



Upton Voice

Upton-by-Chester High School Newsletter

February 2018

Physics trip to CERN

As partnership schools of the Ogden Trust, Upton-by-Chester and West Kirby Girls Grammar took a large group of AS-Physics pupils to visit the world renowned **CERN**, the European Organization for Nuclear Research. It is one of the world's largest and most respected centres for scientific research. Its business is fundamental Physics - finding out what the Universe is made of and how it works.

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is the world largest particle accelerator and is used to recreate the conditions straight after the Hot Big Bang a staggering 13.7 Billion years ago! The accelerator itself is a massive 27km in circumference and is built 100m underground on the Switzerland/France border. In the LHC, two beams of protons are accelerated to over 99.9% of the speed of light and then smashed into each other! There are four massive particle detectors placed around the accelerator that are used to detect the new and very short lived particles that are created in the collision.

During our exclusive tour of CERN we got to see up close, and 100m underground, the famous Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) detector. This is one of the detectors that back in 2012 found evidence for the most elusive fundamental particle, the famous Higg's Boson. It is the Higgs Boson that is responsible for giving particles their mass and won Professor Higgs a Nobel Prize in 2013.

The students also gained an insight into what it is like to work in a multinational collaborative experiment of this magnitude.

Although it was only a flying visit, which included a one night stay in Geneva, it was; action packed, informative, extremely enjoyable and truly a trip of a lifetime!

Mrs Scutter
Science

The
Ogden
Trust

making physics matter



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

Welcome to the first Upton Voice of 2018! I'd just like to say how delighted I am to be back at Upton and writing this column once again, and to thank you for all of your messages of support that I have received over the past 12 months; I have been very touched.

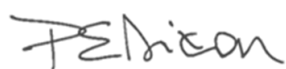
The half term has once again been extremely busy and I would like to highlight a few of the many fabulous opportunities in which our students have been involved. Firstly, the 6th Form Charity Week has yet again been a tremendous success and is already approaching £2,000 for Clatterbridge Cancer Centre, a charity chosen by our students which I know is very close to many of our hearts.

A huge thank you to Katie C. and the amazing 6th Form Leadership Team who have organised a wide range of imaginative fund-raising activities, from cake sales to quizzes, a staff versus student football match, karaoke and 'sponge the teacher'. A special mention must go to Cody F. who has raised over £400 by having her head shaved and also donating her pony tail to the Little Princess Trust, for children who undergo chemotherapy. What a true act of charity.

We have also had the wonderful opportunity to watch our annual production, now in its 25th year. Sister Act has been a tremendous success and I would like to thank all of our staff and students for their dedication and commitment to the months of rehearsals - and to their long suffering parents/carers and families for their outstanding support. Well done Miss Thompson and Mr Tierney for yet another triumph!

I would like to wish you all a very happy and safe half term holiday.

With best wishes



Mrs P. Dixon
Headteacher

Holocaust Memorial Day

On 26th January our Year 9 and Sixth Form historians gathered in the Learning Hub to listen to a live webcast from the Holocaust Educational Trust. The pupils heard the powerful testimony of Holocaust Survivor Janine Webber.



Janine was born in Lwów in Poland (now L'viv, Ukraine) in 1932. Following the Nazi-Soviet Pact, Lwów was occupied by the Red Army in 1939 and remained under Soviet rule until June 1941 when Germany invaded the USSR. Persecution of the Jews of Lwów began immediately, and thousands of people were murdered within weeks of the invasion by the Nazis and Ukrainian collaborators. Janine's father and brother were shot, her mother died of typhus due to the appalling conditions in the ghetto and Janine never saw her grandmother again. Having been on the run for quite some time, living on farms, Janine then had to live in a cramped underground bunker for nearly a year before obtaining false papers. Janine eventually worked as a maid in Kraków until liberation in early 1945.

Janine then lived with her Aunt in Paris before moving to the UK in 1956 where she met her husband. She has two sons and two grandsons and she regularly shares her testimony with schools to ensure the atrocities are not forgotten and promote the message of tolerance and understanding to future generations.



Visual Arts Day

Students from Years 9, 10, 12 and 13 took part in a Visual Arts Day as part of their Higher Horizons programme. They participated in 3 workshops; Photography, Active Drawing and Comic Art run by Chester and Staffordshire University staff. The Photography workshop involved taking portraits using specialised equipment and lighting, the Comic Art created comic strips working in groups of 6 and the Active Drawing explored more subjective and creative ways of mark making. An interesting and creative day was had by all.

Students involved were:

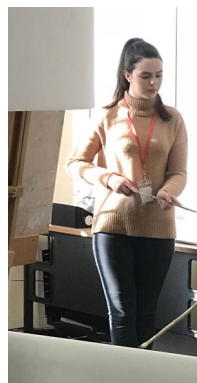
Ellen & Tom (Year 13)

Eimeren, Sophie, Manuela, Isobel (Year 12)

Neve, Emily, Anika, Matthew, Emma (Year 10)

Helin, Emma, Freya, Honey, Emma (Year 9)

Miss French
Head of Art & Design



STEM Club

Upton-by-Chester STEM club are working hard on developing their project to take to the finals of the Big Bang Competition at the NEC in Birmingham in March. They have been extremely successful over the course of the year and have achieved third place at the Unilever Bright Futures Programme. They then took part in the regional heats of the Big Bang Competition and have gained a place in the National Finals. This is a fantastic achievement, well done!

The project aims to take a drinking bottle that is already being found in landfill across the world and turn it into a multiuse product that can go on to be used as a water filtration system to help provide water to some of the poorest people living in and around the landfill sites.

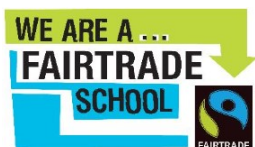
Our talented group of Year 11s have been working hard to raise the money for their trip to Birmingham in March and are yet to meet the totals they need. Please show your support to our STEM club and take part in the upcoming raffles and cake sales to help raise the rest of the funds needed to attend. Thank you for all of those who have supported us so far and we hope to make our school proud this coming March.

Mrs Rogers
Science



Fairtrade Fortnight 26th February – 11th March 2018

To start off our annual Fairtrade Fortnight, there will be an assembly for each year group, informing students of all the exciting activities planned for them over the two week period. This assembly also aims to stimulate pupil's awareness of Fairtrade and how our school supports this social movement. The second week will include numerous activities during break, PLAN and some KS3 lessons.



We are asking our students to donate an item of Fairtrade produce (not bananas as we don't want them to spoil) by Friday 9th March, when the event will culminate. We hope that in turn this will encourage staff, students and parents to change their shopping habits and support Fairtrade. For every item brought in, a raffle ticket will be issued to the student, where they will then be entered into a draw to win a Fairtrade Prize and Hall Points. (There is a Fairtrade tuck shop in school if you are unable to get to the shops!)

Once collected, all of the items will be distributed between local care homes in Chester and West Cheshire Food Bank.

Oxfam Youth Group

Recently our Oxfam Youth group has been focused on the Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill and students were asked to write a postcard explaining their feelings on the bill. In total we completed over 200 postcards! On Friday 26th January Chris Matheson MP met with our group and we presented him with the cards and explained the importance of his presence in parliament to vote on the Bill. He was very impressed by our commitment and the difference that we are making to the world. Hopefully, the bill will be passed!

We have donated £250 from our recent collections to Oxfam, where our money is buying a farmyard for a family in need. This will provide food and earnings for the whole community!

Becky
Year 10



Dementia Friends visit Sixth Form

A representative from 'Dementia Friends' visited our Sixth Form students in order to raise awareness about the disease. Dementia Friends is an Alzheimer's Society initiative designed to change people's perceptions of dementia. It aims to transform the way the nation thinks, acts and talks about the condition.

Students were asked to consider the effects of Dementia and how those living with the disease could be supported. The person delivering the presentation, Rob Catlow, spoke through personal experience of how it affected his father and students found the talk not only really touching, but also illuminating, as most know someone who is suffering from Dementia. It helped them to understand more clearly the behaviours and suffering a person with the disease might experience.

Students received a 'Dementia Friends' badge to show their support and were given advice on how to find out more. Although students are unable to become actively involved in volunteering for the initiative until they are 18 years old, they were given the opportunity to register their interest and show support. They now hope to share some of this information with other students in school, in order to help them better understand the social and emotional aspects of the disease and how to support those living with it. One student, Annabelle, found the quote below, which she feels puts across the message of the talk: the need for the loved ones to focus on the person, not simply the behaviour.

We would like to thank Rob for taking the time to come in to school to speak out about this really important issue.



Visit of Professor Coleman

On the 17th January Professor Coleman (Professor of Toxicology at Aston University) visited our school and gave a talk to A Level pupils on his career path and how he ended up researching the brain. He spoke to us about the ethics of using animals for scientific testing and other alternatives like human cellular systems instead of animals. Prof. Coleman explained to us the different cells in the brain, their role and how they have come up with models of the brain and the process in which they do so. He also talked about many drugs and how the research into them happened and how research sometimes fails in its aim but can be a solution to another research project.



Prof. Coleman explained his role in his team and the roles his team members fill. He explained how unpredictable research is and the indirect routes it took him down, he left us with the message that research sometimes leads you down an unpredictable path, it is a team sport and is not exclusively male. He then gave us an insight into university life and gave us advice on how independent learning skills were vital for university. After the talk a question and answer session was held and we as students gained more insight into research and university.

Adrienne
Year 12

Dates for your diary

Monday 26th February — First day of term
 Tuesday 6th March — Year 13 Parents Evening
 Tuesday 13th March — Year 7 X Side Parents Evening
 Thursday 15th March — Year 7 Y Side Parents Evening
 Thursday 22nd March — Year 10 Parents Evening
 Tuesday 27th March — Dance Show
 Thursday 29th March — Inset Day (school closed to pupils)
 Friday 30th March to Friday 13th April — Spring Break
 Monday 16th April — First day of term
 Wednesday 25th April — GCSE Art Exhibition 5pm
 Thursday 3rd May — Year 12 Parents Evening
 Wednesday 16th May — A Level Art Exhibition 5pm
 Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June — Half-term Break
 Monday 4th June — First day of term
 Thursday 28th June — Open Evening
 Wednesday 4th July — New Intake Evening
 Tuesday 10th July — Awards Evening
 Friday 13th July — Sports Day
 Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th July — Inset Days (school closed to pupils)
 Wednesday 25th July to Friday 31st August — Summer Break
 Thursday 16th August — A Level Results Day
 Thursday 23rd August — GCSE Results Day
 Monday 3rd & Tuesday 4th September — Inset Days (school closed to pupils)
 Wednesday 5th September — First day of term

MURDER MYSTERY EVENING

Bring your own bottle,

7.00pm Friday 23rd February
St. Columba's Church Hall

UPTON-BY-CHESTER HIGH SCHOOL
Raising money for the sensory garden at Upton by Chester High School

Large Car park

3 Course Meal

£15.00
book on eventbrite
<https://tinyurl.com/murderatupton>

Organised by Dilly Cartwright 07929 642444

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

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

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