

# SPECIALIST SCHOOL NEWS

The Official Newsletter of Upton Hall School celebrating the achievements of our specialist status in Technology, Languages and as a Training School.



TECHNOLOGY  
COLLEGES



LANGUAGE  
COLLEGES



## Special points of interest:

- Language Immersion course in Shanghai
- New evening classes from September
- Year 9 'How Science Works'
- Primary school success
- Whiteboard project with St Paul's
- Research Grant

## A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

We are now coming to the end of our first Year as a specialist school in our own right, our specialisms being in Technology, Languages and as a Training School. We are working hard with our partner primary and secondary schools, Wirral Life Long Learning and the Wirral Hospital Trust to produce first class education for our own pupils and the wider Wirral community.

### Visit to Shanghai

A group consisting of 12 students from Years 11 & 12 and two members of staff is leaving for Shanghai on 14 July, to take part in a Language immersion course in Shanghai. The course is jointly organised and subsidised by the British Council and the Chinese government to enable as many students as possible to benefit from this marvellous opportunity

### Mandarin Chinese

Mandarin Chinese lessons have continued for all pupils in Years 7, 8, 9 and 12. Pupils in Year 9 and those in the Sixth Form have taken the ABC Preliminary level qualification in Speaking and Listening and achieved a 99% pass rate. We are extremely pleased with the success of this first year and are particularly proud to be one of literally a handful of schools across the country, where all pupils in Key Stage 3 have the opportunity to learn more about the language and culture of this rapidly expanding economy.

### How Science Works

All Year 9 pupils attended workshops at the Discovery City Learning Centre on the

theme 'How Science Works'. In teams, pupils undertook Internet research and gave presentations for and against alternative energy sources. Members of the winning team each won a 1 gigabyte USB pen.

### Primary Language Classes

Our support for four local primary schools has continued this term – a total of approx 270 pupils! These pupils range in age from Year 3 to Year 6 in schools across the Borough, namely Park Primary Liscard, Sacred Heart Moreton, St Joseph's Upton and St Peter's Heswall. This arrangement will continue next year to help primary schools achieve the government's target of all pupils in Key Stage 2 having Modern Foreign Language provision in curriculum time by 2010.

### Primary Science Classes

Support for Science classes for Year 5 has continued this year for St Joseph's, Sacred Heart, and Ladymount primary schools. Pupils undertook

a range of investigations and experiments including dissolving solids and choice chambers (how light affects the movement of insects). These sessions included the use of the classroom performance system that enabled pupils to participate in class discussion using electronic voting devices

### Young Engineers

The Young Engineers group, consisting of 6 Year 8 pupils, have won awards at the local final competition on 10 July. Their project was to produce electric powered cars. One car won the accuracy of steering and



the other was the fastest. The Young Engineering Club will continue next year and will be open to pupils currently in year 7. Look out for information from Mr Vaughan.

## *Upton Hall School*

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*"Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done."*

### OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

The e-mail address  
dedicated to our  
specialist status is:  
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Please use this e-mail  
address to make any  
enquiries concerning the  
work of the Specialist  
School. Your views and  
ideas would be welcome.  
This address is checked  
by the Specialist School  
Manager regularly. If  
you have any problems  
in accessing the Extranet  
then this is the address to  
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### OUR EXTRANET ADDRESS

To enter the UniServity  
Extranet visit our  
website [www.uptonhall.sch.uk](http://www.uptonhall.sch.uk). Click on the  
Community tab and then  
the Extranet link.

## Evening Classes

Enrolment will take place on Tuesday, 11 September at 6.00 pm for our programme of evening class. They will include GCSEs in French, Spanish and Italian, Introduction to Psychology and the European Computer Drivers Licence (EDCL). The GCSE and EDCL classes will run for 30 weeks and finish during the Summer term. The Psychology class will last for 10 weeks. For further information please ring the Wirral Life Long and Family Learning Service on 0151 5079.

## Healthy Issues

The Year 10 Health Issues group have completed their research, interviews and filming for the

documentary that they are producing for the Wirral Hospital Trust as part of their promotional campaign to raise awareness among young people of the issues of healthy eating, exercise and drug and alcohol abuse. The girls have interviewed pupils from Upton Hall, St Anselm's College and St Joseph's Primary School (Upton). They have also used blue screen technology enabling them to impose appropriate back drops to their presentations.



## Geocaching in Maths

The Discovery City Learning Centre has donated a set of geocaching devices to the school. These devices are connected to satellites and are used to locate hidden 'treasure'. Year 12 Mathematics students have been using geocaching in mathematical problem solving.

## Year 10 Science Workshop

Pupils in Year 10 attended a workshop at Woodchurch High School with pupils from St Anselm's and Woodchurch. They modelled the spread of disease using chicken antigens. They then tested their own samples to analyse if they had "caught" the disease. They went on to discuss epidemiology with particular relevance to biological warfare, spread of disease for example Bird flu, HIV/Aids and West Nile Fever.

## Our Training School Status

Progress is being made as we begin our new status as a Training School. This is enabling us to work closely with our local universities as we jointly develop our provision for training teachers, provide excellent professional development for our own staff at Upton Hall and develop our outreach work by sharing our expertise with our partners in the community. Mrs A Spears has been appointed as Director of Training School and Communication.