



Upton Voice

Upton-by-Chester High School Newsletter

October 2016

Year 7 Teambuilding Day

To aid the recently arrived Year 7 students' transition to secondary school we provided them 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 a Team Building Day supports the transition process and ensures students feel comfortable, happy and enjoy their learning whilst making many new friends.

The Team Building day encouraged our new students to work together, boosting their interactions whilst problem solving. This enabled 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 together on a vast number of challenges throughout the day, creating a healthy competitive and learning atmosphere for all.

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

Miss S Welch & Mr B Jones
Head of Year 7 & Assistant Head of Year 7



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

Year 8 visit to Liverpool Central Library – National Poetry Day 2016

A group of enthusiastic Year 8 students ventured to Liverpool Central Library to celebrate National Poetry Day on the 6th October 2016. This was a fantastic event and our students were receptive and inspired by the architecture and enormity of the library itself.



In attendance was published poet, Dr Eleanor Rees from Liverpool Hope University, who took the time to provide our students with readings from her own collections; inspired by climate change and its effects on animals who inhabit the earth alongside us. This allowed students to imagine what ‘message’ they would like to project through their own poems as this was the theme for National Poetry Day.

As a group we gathered on the roof terrace as the sun was setting to perform poetry created that evening. This made for a fantastic atmosphere and a truly memorable experience.



Miss Green
English



Barclay’s Financial Services Girls Allowed Event

Holly, Bethan, Molly, Sophie and Holly were recently allowed a behind the doors visit to Barclay’s Financial Services, Innovation Centre at Radbrook Park, Knutsford, Cheshire.

The Girl only ‘Girls Allowed Event’ was designed to demonstrate that STEM and Computer Science careers are equally accessible to girls and to inspire them to consider IT as career choice. The day comprised of activities including programming a robot, designing a new app and a team challenge. Barclay’s staff were on hand to support each task and talk to the girls about their skills, what their job entails and their path into the industry.



The afternoon’s code breaking activity was led by the Cryptology team who explained the background of coding to their work of encryption & decryption used in the security of electronic financial transactions.

Mrs Welsh, Head of Computer Science, said “It has been a great opportunity for the girls, they had the chance to listen to women in the industry and try out a number of different technology workshops. I was impressed with how the girls conducted themselves throughout the day, and the level of enthusiasm for each task that they were set. A big congratulations to all the girls, and especially to Bethan who won the ‘Best Technology Design workshop.’”

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

Already, the autumn half-term is upon us! Staff and students have had a productive and meaningful 8 weeks with new exciting events and initiatives and, of course, settling in to hard work! The autumn term is extremely important in establishing good habits which stand students in good stead as the year progresses.

I am delighted to report that the new Year 7s have had a great start to the year and settled quickly. This was helped by the team-building day which enabled students to get to know each other in a different environment with fun activities, plus a brand new Science Club which has been very well attended. National Poetry Day was celebrated by some year 8 students at Liverpool Library and Sixth Formers were treated to an hour with Alastair Campbell (Tony Blair's Spokesman), who was extremely illuminating!

This edition of the Upton Voice demonstrates the enthusiasm and commitment of teachers and students to experience a range of enriching activities; I hope you enjoy reading it!

We hope all our families have a peaceful and restful half-term break.

Mr J. Arnull
Deputy Headteacher

Year 7 Football National Cup vs. Halewood

The Year 7 football team took the trip over the Runcorn Bridge to play Halewood in the National Cup on Thursday 13th October. The team were in good form following victories over Queens Park High and The Kings School in previous weeks.

The game started well for the team with an early goal from in form striker Harley. In a very close first half we showed some excellent passing and created good chances for the front 4 of Tom, Krystian, Ben and Harley. The score was 1-0 at half time with both Mr Medland and Mr Dixon happy with the way the team was playing.

The second half started slowly for Upton and we conceded a quick goal on the counter attack. The game started to settle with Joe hitting the upright from distance and the defence of John, Leo and Ashton managing to resist any of the home teams advances. The second goal was a great strike from Tom on the volley after their keeper had done well to stop a Ben thunderbolt. This gave us momentum and Harvey got the ball moving well in midfield and we quickly added to the lead with a brave header from Krystian.

Halewood tried to come back and get back in the game, but they found keeper Todd is superb positions and unable to find the back of his net again. John in defence drew praise from the opposition teacher for his commitment to every ball.

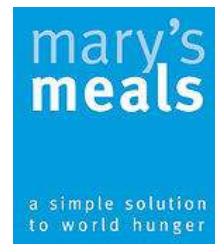
Just as the referee went to blow the final whistle Upton captain Ben slotted home to complete a 4-1 victory.

Mr Dixon
Pastoral Co-Ordinator



Mary's Meals – Backpack Project

Wood Hall are currently supporting a small Scottish charity called Mary's Meals, who aim to provide one good meal per day to children if they attend school.



Around 61 million of the world's hungriest children do not attend school. In order to survive they have to work or beg to support themselves and their families. By going to school they can break the vicious cycle that has often left them in poverty.

The Backpack Project is not about giving money – but the Hope for a Brighter Future for millions of school children, who do not have the most basic essentials in life such as a spoon or a note book to practice their writing or a ball to play with their friends.

What is the Backpack Project? Fill an old backpack with a variety of basic essentials and Mary's Meals will come and collect them and deliver them to deserving children around the world.

Our aim? Is for each form to put together at least one backpack, which would enable us to help a minimum of 50 children have at least some of the same opportunities that we take for granted everyday.

What do we need? Thanks to a local Chester business (The Swim School) we have backpacks ready to be filled. So what we need is donations/items to fill the bags such as:

- Note Pads,
- Pens,
- Pencils/Crayons,
- Rulers,
- Erasers,
- Pencil Cases,
- Clean Good Quality 2nd Hand Clothes such as T-shirts, Shorts, Skirts etc
- Old Flip Flops/Sandals/Trainers
- Soap, Toothpaste, Tooth Brush
- A Spoon
- A Small Ball

Any donations would be gratefully received.



Miss McLean and the Wood Hall Leadership Team

Celebrating Literacy in PLaN

In September, we celebrated 100 years since the birth of one of our favourite authors, Roald Dahl. To mark the occasion, students were set a number of challenges during PLaN (Pastoral, Literacy & Numeracy). These challenges included discovering their own Dahl character name, designing a new product for Charlie's chocolate factory and learning how to illustrate in the style of Quentin Blake.

We also ran a competition where students were encouraged to write a short story inspired by Roald Dahl. Congratulations to Sam in 7x4WO who was chosen as the winner and who received the Special Literacy Prize for this half term. Sam's amazing story follows on the next page.

Look out for next half term's competition, where students will be asked to create a piece of writing with the title 'Power For Good' to support National Anti-Bullying Week between the 14th and 18th November.

Mr Crozier
Head of English



The Muddled Trunchbull by Sam (7x4WO)

"The jury are dismissed to consider their verdict," pronounced the ingenious Judge Willy Wonka. Miss Trunchbull, the evil villain, watched from the dock as the twelve members of the jury left to decide upon her fate. She seemed calm and casual about it all, although no one could understand how, when she had committed such an awful crime. What was her crime though? Ah, well, she was a headteacher and to make matters worse, she was absolutely foul to her pupils. One pupil had received the worst of this treatment; her name was Matilda.



After what seemed to be an eternity, the members of the jury returned with a unanimous verdict, 'GUILTY'. The lead juror said to her, "You have been judged Trunchbull". Miss Trunchbull didn't know what this meant, but she knew it wasn't good. Because of all she had suffered, Matilda was selected by the wise Wonka to decide what the punishment should be. Trunchbull was to be informed about this a short while after the hearing. It was to be community service, 'Matilda style'.

The next day, there was a ring on the doorbell at Miss Trunchbull's house. A letter came through the letterbox and it read: Matilda has set you three tasks to complete as your community service. Each task relates to a child you have to visit, you will have to collect a souvenir and do something kind for that child. Your first task is to visit Charlie and create a new product for him to sell. While there, you also have to collect a special chocolate bar.

Trunchbull set off soon after. She was riding her magical motorbike that could get her to places in seconds. When she arrived, Charlie seemed to be expecting her. She was greeted by the Umpa Lumpas and was then directed through to the room where all the chocolate was made. Charlie was waiting there for her. Together they chatted and they invented a scrumdiddlyumptious chocolate bar. It was a salted caramel and toffee flavoured bar, covered in white chocolate. It was marvelous. Charlie asked if she would like to take one with her. The product was made, the chocolate was collected, the first task had been completed.

The next morning, the postman arrived again. The letterbox made a CLICK and then a BANG. The letter slid into the house. It read, 'Your next task consists of the following: visit George; take his grandma for a walk (as we know she can be very grumpy) and collect a medicine that will allow Matilda to see in the dark (so she can read at night)'.

When Trunchbull arrived at George's house, there was a scream from George's grandma. Using some of the magic from Charlie's chocolate factory, Trunchbull had just appeared out of thin air! It took a while for George to calm her down. When Trunchbull and Grandma were walking, it didn't take Trunchbull long to realise that Grandma hadn't been outside for hundreds of years. Even though they were just outside the house, Grandma didn't know where she was and it took hours to reach the end of the road. Meanwhile, George was preparing a medicine for Matilda. It was handed to Trunchbull just before she disappeared into thin air again and back into her cold, lonely house.

The next morning, the doorbell rang AGAIN! It was the postman, AGAIN! He was at Trunchbull's house, AGAIN! The next task was contained in a letter that he slid under the door. It said that she had to visit James, polish the shoes of the centipede and collect some Peach Jam and Peach Chutney.

When Trunchbull arrived at James's house, she saw a peach garden and an excited looking centipede. "Here is shoe polish," he said. Trunchbull hesitated for a moment. "Come on, what are you waiting for?" asked the centipede. Trunchbull had no choice but to clean all of his shoes, after all it was on the list. A smell of peach drifted out of the window, James was stirring the peach jam and the peach chutney. Hours passed and finally the centipede's shoes were polished. Trunchbull was handed a jar of jam and a jar of chutney. Trunchbull was just about to have some medicine and whiz off, when James said, "Oi you've not paid me yet. £5.75 please!" Trunchbull looked very annoyed but she had to pay, as it was part of her punishment. She gulped down the medicine and whizzed off, right back to Matilda's house to drop off all the gifts.

Arriving back at Matilda's house was nerve-racking for Trunchbull, she had really bullied Matilda. She reluctantly rang the doorbell and Matilda came to the door. Ashamed and embarrassed, Trunchbull pulled each of the gifts out of her bag: a chocolate bar from Charlie; some 'see in the dark' medicine from George; peach jam and peach chutney from James. Trunchbull apologised for all she had done and then Matilda said to her, "Thank you. You have showed that you are not just an evil woman who bullies children and that you can be a really kind lady."

THE END

Political heavyweight speaks to Sixth Form students

After a great deal of persistence, Politics student Juliana persuaded Alastair Campbell, best known for his role as Prime Minister Tony Blair's Spokesman, Press secretary and Director of Communications and Strategy, to visit our school to speak to students studying 'A' Level Politics, Media, Sociology and Economics.

Alastair spoke to students about his career, his views on current political affairs, his latest book and his advocacy for mental health awareness in society. His talk was followed by a lively question and answer session, with students eager to ask him about a range of current political issues and how he got into politics and journalism, to what inspired him to join the Labour Party and express his political views so publicly.

Alastair's message to the students was very encouraging, as he spoke about the need for young people to be politically active and campaign for the changes they want to see in society.

As Alastair is a staunch Burnley F.C. supporter, Juliana presented him with a signed England shirt worn by ex-Upton High student Tom Heaton, Captain of Burnley F.C.



A visit from an Emeritus Professor of Engineering

On 20th October over 200 of our Science students had a very enlightening talk on the many facets of Engineering from Professor Peter Goodhew, Emeritus Professor of Engineering at the University of Liverpool. He even brought along a robot to perform on our stage.



Social Sciences Department (WARNING!! Contains graphic images)

In Psychology, the year 2 students (Upper Sixth) recently took part in a sheep's brain dissection as part of their investigation into how psychologists study the brain. This is part of the Biopsychology section of the syllabus. Students had the opportunity to try to identify parts of the brain, which they had learned from their e-book and work-booklets, by observation, manipulation and dissection. This was a very useful and interesting addition to the psychology curriculum and will take place each year.



We also had visiting Biologists with Ms Woodward to take advantage of this opportunity for their own learning. This is important for our students, especially those wishing to continue studying psychology, as opportunities such as this are afforded them in higher education. This can be seen as Bethan Williams (pictured), an A* student now taking psychology at University, sent us a photo of her experience dissecting a human brain during her first year undergraduate studies.

Mr O'Donnell
Head of Social Sciences



Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Year 11 received their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award recently. They have all worked hard to complete and Mrs Hewitt and Mrs Jackson have really enjoyed helping them to achieve their award. Again this year we had an exceptional completion rate of over 90% in just one year. Excellent effort and well done to all involved.

Mrs Hewitt



Y7 Science Club

We have a fantastic club, meeting every two weeks on Tuesdays Week 1. Between 60 and 70 young Einsteins meet to explore the wonderful world of Science and find out how things work. The first three meetings this year have seen the emergence of future engineers, chemists, and pyrotechnic display creators.

Using just 30 paper straws our budding builders designed and built bridges that were weight tested until destruction. A new record was set, a bridge that supported 40 (yes 40) exercise books before it fell. Our chemists explored the world of chemical mixtures and reactions and all went home with a bathbomb and hopefully witnessed a relaxing chemical reaction when their creation was mixed with warm water. Then our young enthusiastic scientists discovered the world of pyrotechnic displays and were amazed at the different colours and varying intensities of burning metals and metal solutions. They then used this data to design the perfect firework. Hopefully the next session will see all of our students become mini marine biologists with a squid dissection.



We have a huge attendance which requires 2 – 3 labs being utilised and so I must extend my huge thanks to Mr Mottram, Dr Wilson, Miss Guest and all the support staff including 6th Form students, who help out on the sessions.

**Mr Caine
Science**



Debating Society

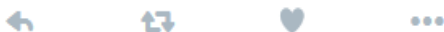
Debating Society is a club held once a month on a Monday after school, where two teams discuss and debate a current issue that has recently been discussed in Parliament. Controversial issues are considered and views are exchanged, as well as plenty of questions from the floor. The past two debates have regarded Refugees and the renewal of Trident, and have allowed members to expand their horizons on topics, by seeing multiple sides of the argument. Debating society tests a variety of skills, including researching, speech writing, initiative and quick-thinking, while also building confidence through public speaking, and knowledge of important present-day issues.

While the debates are extremely informative and educational, they are also very fun and entertaining, with live updates on the Debating Society twitter (@ooooisay) and snapchat (uptondebates) and plenty of refreshments courtesy of the bakers among the group.

Debating Society really is a great and exciting way to keep up-to-date with the world, and is open to anyone and everyone with an interest in politics or a curiosity to learn about relevant issues present in the UK today.

Upton Debates @ooooisay · Oct 17

Trident is the cheapest defence option according to Henry



Upton Debates @ooooisay · Jul 12

Closing arguments. 'UK economically stronger with refugees'.



Upton Debates @ooooisay · Jul 12

Infrastructure Qs from the floor @MissMainUHS Grace counters with BuzzFeed knowledge.

Accelerated Reader Scheme

This term has seen the continuation of our 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 a day 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.

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.

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

Yunus Hall Charity Collection

This year Yunus Hall is collecting for our local Food Bank (West Cheshire Food Bank) and for Chester Lodge Nursing Home. Yunus Hall's Ethos is all about generosity – during the festive season we would like students to get involved by bringing in provisions and in turn helping us to support our local community.

Food Bank provide help for people who live in poverty, providing provisions to men, women and children in crisis around the UK.

Chester Lodge Nursing Home is a local nursing home that looks after our elderly community.

We are asking our students to bring provisions to the Learning Hub by Friday 16th December.



RENAISSANCE LEARNING



Digital Technology

Year 7 iPad Launch

The start of the Autumn term saw another successful Year 7 iPad launch. All Year 7 students took part in a 2 hour iPad introductory workshop. The Year 8 & 9 ELF students and the Year 10 Digital Leaders supported the Year 7 students, to navigate their way around their new learning tool. The workshops included tutorials on the current educational apps, sending and receiving emails, organising their iPad, the iPad rules and looking after their iPad. The launch workshops were fantastic and Year 7 students left feeling confident with the world at their fingertips.



Digital technology in the classroom

Since the start of this academic year, students have been busy using digital technology across a range of subjects. Teachers have been making the most out of our newly decorated classroom. The classroom has been specifically designed to give teachers and students a space to feel inspired, get creative and engage with learning through digital technology.

English

A group of Year 8 students completed an amazing project using the green screen and the iMovie app. Students were tasked with researching about Alcatraz. They had been asked to produce a presentation about their findings. These presentations were then filmed using the green screen and once completed, students iPad skills were enhanced further by learning how to edit film footage, using the iMovie app.

Feedback:

Mrs Johns (English): "C14 is a fantastic space to work in. Whilst working on their tour guide to Alcatraz, the students were more motivated as a class and really enjoyed their learning. They all said they would happily do this again."

Samuel: "I thought we finished with an amazing product. We mentioned lots of people and things about Alcatraz and covered a lot."

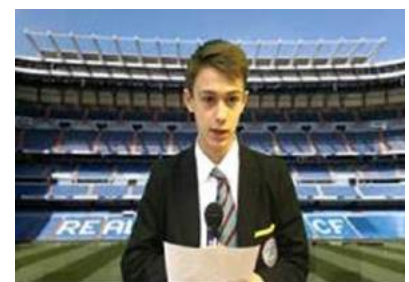
Dylan: "I learnt about Alcatraz, Machine Gun Kelly and I now know how to use a green screen."

Enzo: "I enjoy using the iPads. I learnt lots more about editing my videos and worked as a team."



Business Studies

Year 9 Business studies groups have been learning all about how companies such as Nike have factories in Indonesia. Students gained an understanding about the unfair working conditions and the people that are employed to work in such places. Once their research was completed the students were asked to put together a presentation based on their findings. The presentations were filmed on the green screen, giving the students the opportunity to be creative when delivering their new found knowledge and improving their confidence when delivering presentations.



Geography

Rock Cycle Presentations: Some Year 7 Geography groups have been learning all about the rock cycle. In small groups they were tasked with researching one of the three rock types. Once they had completed their research they were asked to create a presentation, for which they used the green screen technology. Once their presentations were complete the students were asked to individually create an iMovie, using their presentation film footage. They were asked to include text, images, music and to make their presentations individual.

Digital Technology (continued)

Geography

Volcanoes Augmented Reality: Some Year 7 Geography groups used the Quiver Education app to bring volcanoes to life. Students were amazed to see the augmented model in front of their eyes. They were able to watch the process of the volcano, leading up to eruption. Students then participated in the interactive volcano quiz, learning the 8 volcano components. This truly was a fantastic lesson which brought geographical reality into the classroom.



Music

Year 8 music students were asked to make a musical advert. Some Year 8 students decided to use green screen technology to create their adverts. Lottie said: "As a group we liked using the green screen because it put an effect to the advert which we were creating. It also made the advert look more professional due to it having special effects that you couldn't normally use. I thought using the new classroom made us want to do the work to the best of our ability."



Teacher iPad training

Elf students delivered their first iPad teacher training workshop this half term. The event gave students the opportunity to showcase their knowledge and digital technology talents. Staff who attended thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and commented that they would definitely incorporate the use of digital technology within their lesson plans. A fantastic effort from all ELF students involved.



Year 7 Appy Hour

The Year 8 ELF students planned and delivered 3 Appy Hour events during September and October. The events were a great success and gave the ELF students the opportunity to pass on their iPad skills and knowledge to their fellow students. During the Appy Hour events Year 7 & 8 students participated in the following activities:

- Creating iMovies, including editing and adding sound effects
- Producing creative pieces of work on Explain Everything
- Learning how to use the green screen technology and creating some imaginative films
- Getting creative with augmented reality, using an app called Quiver Education
- Taking a journey into space using the virtual reality goggles. Exploring the exciting and innovative opportunity VR technology has to offer.

Due to the success of Appy Hour and by request of the Year 7 students, there will now be an Appy Hour workshop every first Tuesday of the month.

Mrs Keefe

Staff & Student E-Learning Co-ordinator



Match report from Ashton for the Upton vs. Blacon football match

The whistle blew and the game kicked off. Blacon started the better team and dominated possession. But a back 3 of John, Leo and Ashton stood strong and all made good tackles. Todd was Upton's goalkeeper and we all felt safe with him there, showing good ball handling and excellent kicking. It wasn't long before Upton got the ball played wide to Joe, he drilled the ball into the box.....Goal!! Harley put it in the back of the net. Then Ben drilled the ball into the box and Harley added a second. Ben got a nutmeg but Blacon scored and the whistle blew for half time. Score 2-1 to Upton.

Upton were much the stronger team in the second half and Harley made it 3-1, a hat-trick for him. 15 minutes later Joe crosses the ball in and Harvey gets on the scoresheet. Ashton picks up the ball, passes it to Ben and it somehow goes into the Blacon net. Own Goal! Ben went on another run down the line and shot and scored, making it 6-1 to Upton. Full time and a great win for Upton.

Ashton

Year 7

Alton Towers Reward Trip - Saturday 22nd October 2016

On a cold crisp Saturday autumn morning – 285 students and 26 staff made the annual pilgrimage to Alton Towers Scare Fest as a reward for their excellent behaviour and following the Upton Way!

It was a delight to see so many of our amazing students from Year 8 to 6th Formers breaking down the social barriers and getting to know each other outside of the classroom environment.



Dates for your diary

Monday 31st October to Friday 4th November — Half-term break

Monday 7th November — First day of term

Wednesday 16th November— Careers Evening

Thursday 24th November— Year 7 Parents Transition Meeting

Tuesday 6th December — Christmas Concert

Thursday 15th December— Year 13 Parents Evening

Tuesday 20th December— A Level Presentation Evening

Thursday 22nd December to Friday 6th January — Christmas break

Monday 9th January — First day of term

Thursday 12th January — Year 8 Parents Evening

Thursday 19th January — 6th Form Open Evening

Tuesday 24th January — Year 8 Options 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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