



# UPTON

# Voice

Summer 2024



**DUKE OF EDINBURGH**

EXPEDITION DIARY  
PALACE CELEBRATION

**ENGAGE @ UPTON**

BALL HOCKEY  
FARM CLUB  
CRICKET  
OXFAM  
CHOIR  
D&D

**MOCK ELECTION**

**TRIPS & VISITS**

WARNER BROS STUDIO  
OXFORD UNIVERSITY  
SCULPTURE PARK

**COMMUNITY**

SPORTS LEADERSHIP  
SPANISH EXCHANGE  
ECO SCHOOLS

# SUMMER SPORTS STARS

KS3 ATHLETIC CHAMPIONS

MADE BY LEARNERS,  
FOR LEARNERS.



# CONTENTS

## ENGAGE @ UPTON

pg. 4 - 10 This term, the Upton Voice editorial team have been to a number of clubs in our Engage@Upton program. From Ball Hockey to Farm Club - there's something for everyone!

## THE ARTS

pg. 36-39 A behind the scenes look into the KS3 production of 'Lord of the Flies' featuring the cast list and an intriguing insight into what learners get up to in rehearsals.

## LEARNER PROFILES

pg. 46 -49 This term is especially focused on the athletic achievements of multiple learners. Not only can you check out clubs like ball hockey and tennis, but further back in this issue you can have a look at what our cover stars have been up to

## TRIPS & VISITS

pg. 16 - 29 There have been several exciting and educational trips this term including: Year 12 Art and Geography field trips, a visit to Oxford University, theatre trips and more.

## COMMUNITY

pg. 42 - 45 The school came together for a mock general election and we take a closer look at the Sports Leadership programme at Upton



*New salad bar coming to the World Cafe in September!*





# EDITOR'S NOTES

Welcome to another fun-filled edition of the Upton Voice. As ever our staff have been busy organising a term full of opportunities for our learners.

There have been a number of 'next steps' talks and visits for our 6th form with days out at Universities and inspiring talks in school. Learners from Geography, Art, Psychology, Media Studies & the Performing Arts have enjoyed field trips and performances which enhance their studies.

Learners from across the school have been successful in sporting competitions as well as cake making for the Storyhouse and Maths competitions at Liverpool University.

We hear from two of our cover stars; Elliott and Ruby about their recent sporting achievements as well as celebrating some Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award holders at their presentation at Buckingham Palace. We said goodbye to our amazing Year 11 and Year 13 and celebrated their time at school with two glittering prom nights.

This term's KS3 production of Lord of the Flies was a sell-out success and our reporters were able to go behind the scenes to get the inside scoop with the cast and crew.

As ever, the team have showcased the diverse range of Engage activities from Ball Hockey to Dungeons & Dragons!

We hope you enjoy this summer edition and we hope you have a lovely rest over the holiday.

*Ms Seery & the Upton Voice Editorial Team*

*Summer 2024*

Engage

# BALL HOCKEY

Millie-Rose Y10



*'Ball hockey is a fun and creative way to stay fit and healthy!'*

Joe Y8



On a Tuesday after school, Upton's athletic ball hockey team meet in the sports hall to practice their skills and compete against each other in ball hockey. Attending the club is a great way to improve on skills, or, for first time players, it's a new way to learn and be active.

Ball hockey is a fun and innovative way to compete and play a fast-paced sport similar to ice hockey, the only difference being the lack of ice and pucks in ball hockey.

*'I love playing ball hockey and its fun to play with my friend'*



Tuesday

3:15pm

Sports Hall

# Choir

Olivia Y10

Engage

After school every Wednesday Upton's wonderful choir meet up to practice their singing skills. Led by Miss Thompson, they perform shows for primary schools, care homes, at Christmas, at the end and the start of the year - and in September, they sang a melody of songs from Disney's "The Lion King" for the parents, carers and learners at the annual awards evening.

The singers are organised into vocal groups: altos, those with deeper voices; sopranos with higher voices; and mezzo-sopranos, who have voices in between. Miss Thompson begins each session with scales to warm up everyone's voices, and then they practice their songs, for example "Grease Lightning" and "Rock N' Roll Party Queen" from the musical Grease.

*It's so fun and builds both my musical and vocal skills.*

Flora

*After coming to choir, I feel so much more confident in my voice!*

Evie

Wednesday

3:15pm

A3



Engage

# Farm Club



Amelia and Lucie Y10

*"I like taking care of the animals and I love holding the guinea pigs - my favourite guinea pig is Pumpkin!"*

Joe Y9

Farm club is a lively club where learners can interact with and care for farm animals such as our own goats and guinea pigs. These friendly, curious animals teach us valuable lessons about animal care and sustainable farming practices.

Friday

3:15pm

Lab 15 & Support



It takes place every Friday and is led by Miss Birch. We encourage learners to consider joining to grow this wonderful club full of enthusiastic learners to make friends and learn new things.



# Tennis

Olympia and Lucie Y10

*It's a great experience to meet new people!*

Niamh  
Y9

Tuesday  
3:15pm  
over the  
Bridge

When you attend our tennis club, you will be able to compete in regular competitions with the team and take part in tournaments as well! This intense game teaches learners patience and perseverance



Tennis club takes place every Tuesday after school, at Brookhurst. Tennis club is where learners can get active and play tennis and have fun with their friends. This sport teaches the learners about teamwork as there are rounds of singles and doubles.

*"Tennis is quite the unappreciated sport. You should definitely come and give it a try as there are only a few members at the moment"*

Josh Y9



# Engage Cricket

Anna Y10



Cricket club is a brilliant opportunity to try something different and make new friends. At Upton, our cricket teams attend competitions regularly in schools around Chester and the Wirral with our U14 boys and U15 teams. The quintessential British sport is open to everyone, whether you've played before or not! Now is a better time to join than ever, as a new season has just started.

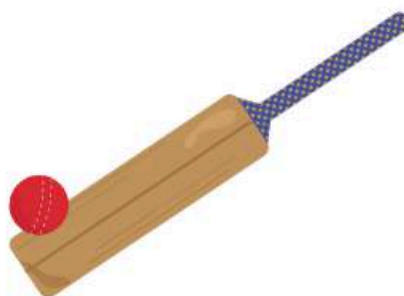
*We really enjoy time here, it's a nice exercise and really social*

Max and Ben Y10



*Cricket is a team sport but it is made up of 11 individuals who can express themselves*

Mr Carrigan





# Engage Oxfam

Evie Y10

Our Oxfam group meet once every two weeks after school to discuss global issues. They organise campaigns to raise awareness, fundraise and work with MPs to try to improve conditions for people across the world.

The Oxfam group's work aims to improve the lives of others all over the globe. They campaign for justice equality and climate justice and most of all to make the world a better place. They have gained support from the government to ensure our "Send my Friend to School" work following a visit to parliament and Downing Street, which enable more children to go to school across the world. To raise awareness they have done many fundraising events and activities throughout the year.



*"Oxfam has helped us to become 'Send My Friend to School' champions"*

Sophie and Grace Y10

Oxfam Schools Action's group members have had opportunities to improve their skills on many different things such as public speaking, networking campaigning, organisation and communication skills, among many others while being part of the club . Being in the team has allowed people to share their passion and enthusiasm for being the change that they want to see in the world.



*"Being part of the Oxfam youth group makes me feel like I have a voice as a young person,"*

Queenie Y8

Wednesday  
WK2

3:15pm

A12



Georgia Y12

Dungeons and Dragons is a fun and imaginative game where anyone can be who they want and play in their own style. On a Tuesday after school many students attend DND where they take part in an imaginary adventure that often involves exploring a castle or dungeon, defeating monsters and discovering treasure.



*"DND is really fun because I like roleplay games"*



*"I really like the game because it allows me to use my imagination"*

Joe Y9

*"Dungeons and Dragons is my favourite game and more people should come"*

# MAKE IT COMPETITION

On Friday 28th June Year 9 learners from Eco Group and future GCSE Business learners represented our school at the Plastikpak Make It Competition, held at the Ramada Hotel in Wrexham.

Both teams gave confident pitches on their recycling systems to the judging panel and enjoyed working together to complete their task. All attendees received a goody bag and certificate. The judges commended the teams from Upton on their original ideas and fantastic presentation with both teams producing excellent videos to promote their People Fuel drinks bottles.

Upton Team 1 were up first giving a brilliant presentation and video with Jamie awarded a prize for best individual performance and contribution, team 1 finished in 2nd place. Team 2 also gave a fantastic presentation with a very original video finishing in 4th place. Special mention to Mr Webster who did an amazing presentation as Gary Barlow and Mr Rorke for his prototype production.

Thank you to Mr Jones for organising the trip.

*Mrs Mitchell*

*"I was a part of the school team that went out to the Make It competition. We had to come up with an idea that would encourage others to recycle. And even though my team didn't win I still had fun coming up with our idea."*

Eira Y9



# Eco schools

Evie S Y10

Members of the Eco-Schools Action Group presented their work to the 2024 Youth Summit on Earth Day hosted by Transform Our World. They discussed our current project working with Chester Zoo on promoting sustainable palm oil by using the app PalmOil Scan to see how major manufacturers are sourcing their palm oil ingredients. They also talked about what our school does to help spread awareness on sustainable palm oil and how to we make a difference like we have an Eco schools newsletter.



*"It was a great experience meeting people who run the department in our local Zoo and finding out how filming professionally works."*

May Y10



They also talked about different ways sustainable palm oil would benefit different people in economy and habitats. Like how with sustainable palm oil they leave a wildlife corridor so animals can still live in the habitat but people can still harvest palm oil. Sustainable palm oil also gives small economy jobs and an income and sustainable palm oil allows this to be done without effective habitats and animals environments.



The Eco action team is currently preparing for the Chester Zoo School Takeover Day where they have two tables, one focusing on sustainable palm oil in the Orangutan habitat and another focusing on the consequence of plastics in marine ecosystems next to the Penguin habitat. Some students who are a part of the Chester Zoo SSN (school sustainability network) will also be working on their table to talk about what their school has done to help with palm oil and the ideas they have been coming up with all year.



Some recent activities they have done to improve our schools sustainability are placing battery boxes around the school so people can place their batteries that have run out in them and they will be taken off to be recycled rather than going to landfill which is where they usually go. They have also made seed bombs out of soil, clay and wildflower seeds to create more variety in plants and flowers across the school grounds and have placed them near the outdoor classroom. They have also had weekly litter picks as well as preparing over 75 classroom plants to be distributed across the school and their aim is to have one plant in every classroom. The eco schools team also has a newsletter about things we have done on the school bulletin.



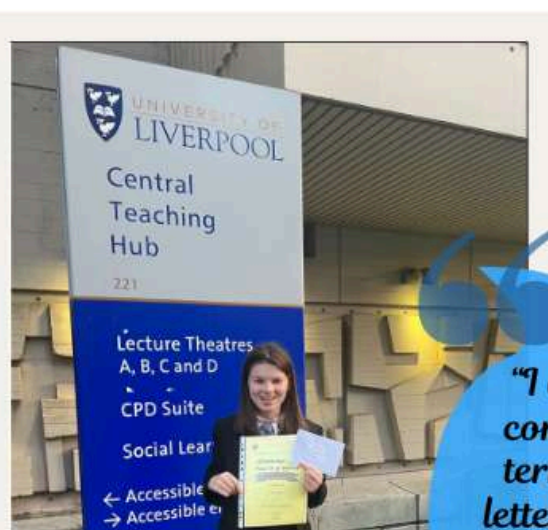
*"It's really interesting to learn how to help the environment and help the school community to be sustainable."*

Alona Y10

# M3RS3YSID3 MATHS CHALL3NG3



Merseyside Maths Challenge is an annual event in which learners produce solutions to the problems over February half term. The Challenge is for Years 7 & 8 and Senior Challenge for Years 9 & 10. There were over one hundred entries from Upton, the best were put forward to be judged at Liverpool University along with nearly two thousand of the best entries from school all over the North west and beyond. All three of these learners went to the prize giving event at Liverpool University



*"I entered a maths logic puzzle competition during the Feb half term. A month ago, I received a letter to inform me that I had been invited to attend a 'Challenge Prize Evening' at the University of Liverpool."*

Our learner Eden Y8 was highly commended in the MEM Challenge 2024.



# Carnegie Medal Storyhouse Trip

A group of KS3 learners travelled to The Storyhouse on 20th June for an event marking the announcement of the winner of the Carnegie Medal. The Carnegie Medal is awarded to the UK's best book for young people each year. The Kings School, Blacon High School and Queens Park High School were also in attendance.



. As part of the event, there was a "book themed" cake competition. The prizes of book tokens were won by our learners! (Emelia - Ink theme, Rosie - Northern Lights theme, Alice - Percy Jackson theme). Our learners were a credit to Upton as they mixed with the other schools and worked on presentations together.





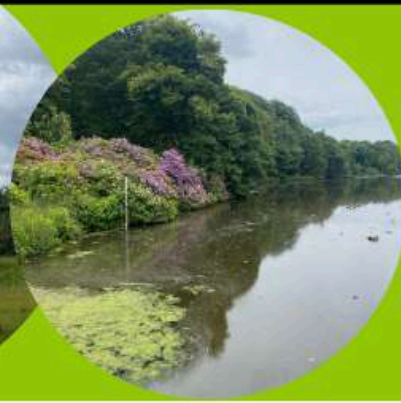
# Year 12 art trip Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Alice and Lila Y12

On the 13th of June the year 12 art and photography group travelled to the Yorkshire sculpture park which is an art gallery located in Wakefield with both open air and indoor gallery space. This was part of their course work that contributes to their a level and it gave them the opportunity to add their gallery books. The sculpture park is spread across the 500 acre park of Bretton Hall and some of the students completed a 4 mile circuit to see the sculptures along the way.

*"I really enjoyed the day out with my friends and i got a lot of inspiration for my own photography work. It was a lovely park aswell with amazing views."*

Poppy Y12



*'I found this day out very inspiring  
and I can't wait to apply the  
knowledge to my course work when I  
get back to school'*

Olivia Y12



- **Jonathan Baldock:**  
Touch wood exhibition
- **Leiah Babirye:**  
Relics in the landscapes
- **Daniel Arsham:**  
Obumu
- **Barbara Hepworth:**  
The Family of Man
- **Bharti Kher:**  
Alchemies



# YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

Their experience of Liverpool

Daisy Y10

- 1 At 9:15 they reached the Bache train station to get the half 9 train.
- 2 When they arrived in Liverpool, they walked up Bold Street, where they then discussed the geography field work and the upcoming days activities.
- 3 Then they compared Bold street to Parliament street, looking at the similarities and differences, the footfall and the quality of the street.
- 4 In the afternoon, the year 12s headed down for a tour to explore the history of the famous Albert docks and how the area had been regenerated since it's closure and reopening in the 1980s.
- 5 Before getting the train back, they visited the maritime museum at the heart of Liverpool's historic waterfront further expanding their knowledge on Liverpool's history.



*It was good experience and we learned valuable fieldwork skills that we will use in our NEA's!*

Macie Y12

*We ate our lunch in chavasse park and it was a lovely experience!*

Evan Y12



YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHERS ENJOYING LUNCH IN THE SUN



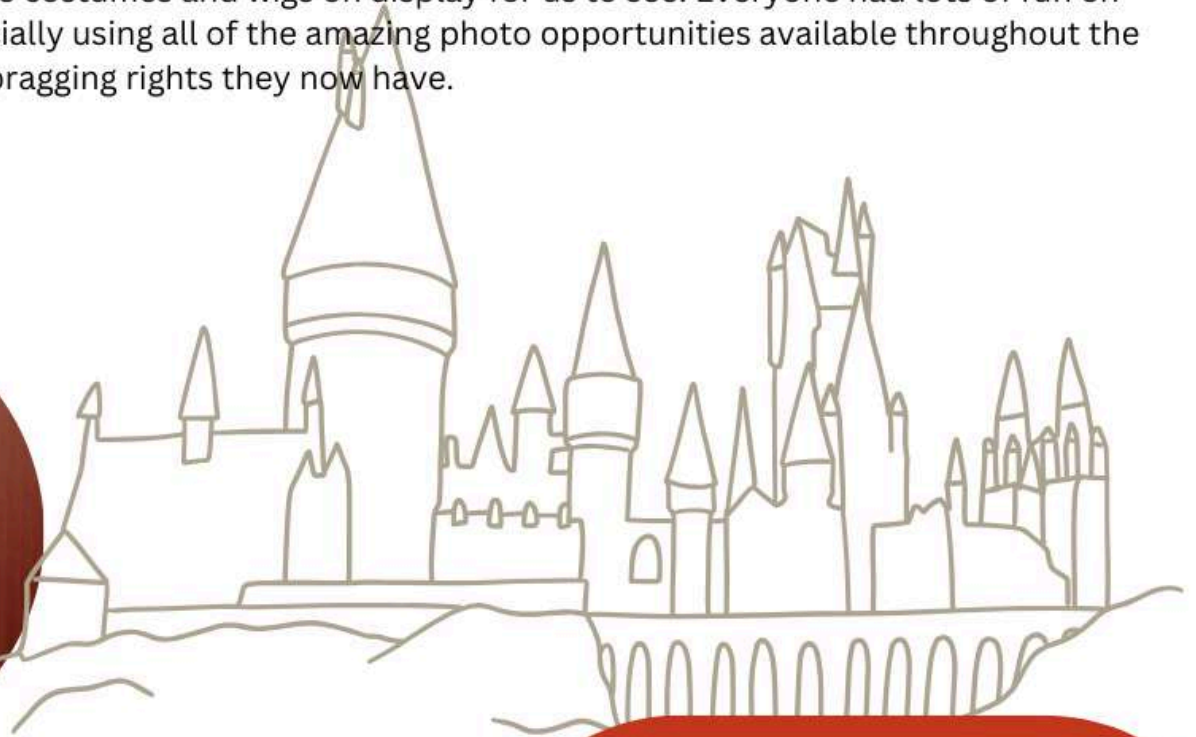
THE ROYAL ALBERT DOCKS

outside the maritime museum



# Warner Brother's

On Monday 17th June some of the Y10 and Y12 media students went to the Warner Brothers Harry Potter Studio tour in London. They all pushed through the four hour coach journey there and back but it was worth it when they were there exploring how these movies were made. The tour showed us some real life sets from the films including Harry Potter's house with the cupboard under the stairs, the Burrow (the Weasley's house) and many more. They also had hundreds of real life costumes and wigs on display for us to see. Everyone had lots of fun on their day out especially using all of the amazing photo opportunities available throughout the tour and love the bragging rights they now have.



*I love the Harry Potter films so this was a really exciting trip and I enjoyed it so much*

*Evie Y10*

# Studios Tour

Hayden Y10



Mischief Managed

*The atmosphere was amazing and it was like you could feel the magic in the air, I had so much fun with my friends and learned a lot about my favourite*

*movies* Anna Y10



# The Kite Runner

## A-Level English Literature



Jess G Y12



On Wednesday 27th March 2024, Year 12 and 13 English Literature students went to the Story House to see the play adaptations of the book *The Kite Runner*. *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini tells the story of Amir and Hassan's friendship as they grow up together but this is betrayed by Amir. The story jumps in time to America where Amir and his father fled Taliban controlled Kabul (Afghanistan) and Amir is reminded of his past cowardice where he returns to Kabul to try and repair his mistakes.

This was a very valuable experience for all of the Literature students as it allowed the year 13 to aid their revision and the year 12s to learn the basis of the story they will be studying next year. All the learners enjoyed this amazing opportunity that was given to us on the doorsteps and it was not only an exiting trip to the theatre but also aided our leaning. With the knowledge from the production the year 12s are now able to apply it what they will begin learning in year 13 and in there A-level exams.



*I didn't think I would enjoy the production, but I found it so interesting and I'm looking forward to reading the book in class*

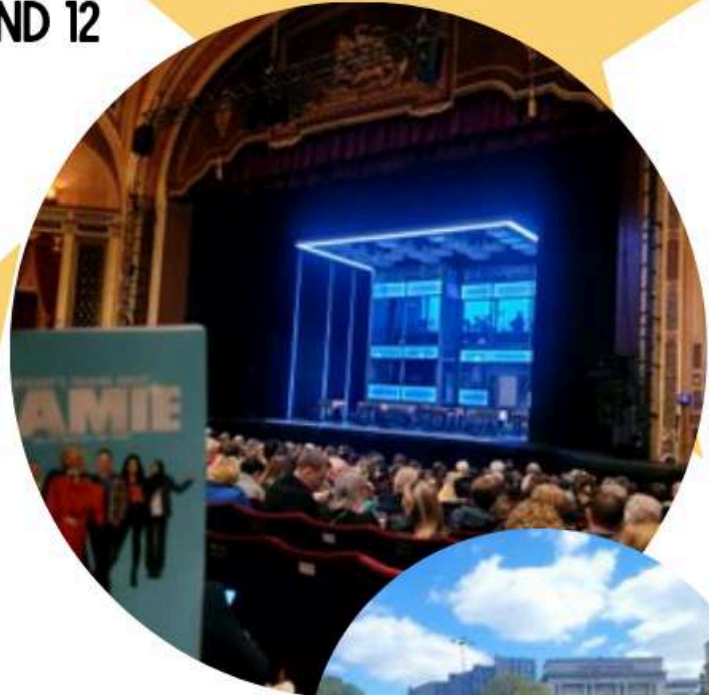
James Y12

# EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE

## YEAR 11 AND 12

On Wednesday the 24th of April, The Year 11 GCSE and Year 12 A-Level learners took a trip to the Liverpool Empire to watch the sensational and inspirational musical 'Everybody's Talking about Jamie'.

The musical explores the story of a teenage boy who transcends gender stereotypes and dreams of becoming a drag queen someday. The story explores some deeper themes containing discrimination and homophobia, but with the love and support of his mother and family, Jamie knows that he's going to be a star.



*Jamie was exceptional, Ivan Turco was energetic and flamboyant as Jamie, and the rest of the cast brought his story alive with vivid colour*

Tom Y12

This was a fantastic opportunity for the Year 11 learners, as for their GCSE exam, they have to choose one piece of live theatre that they have seen and then analyse and evaluate the techniques involved, such as; lighting, sound, costume, direction, characterisation and many other significant factors.

# Liverpool UCAS day

Harriet and Tallula Y12

*"It was a great experience where we all had opportunities to speak to a range of Universities along with some apprenticeships. It gave me so many ideas for the future"*

Georgia Y12



Our year 12's took a coach trip to Liverpool M&S Bank Arena to go round different stalls with information about Universities and apprenticeships. They got a bus from school at 9am and travelled up to Liverpool where they were dropped off and scanned their ticket insides. Once inside they had the opportunity to explore around a multitude of university and apprenticeship stalls.



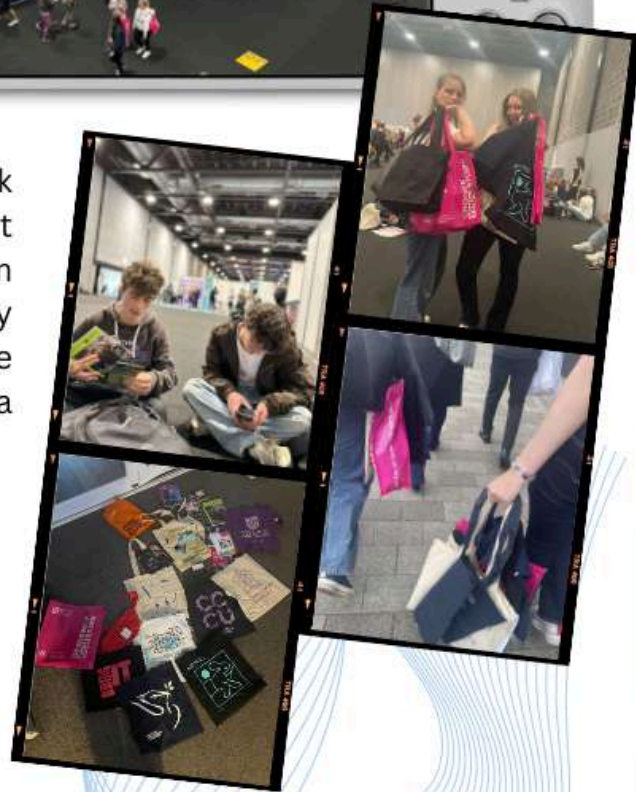
This gave all students inspiration of avenues they hadn't thought about and great opportunity to learn more and ask questions. Pupils got the chance to speak to Universities from close by such as Uni of Chester and Uni of Liverpool as

well as a large amount of Universities from further across the country like Unis of South Wales, Glasgow and London. The day was extremely helpful for students to get an understanding of accommodation, facilities and grades needed for the courses as well as lots of free gifts

All students thought it was a great day for future ventures and gave great ideas for their next steps

*"It helped me expand my horizons for universities and inspired me to visit open days"*

Jess Y12



# Oxford University

Alice M Y12



On the 15th of March a group of year 12 learners caught a coach at 5am and travelled around three hours to Oxford university. Throughout the day they had the opportunities to go to a taster lecture, explore different colleges and accommodation as well as explore the city.

They visited two colleges, which made it obvious that the campus housed very different architecture and activities meaning all students would find somewhere that appeals to them.



*This trip was very informative and gave me a good understanding of what studying at Oxford would really be like*

Rose Y12

Kidlington

Oxford

A4010

# P.R.C.M



VENUE : THE QUEEN AT  
CHESTER HOTEL

DATE: FRIDAY, 28TH JUNE

TIME: 7PM- MIDNIGHT

Anna and Alona Y10



# SPANISH EXCHANGE PROGRAM



Aleesha Y12

Hola! On the 9th of June, the A-level Spanish department welcomed 20 spanish students from IES Eduardo Blanco Amor High School in Ourense, Galicia, to explore life in England and improve their English speaking skills.

The days they spent in school consisted of shadowing learners across all year groups who were either their host families or A-level Spanish students, to give them a taster of what lessons are like at Upton. The rest of the week was spent visiting popular surrounding areas including Storyhouse in Chester, Liverpool Museum and West Kirby beach.

“  
*It has been great to utilise what I've learnt from studying A-level Spanish into actual conversations with the exchange students. I can't wait to go to Galicia next year!*  
”



“  
  
*I really enjoyed exploring UK cities and getting to meet new people. I would love to visit Chester again.*  
”

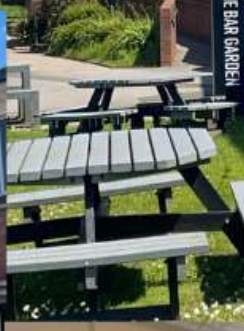
The exchange created a fantastic opportunity for both the students from Ourense, and the students at Upton to build connections and improve their language learning skills.

# Psychology trip to Uni of Chester

On Thursday 20th of June, Upton's Year 12 psychology students took a trip to the University of Chester and were lead through campus to the 'Best Building' which held the departments of Psychology, Geography and Media. We had the experience of getting to test some resources that the students use on their courses. We were split into 4 groups and went around 4 stations of a reaction time tester, virtual reality headset, cold presser test and alcohol & cannabis goggles. We found it was a great opportunity to test some practicals out and get a feel of what to expect in University. Students also sat in on a talk from seminar leaders and experienced a part of a real lecture.

*"I enjoyed the day because I felt it was immersive and I enjoyed putting my hand in the cold water presser along with the other practicals"*  
Bella Y12

*"It was really cool to see an insight into a lesson and how she was talking about her own experience and experiments"*  
Emma Y12





On the 6th - 7th of June, a group of Year 10 learners partook in their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition. This consisted of a 2 day expedition (1 night camping) and a walk totalling 20 miles over the 2 day period. The X and Y sides began their journeys at alternate ends of the route, which they planned upon arrival to the start points using the most strategic and safe foot paths.

On day one, Y siders started in Malpas and set off on their journey at about 10 am. They planned their route through the wilderness, walking through fields and along various pathways making sure to stop at each checkpoint until finally reaching the campsite at around half 4.

*DofE allowed me to practice my skills in an unfamiliar environment, helping me grow as a person and become more confident in myself.*

Florence Y10

# BRONZE





Millie and Olivia Y10

# DO F E

*“It was definitely a challenge, but being with all my friends helped!”*

Maria Y10

The X side learners began their route at Alderford Lake in Whitchurch. Their routes, also planned the morning of the expedition, passed through farms, crossed many footpaths and the Whitchurch and Grindley Brook. Both sides arrived at the campsite where they practised their camping skills by setting up tents and using a Trangia stove to make their tea for the evening. .

After everyone was settled into the campsite, each side had a meeting with the get outside the classroom coordinators, where they had to plan their route for day 2 of the expedition. Each side went in the direction the other went the day before. With lots of team spirit (and many sweets and snacks) all teams persevered through the journeys and made it to the end.

*“It was fun to showcase my outdoor abilities and try something new.”*

Beth Y10

# Gold Duke of Edinburgh

Bella and Ella Y12

On the 7th to the 9th May, our year 12 learners doing Gold Duke of Edinburgh completed a 3 day practice expedition in preparation for their main expedition in July. They camped 2 nights and walked around Llangollen, to practice skills for their actual expedition.

## *Trial expedition*

Day 1: 9am

We met our group leaders and collected our stoves and bags  
map skills/route planning

10am - each group left to follow their route to the first campsite

12am - We stopped on a side of a hill with lots of slate for our lunch. It was a lovely view but quite a cold wind chill

1pm - the group took it in turns to lead in pairs

4:30pm - arrive at camp, set up tents, cook your food

6pm rainy evening so everyone sat in their tents

Emily & Anna played Uno..

10pm - camp quiet all in bed



# DoFE Diary

Day 2:

8:30am Group up and out early for the day

same group leader. weather was very sunny.

10am - scaling the hills

12pm - lunch break. Valley of two hills

5pm - lots of hills - exhausting

Camp - pasta

7pm - sunny weather. Showers on camp

8pm - visit the sheep. Not too noisy

10pm - hilly campsite for the girls on a slope. Quite a cold night.



Day 3:

8:30am Left to our devices

Our group didn't get lost. Took it slowly

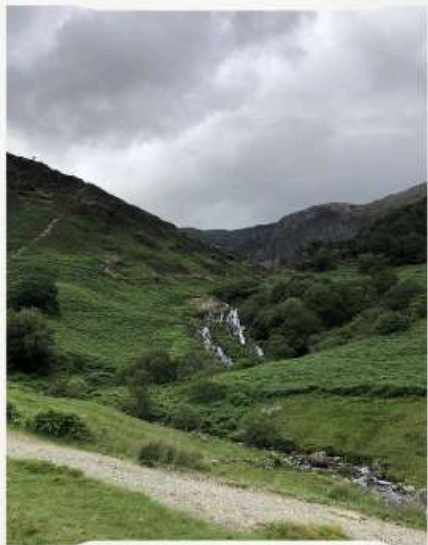
12pm - another hill, another lunch

Cookies on the last afternoon - final boost.

2pm - pretty weir

3pm - back at the final check point and pick up

Sleep eat.



# DOFE GOLD AWARD PRESENTATIONS at Buckingham Palace



*"DofE was incredibly rewarding and the day at Buckingham Palace was a fit ending to the experience as it was a real joy to reunite with the new friends I made along the way and to remind myself of my achievements."*

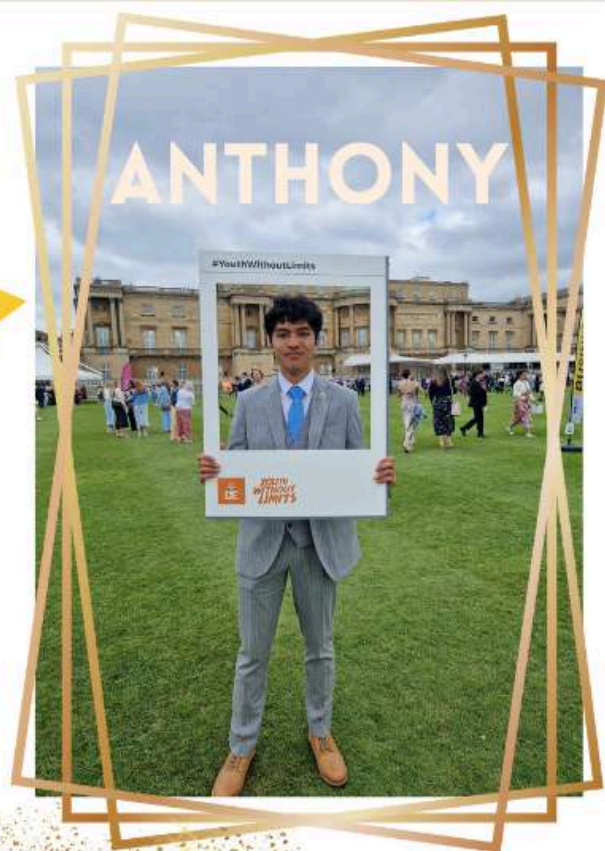


The Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award comprises of 18 months of weekly volunteering plus a year's work of practice at a chosen skill and consistent physical activity. On top of this, participants must complete a four day hike around Snowdonia and a week away at a residential activity.

Once all of this is completed you are invited to a tea party at one of the Royal palaces to collect your Gold Award badge and certificate. This May, Upper 6 learners Hazel and Anthony traveled to London to collect their Award at Buckingham palace along with Toby & Esme who finished their A Levels with us in 2023.



*"It was a sunny day in the palace, had some tea and cupcakes. I managed to interact with Prince Edward where he asked me where I was from". Overall, it was a wonderful experience to walk past the palace gates and into the gardens which are usually closed to the public."*



*"DofE was both challenging and fun at the same time. The celebration held in the Buckingham Palace gardens was the cherry on top of the cake. We had a speech from the Duke of Edinburgh himself, and a number of celebrities."*



# LORD OF THE FLIES

Rosa Y12

## CAST LIST

RALPH- POPPY A  
JACK- EDITH C  
PIGGY- DYLAN Q  
ROGER- MAX C  
SAM- NELL H  
ERIC- SIDNEY C  
SIMON- FLORA D  
HENRY- ISOBELLE M  
MAURICE- CHARLIES C  
BILL- LILLIE JO A  
PERICIVAL- ROSIE N

Years 7, 8, and 9 this term have been given the fantastic opportunity to audition and perform in William Golding's adaptation of 'Lord of the Flies'. Each learner was given the choice of a selection of monologues, spoken by the main characters: then they performed them to the performing arts teachers.

There was such an array of talent that the teachers struggled greatly with choosing the leads in this production, however after great deliberation and thinking, the cast was announced at the start of May and rehearsals began.



*Just when we thought Oliver! couldn't be topped along came Lord of the Flies.*

Miss Blumenthal



Each rehearsal was split into two sections with half of the cast working on the main script in the drama studio and then the other half of the cast worked on the additional scenes written for the production and rehearsed in the school mobiles.



*I have been overwhelmed by the sheer number of learners who wanted to get involved and the amount of hard work and dedication they have shown.*





The learners have devoted their time outside of school and attended weekend rehearsals where both the cast and crew worked on furthering the excellence of the production. The crew even created the infamous aeroplane which will be used as a significant piece of set within the performance.

*It was a lot of hard work but it paid off in the end and we all enjoyed being a part of it.*

Skye Y9

Every single member of this fantastic cast and crew has contributed to the result and this fantastic performance and it is clear that all of them certainly out on an impactful performance which is certainly to be a very memorable production.

*I couldn't be prouder of everyone involved - cast and crew, and the effort and commitment required from them all speaks volumes about their characters.*



Mrs Kilgannon - Director

Year 10 Food and Nutrition learners show case their presentation skills in the 'Tunnock's Teacake challenge'





Our amazingly talented Y10 Drama learners performed scenes from Malorie Blackman's play Noughts & Crosses to a packed out audience of parents and friends in the Drama Studio.

The learners, using Traverse staging, captured the emotional power and bitter segregation of this Romeo and Juliet inspired play. The play flips the conventional types of racism and is set in a dystopian world where the Crosses (African origin) rule society and the Noughts (European origin) are suppressed. Noughts and Crosses is an Eduqas GCSE Set text for Component 3 of the Drama GCSE.

The Y10's performed this production to an exceptionally high level and fully deserved the praise received by the audience.

*Mr Datterry*



*"It was amazing to be a part of this GCSE production and it help with my performance skills"*

Olympia Y10



# CAREERS BREAKFAST

# T.K.maxx

## Gillian Lewis

Joanne Y10

Gillian Lewis, a member of HR at T.KMAXX gave us a briefing on the qualities of a job at the company. She spoke about the importance of problem solving and how these skills can help us at jobs in HR or retail companies. She made points about crucial skills like Communication, Adaptability, Democracy, Curiosity, Integrity, Confidently, Resilience and Courage.

*"This meet up was really informational as I got to know the benefits and opportunities I could learn from being in the retail and HR sector"*

Lilly Y7

*"It was lovely to come talk about the job I love, everyone was kind, respectful and listened really well"*

Gillian Lewis

She spoke about her experiences and challenges working in HR including how to deal with common issues when starting a job. Her talk was a great insight into the working world and it helped the students attending understand the key skills needed in any job.

Overall, this opportunity was a good experience for the learners attending and was just as good as the past careers talks the hub has hosted. Every Career Talk this year has had great feedback from learners and was an enjoyable experience for the speakers themselves. Keep updated on events run by the hub for future careers talks and other exciting opportunities!

*"It was worth going and it gave me insight on what its like in a retail buisness"*

Alona Y10



# CAREERS PRESENTATIONS



The National Careers Service provides free impartial information, advice and guidance on education, training and work to young people and adults aged 13 years and over.

There was a talk from TTE Apprenticeships in April for Year 10 informing students about all the companies that they work with and opportunities they offer.



We had a presentation in April for our Year 8 from Colin Brown about Careers within the Royal Navy. Which was both informative and interactive, displaying a wide variety of career opportunities.



Sutton Trust supports young people from less advantaged backgrounds to access leading universities and careers. They run free programmes for Year 12 students that give students practical advice on careers, apprenticeships and university applications.

# Mock general election

Jess G Y12

On the 22nd May 2024, Rishi Sunak announced the general election for the 4th July. As a result of this the Politics department has decided to run a mock election alongside the official one. Within our politics class we divided ourselves into 5 groups where we then picked a political party to campaign for. The five parties were Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrats, Green and Reform which are the five parties in the Chester North and Neston constituency where Upton is based. Each party was given a budget of £10 to spend on posters, visiting forms and advertising on the TV screens.

Each party decided on points in the manifesto that would best appeal to learners in Upton. They then used their point to create posters to put around the school. They also each made a campaign video to entice voters and make them aware of what each party stand for. These videos were then shown to introduce them to the candidate that would be standing and persuade them to vote for the party of their choosing. Some party went for a comical side to their videos whereas others opted to focus on the policy points.

The election then took place on the 4th July which mirrored that of the General election. This gave the learners a valuable opportunity to understand how elections work and the voting process as each of them were allowed one ballot in secret. It also helped them understand what the different political parties stood for. It also aided the year 12 politics students with their studies on elections and campaigns as it gave them a first hand experience to how the world of politics works.



*This has allowed me to gain valuable experience to the real to the world of politics.* Tallula Y12

*Vote change-Vote Labour (Leader of the UHS Labour party)*

Stan Y12

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**

If we treated Upton as we do our general elections nationally and apply the First Past the Post model, then Labour won in 4 of the 6 groups and would be the victorious. This is essentially what happened at Westminster to some extent with Labour being rewarded for winning narrowly in multiple constituencies. The Liberal Democrats fought an excellent, targeted campaign and were wonderfully represented at year 7 and year 8 meaning they won the overall vote with 33.4% of the vote share compared to Labour's 24.1%. In elections every vote matters as demonstrated by Labour beating Reform by 2 votes at year 10. Turnout was wonderful with 94% of learners voting making our school much more healthy than broader democracy, however staff turnout was at a paltry 45% suggesting that the children may well be the future! Thank you all for your efforts on the day it was really appreciated, and the learners were exceptional.

*Mr Fearon*

	Year 7 Results	%	Year 8 Results	%	Year 9 Results	%	Year 10 Results	%	Year 12 Results	%	Staff Results	%	Total	%
Conservative	7	2.6	8	3.4	13	4.9	26	11.5	34	23.8	2	2.3	90	7.3
Green	62	22.7	32	13.4	65	24.3	47	20.8	40	28.0	19	21.8	265	21.5
Liberal Democrats	162	59.3	110	46.2	77	28.7	35	15.5	15	10.5	14	16.1	413	33.4
Labour	30	11.0	34	14.3	79	29.5	56	24.8	50	35.0	49	56.3	298	24.1
Reform	6	2.2	53	22.3	31	11.6	54	23.9	4	2.8	1	1.1	149	12.1
Spoilt	6	2.2	1	0.4	3	1.1	8	3.5		0.0	2	2.3	20	1.6
Total	273	100.0	238	100.0	268	100.0	226	100.0	143	100.0	87	100.0	1235	100.0
In school	283		256		274		249		153		193		1408	
Turnout	96		93		98		91		93		45		88	Turnout - with staff
													94	Turnout - without staff



# SPORTS LEADERSHIP



*I have introduced Level 1 & 2 Sports Leadership qualifications with Years 9, 10 & 11.*

Ms Szehofner

Sports Leadership qualifications use sports and physical activity as a way of supporting learners to develop the essential skills they need to plan, develop and deliver activities that bring these benefits to their communities.

The two qualifications in Sports Leadership each offer a blend of theory and practical experience, giving learners multiple opportunities to put into practice the leadership skills they develop as part of the programme. From planning and leading an event in their school or local community, to managing themselves and others in different scenarios. They provide a solid foundation in the transferable skills they need to move from education to employment. The Sports Leadership qualifications have helped to equip young people with experiences to get them ready for work and ready for life.



*"Recently the girls sports leadership team took part in the primary school netball festival"*

Emily Y9



*"Twenty six year five and year six girls came to the AstroTurf to learn how to play Netball"*

Lily Y9



*"I loved helping these young girls learn an empowering sport"*

Etty Yr 9

Our sports leaders have run or supported the following events:

- KS1 Cricket Festival @ Boughton Hall
- 'Year 4 Quick Sticks Hockey @ Upton,
- Primary Quad Kids Athletics @ Upton
- Inter-hall Champions of Champions

# Learner Profile



# RUBY



“ Some days I flourish and some days I fall but I enjoy the challenge ”

I started athletics when I was 8 years old by doing cross country meets. When I was 11 I started doing sprint training which I really enjoyed. At the start of Year 8 Miss Szehofner introduced me to high jump and that's when I found my true passion for the sport. I train five times a week and compete every weekend. I am very committed and I love athletics so much. I've dedicated my whole life to it and I don't know what I'd do without it. I have a huge collection of medals from all my different competitions; I have three Northern medals. I am competing in English schools on the 12th of July which is the one of the biggest competitions which I can currently enter. For my age category I am 3rd in the UK for my high jump. I will be competing in the National Championship in Birmingham later this year which I am honoured to do. I am inspired to do my sport by my PE teacher Miss Szehofner. I am so grateful that she encouraged me to go along to a session. Without her I would never have found my love for high jump. I am so thankful for her and I don't think she knows that. I would like to give her a big 'thank you' as I couldn't be where I am without her. This sport is very complicated and tiring. I have bad days and good days. Some days I flourish and some days I fall but I enjoy the challenge. I hope to do well at English schools and continue thriving in this sport.



# ELLIOT

My two main sports are rowing and athletics and I also play waterpolo. I started rowing during the pandemic in Italy where my family are from and where we got stuck for months due to lockdown and travel restrictions. I was 9 years old at the time and that is really early compared to the UK where most people start rowing in year 8. I started rowing in the Italian club because my older brother was already rowing with Royals Chester before lockdown and I went along with him the first time and was given the chance to try it for myself and I loved it.

*“Rowing is one of the most mentally and physically challenging sports and that’s what I love about it.”*

Rowing is one of the most mentally and physically challenging sports and that’s what I love about it. There is an amazing feeling of accomplishment when you have pushed yourself to the limit and across the finish line. One of my favourite parts of rowing is also being part of a team and I’ve made some great friends and met lots of new people with both my clubs.

So far this year with my Italian Club, I’ve won two Gold medals at National Meetings and last year I won a Silver and a Bronze at the Italian Nationals.

Over half term in Italy, I was chosen by my club to compete in a Regional Mixed Doubles Rowing Triathlon. It was a rowing, running and rowing machine event and we qualified as one of the top two teams picked to go on to represent our region of Tuscany in October in the National Event. There was some really tough competition especially as we were up against some of the best clubs in Tuscany who were also a year older than us. It’s going to be



in Sicily and is an all expenses paid trip which everyone at the club is very excited about us winning. I think it’s going to be an amazing experience to be part of.

My next event with the Italian team is coming up in July at this year’s Nationals in Varese. I am going to be rowing in a single, a double and I am also part of the regional team in a quad representing my age group for Tuscany.

It’s been a really busy rowing year with Royals Chester too and so far this year I have won 7 Gold medals at various events such as Chester Regatta and Shrewsbury. I am also hoping to be able to represent Royals Chester at the British National Rowing Championships in Nottingham at the end of term with my doubles partner in the J14 category.

My other passion is athletics, which I started doing last year in school and really enjoyed. I was already running every Saturday at Park Run with a group of friends who are very fast runners and I wanted to keep up with them.

So far this year I have competed in several stages of the Youth Development League in the Under 15s for Cheshire West Athletics Club and I won the District Schools Athletics for Upton in the 1500metres.



Our very own Ms Szehofner has been crowned Teacher of the Year by North West England Netball!

Ms Szehofner has been the coach of some of the most successful netball teams in the history of the school, going back 17 years with her first regional success in Blackpool.

The current U16 team has achieved the most success more recently, being crowned National Sisters in Sport Cup Champions 2023 and runners-up 2024, they are regularly Regional Finalists of their age group and this year made it to the National Schools Netball Championships coming 8th overall in the whole of the UK. This success has come through not only the dedication of Ms Szehofner but also her passion and talent for coaching the sport she achieved so much elite success in herself.

This success has come through the hard work and dedication of Ms Szehofner. She has given so much of her own time to support and coach the learners in the team that parents decided she needed to be nominated for the award.



*Ms Szehofner with the Netball Team in the National Finals*

**THE CURRENT U16 TEAM WERE CROWNED NATIONAL SISTERS IN SPORT CUP CHAMPIONS 2023**



*Collecting the award at the ceremony in Liverpool*



*Celebrating with the parents who nominated Ms Szehofner*



*This recognition is a reflection of the incredible support and inspiration I have received from my colleagues, learners, and the entire netball community.*

*Netball has always been more than just a sport to me. It is a powerful tool for teaching life skills, building character, and fostering teamwork. Seeing my learners grow, both on and off the court, has been the most rewarding part of this journey. Their dedication, enthusiasm, and resilience have continually inspired me.*

*A heartfelt thank you to the parents of the girls, whose unwavering support has been instrumental in creating a nurturing environment where the girls can thrive.*

*To my girls, past and present, thank you for trusting me, for your hard work, and for making every game a joy. This award is as much yours as it is mine.*

# NATIONAL CONSERVATION EDUCATION AWARDS

Celebrating the achievements of staff and schools across the UK



The school has received two nominations in the forthcoming National Conservation Education Awards. These awards recognise

“...those who go above and beyond to educate the next generation about conservation, so we are celebrating conservation success with our 2024 National Conservation Education Awards, celebrating excellence across the whole education sector.”

Our very own Miss Liggett has been nominated for The Outstanding Conservation Educator. Miss Liggett has worked with the school Eco group tirelessly and has helped this group of dedicated individual to ensure that the school is always considering its environmental impact and doing all we can to improve this. The range of activities has been significant.

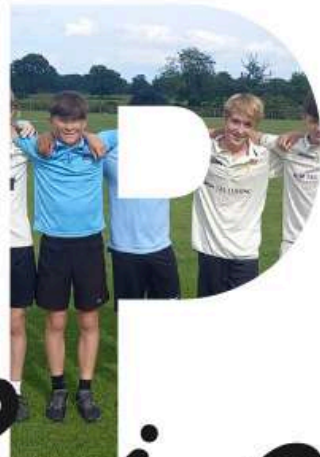
The school has also been nominated in the Outstanding Conservation School.

We look forward to attending the awards ceremony at Chester Zoo on Thursday 11th July 2024.



# SPORTS





# SPORT Highlights



We play Holmes Chapel in the Chester Cup semi and we await the winner between Heber and Abbeygate for the Chester Cup semi!

Upton 5 Blacon 4

Controlled bowling and all players provided this, with only 1 over in 8 going for more than 10 runs. When Dan skittled out their 2 danger men, in his final over, the contest was over. In the end winning by 43 runs.



In the field the lads were superb, Leo opened with two wickets in his first over, Elliot, Ryan and Will all got wickets too. There was some nice bowling but the lads were energetic, decisive and disciplined in the field. Christleton scored 49 for 5.

# Highlights



. With extras the lads scored 108 runs, which is a really impressive total.

, We face Tarporley, if we win we are Chester Crash and Bash Cricket champions.

In the field the lads worked hard, communicated well and made some good decisions. Harry got himself a wicket, Ryan was the star of the show, who scored 5 wickets in his two overs, Kings finished on 57 for 6.

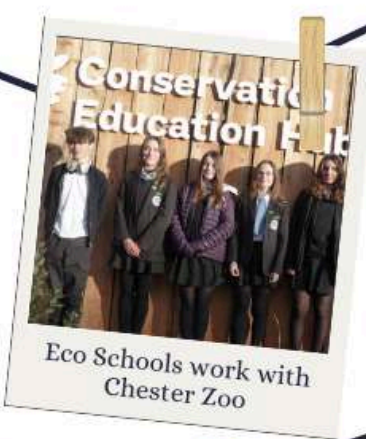
2 runs off 2 balls! A dot ball followed, 2 of 1 ball! They ran a bye off the last ball to finish 65 for 4. UPTON WIN DUE TO LOSING LESS WICKETS!



The lads finished on 77 for 3. Superb attitude and teamwork shown throughout.



# UPTON-BY-CHESTER HIGH SCHOOL 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS



Eco Schools work with Chester Zoo



Girls in STEM to Bentley



Climbing Competition



Rotary Club Debate Competition



Gold Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions



DofE volunteers at Chester Zoo



Oliver!



Foodbank Donations



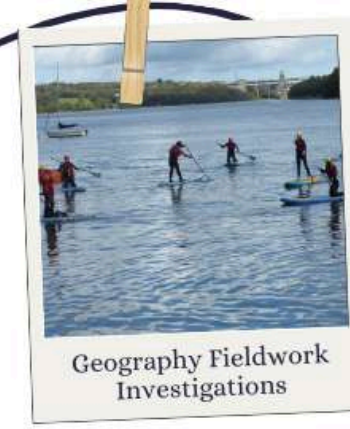
6th Form Charity Week



Choir concerts



Science trip to Florida



Geography Fieldwork Investigations



Send My Friend to School Campaign



Our Day Out



Awards Evening



Gold DofE Award at Buckingham Palace