

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

Volume 10 Issue 7



May 2009

Dear Parents,

We are now approaching Summer Half Term and the examination season has started. Last Friday our Year 11 and Lower Six students were given a fond farewell as they departed on Study Leave. This week sees the Upper Six begin Study Leave at 3.45 pm on Friday 22 May. Their departure was marked by the Going Down Mass which was held on Tuesday 19 May 2009 at Sacred Heart in Moreton and proved a memorable event for staff, girls and parents alike.

I know this is an anxious time of year for parents and girls alike but with the right amount of hard work and determination all our girls should be confident of success when the results are published in August. They have been given by staff the guidance and motivation to enable them to excel. I should like to take this opportunity to wish them every success in their examinations. They will be in our thoughts and prayers in the coming week as their preparations continue in earnest.

Following a number of enquiries I should like to confirm the dates for the publication of results as follows:

**Thursday 20 August 2009 – A2 & AS Results Day**

**Thursday 27 August 2009 – GCSE Results Day**

This is later than usual as the August Bank Holiday is the last day of August.

## International Activities

**German Exchange** – Upton played host to pupils and staff from our German Exchange school in Braunschweig from Monday 20 – Friday 24 April. Pupils from Years 9 and 10 accompanied the German visitors on various activities including trips to Liverpool and Chester. Upton pupils visited Germany during Half Term at the end of May.

**Comenius Project** - the fifth and final contact visit took place in Tolmin, Slovenia from 16 to 21 April. The visit involving 3 staff and 4 pupils from Upton included water sports activities such as white water rafting, a tour of caves with spectacular stalagmites and stalactites and a visit to some local businesses. This project was funded by the British Council.

**French Exchange** – The third year of the increasingly popular exchange programme continued with our girls flying off to Paris for the second leg of the exchange from 29 March to 5 April to spend time immersing themselves in all things French with their partner families from Fénélon Ste Marie. They had already played host to their French friends at Upton in February

for an action packed week in Wirral and the North West.

## Pupil Achievements

The Year 7 interform debating winners are: Katy Murphy and Chloe Walsh from 7C. Well done to the girls who acquitted themselves admirably and have gained many skills. In a play-off with Year 8 winners, they were narrowly defeated leaving Gabrielle Shannon and Emily Kearney to face the Year 9 winners, once this year's Year 9 competition has taken place next term. Mrs Topping, Literacy and Oracy Co-ordinator would like to thank the retiring Upper Sixth debating support prefects and the junior prefects from Year 9, particularly Lucy Jarvis who makes an outstanding contribution to debating.

## Sporting Achievements

- On 10 May 2009, Stephanie Rimmer (U6F) became British National Tumbling Champion 2009 for over 16's. This is the fourth time she has achieved this status having qualified for the British Championships every year. Her previous achievements in this area include:  
North West Champion for 8 consecutive years.  
North West Schools Champion for 7 consecutive years  
British Schools Champion in 2007  
British National Champion for the highest level in Sports Acrobatics Pairs in both 2007 and 2008.  
Well done to Steph, who is a credit to herself and her family. The Upton Hall Community are very proud of these outstanding achievements.
- Ski Trip to Austria took place from Friday 3 – Saturday 11 April with pupils from Years 9 to 13 accompanied by a number of teaching staff.
- Year 8 pupils enjoyed three action packed days on their residential at Glan Llyn.

## Dates for Your Diary

### June

**Monday 1**

**School Development Day - Evaluation**

**Thursday 4**

Year 10 Separate Science Modules  
School Examinations Begin Years 7-10

**Monday 8**

**Wednesday 10**

Year 10 Separate Science Modules  
Year 10 Science modules

**Friday 12**

A2 lessons begin for Year 12  
Wirral Way Walk

**Monday 15**

**Friday 19**

Year 10 GCSE Maths Module 3

**Tuesday 23**

**Thursday 25**

Leavers' Ball (Chester Racecourse)

**Tuesday 30**

Year 11 Sixth Form Pre-Induction



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### Summer Camp 2009

After the great success of this event over the last two years, Summer Camp 2009 will be held the week of Monday 17 August. Last year over 150 young people had great fun with a week of sporting activities, dance and drama, art and crafts. See the school web-site for a view of last year's camp and full details of how to apply for this year.

### Hospice Africa – An Appeal

The Hospice Africa Clothes Bank has been filled four times over. Thank you for all of the donations so far. Please keep the items of clothing coming in. The Clothes Bank will remain outside Mr Quinn's office until the end of term in July.

Just to remind you of the Appeal details:

Hospice Africa is one of the international charities that we are supporting here at Upton Hall. Founded in Liverpool by Dr Anne Merriman the charity works in a number of African countries with its headquarters in Kampala, Uganda. The hospice centres give respite care to patients who have HIV aids or cancer. Much needed funds for Hospice Africa are raised by the two charity shops they run, one in Liverpool and the other in Ainsdale. Unfortunately, the shops have been hit by the economic downturn and people are not donating second-hand clothes in anything like the quantity that they need. If you have items of clothing, adults or childrens, that you no longer wear, please send them in with your daughter, ensuring that they are clean and in good condition. We will make sure that all clothes donated reach the charity.

### Diocese of Shrewsbury – 'Building Confident Parents' Support Group – on Wednesday 3 June 2009

at St Alban's Parish Centre, St Alban's Road, Liscard, CH44 5UD from 7.15 pm to 9.30 pm, a 6 week programme for parents of teenagers will be starting. The aim is to offer fresh thought provoking ideas on how parents can build on and add to their existing parenting skills. It is open to all parents whether single, married, separated or divorced and will support and reaffirm the very important role of parents. If you are interested please go along.

### Parents & Friends of Upton

If you have not already done so could you please return any money raised from the sale of Summer Raffle tickets. Any unsold tickets should also be returned. The Parents & Friends work hard to support the school and all their efforts directly benefit the girls, so your support with their activities would be appreciated.

**Books for Schools** – Please keep collecting the *Books for Schools* tokens which are printed every day in The Times newspaper. Our total to March was 440 tokens which enabled us to order six new fiction titles for the School Library.

**160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summer Ball 2009** – Tickets still available for this popular annual event will take place on Saturday 11 July 2009 at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £30 each or £250 for a table of 10. Details have already been issued to parents and are available on the website. Please come along and support us in this vital fundraising activity. The money raised will be used to support the School Council's initiative to further enhance the dining facilities and to provide some more water fountains around the school.

### Sun Protection

As part of our aim to introduce a Sun Protection Policy which is currently in progress, one of our parents, Mrs Raraty who is a consultant at Arrowe Park Hospital visited school to address members of Sixth Form on skin protection and the dangers associated with over exposure to the sun. She gave a balanced and informative presentation offering sound advice to our students. We are very grateful to her for highlighting this very important issue especially as we approach summer holidays. It is important that as a school community everyone is aware of the dangers of exposure to the sun.

**Anti-Social Behaviour over the holiday period** – Please see attached letter from the Area Commander of Merseyside Police. Please support the Police in their efforts by talking to your daughter about these issues and their consequences.

### Website

Our website is constantly being updated, please keep yourselves informed of School achievements by visiting [www.uptonhallschool.co.uk](http://www.uptonhallschool.co.uk).

It only remains for me to wish you all an enjoyable Half Term.

Yours sincerely

*Patricia Young*