



Upton Voice

Upton-by-Chester High School Newsletter

July 2016

Young people speak out for the 37 million children missing out on school in crisis affected countries

Matthew and Jessica from Year 10, accompanied by Mrs Smale, recently joined young activists from across the UK, Mali, Nigeria and Bangladesh in Westminster. They gathered to share what they had already prepared for the 'Send My Friend to School' campaign and discuss the challenges of getting a quality education for the 37 million children missing out on school.



Currently an additional £3 billion a year is urgently needed to support children in crisis situations so the young people wanted to know what the UK government could do to help. They devised questions to put to MPs and Nick Hurd, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development.

the Syrian children who have already missed out on years of schooling, to how they will influence other countries to contribute to the important new 'Education Cannot Wait' fund for education.

They also met MPs from the All Party Parliamentary Group on Global Education to hear more about this work. Local Chester MP Chris Matheson came along to hear from Jess & Matthew about the issue and answer their questions personally. The group then delivered hundreds of paper rucksacks made by pupils in their schools to Number 10 Downing Street.



Jessica said: "I feel proud of the campaign and the awareness it has raised across our schools and communities." **Matthew added:** "We met MPs in a talk about Global Education for an All-Party Parliamentary Group and it was great to see MPs across the political spectrum working together for the benefit of children who would otherwise be deprived of their education. I enjoyed meeting all of the other young campaigners and meeting young activists from overseas was inspiring. I'm really proud to be a part of the 'Send My Friend campaign'."



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

Rocket car racing with the BBC micro:bit

On 21st June a team of eight students from Year 7 represented our school at the Merseyside leg of the Bloodhound SSC Microbit Model Rocket Competition. The preparatory work was carried out with a Year 7 class and linked together Computer Science for the design and running of the Micro-bits, with DT for the actual cutting and modelling of the car designs.

Mrs S. Larkin
Computer Science

Sophie and Lucy from the team wrote this report:

"As a group we designed cars to race powered by rockets. We were given a block of blue polystyrene in groups and designed an aerodynamic shape for the car. We then shaped the polystyrene with Mrs Melville and added the wheels and guide eyelets. In lessons, with Mrs Larkin and Mr Goodings, we programmed the BBC micro:bits to countdown 3,2,1. Then we made a rock, paper, scissors game using the sensor in the micro:bit and then worked out we could use the accelerometer to measure the speed. We then programmed the micro:bit to record the cars speed.

We went to race the rocket cars at Calday Grange Grammar school where other schools were meeting. First we had to adjust the cars with files to fit the micro:bits in snugly. The Army were testing the race track to make sure it was safe. They handled all the rockets but we got to press the button to start them off.



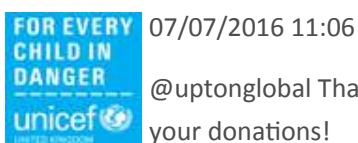
The countdown was a bit nerve racking in case the car did not go but we were really happy to see ours go really fast, shooting across the playground. We were really proud of what we had done and had found it a really exciting project.

One of our cars came in second place, narrowly being beaten by 0.02 of a second. We all agreed it was a very enjoyable experience."

Collection of foreign currency in aid of UNICEF

We have collected 20.2kg of currency so far and will be sending this to Cash4coins as soon as the courier arrives. Once we receive our cheque, we will purchase UNICEF school bags which contain essential items for pupils in areas of conflict around the world.

@uptonglobal received this wonderful feedback from @UNICEF_uk on twitter:



Thank you to all who have taken part and have donated coins and notes.

Miss S. Beuzit
Second Deputy Headteacher



Mrs P. Dixon — Headteacher

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 19 July at which over 170 awards were issued to our students and in my speech I gave a 'review of the year 2015-16'. Not wishing to make the audience sit through (at least) an hour-long speech, it was such a challenge fitting all of the many opportunities from which our students have benefited, over the past 3 terms, into a mere 10 minutes. I suspect that the audience were also far more interested in hearing from our guest speaker, Richard Burnett. As a former student of ours Richard has become the public face and voice of the road transport industry. It's no exaggeration to say that he has had a stellar career and is now the Chief Executive of the Road Haulage Association – and I am very proud that he was educated here at Upton High School! 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 of course, 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 vitally important factors of 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 – leading to educated, well-rounded young people who truly are Learning to Shape the Future.

Our summer concert and our evening of dance, were hugely enjoyable and successful events, showcasing the impressive skills that our students have been developing over many months and years of hard work and commitment.

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 and the World Challenge day for Year 4. We also held our new intake evening and Induction Day for our 281 new Year 7 students and their parents who will be joining us in September.

We also managed to find a dry enough day to hold our Sports Day, yet again an exciting and exhausting event, in which hundreds of our students from our 5 Halls competed enthusiastically and with determination. Eventually Mendes Hall, under the excellent leadership of Miss Melville, proved once again to be worthy winners.

And finally, we are saying thank you and goodbye to some colleagues who are leaving us this year for pastures new; Mrs Murphy, Mr Walwyn, Mr Collis, Mr Warwick, Miss Stevenson, Miss Fillhart, Mrs Farnell, Mrs Burden, Mr Tock, Miss Clarkson, Mr Gorman, Mr Pritchard, Miss Breen, Miss Burgess and Mrs Goodbody. We wish them well.

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.

P. Dixon

Salters Festival Of Chemistry

A team of four enthusiastic students of Science took part in the Salters' Festival of Chemistry at Liverpool John Moores University on Tuesday 10th May 2016. During the day the students completed two separate practical tasks, the first involved solving a Murder Mystery and in the second the team were asked to investigate changing the speed of "The Iodine Clock Reaction".

Many thanks to Mr Bell for organizing the visit.

Pictured: Daniel, Olivia, Alex & Thomas (Year 8)



An outstanding contribution to his sport

Jack (Year 12) is pictured after gaining an award for his outstanding contribution to Cheshire Junior Badminton. Jack has represented the county since the age of 10 and has been Cheshire Champion in all events (singles, doubles and mixed doubles) as he moved through each age group. Since the age of 14 Jack has been attending England Performance Training in Manchester and as a result he has gained many titles around the country including a bronze medal at the U15 English National Championships.

More recently Jack gained his coaching qualification and is now one of the U13 county coaching team. Next season Jack hopes to continue to represent Cheshire in the senior teams having already been a regular member of the second team this season.



Year 12 visit to Yorkshire Sculpture Park and Manchester Galleries

After concluding our AS exams; Art, Textiles and Photography students were welcomed back to school with the opportunity to visit The Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Platt Hall Costume Gallery, Whitworth Gallery and The Manchester Art Gallery. This trip would ultimately aid our transition into A2 as well as widen our knowledge of different artists and their work.



Firstly; we visited the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, here we were able to witness the work of artists such as: Henry Moore, Anthony Caro as well as many others. Overall, it was really interesting to witness and observe the sculptures in real life in comparison to looking at an image online, as it allowed us to take into account different factors like; scale, texture and material which gives us both a better understanding of the artwork as well as a further amount of appreciation for the work. At The Yorkshire Sculpture Park there is a plethora of different sculptures, some kinetic and others interactive, so there is plenty to observe and experiment with.



Secondly; we visited The Platt Hall Costume Gallery which exhibited the creations of Elsa Schiappaelli. It was interesting to see Schiappaelli's work and how the different materials used created different textures and enhanced the detail of the costumes. Then we visited The Whitworth Art Gallery, which was personally my favourite gallery. The Whitworth contained exhibits from artists like David Batchelor and Nico Vascellari as well as displaying Sculptures, Textile pieces and Photography.

Lastly; we went to the Manchester Art Gallery which satisfied the need to look at both historical artwork and contemporary. Similar to The Yorkshire Sculpture Park the Manchester Art Gallery featured interactive artwork which offered us a wider perspective and created new inspiration for our own work when starting A2. Overall; the trip to these different galleries gave us the experience of seeing work from artists that we may have otherwise not known of as well as giving us a better understanding and appreciation of the art.

Jodie
Year 12



Physics Olympics 2016

On Tuesday 21st June four of our Year 9 students attended the Physics Olympics at the Kings School Chester. It was a fantastic day, full of Physics related challenges. Our students were very competitive and made a valiant effort in each task, showing off their Physics prowess. Tasks included designing and building a rocket that would fly the furthest, making a miniature speed boat travel the fastest time, building the tallest free standing tower to hold a self-made lighthouse lamp, using counter weights to create the longest bridge out of Jenga blocks and a problem solving Science skills task and Fermi quiz. The students came very close to the top in some events and were ranked 9th out of 22 schools in the overall standings. A result to be very proud of.

The students involved were as follows; Eve, Sasha, Lucy and Emma. Each came away with a Physics book for taking part. The students put in a lot of effort to the event and were a credit to Upton-by-Chester High School. Well done! We will be keeping a keen eye out for our next year's team amongst our current Year 8 students. The current champions are the Kings School students, but I think we have a strong chance next year.



Mrs L. Rogers
STEM Coordinator for Science

Another incredible achievement in Mathematics

Some months back a number of students in KS3/4 and 5 took part in the Mathematical Education on Merseyside Maths competition. This was a take home competition completed in half-term. Together, these competitions attract around 2000 entries. Competitions consist of around 8 problem solving questions centered around the theme of "Travel and Transport".

I reported earlier in the year that Emma (Year 8) and Matthew (Year 10) received awards for best in school, however results had not been received for the open challenge, designed for A level students. I am pleased to report that these have since arrived and Joe (Year 12) received third place and received £60 of WH Smith vouchers to spend. This is an incredible achievement. Well done Joe.

Miss K. Spencer
Maths

Cyber Safety Project

On the 22nd of April we welcomed students from Chester University and members from the Manchester Camerata (a professional and very well renowned orchestra based in Manchester). Collaboratively they created and delivered performances and workshops related to cyber safety.

This project was specifically for KS3 students as this age group is becoming increasingly vulnerable to dangers around anonymity online. Two groups of 60 students watched a performance by Chester University Students and Manchester Camerata which was designed to raise awareness of issues such as social media and online gaming. This was then followed by workshops which the students took part and fully engaged with, exploring the issues in more detail using music and drama.

The performances were videoed by a Manchester Camerata filmmaker and live streamed via YouTube to other High Schools. The workshop was also videoed. Pupils from other schools were able to interact and take part in discussions via an instant messenger facility.

Miss Stevenson
Music



Year 11 Prom at the Grosvenor Pulford Hotel

Year 11 celebrated the end of their GCSE exams in style on Wednesday June 29th with their Prom at the Grosvenor Pulford Hotel. Prom King and Queen were Matthew and Ella, as voted for by the other students.

Year 11 have been a pleasure to teach over the last five years and this was a fantastic way to celebrate the end of their GCSE examinations. We are very lucky that most of them will return to our Sixth Form next year. They looked fantastic and behaved impeccably. We wish them all the very best in the future.

Mrs S. Risi
Assistant Head of Year 11



A London to Paris cycle to raise money for Diabetes Research

Bethan (Year 7) is one of 29,000 children in the UK who has type 1 diabetes. She was diagnosed with diabetes (age 2).

After 10 years and over

36,500 finger prick tests,
2,750 insulin injections and
1,100 insulin pump set changes later.....

As a family we wanted to do something to raise money for JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Ltd - charity no. 295716) in the hope that over the next decade we will see more improvements in treatment for Bethan and the thousands of others like her and that future generations will not have to go through what she has. JDRF is a charity which funds research to cure, treat and prevent type 1 diabetes.



Bethan does not let her diabetes prevent her from having a real 'can do' attitude. She loves to challenge herself physically, and has just completed the Liverpool to Chester, 50 mile bike ride for the second time. On finishing she then cycled home clocking up 72 miles that day! So cycling the 210miles from Tower Bridge to the Eiffel Tower seemed like the perfect holiday for us and a great way to raise some money for a charity close to our hearts.

We set off on Sat 30th July, cycling for 5 days (with a day off in the middle to get the ferry).

If you would like to sponsor Bethan, there is a Just Giving page, just search "JDRF Ian James" or speak to Bethan.

Peer Mentor Training

On Thursday 14th and Friday 15th July, 42 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 students had gained valuable new skills and through different activities they learned how 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 our new Year 7s in September.

Sam said "I think it was a very good course, and I am glad I went on it."

Chiara 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".

Sophie said "I thought the training was fun, I am now very excited to start in September".

Miss M. Noel
Head of Yunus Hall



Activ8 Mathematics Challenge

During Active8 groups of students worked on Mathematics problems as a team. The group that correctly completed the most in the set time were the winners. Here are some pictures of Year 8 enjoying the challenge. The 8Y winners were Michael, Jacob and Jacob.

Mr J. Biard
Head of Mathematics



Congratulations to our 55 students who achieved their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

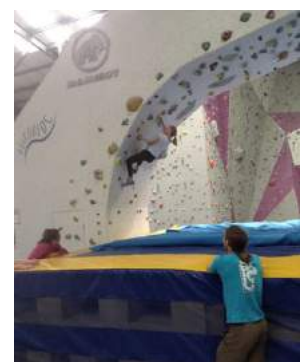
Year 10 students successfully achieved their award by completing the assessment weekend on 25th and 26th June. The weather was favourable this time, as they battled through a lot of rain during their trial weekend earlier this year, so spirits were high. All students showed excellent team work and also the skills they've developed over the year were all utilised. The Conway Centre staff commented on how well prepared they were and their impeccable behaviour.

Well done; all participants should be very proud of their achievement. Mrs Hewitt and Mrs Jackson are very proud of them all and would like to thank them for being a great cohort to work with this year.



Activ8 Boardroom Indoor Climbing Wall Visit

During Activ8 we took a total of 48 Year 7 and Year 8 students to The Boardroom Indoor Climbing Wall in Queensferry. The attendees took part in a one and a half hour "Introduction To Rock Climbing" lesson. Although one or two students had already attended The Boardroom, it was a chance for many to have their first taste of this exhilarating sport. Many thanks to Mrs Jackson, Mrs Fox, Mr Skilling and Mr Boothman for assisting Mr Bell on the visits.



Sports Day Gallery

The overall Hall placement was Mendes with 1061 points, Wood 912, Suu Kyi 883, Yunus 825, Maathai 733. Congratulations to Mendes Hall for being overall winners again this year.



Art, Photography & Textiles visit to Delamere Forest

On the 29th of June my fellow classmates and I embarked on a rather amazing trip to Delamere Forest. The students who went on the trip were all studying either art, photography or textiles. This subsequently made it a unique day for all and was an opportunity for the students who had different creative flairs to connect together.



The trip was fantastic because of the knowledge I gained and the magnificent pictures I took. My ideas and beliefs for photography broadened and I absorbed the beautiful surroundings and subsequently embraced the nature.

The activities that the group partook in were building a den, textile bombing, and sketching various types of nature within the forest. The optimism surrounding the group led to us letting our imaginations take over, especially during the den building activity.

The teachers were marvellous throughout the day, thanks to the well planned schedule. We remained organised and structured during our time at Delamere. Additionally the teachers explained clearly what our purpose was for each activity; however, let us independently conduct our tasks. I really enjoyed the trip and would highly recommend it for students studying either art, photography or textiles.

**James
Year 12**



More fantastic results in Music

Here are some of our talented pupils' recent exam results:

Sadie (Year 7) Grade 2 Piano
 Joe (Year 7) Grade 3 Piano Merit
 Vivien (Year 7) Grade 2 Piano
 William (Year 7) Grade 2 Piano
 Isabel (Year 8) Grade 2 Flute
 Alex (Year 8) Grade 2 Flute Merit
 Jack (Year 8) Grade 5 Piano Merit
 Jemma (Year 8) Grade 1 Piano
 Vy (Year 9) Grade 2 Flute Merit
 Katy (Year 9) Grade 2 Piano
 Hannah (Year 9) Grade 4 Piano
 Melissa (Year 10) Grade 4 Clarinet
 Matthew (Year 10) Grade 7 Clarinet Merit
 Rebecca (Year 11) Grade 7 Clarinet
 Cecille (Year 11) Grade 7 Clarinet
 Hannah (Year 11) Grade 5 Clarinet

Guitar Results: Sofie (Year 7) Grade 2
 Joshua (Year 7) Grade 1
 Jarad (Year 7) Grade 2
 Edward (Year 7) Grade 2
 Molly (Year 8) Grade 2
 Hannah (Year 8) Grade 2
 Alex (Year 8) Grade 3
 Josie (Year 9) Grade 3
 Mia (Year 9) Grade 2 Merit

**Miss C. Thompson
Head of Music**



Digital Technology Report

Year 7 Students get Creative with Digital Technology

Year 7 English students were recently tasked with creating scripts for a weather report. We then used digital technology to bring their scripts to life. By using the green screen app Do ink, we were able to create fantastic weather reports on the iPad. Students completed the project by editing their film footage on iMovie.



Teachers' Thoughts.....

"Students really enjoyed having the ability to make their ideas come to life by using the green screen technology. They were able to take the time to design their own piece of drama and turn it into a professional piece of drama that showcased their new found terminology and creative flair."

Miss Newbury (English Teacher)

"What a fantastic tool to have at our fingertips! 7YENA1 have been lucky enough to use the green screen app during lessons to add flare and excitement to their projects on a number of occasions, including:

recording poetry assessments and refining their speaking and listening skills through the delivery of a weather report. Students were able to experiment with various backgrounds and effects which in turn made them even more confident in their performances."

Miss Green (English Teacher)

Digital Technology created an exciting buzz at Open Evening

At the recent Open Evening, Digital Technology created a buzz of excitement and intrigue for both visiting parents and children. ELF students were able to confidently demonstrate the e-learning tools we have available here at Upton-by-Chester High. Both parents and children were enthusiastic and thoroughly enjoyed being part of our green screen demonstrations and experiencing a virtual reality moment, through our VR goggles. The message was clear during the evening. Technology can have positive impact in the classroom and provides innovative and meaningful ways to improve Learning.



Smashing Apps - iMovie

The Year 7 ELF students delivered another successful smashing apps event this term. The event gave the Year 7 ELF students the opportunity to demonstrate their iPad knowledge and skills. Students who attended the event managed to pick up the skills and produce some fantastic iMovie films. These are now skills that they can take into the classroom, share with their peers and use to complete lesson tasks. The Year 7 ELF students delivered the event with confidence and their presentation skills were excellent. A big well done to all involved!



ELF Students

We have celebrated the efforts and dedication the ELF students from Year 7, 8 and 9 have demonstrated this academic year. The students have completed many iPad related tasks, events, challenges to an outstanding level. They have vastly improved their understanding and skills when it comes to using digital technology. We are very proud of their achievements and look forward to the exciting projects we have planned for the next academic year.



Year 7 ELF Students



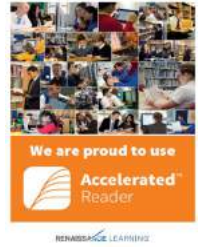
Year 8 ELF Students



Year 8 ELF Students

Accelerated Reader Scheme

Please can you encourage your child to be regularly reading, especially over the summer break. You can view your child's reading history and progress at the following link using their Accelerated Reader username and password: <https://ukhosted61.renlearn.co.uk/1894449/HomeConnect/>



If you would like to help your child to select another book at their level, please visit the Accelerated Reader Book finder catalogue (which has over 22,000 books listed) at: <http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/>

If you enter this code (**QS016037**) in the "Enter Keycode" box on the left side of the screen, it will show you whether we stock the book in the Learning Hub.

Mrs S. Johns
Assistant Head of English

Harry Potter Experience

On the 14th & 15th of July we had our annual Harry Potter days for Year 5 pupils from our partner primary schools. Pupils took part in exciting activities and lessons including Potions, Charms and Quidditch. There were some feathered visitors also.



Dates for your diary

Wednesday 20th July — School closes for the summer at 1.15pm
 Thursday 18th August — A Level results day (Y13 9.30-10.30am, Y12 11am-12pm)
 Thursday 25th August — GCSE results day (9.30am)
 Friday 26th August — Sixth Form Registration Day (10am-12pm)
 Thursday 1st September & Friday 2nd September — INSET Days (school closed)
 Monday 5th September — First day of term
 Monday 31st October to Friday 4th November — Half-term break
 Thursday 22nd December to Friday 6th January — Christmas break



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