



Upton Voice

Upton-by-Chester High School Newsletter

July 2018

Fallen for the Fallen

In partnership with the local community in Upton and The Land Trust, the Friends of the Countess of Chester Country Park launched an important project to commemorate 100 years since the end of World War One. They will be using a cedar tree from the Upton area which has come to the end of its life, and has to be felled, to help people remember those who fell during WW1 or suffered as a result of it. The project will be called 'Fallen for the Fallen'.

Our school were asked to take part in a workshop led by Town Crier and Artist, Julie Mitchell to create a mural commemorating the end of The Great War. This is part of a series of workshops taking place at Westlea Primary School and involving the local Upton schools. The students created the stunning 'Fallen for the Fallen' art mural which is now exhibited at Chester Cathedral from 2nd July right through the summer until 26th August.



One visitor to the exhibition tweeted on July 12th: "Particularly impressed by the detail in the stencilled soldiers done by an obviously talented @UptonVoice student @chestercath Fallen for the Fallen mural."

Miss Wynn and Mr Thornton accompanied the following students to Westlea to work on the mural: Keira; Eisha; Shannon; Amelia; Reyna; Lia; Gamze; Anika; Emily; Gabrielle; Martyna; Declan; Madeleine; Grace.

It was great to contribute to such a wonderful project.

Miss French
Head of Art & Design



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

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

Here we are at the end of another school year and what a year it has been! As you will see from reading this bumper edition of The Voice, there has been so much activity over the past few months here at Upton.

We held our annual Awards ceremony on 17 July at which over 170 awards were issued to our students. Our guest speaker, Major Verity Brown, a former student of Upton, was so inspiring and talked glowingly about her 7 years here. She was clearly extremely proud of her 'alma mater' and talked of how her free, state education more than matched any that her colleagues at Sandhurst had experienced in such elitist institutions as Eton and Harrow. The evening was a great success and it was such a joy to see so many of our students proudly receiving their well-deserved awards.

There is a lot of talk in the media and in politics about education, and especially about exam results, but what our half termly editions of Upton Voice clearly demonstrate, I believe, is that education here at Upton High is about far more than exam results alone. Whilst these are of course vitally important factors within education, they are not our sole purpose as educators, and it is essential that we provide our young people with every opportunity to experience education in its very broadest sense – developing informed, well-rounded young people who truly are Learning to Shape the Future.

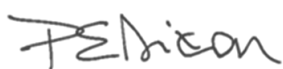
Our annual Sports Day, yet again an exciting and exhausting event, saw hundreds of our students from our 5 Halls competing enthusiastically and with determination. Eventually Wood Hall, under the excellent leadership of Miss McLean, proved to be worthy winners.

We had a marvellous History day for Year 8 in conjunction with the University of Chester exploring 'Hidden Histories: Diverse Cheshire Narratives' and over 350 students were treated to a rewards trip to Chester Zoo on July 16. As I write, our Year 9 students are experiencing a Performing Arts' day in Circus skills which they are thoroughly enjoying and learning so much from.

We have also been very busy this half term working with our partner primary schools. There have been lots of activities, including the Harry Potter Experience for Year 5 (where I met my first Golden Eagle!) and Global Challenge day for Year 4, and we welcomed our 282 new Year 7 students and their parents on our two Induction Days and New Intake Evening.

We are of course busy planning for next term and the new academic year; I look forward to seeing many of you on our A level and GCSE results' days in August and to working with you again in September. I would like to wish you all a safe, restful and enjoyable summer holiday.

With my very best wishes,



Mrs P. Dixon
Headteacher

**Safer Schools & Young People's Partnership Conference**

Our Year 9 & 10 students Byron, Liam, Holly & Lucy did a fantastic job presenting on the effect of social media at the Safer Schools & Young People's Partnership Conference in Cheshire Police HQ in Winsford on 15th June. The theme of the conference was "Silence is not golden. Find your voice! -Young people's approach to supporting professionals."

Well done all!



Year 8 History Day

On Wednesday 4th July, we had the wonderful pleasure of hosting a series of workshops entitled 'Hidden Histories: Diverse Cheshire Narratives'. Led by Dr Michael Bird from University of Chester and his team of Associate Teachers, our Year 8 students examined genuine artefacts and first-hand accounts of minority groups in the Cheshire area during WWI.

This was very much a different perspective on experiences during WWI, with the local aspect being of particular interest to our students. The sessions focused on Belgian Refugees in Cheshire; Jewish Soldier in the Cheshire Regiment; Handforth and Queensferry prisoners of War – Internment Camps; Anti-German Feeling in Birkenhead and Race Relations and Riots on Merseyside. Dr Tim Grady from the University's History Department was also on hand to offer his considerable expertise on the topics explored.

Miss Beuzit, Mrs Roberts and Mr Ryan provided us with invaluable support in organising the day. This was a very rewarding and enjoyable day for our students and one we hope will become an annual event.

The History Department



Get Set, Ready, Go.....

Well done to Fatouma in Year 8 for finishing 3rd in the 300 metres at the Mason Trophy Inter Counties Schools Championships. A fantastic result for Fatouma who was competing as one of the youngest competitors in the U15 category. The result secured her a place to compete at the ESAA National Championships on 13th July at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham. The televised event attracts the best athletes in each County in England to compete for the honour of being the best athlete in the Country.

Fatouma currently commits over 5 hours per week to training and hopes to represent England in senior championships in the future. Notable names who have completed in the ESAA National Championships in the past include Paula Radcliffe, Mo Farah, Jo Pavey and the Brownlee Brothers.

Well done Fatouma.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Some of our 2017 leavers recently attended Buckingham Palace to receive their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards. Congratulations to Sophie, Anna, Joshua, Joe, Arron and Oscar who received their awards at a star studded ceremony.

Our current Gold Award pupils recently completed their practice expedition. The team spent two nights camping and walked a total of 50 km over three days in Snowdonia. The group completed a night of wild camping in a sheep field with no amenities and collected their drinking and cooking water from a local stream. The team all did exceptionally well and had great feedback from the expedition leaders at The Conway Centre. The group will complete their assessed expedition in July.

Our school has run the Duke of Edinburgh Award since 2013 and has been awarded 'a centre of excellence' status due to the exceptional success rate of participants completing their award in the space of one year for Bronze. During the award, students are involved in undertaking some community volunteering work, learning a new skill, some physical recreation and the ever popular expeditions. Each level and section becomes more challenging as you move up the awards. Once you enter the Sixth form you can do your Gold DofE programme which will take 18 months to complete, including a Residential section - staying away from home for five days and four nights doing a shared activity.

Miss Seery & Mrs Hewitt



Writing to a writer

At the start of the academic year 7YEN2A wrote to S.F. Said, the author of their class novel Varjak Paw. The pupils asked questions about the writing process; where his ideas came from and if he was planning to release any more novels.

7YEN2A recently received a response from the author answering all the questions they asked individually. This is a fantastic achievement for them all and I am really grateful to S. F. Said for taking the time to respond to his fans! We will certainly keep the Way alive!

Miss Green English



Awards Evening

On Tuesday 17th July we held our annual Awards Evening. This is always a special occasion which recognises the hard work and excellence of our pupils. It was great to see the Hall packed with parents and staff celebrating our pupil's achievements with over 170 awards presented. Our guest speaker, Major Verity Brown, a former student of Upton, was so inspiring and talked glowingly about her 7 years here. The audience were also treated to two beautiful musical performances: a tenor saxophone piece by Becky in Year 13 and a vocal solo by Anna in Year 8. Below are just a selection of the Awards presented.



Left to right: Ben; Charlotte; Adam; Muhammad; Maddie; Heidi; Vivien; Fatouma; Chloe



Heidi—Masterchef of the Year
Vivien—Upton Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Visual Arts



Maddie—Sewing Bee of the Year



Adam—Inspiration Award



Fatouma—Victrix Ludorum
Vivien—Diamond Jubilee Award



Muhammad—Lovelace Award for ICT



Ben—Governors' Award
Charlotte—Julia Williams Award for Contribution to the Musical Life of the School

National Writing Competition Success

During April and May pupils in Year 7 were encouraged to enter a national creative writing competition run by the Author's Licensing & Collecting Society (ALCS). The brief was to take a familiar story and turn it into a newspaper article of no more than 300 words. Our school's entries were submitted before May half term. We were delighted to receive notification on 5th June that Jack in 7y5yu had won the competition! His entry was alternative spin on the story of Red Riding Hood and the Wolf.

Jack's prize was an Amazon Fire HD tablet and a collection of books which Mrs Dixon presented to him. He also won £500 worth of books for the school and an all-expenses paid trip to the Carnegie & Greenaway Medal Awards at the British Library in London (widely regarded as the greatest of all accolades available to a children's writer or illustrator). At the beginning of the ceremony the host for the event, June Sarpong MBE, introduced Jack to the assembled authors, illustrators and guests. Jack also enjoyed some canapés at a reception afterwards and he managed to get a number of signed messages and illustrations.



Mr Ryan Learning Hub



The Karate Kid

Georgia in Year 9 competed in the Karate WUKF World Championships in June in Dundee. She was representing her club Hasha Karate GB in the 13-14 years over 155cm category and finished 5th in the world!!!

Georgia began learning karate when she was 8 years old and in 2017 she was awarded her 1st Dan Black Belt and made the England squad. In October Georgia will travel to Malta for the European Championships to fight for Hasha GB again. In 2019 she hopes to go to the Shotokan Nationals Competition in Las Vegas.

Congratulations Georgia on your amazing achievements to date.



Campaigning for Education at the Houses of Parliament

On 20th June Amelia & Emily (Year 10) acted as representatives in Parliament for the 175,000 strong **Send My Friend to School** youth campaign to Make School Safe for children around the world.

Schools should be safe havens for children. But unfortunately for millions of children around the world, school can be a place of violence and danger, with 246 million children experiencing violence at school every year. This has to stop. **That's why over 175,000 young people across the UK - from Dorset to Gateshead – are taking part in Send My Friend to School's campaign to Make Schools Safe.** They have been creating eye-catching paper safety signs for their MPs to send a sign to the Government that schools must be safe for every child.

Amelia and Emily were selected from lots of applicants to become Send My Friend Campaign Champions. Alongside 22 others they took the message of the campaign right to the heart of government through a Parliament Action Day - meeting with local MP Chris Matheson as well as other parliamentarians and ministers.



Amelia said "It is a honour to represent young people from across the UK and speak up for the millions of children around the world who are missing out on getting a safe education."

Emily added "My favourite part was when we went to the door of Downing Street and handed in a photobook showing all the campaigning activity from around the country."

Karen Smale (Head of RS and PSHCE) said: "It has been a brilliant opportunity to learn about how change happens. The voice of young people is very powerful. This is education at its best. I am really proud of Amelia and Emily ,they have done an excellent job of being Send My friend to School Champions and it doesn't stop here! We may even have future MP's in the making."

Ema Jackson, Campaigns Manager for the Send My Friend to School said: "Quality education is empowering and transformative: it prepares young people for life and helps them reach their full potential. It has a central role in making the world more peaceful and prosperous. For this to happen schools need to be safe – places where young people are able to learn and thrive. In the UK we often take this principle for granted, but unfortunately millions of children around the world are at risk of harm simply by trying to receive an education. So I am delighted that Amelia and Emily at Upton-by-Chester High School are engaging with Chris Matheson MP to demand the UK makes school safe everywhere."

All schools are invited to get involved with the **Send My Friend** campaign - visit sendmyfriend.org for a free teaching resource pack with everything needed to take action on this important issue.



Geographers in the Field

Year 12 Geography students have recently been on fieldtrips to Liverpool to see regeneration and Cwm Idwal, Snowdonia for glaciation.



Upton 2030

I originally met with Councillor Jean Evans back in 2016 regarding the Upton Parish Council's Neighbourhood Development Plan – 'Your Upton 2030'. Councillor Evans asked our school to help to publicize this initiative and was interested in hearing our pupils' opinions on Upton's facilities, whether we think it is a good place to live, how we could improve it and our vision of what Upton might look like in 2030. Councillor Evans and I launched an exciting competition across the whole school to gather some of Upton students' best ideas with Upton Parish Council providing prizes for the winning entries.

On 19th June members of the School Council, Eco Schools Action Team, competition participants, Mrs Dixon and Miss Beuzit attended a presentation in the Learning Hub. As a Hall Leader, I was very impressed how attentively the invited students listened to the Upton Neighbourhood Plan presentation and questionnaire feedback given by Councillor Jean Evans. It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to share the effort and enthusiasm shown by our competition winners Anna, Ella and Alice from 8Y1MA who were presented with prizes from Upton Parish Council.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to this event which I am sure will help to highlight the talent and creativity of Upton High School pupils within the wider community.

Miss Maxwell
Maathai Hall Leader

Year 7 Cricket team finish second in Chester Competition

The Year 7 Cricket team took on five other schools on Friday 22nd June at Chester Broughton Hall Cricket Club. The competition involved 8 overs per innings, everyone bowling and a paired batting format, with each pair receiving two overs. All teams started on 200, and lost 5 runs per wicket conceded.

Upton 264 vs Blacon 177

Our first game saw us up against local rivals Blacon. Upton went into bat first, notching up an impressive 64 runs. Lewis, Jack, Callum and Ben all scoring boundaries. Michael, Jack, Max and Sami all chipping in with vital runs too. Upton showed their class when fielding with some vital wickets and catches taken, notably a one hander by Sami.

Upton 243 vs Tarporley 213

In our second game we faced Tarporley. Again we showed some excellent attacking shots with the bat, notching up 43 runs, stopping limiting Tarporley to 13 runs.

Upton 221 vs Abbeygate 208

Next we faced Abbeygate in a really tough game. The game was only separated by 13 runs. The boys showed bags of character though to knock up enough runs to beat Abbeygate's total.

Upton 256 vs Catholic High 227

Upton faced Catholic High in a high scoring game. Both teams scoring plenty of boundaries, having success with the bat. The lads all chipped in with the runs to take us into our last game unbeaten.

Upton 222 vs Bishops 231

Our final game saw us play Bishops in effectively a final, with both teams unbeaten to this point. This was our toughest game yet and the game could have gone either way. The lads just missed out but didn't go down without a fight.

You should be really proud boys to win 4 out of 5 games. Well done to all involved.

Mr Hooley
PE



Improvements to Guilden Sutton Bus Stop

Concerned parents and residents in Guilden Sutton have been campaigning for several years regarding the safety of pupils using the local bus stop to travel to school. The community even used their own money to install traffic signs to encourage motorists to slow down and lobbied for improvements to be made to the bus stop.

The hard work and perseverance by Mr Lloyd and other members of the community has paid off and one of our pupils from Guilden Sutton had this to say:

“Before the bus stop was renovated, it was only two little paving slabs on the side of the road with a sign, but then later on, a group of parents in the local community came together to improve the safety and driver awareness. Now the bus stop has been changed and made safer and visible to drivers, the hedge has been cut all along the road and a bus stop sign has been painted onto the road so that cars cannot park there. Everybody at the bus stop feels a lot safer now. “



Mrs Dixon, Headteacher, said “I just wanted to say well done and thank you for your success in securing the huge improvements to the bus stop in Guilden Sutton, which will greatly improve the safety of our students. Thanks to you and the other parents for your determination which has paid off!”

Record Breaking Swimming

Congratulations to Victoria in Year 10 who recently broke the British records in the 50m & 100m Bi Fin at a gala in Bath. This was a very proud achievement for Victoria and her swimming club ASKA.

Bi-fins is swimming on the surface of water with mask, snorkel and a pair of fins using a crawling style. BF races are held for distances of 50, 100 and 200m in swimming pools. Swimmers must remain on the surface of the water at all times for the duration of the race except when starting or make a turns at the end of a swimming pool where an immersion of a distance of 15m is permitted.

Congratulations Victoria!



Peer Mentor Help Is Always Here For Years 7 & 8

On Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th July, 38 students took part in training to become a Peer Mentor. As a Peer Mentor they will be a helping hand to our new and current Year 7s. They will also provide support, a listening ear, encouragement, and information to help them settle in. By the end of their session the trainees had gained valuable new skills and through different activities they learned to become active listeners. They now have the tools to thrive as Peer Mentors and put their new listening skills to good use. We look forward to welcoming the new Year 7s in September.

One trainee said - “I really enjoyed Peer Mentor training because it taught me new skills and I now feel confident that I will be able to help a Year 7”.

Miss Noel
Yunus Hall Leader

International Cap for 6th Former Sapphira

Well done to Sapphira (Year 12) for achieving her latest cap for Wales. She plays Goal Defence for the Welsh U17 Netball Team and in the last match Wales produced a great performance against a very strong England side. Sapphira is delighted to have recently been asked to join the U21 Squad.



Young Leaders receive Arts Award

Congratulations to Daisy and Felicity in Year 7 upon receiving their Arts Award as part of the Storyhouse Young Leaders Programme.



Charity Cake Sale

Phoebe in 9y2me and her friends organised a cake sale recently in aid of the Alzheimer's Society and raised over £100. Well done girls!

Year 7 Orienteering

I took 6 Year 7 students to an Orienteering competition at the Cheshire and Warrington School Games on Wednesday 11th July in Macclesfield. They did really well!

The boys (Tom, Connor, Ben) came first and completed the course in such an amazing time that they beat the student that actually set up the course!

The girls were fabulous (Jess, Emily, Isla) and competed with such enthusiasm, energy and dedication that they were selected as the team that won "the spirit of the games award!"

Miss Szehofner
PE



Cheshire Dot Art Competition Final

On Thursday 7th June Miss French attended the 2nd Annual Cheshire Dot Art Competition Final at Storyhouse in Chester. On display were the winners of the School heats of the competition from Years 5 and 9.

Our school winner Vivien received a certificate and goody bag from the High Sheriff of Cheshire. Vivien's work, Architecture layers, was on display at Storyhouse until the 24th of June. Our school's runners-up, Faisal and Nisa, also received certificates.



Royal Cheshire Show

On 19th June our band and choir, accompanied by Miss Thompson, delivered another highly entertaining performance to the crowds gathered around the bandstand at the Royal Cheshire Show.



Little for Liverpool FC

Congratulations to former staff member Miss Little on signing for Liverpool Ladies FC. We look forward to seeing her in the Women's Super League in 2018/19.



Park managed by: 

Picnic in the Park

Presented by The Friends of Countess of Chester Country Park, supported by The Conservation Volunteers and The Land Trust

Bring your picnic to the park on
Saturday 4th August, 11am - 3pm

**The Countess of Chester
Country Park**

Join us at the crossing in the middle of the park.
Car parking available on Valley Drive, CH1 4ED

Free activities for all the family including:

- World War 1 camp re-enactment
- Bioblitz wildlife spotting - with experts from Liverpool World Museum & Cheshire RECORD
- Woodland trail and wildlife activities - build a Bug Hotel and a Toad Abode
- Chester Zoo Safari Ranger
- Tree Carving demonstration - chainsaw sculptor Paul Edwards will carve a Green Man
- Junk drumming workshop

As well as stalls from

Friends of the Earth, Keep Britain Tidy, Plastic Free Chester, NW Bee Keepers, The Countess Charity, Poppy Appeal, SSAFA, Supertrees, TCV & The Land Trust and more to be announced.

Everyone is welcome.

For more information, please contact TCV on 07740 899716 or email merseyside@tcv.org.uk

The Countess of Chester Country Park is a Land Trust space that is managed by TCV

In case of emergency, please call 999. To report non-emergencies on site, call 101. For all other site enquiries and information please call 0151 423 4433 or contact The Conservation Volunteers, Pex Hill Visitor Centre, Pex Hill Avenue, Croxteth, Widnes WA8 5QW

www.tcv.org.uk or www.thelandtrust.org.uk






Dates for your diary

Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th July — Inset Days (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 (closed to pupils)

Wednesday 5th September— First day of term

WEST END SUMMER WORKSHOP OF



WICKED


The Musical

In Chester
with

**WEST END & RSC ACTRESS
LUCY THATCHER**

TO BOOK PLEASE CONTACT:

TEL: 07976586060
EMAIL: info@northwestendactingschool.co.uk
www.northwestendactingschool.co.uk/workshops



Come along to a fun-packed, week long Wicked workshop where the children will work from the original West End script and choreography and sing all the well known songs including 'POPULAR', 'DEFYING GRAVITY' and many more. The week works towards a performance on the Friday for friends and family with full costumes, set and live music.

The workshop will be led by West End performer **LUCY THATCHER** an ORIGINAL CAST MEMBER OF MATILDA THE MUSICAL WITH THE RSC. From her many years experience on the stage and with such an insight into the world of the West End, Lucy can direct and inspire the children to reach their full potential during the workshop.

THE DETAILS

DATE
20th August – 24th August

TIME
09:00 – 16:00 daily (with a performance on the Friday at 14:00)

VENUE
Upton High School, St. James Avenue, Chester CH2 1NN

AGE
7-16yrs

PRICE
£175

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

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

Follow us on twitter @UptonVoice

