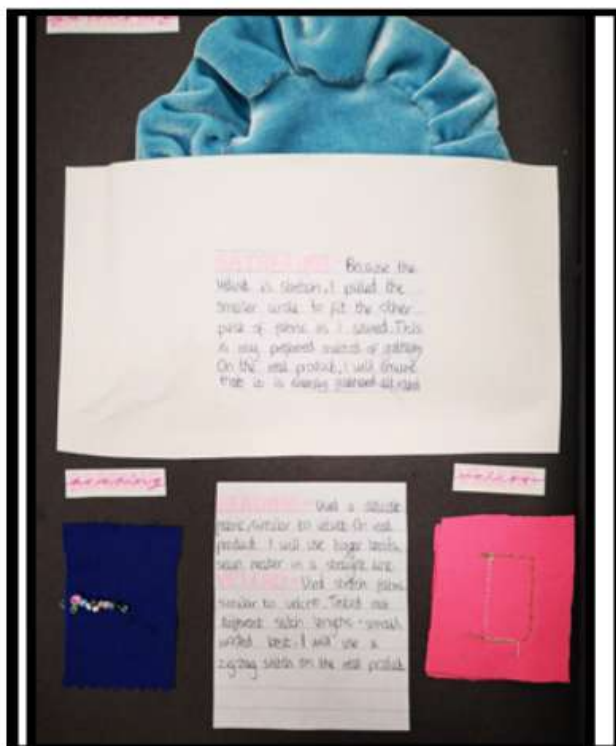
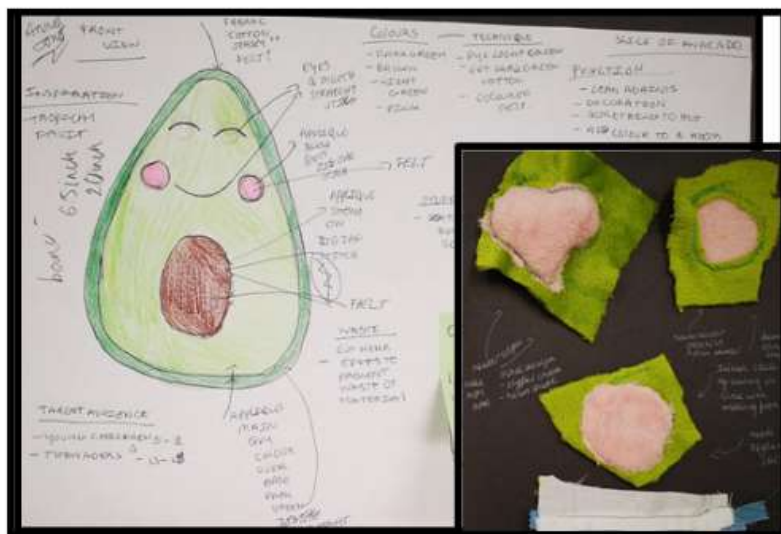


# Creative Arts Gallery





Year 10 D&T Textiles cushion development project: 'good enough to eat'







Year 7,8,9 skulls designed in Art Club - They are made from air drying clay and painted with designs inspired by The Day of the Dead festival that is celebrated in Mexico during October and November.









## A-Level Media Studies



L6 Media Studies learners were tasked with creating magazine front covers using the same model. One for a fictional mainstream publication and one for a niche audience



# BTEC Fashion

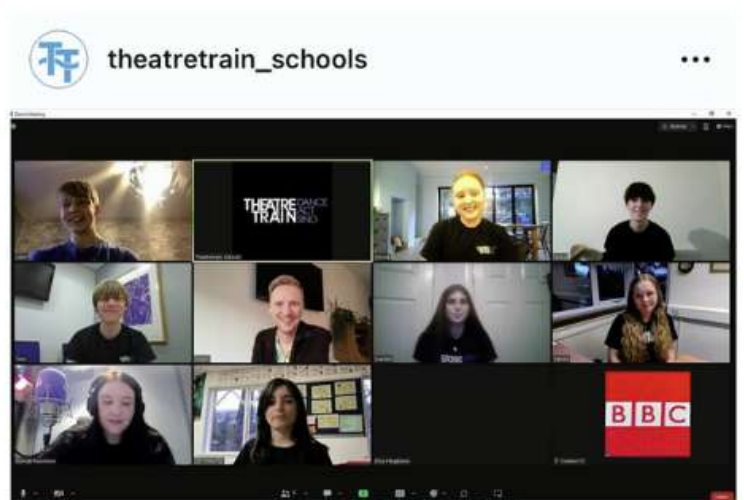
## Research and Development







Tom C on the Zoom call with Owain



6 likes

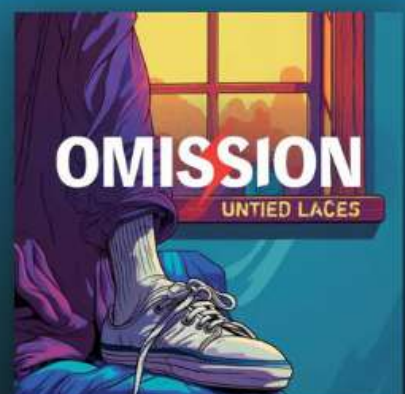
theatretrain\_schools Tune into BBC Radio Wales on Friday to hear how seven of our older Theatretrainers from #TTFriday #TTMold and #TTWrexham got on when they interviewed Owain Wyn Evans on a zoom call this week.

#ChildrenInNeed

1 hour ago

Pupils from local Theatretrains in Chester, Wrexham and Mold had the opportunity to interview Owain Wyn Evans on zoom for a Children In Need programme on BBC Radio Wales. Tom C from our Year 11 was lucky enough to be involved.

It was great to interview Owain who is seen as an inspiration to so many people. I talked to him about his passion for music & drumming and how he used this to raise money for charity. As someone who loves music myself, I was inspired by the work he did.



Untied Laces

Omission

Album • 2023



Tom's band 'Omission' have their latest single on Spotify



# Food Tech

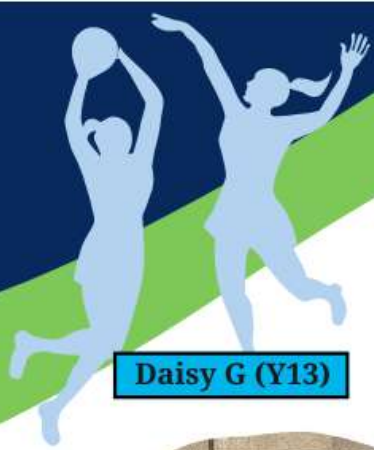
This term Key stage 3 have produced some amazing dishes in food technology.  
Year 9 made pizzas, different breads including foccacia & Year 10 made burgers.











Daisy G (Y13)



# Sport highlight



First round of the U16 Sistersnsport Netball Cup against a tough HGS SPORT. After a cracking start from our girls we held it together to take the win! Lots to work on still but great to get the whole squad on court!



Glorious evening of Netball with KSC Sport - First games for our Y7s. They are a talented bunch with super potential! Y8 team off to a cracking start with excellent team spirit! Our Y9 sports leaders providing exceptional coaching and umpiring!



Year 8 Football team beat Liverpool Blue Coat School 4-2 in the National Cup! Lots to work on but got the result ⚽ Now on to Round 5!!



6 games played  
5 wins & 1 draw  
10 goals scored  
0 goals conceded  
Year 7 Chester & District  
7-a-side football  
champions 🏆



Well done U18s football for an excellent 9-0 win away at Neston in the county cup. Amazing football on display & another 2 hat tricks!!

Our year 10s playing up in the U16 C&D football tournament tonight finishing 4th! So proud of the players stepping up, showing up & smashing it! Fab bunch of girls ☺





# RIGHTS



ights

Congratulations Yr9 football for holding their nerve to win their National cup game 5-4 on penalties.



Our Year 10s playing up in the U16 C&D football tournament tonight finishing 4th! So proud of the players stepping up, showing up & smashing it! Fab bunch of girls.

Off to Regionals 😊 these girls have worked their socks off!



Well done U16 football for their 3-1 County cup victory over Lymm. Great skill & determination on display, coming back from 1-0 down for the well deserved win!!



U14 girls put on a super performance to beat Bridgewater 6-0 in the Cheshire Cup ⚽



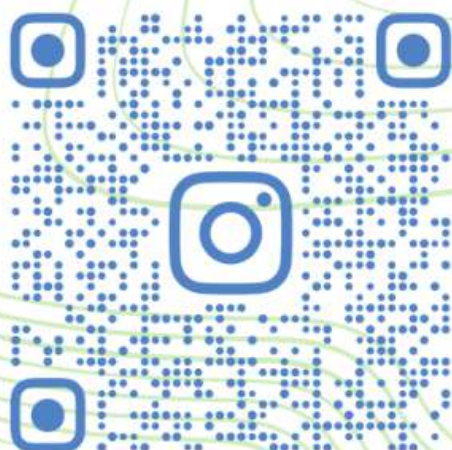
On our way to the semi-finals with both the U14 & U16 teams! Let's go team Upton!



# EXCITING NEWS!

## @UPTON\_VOICE

The Upton Voice Magazine is proud to announce our very own Instagram account, where we will post exclusive article teasers and update you on the latest school news. Just like the magazine, our Instagram page will be learner-led by Sixth Formers who are part of the Upton Voice Team.



SCAN THE QR CODE  
OR FIND US  
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ON INSTAGRAM!

LIKE.  
READ.  
SHARE.