



Upton Voice

Upton-by-Chester High School Newsletter

October 2015

Amazing support for Syria

Throughout the month of September, we were overwhelmed by the response of our school and local community to the refugee crisis affecting Syria. We decided to collect items publicised by different agencies involved in helping refugees across Europe. The result of our request was phenomenal and resulted in over 150 bags and boxes of items ranging from nappies to tents, shampoo to woolly hats.

Thanks to the fantastic efforts of 12X4ME and the Y11 leadership team, all items were sorted and bagged ready to take to be taken by kind members of staff to different collection points in Chester and Wrexham. We already know that consignments have left for Calais, Greece and Macedonia with our donations on board.

This shows how strong our local community is in supporting the international community. We should all be proud of the efforts we have made to make these refugees' lives a little more comfortable, as they make their difficult journeys to start a new life.

Thank you so much to everyone involved.

Miss E. Suter
Head of History & Politics



Our donations being repacked at the Hungarian Border

Year 7 Teambuilding Day

To aid the transition to secondary school we provided the new Year 7 students with the opportunity to work with the other members of their year in a variety of exciting activities. The transition between primary and secondary school can be a daunting time for students, therefore we have introduced a Team Building Day as a settling in activity which aids the transition process and ensures students feel comfortable, happy and enjoy the day whilst making many new friends.

The teambuilding session was run by 'The Problem Solving Company', with an aim to encourage our new students to work together and boost interaction, enabling them to foster new relationships and gel with their peers.

The activities provided a mixture of problem solving challenges with a hands on approach to solving 2D and 3D puzzles. Students were encouraged to work with each other in a fun environment.

The day proved enjoyable and informative for the students and also allowed them to get to know their new classmates at Upton-by-Chester High School.

Mr B. Jones
Acting Head of Year 7





Mrs P. Dixon — Headteacher

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

Here we are halfway through the autumn term already, and what a busy and successful half term it has been.

You will see for yourselves the wide range of exciting activities that our students have been involved with as you read on, but I just wanted to take this opportunity to highlight a couple of examples that really make me feel proud, and privileged, to be the Headteacher at Upton.

Firstly, on our results' days in August we were delighted to celebrate our GCSE and A level results with students, staff and parents and you will see in this edition some of the highlights. There were some superb achievements in terms of grades and also valued added progress, and I would like to congratulate all of our students and staff for their accomplishments.

Secondly, on 24th September we held our Open Evening which was very well received. We welcomed several hundred visitors who were treated to a wide range of exciting activities, as you can see from the picture of the Van Der Graff Generator. We received many glowing emails and comments about how much everyone enjoyed the evening and in particular, how impressed they were by our wonderful student helpers and guides! Here is a sample of their emails:

'I have just returned from your Open Evening. My husband and I were very impressed with the school. The teaching staff were committed, enthusiastic and knowledgeable and the school's ethos was clearly defined. I would like you to pass on our thanks to the three very helpful 6th Form girls who showed us around - Ellie , Rosie and Jordan. They are all a credit to the school, as I am sure you know.'

And....

'We attended the Open Evening this evening and I just wanted to extend my thanks to one of your students Jack who kindly gave us a tour of the school. Jack was polite, courteous and very friendly - a real credit to the school. He was extremely informative and it was lovely to see the relationship he had with many teachers across the school. I was impressed by Jack's knowledge and his confidence and would like to thank him again for giving his time this evening.'

And another.....

'My husband and I attended the open evening last night at Upton-by-Chester High school, as we are hopeful that our daughter will be starting with you next September. We were very impressed with the school and our daughter is very keen to start!

The recent Ofsted report speaks for itself regarding the academic achievements of the school. However, it is the individual's experiences and personal achievements that are equally as important.

Christina was our guide for the evening. As expected, Christina was very polite and helpful, and very patient with my daughter and her friends, who wanted to access all the departments within the school! I think the most invaluable aspect of the evening was Christina's personal experiences of how the school and staff have supported her through her academic challenges. Christina was very complimentary about the school and staff, and she was absolutely lovely with my daughter, in reassuring her that the staff support the pupils to achieve their maximum potential, but provide individual support and encouragement as required.

I just wanted you to know how impressed we were with Christina, and what a wonderful asset and role model she is for your school!'

I hope you all have a restful and safe half term break and I look forward to welcoming you back in November.

With very best wishes,

P Dixon

Excellent results again at GCSE and A Level

GCSE

We were once again delighted by our excellent results which were again above national average and in particular the fact that **75% of our grades were at A*-C**, which is a further increase on last year, and **72% of our students achieved 5 or more A*-C grades**. Especially pleasing is our value added which clearly shows that students of **all** abilities have achieved greater success at Upton, across the board, than in other schools. Furthermore our English and Maths results also exceeded national averages. Our modern foreign language results were yet again outstanding, including 100% A*-C in German and Mandarin, with 5A* grades in Mandarin which is nationally acknowledged to be one of the most challenging GCSEs. In Science we achieved 100% success in Physics, Biology and Chemistry and 85% of all our students achieved 2 or more Science GCSEs at grades A*-C, which is outstanding! Our top achievers are listed in the table opposite.



A Level

We were very pleased to announce that **71% of our students achieved A* - C grades**, with over **26% achieving the top A* and A grades** – above the national average yet again and confirming OfSTED's judgement in May that we are outstanding!

Once again we had a large proportion of our students who gained top grades and who went on to study at prestigious universities:-

- Off to Cambridge was Steven Young – who achieved 4 A* grades in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry and is studying Natural Sciences and Fiona Tait – who is studying Philosophy, having achieved A*, A and A in English Literature, History and Religious Studies
- Katie Gooding went to LSE to study Law having gained 3 A*s in French, German and Geography as well as A* in her EPQ
- Josh Darwell is studying Mechanical Engineering at Leeds having gained 2 A* and one A in Physics, Maths and Further Maths
- Jenny Dewhirst achieved A*, A and A in Psychology, Media and English Language and is studying English Language at Birmingham
- James Oliver is studying Aerospace Engineering at Bath having achieved A*, A* and A in Maths, Further Maths and Physics
- Andreas Dobson also went to the prestigious LSE, to study Mathematics and Economics, having gained an A*, A and A in Maths, Economics and Further Maths
- Husnara Ali achieved A, A and A in Sociology, Business Studies and Psychology as well as A in her EPQ and is studying Psychology at Liverpool
- Lily Worden is studying Medicinal and Biological Chemistry at Edinburgh having achieved 3 straight A grades in Maths, Chemistry and Biology
- Jack Hughes achieved 3 A grades in Economics, Politics and English Lit and A* in the EPQ and is studying PPE at Manchester
- Lucy Walker also gained 3 A grades in French, Psychology and Biology and went to Liverpool to study Orthoptics
- Ashley Hughes achieved 3 straight A grades in Maths, Economics and Business Studies and went to study Economics at Leeds
- Marcus Pindard-Baden went to Sheffield to study Financial Mathematics having achieved A, A and B in Maths, English Lit and Economics
- Jessica Forber is studying Fashion at LJMU having achieved A, A and B in Art Textiles, Fine Art and English Language
- James Peaker gained A, A and B in Maths, English Lit and Chemistry and is studying Mathematics at Newcastle
- Following a gap year Juliette McQueen is studying Medicine at King's College, London and Ruben Morris-Brown is studying Veterinary Science at the University of Edinburgh



Stella Dixon	10A*
Alias Buchanan	9A*, 2A
Maya Williams	9A*, 2A
Rebecca Clough	8A*, 2A
Emily Pogue	8A*, 2A
William Phillips	7A*, 3A
Gemma Richards	7A*, 3A
Laura Williams	7A*, 3A
Tamsin Fletcher	6A*, 5A
David Baird	6A*, 4A
Eleanor Blacklock	6A*, 4A
Anna Todd	6A*, 3A
Ben Nicholson	5A*, 7A
Juliana Christianson	5A*, 5A
Antonia Willoughby	5A*, 4A
William Hannigan	5A*, 3A
Charis Walton	4A*, 7A
Victoria Smith	4A*, 4A

English visit to Delamere Forest

Thursday 8th October was National Poetry Day. All Key stage 3 students were asked to write a poem in their English lessons, based on this year's theme of light. A selected group of Year 8 and Year 9 students went on to write poetry in Delamere Forest that evening.

Students walked to the top of Old Pale Hill, where they used the setting sun as inspiration for their own poems. At the top of the hill, students were asked to work in groups to perform choral readings of poetry featuring light, by a range of poets including R L Stevenson and Carol Ann Duffy.

Having enjoyed their group performances, students walked back to the forest's Visitor Centre, where they wrote their own poetry. Poetry written that evening will be displayed in the English Department and will be published on the school's website. Some of the parents watched their child's poetry being performed. It was an enjoyable way to end National Poetry Day.



Whispering Voices

Cast in the shadows of the towering mountains
Electric lights flicker
Taunting me, calling me,
Beckoning me to become artificial, like them.

Swaddled within the slumbering sky like dragon's treasure
Stars of every shape and size imaginable
Illuminate the whistling woodlands
Lying underneath the patchwork sky.

Orange lights glare up at the picturesque stars,
Jealous of their breathtaking beauty.
For the greedy humans can never recreate
The Earth's most wondrous sight.

By Lucy and Bella
Year 9



If your child has a passion for creative writing, please follow us on Twitter @UptonEnglishDpt to find out more information about clubs and future trips that the English Department are planning.

Mrs S. Johns
Assistant Head of English

Duke of Edinburgh Awards Ceremony

Students celebrated their Duke of Edinburgh success at a special ceremony on 16th September. 55 pupils in Year 11 were given their Bronze Awards after a year of challenges.

It was great to see so many students achieve their award as they have shown commitment and dedication throughout the year. They have all proved their ability to be independent and intuitive. I am very proud of them all.

Mrs A. Hewitt



An inspirational report on a volunteering visit to Malawi

I visited to Malawi for three weeks in August. My first week was a wonderful week of volunteering at Open Arms in Blantyre. I can say that those three weeks were the most memorable and absolutely fantastic time of my life so far.

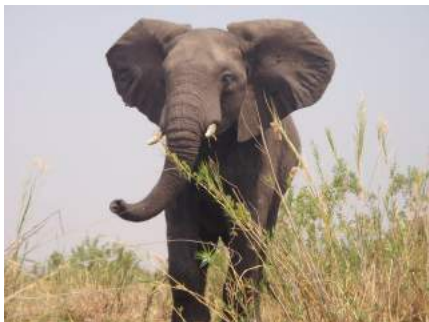
Once I arrived, I felt welcomed and happy to be in Open Arms. What struck me most on the first day was just what a happy and vibrant place Open Arms is, and one of my favourite



memories is of a few of the toddlers dancing as the caregivers sang. I also joined the Head Matron on a trip to collect a baby who was being taken into the care of Open Arms. This was the first time that I had been to a village in Malawi before, and although it was as I had seen on documentaries and photos, it felt very striking to be in a real situation that I had only imagined. We were welcomed graciously, and the baby was brought back to Blantyre in the vehicle, in his Grandmother's arms. Before we left, I took a photo of the children with the Matron, and the children loved looking at it. It feels humbling when such small things for me to do can give somebody else so much joy. I felt privileged to have been able to see Open Arms 'in action': helping communities and providing support.

I visited one of the Foster Homes, where the young people live if they cannot be returned to their home communities. All of the young people were so friendly and welcoming, and I was pleased that they were receiving an education, unlike many of the children that I met. The untiring and inspirational efforts of the caregivers to the children have left a lasting impression on me. I felt that I needed to give something back to Open Arms after I visited. I took with me a suitcase of clothes for the children, which were donations from the staff at school. They were very much appreciated by Open Arms. I have also been fundraising for Open Arms for the past eight months, and have raised £700 to date.

I shadowed a ward round in Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Blantyre, and found it raw and striking. I was told that some of the drugs used in the hospital would not be allowed to be available for use in the UK, and some drugs are not available at all. It troubles me that the lives of the local people in Malawi and my own are almost incomparable.



I was also privileged to visit local health clinics and a district hospital with the Malawi-Liverpool Wellcome Trust (MLW). I saw a drama performance, run as a project by MLW, which aimed to increase the early presentation of Meningitis from the local people. There was traditional tribal dancing at the beginning and end, and it was the craziest experience that I have ever had.

My trip ended with a visit to Lake Malawi and Liwonde National Park. It was an incredible end to my time in Malawi. I still think about my trip everyday, and, one day, I would love to return to Open Arms and Malawi, and spend more time volunteering in such a beautiful country.

Rebecca (Year 12)



A political visitor

Edward Timpson, Minister for Children and Families, visited Upton-by-Chester High School on September 25th. His visit was the first in the Lynn Loyley Lecture series. The Lynn Loyley Lecture series is named after the Head of Economics and Politics who retired this year after more than thirty years teaching at the school. Whilst the political leanings of Mr. Timpson, Conservative M.P. for Crewe and Nantwich may not be to Mrs Loyley's taste, the debate that developed certainly would have been. The students responded to Mr. Timpson's address with a series of questions.

Debate covered topics as diverse as the Syrian Crisis, the life chances of children in care and the pressures that are brought to bear on senior politicians. In the best traditions established by Mrs Loyley the students raised questions that showed academic insight and rigour.

Mr. Timpson was kind enough to answer a number of questions informally, and this generosity of spirit, combined with the eloquence of his presentation, made a positive impact on the Sixth Form Politics and Sociology students who attended. Miles (Year 13), one of the enthusiastic crowd that approached Mr Timpson after the talk said, "meeting Edward Timpson helped broaden my understanding of how our country is run, not only at constituency level but also how the current policies affect members of the public." Increased empathy for the life of our leading politicians was displayed by Melissa (Year 13) who stated that "meeting Mr Simpson was an eye opener into the life of a Minister. He was very informative about his ministerial role and the problems he encounters. It was a great experience which has been very enlightening." Special thanks has to go to Miss Main, without whom the Lynn Loyley lecture series would not be possible.



Mr A. Petty

Student Leadership Awards

The Student Leadership Accreditation (SLA) is an innovative way of formally recognising students' leadership skills, encompassing all activities students are engaged in, whether it is in the classroom, across the school, or in the wider community. We successfully piloted the SSAT Student Leadership Accreditation last term and the first students to gain this national award are now going to encourage, mentor and assess their peers as the programme is rolled out across the whole school.

Mrs Dixon, Headteacher, said: "I was really proud to award this national certificate to our students today. They have demonstrated real passion, commitment and enthusiasm in all the activities they have led in and out of school. They will be able to use their portfolio for their personal statements in the 6th Form and take them to interviews."

Rebecca, Year 12, said: "I was very pleased to receive the SLA gold award as it recognises my leadership skills and I am now looking forward to supporting other students through the scheme. I spent the summer volunteering in an orphanage in Malawi and I am currently working on developing a link with a Year 8 class at Upton and "Open Arms Malawi" so that all students benefit."

Miss S. Beuzit Second Deputy Head



Two student reports on the Geography Trip to Iceland (and some excellent parental feedback)

A casual get-up led us to school, and then to Manchester Airport. It was there we met our first obstacle: getting through the duty free shops without spending all of our money! We got on our flight after lunch, and prepared ourselves for a 2.5 hour journey to the land of the north. Once we arrived at Keflavík airport, we collected our luggage, and experienced the incredible landscape for the first time. It was unlike anything I had ever seen before, lava fields, surprisingly flat lands, and of course, a whole host of mountains that looked as if they had been taken straight from Tolkein's Middle Earth! Our first destination (and probably the most anticipated) was the renowned Blue Lagoon: an incredible naturally heated pool. It is a shame that the outside of the lagoon wasn't heated though, due to the temperature feeling near enough freezing. Imagine that whilst wearing just a swimming costume!



The Lagoon seemed to be the favourite part of the trip for many people. However, my favourite part was not the Lagoon, nor the hike up Sólheimajökull glacier. It was in fact seeing the majestic Gullfoss in all of its glory up close. You can see the photographs, you can watch the documentaries, but nothing can prepare you for the sheer power of that waterfall. It was incredible.

Even in the pouring rain (which was somewhat 'dampening' on the Sunday) it was my highlight, it is something that I will never forget. Who knew that it carried the same volume of water as Niagara?

The whole trip was incredible: the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss (waterfalls), the island of Dyrhólaey and so much more. If you get the opportunity to go to Iceland, take it. I can guarantee that you will never forget it.

Jack (Year 11)

On the 2nd October a group of eager geographers set off to the chilly climes of Iceland. Almost as soon as we arrived we headed to the Blue Lagoon, a popular geothermal pool. All of us enjoyed the steamy waters and infamous silica mud mask, especially some of the boys!

An early start to Saturday morning began with a visit to a geothermal power station, before taking a look at a pair of breathtaking waterfalls. This led us to the undoubted highlight of the day; glacier walking. It was fascinating to see the glaciers first hand and many geological features such as: moraines and crevices. To end the day we visited a stunning section of Iceland's coastline containing a plethora of coastal landforms like: stacks, stumps and arches. For our accommodation we headed deep into the countryside in Vik to give us the greatest chance of seeing the Northern lights. Unfortunately we didn't see the aurora as it was just too cloudy. We awoke on Sunday morning with the clouds that prevented us seeing the lights were now emptying themselves of rain. However we didn't let this dampen our spirits as we soldiered on a black sand beach with some spectacular basalt columns. My other highlight of the day was the spectacular Gullfoss waterfall. This dual tier waterfall looked mesmerising even in the damp conditions. We concluded our adventure in Þingvellir National Park as we saw and walked between the Eurasian and North American tectonic plate.



An early start to catch the flight home allowed us to reflect on what was a fantastic, interesting, and thoroughly enjoyable trip. I would love to thank Mrs Oliver, Mrs Mitchell and Mr Winskill for organising and supervising this awesome experience!

George (Year 11)

Parental feedback (anonymised)

Dear Mrs Oliver

We thought it important to express our gratitude for giving XXXX one of the experiences of his lifetime! - since he has arrived home XXXX has enthused, shown endless photos of the trip and spoken non stop about the amazing sights he has seen! - I believe the Blue Lagoon was out of this world!

Thank you so much, we do not underestimate the responsibility you and your colleagues have taken on your shoulders, you are all a credit to your profession!

Kind regards

A and B YYYYYY

Celebrating the International Student Award again

We have been re-accredited with the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of our work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award is a badge of honour for schools that do outstanding work in international education, such as through links with partner schools overseas. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need to live and work as global citizens.

Our international work includes an environmental project with schools in Yemen, Sri Lanka and Russia. A Food technology link with Sri Lanka, a World War 1 poetry link with European schools, a "Family and Home" project led by the Religious Studies department and shared with our partner schools in St Petersburg, Russia as well as Sri Lanka. In addition, students and staff were involved in a whole school Amnesty International "Write for Rights campaign." with some students writing to prisoners of conscience in Spanish.

On hearing the news that we had received the award, **Mrs Paula Dixon, Headteacher said:** "We are delighted to receive the international award; this is our third International school award since 2009. The British council's feedback on our "impressive" application is a significant accolade to the international learning that goes on at our school and one we are very proud of. Staff have shown their continued commitment to understanding and applying the principles of international education in a creative, innovative and imaginative way. International learning activities are embedded in the curriculum and provide students with a real audience which in turn motivates learners to achieve. The impact of the projects has been high on students and it has provided enhanced learning opportunities. International work has promoted intercultural dialogue, exchange of ideas, joint educational focuses, increased knowledge and understanding of each other's societies and last but not least enjoyment through relevant learning. In evaluations, students' sense of pride is evident and they tell us that they "feel honoured to be part of the school's global community." **A student wrote:** "Having my work sent to Sri Lanka made me feel proud and privileged to be at Upton-by-Chester High School. I was excited to hear back from our new friends and I am extremely thankful." **Another said:** "It has helped me understand other people's religion and ways of living...the project made me feel part of something, it made me feel more socially connected with other schools and the Global community." In Geography, the activity encouraged students to think about action and consequences in terms of the environment at a local and global level and **the Eco-Schools Student Leader made the following point:** "We are putting a survey out to the entire school community and our partner schools. This will help us protect the local environment and act to make a difference internationally."



British Council Chief Executive, Sir Ciarán Devane, said: 'The school's fantastic international work has rightfully earned it this prestigious award. The International School Award is a great chance for schools to demonstrate the important work they're doing to bring the world into their classrooms. Adding an international dimension to children's education ensures that they are truly global citizens and helps prepare them for successful future careers in an increasingly global economy.'

International Development Secretary Justine Greening said: "Young people must be at the heart of our work to create a safer and more prosperous world for everyone and we need to ensure their voices are heard if we are to win the fight against global poverty. That is why I am delighted to celebrate the international work of Upton-by-Chester High School and the energy and passion of the young people involved. "The International School Award is a great way of highlighting how young people have the potential to change things for the better. I'm sure that schools getting involved will be broadening the horizons of their students, which will not only help their careers but benefit their wider lives in the future."

Miss S. Beuzit
Second Deputy Head

A complete change of direction for our Production in 2016

This year, the school will be the only UK amateur performance of Ghost The Musical. This is a completely different challenge from previous years' productions. It is based on the famous movie Ghost, it is very technical in nature, with music and lyrics from Dave Stewart of Eurythmics fame.

Two Schoolcomms messages should already be in your inbox re: the Menai rehearsal weekend in February 2016 and the audition schedule, which culminates on Wed 18th Nov 2015.

We look forward to your support for all involved. Follow @uptonhighdrama on Twitter for all the latest information on the show.

ps. anyone got a potting wheel going spare?

C. Tierney
Head of Performing Arts



Audition Information

Audition Date: **Wednesday 18th November**

Time: **3:30-6:30pm**

Venue: **A3 Music Room**

Audition Pieces:

Females – With You

Male – Here Right Now

You may collect the actual audition pieces from Miss Thompson from: **Friday 23rd October in A3**

Over half-term please learn the full song so that you understand its significance.

Go to [youtube/ghost the musical/aiimeeslee](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aiimeeslee) for all the songs, it is an excellent link.

There will be an audition workshop to rehearse the pieces on: **Wed 11th November from 3:30-4:15pm**

Good luck to you all, remember it is a completely open audition, no decisions have been made. It is down to who auditions the best!

Upton's Accelerated Reader Scheme

This term has seen the continuation of our new reading scheme. Accelerated Reader is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Every student is helped to choose a book at their own level and they read it at their own pace. When finished, students take a short quiz on the computer or their iPad. (Passing the quiz is an indication that they understood what was read.) Accelerated Reader gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results. The teacher can then use the results to help set targets and direct ongoing reading practice.

The main benefit of taking part in the Accelerated Reader scheme is that, with as little as 20 minutes reading per day, your child's reading age can increase at twice their chronological development. Therefore in one year, your child can increase their reading age by two years.

While there are clear educational benefits to the Accelerated Reader scheme, it is still designed to be an enjoyable experience. We will be helping students to choose books that are suitable for them; we will promote reading through regular practice in school and through a variety of competitions. We will also celebrate success through identifying the students who have engaged with the scheme most effectively. Since the scheme promotes students' understanding of what they have read, rather than the speed of their reading, all students will be able to take part in our competitions equally.

Please help us to ensure that your child gains the full benefits of this scheme by supervising their reading. Twenty minutes of reading can be an enjoyable experience and it can make a huge difference. Please also ensure that your child brings their Accelerated Reader book to school with them every day.

All students involved have been informed of their Accelerated Reader score and have been supported in selecting a book at an appropriate level. If you would like to help them select another book at their level, please visit the Accelerated Reader Book finder catalogue at: <http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/>

If you should have any further questions about this scheme, a parent guide is available within the English Department section of the school website.

Our first Millionaires!

Congratulations to: Anya (year 8), Daniel (year 8) and Samuel (year 7) **for reading over one million words this half term!**

In addition, Olivia (year 8), Rhiannon (year 8) and Hayley (year 9) **have now read over 500,000 words!**

Here are pictures of some of our top readers receiving their certificates and prizes.

Keep reading to join the Millionaires' Club!

Mrs S. Johns
Assistant Head of English



RENAISSANCE LEARNING



National Shakespeare Schools Festival

A number of Year 10 GCSE Drama students are representing the school in the National Shakespeare Schools Festival. They will be performing the bloody tragedy Titus Andronicus at the Floral Pavilion, New Brighton on **Monday 16th November**.

Booking details:

The Floral Pavilion Theatre
Marine Promenade
New Brighton
CH45 2JS
Box Office (tickets must be booked through the theatre)
Telephone: 0151 666 0000
Web: <http://floralpavilion.com/>

Mr C. Tierney
Head of Performing Arts

Volunteering At Chester Marathon

A big thank you to our fabulous team of students who volunteered again at the Chester Marathon. They provided a highly efficient service returning baggage to the tired competitors. Elaine from the Events Team said "What can I say? Thank you doesn't cover it! You were both brilliant and your teams are such wonderful young people. Once again our runners think that our baggage system is brilliant and all it's down to you."

It is lovely to help out in the community and our students make us proud. We are now looking forward to the half marathon on May. We would also like to thank the organisation Active Leisure and MBNA for the monetary donation which will now be used to support our Oxfam Youth Work and Honduras Expedition.

Mrs K. Smale
Head of RS & PSHCE



A report from some new Year 12s on settling into the Sixth Form

Settling into the Sixth Form has not been as daunting as we thought it would be. In fact it has been a great new experience. We didn't actually know what to expect on that first school day in September! However, it has been fantastic, starting new subjects, making friends and studying with new people.

It's fun but at the same time it pushes you out of your comfort zone which is definitely well worth it, as we have learned so much in such a short space of time.

We have had to learn how to manage our own time as we are now only studying four subjects. Working in smaller groups is really good preparation if you are planning to go to university in the future.

Some of our form are new to the school and they have their own thoughts on moving into the Sixth Form. "We were really pleased that we were put in a Form with other newcomers. We feel the tutors were proactive in helping us settle in, in the first two weeks by checking which lessons we had and how things had gone the previous day. All the students in the Form have been really welcoming and made us feel very much part of the group. This has obviously helped with our settling in. We love the café and all of our teachers are friendly and supportive. There is a fantastic range of extra-curricular activities including being part of the Sixth Form Leadership Team."

Buy your Christmas books early

Great News! We're running a Scholastic Book Club to earn free books for our school. We'll be sending the Book Club leaflets home so that you and your child can choose from the latest exciting selection of books.

Please place your order online at <http://schools.scholastic.co.uk/upton-by-chester-cnty-h> by December 1st 2015.

- Earn free books for our school with every order.
- Choose from thousands of the best children's books at great prices.
- Free delivery to school.

Mrs S. Johns
Assistant Head of English



Year 12 visit to Chester University

On the 29th September and 6th October 2015, Year 12 were given the opportunity to visit Chester University, to receive an insight into some of the options available to them after Sixth Form, and to see what facilities our local University has on offer. We took part in some fun activity-based workshops which introduced us to University life, allowing us to gain some important life skills such as managing time, budgeting and making the right life decisions. We were also given a detailed presentation on student finance, clearing up some of our misconceptions and allowing us to see that university is an affordable option for everyone.



As well as learning about university life skills, we took part in an activity about University prospectus' which will be really useful to us in the coming months when we have to apply to universities. We got to look at all the courses on offer in our local university, and we were told some statistics about how many universities we can choose from and how many courses. This really opened our eyes to all the possibilities we can choose from!

We also received a tour of the campus by one of the current students, which was really useful to us as we could ask them questions about student life, the facilities available, the societies we could join and a variety of other topics. We got to learn about their personal experiences as well, which was very interesting.

Overall, this experience was extremely helpful and enriching. We would like to say thank you to the form tutors and school staff who organised the visit, to Chester University who allowed us to visit them, and to our student guides who showed us around. We all thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and have learnt lots of skills which will help us in the future when looking for universities.

Amy and Heather (Year 12)



A visit from Cambridge University

Recently, the lower sixth had a visit from a liaison officer from FitzWilliam College Cambridge to provide information to students who wish to undertake aspirational steps after leaving Sixth Form such as applying to Oxbridge Universities. The event was organised by Mr Jones, the school's Higher Education Adviser, and students were encouraged to attend depending on their academic potential or goals. The talk provided a depth of knowledge into what it is like to study at Cambridge, how the university is organised and what is expected of people who apply, for example how to get a better chance of being given a place.

The students found it very useful in making those big next step decisions and for those thinking of applying to Oxbridge the talk was able to assist them in how to make their application more impressive, as well as how and when to apply. Personally I found it very useful to find out what sort of 'super-curricular' activities the course I want to apply for would find impressive.

Elinor (Year 12)

Royal Society Of Chemistry Dalton Lecture on 7th October

12 students from the 6th Form Chemistry groups attended a lecture in Manchester with a rather bizarre title "The Arsonist, the Martian and a Cat meet Floyd, Walt and Jessie". The speaker, Dr Tony Bristow from Astra Zeneca gave an entertaining and informative talk about the applications of mass spectrometry from solving crimes to detecting signs of life on other planets.

Mr M. Bell



Quality mark for innovation awarded to our school

We are honoured to have been awarded **TEEP Ambassador status** by the SSAT (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust) in recognition of our success and commitment to continuous improvement through the Teacher Enhancement Effectiveness Programme (TEEP). This is an acknowledgement of the innovative work we have been

conducting with staff and students and our aspirations for the future.

TEEP Ambassador School status enables schools to evidence their impact and provides a quality mark of innovation and improvement through the TEEP framework.

Upon hearing the news, Mr Keegan, Second Deputy Headteacher and national TEEP leader, said: "I am extremely proud of this achievement and recognition which shows how innovative and how forward looking our staff is in delivering a 21st century curriculum."

Benefits of being a TEEP ambassador School

- Leading in the ever growing network of TEEP Schools (over 250 schools and 7500 teachers have been trained from Sept 2010 – July 2014)
- Provide further development and CPD opportunities for own staff to continue to share ideas and learn from other TEEP practitioners
- To have the opportunity to work with other similar schools, at a leadership level, to evaluate the impact and embed TEEP in your school and beyond.
- Recognition for the hard work and dedication of staff and students to improve teaching and learning, including potentially to local and national media
- Opportunities to raise the profile of the school at a regional and national level through SSAT events, publications and website.



Sports Report

A busy half term with 30 **Football** fixtures (with 7 teams competing in 3 cup competitions, locally, regionally and nationally), 3 football tournaments, 4 rugby tournaments, 2 netball tournaments, 1 badminton competition, the National cross country competition and the District cross country at Christleton still to come.

Success has been widespread with the Year 7, 8, 10 & 6th Form football teams still going strong in the National Cup competitions, as well as all the District Cups still to fight for.

The 6th Form started the year off in fine style ending runners-up in the Kings 7-a-side tournament, just running out of energy in the final. Year 11 again performed exceptionally well in their 7-a-side tournament only losing out in the final stages on goal difference.

Cross country has taken off this year thanks to the efforts of Mrs Lynch and Mrs Keefe. Wednesday has become a popular night for our runners and the pupils' efforts were rewarded when they qualified for the next round of the national ESAA cross country competition in their first year of entering. Well done everyone for the fantastic achievement. Good luck at the District competition next week.

Also busy with the **Netball**, 15 matches have been played in total against Abbeygate, Bishops and Kings. Lovely to see some new faces in the games and really pushing the #thisgirlcan outlook with Years 10 & 11.

Our U14 Girls **Football** team finished 3rd in the 7-a-side Football Tournament.

Our U14 & U16 Girls **Badminton** teams came 3rd and 2nd respectively in the Chester and District competitions.

Our reigning hat-trick National Badminton Champions, Beth, Laura, Alex & Rachel, who are now in 6th Form have been invited to represent England in the World Schools Badminton Championships in Malta, March 2016. The team are looking to raise over £3000 to enable them to go. **If you, or your business, would like to sponsor the girls, please contact Mrs Collinson or Mrs Lynch.**

In **Rugby** Years 7 through to 11 have competed well in the annual Tarporley festivals.

Year 7s have shown great potential in their opening Chester and district games with great numbers attending training each Thursday as well. Year 8s have continued their undefeated run since joining Upton with Chester and District wins over Abbeygate and Christleton. The Year 9s showed great character in a battling defeat to a very good Christleton team.

Years 8, 9 and 11 have competed in the first County rounds with the 8s qualifying for the next round with a 42-0 thrashing of Christleton and will play Fallibroome in the next round after half term. Our Year 9s went down narrowly to Brine Lees.

Individual successes include;

- Amelia (Year 10) and Rachel (Year 9) have been selected into the North West Regional Academy for Netball,
- Tom and Oliver (Year 8) have been selected into the U13s Cheshire Schools Rugby squad,
- Owen (Year 12) has been selected into the England U17s Hockey Squad,
- Jamie (Year 10) has been selected into the Welsh U16s Basketball development squad.

PE Department



Open Evening 24th September

We had another very successful Open Evening in September. Special thanks to our wonderful students for volunteering to represent the school in departments and on parent tours. Every department put on dynamic displays of the wonderful work they do and a special mention also goes to our student speakers in the Hall. The feedback from visitors was excellent.

Here is a great photograph taken on the night by Mr Pritchard of a young visitor to Science having a hair raising experience with the Van Der Graff Generator.

Our next Open Evenings are 21st January for the Sixth Form and 30th June for our Summer Open Evening. Tours can always be booked via the **Join Us** link on our website homepage to see us in action on a normal working day.



Attendance Stars

Here are details of our Star Forms for September & October in terms of attendance. Well done to all!

Research suggests that the greater the attendance, the greater the achievement. Too many days off school will affect GCSE grades and future job prospects. Attendance should always remain above 95% to allow pupils to achieve their full potential.

Follow this link (<http://tinyurl.com/uptonhighattendance>) to our Attendance page for details of our Attendance Policy and helpful national advice on raising and maintaining children's attendance.

Year	Form	% Attendance	
Year 7	7x1ma	} 100%	
	7x3su		
	7x5yu		
	7y2me		
	7y5yu		
Year 8	8y2me	} 100%	
	8x4wo		
	8y5yu		
	8y3su		98.9%
	8x5yu		98.5%
Year 9	9x2su	} 100%	
	9x4yu		
	9y1me		
Year 10	10y2wo	} 100%	
	10y1yu		
	10x5yu		
	10y4ma		
Year 11	11x2me	} 100%	
	11y4me		
	11y2su		99.6%
	11y3ma		99.2%

Dates for your diary

- Thursday 12th November — GCSE Presentation Evening
- Thursday 19th November — Year 9 Parents Evening
- Thursday 3rd December — Year 9 Options Evening
- Friday 4th December — PTA Christmas Fair
- Tuesday 8th December — Christmas Concert
- Wednesday 9th December — Year 13 Parents Evening
- Thursday 17th December — A Level Presentation Evening

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

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

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