

# School Newsletter

Issue 13, January 2020



Dear Parents

The Spring term is now well underway and I wanted to write to keep you updated with key information, reminders of important dates and events and to celebrate the many and varied achievements of members of the Upton Hall School community.

## New Sixth Form Building – Works Update

On Monday 27 January at 10.35am, the official start to the ground works for the new Sixth Form Building was marked by a Ground Breaking Ceremony. I was joined by Sr Catherine Bibby FCJ and a number of Governors as well as two members of the current Year 12 to mark the momentous occasion.



The digger is now on site and work is well underway. The build is expected to last approximately 26 weeks. Thanks to the pupils who have adapted extremely well to the changes in routes around school.

## Rise Theatre



This is a very special year for the FCJ Sisters and for us here at Upton. The FCJ Sisters are celebrating two hundred years since the founding of the Society of the Faithful Companions of Jesus. If you would like to find out more about the Bicentenary

celebrations all around the world please visit

<https://www.fcjsisters.org/our-story/bicentenary/>

As part of these celebrations, the FCJ Sisters have commissioned an original theatre production on the life of Marie Madeleine and it is touring all FCJ Schools in England, Ireland and Jersey. This play will be performed free at Upton Hall by the Rise Theatre Company on **Tuesday 11 February 2020 at 7pm in our Sports' Hall**. It promises to be an exceptional performance and celebration of the life of our foundress and of the FCJ family. It will be followed by light refreshments in the Gerard Building and an opportunity to see some of the ongoing work of the FCJ family across the world.

If you would like to attend the public performance on Tuesday 11 February, please book your free tickets on Eventbrite at <http://bit.ly/2G5DUrn>. Seats are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment. If you know friends or family who have a connection with the FCJ sisters, past or present, please do share this information with them.

The FCJ sisters are involved in work in the local area beside their work in Upton Hall FCJ School. Find out more on

<https://www.facebook.com/FCJCentreStHughs/>

If you are interested in volunteering with the FCJ sisters in Liverpool, or would like to attend the events that they organise, or simply want to keep in touch, please contact Sr Els FCJ, Sr Lynne FCJ or Sr MaryAnne FCJ on [fcjcentresthughs@gmail.com](mailto:fcjcentresthughs@gmail.com)

## Mobile Phone usage

I should like to remind you of the rule regarding mobile phone usage. An increasing number of mobile phones are having to be confiscated because of pupils misusing them. In the Annual Information Booklet, it clearly states '*Mobile phones are an integral accessory for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Pupils are allowed to bring their mobile phone to school. As soon as pupils get into school their phone must be switched off, placed in their locker and left there until 3.45pm.*'

# School Newsletter

Issue 13, January 2020



Please can you ensure that your daughter adheres to this regulation to avoid any unnecessary inconvenience in having her phone taken off her.

## Uniform

Following my letter of 17 January, I should like to remind parents that from September 2020 there will be some changes both to the school uniform products and also to the way in which you are able to purchase it.

The sale of uniform is to be managed on site. Further details regarding the purchase of items will be made available once the final arrangements are in place in May 2020.

Although the uniform will be changing, the plan is that this be phased in. So, for example, should your daughter have the current blazer, she will be able to continue wearing this until such time that she requires a new one. This will be the case for all items of uniform, apart from **the skirt** which will be compulsory from September.



I urge you please to not replace any items of current uniform unless you absolutely have to. We have gone to great lengths to secure the best quality and value uniform and are delighted with what we have.

On the subject of uniform, items of jewellery on increasingly being worn by the girls, in particular necklaces. These are not allowed and will be confiscated should a pupil be found to be wearing one. Please discuss with your daughter the need to abide by the uniform rules.

We have always said that the best advert for Upton is an Upton girl, so this needs to be reflected in a smart appearance.

## Reception

An increasing number of parents are coming to Reception to try and drop items off which their daughters have forgotten to bring into school. These range from exercise books to musical instruments, lunches and PE kits. Please encourage your daughter to take the punishment for this oversight rather than have a raft of items being left for distribution as is the current situation. Reception cannot cope with the amount of requests of this nature and the time involved in reuniting the item with the pupil concerned is excessive and intrusive into the Admin Office staff's working day.

## Activities Camp

Our next activities camp takes place during February half term 17th—21st February. The camp could be a perfect opportunity for your child if you answer yes to any of the following questions:

1. Does your child enjoy sport and arts and crafts?
2. Are you stuck for childcare arrangements for the week or the odd day?

If you answered yes to either of the questions above, why not sign your child up to the Upton Hall School half term activities camp. You can sign up for a full week or individual days to suit your childcare needs. The camp is open to both boys and girls aged 7 and over.

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Join us during the February half term holidays for

## Activities Camp at Upton Hall School FCJ

From Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February  
Open to all young people aged 7 and over.

**Activities to include:**

- Dance
- Games
- Team Building Activities
- Multi-sports
- Competitions
- Trampolining

8.30am - 4pm, £20 per day or £80 for a full weeks booking - including lunch and a snack  
Tax free childcare and childcare vouchers accepted

**BOOK THE WEEK AND SAVE £20!**

Check our website for more details

Sports appropriate clothing & footwear essential!



For an application form visit:  
[www.uptonhallschool.co.uk](http://www.uptonhallschool.co.uk)  
Email us at: [activities@uptonhall.org](mailto:activities@uptonhall.org)  
Telephone: 0151 677 7696  
Upton Hall School FCJ, Upton, Wirral CH49 6LJ

See the leaflet for further details. More information is available on the school twitter account and the school website. For more information about the camp or to book onto the camp click the link below.  
<https://www.uptonhallschool.co.uk/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=424>

## Careers and Work Experience News

### BBC Bitesize Roadshow – Creative Careers

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January we welcomed a team from the BBC Bitesize Roadshow into school and what a great experience it was! The event is based around enhancing our pupils' knowledge of careers within the Creative Industry. The BBC Bitesize team turned up at 7:30am with a full kit of production equipment to turn our school hall into a studio! As well as all the equipment and staff from the BBC, we welcomed host for the day –BBC, Radio One presenter and ex CBBC presenter Katie Thistleton who took to the stage to interview the panelists.

The panel was made up of three professionals who work in the creative arts industry, Craig – Music

Journalist and Festival organiser Deepesh, an animator for Liverpool company Uniform and Peta, a UX Researcher at Shop Direct. There were videos, clips and images of their work for us all to see and inspire our pupils into thinking about what they might like to do in the future. It was different, fun and very informative—a great opportunity for our students to be part of.



BBC Bitesize has a free website for pupils to use to help with all aspects of learning, revision and careers. Please encourage your daughter to register for lots of practical help and advice with careers, revision and learning.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/my>

### Yr10 Work Experience

Year 10 Work Experience Week takes place from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June until Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June. Pupils have now been given all the details and paperwork should be returned to either form teachers or directly to Mrs Douglas by Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January.

### Year 12 Work Experience

Year 12 work experience is 3 days and runs from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> until Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June. Mrs Hall will be giving students all the information in an assembly on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January. All paperwork should be returned to Mrs Baguley by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. All Work Experience, apart from Intromed, should be during this week. Teaching will continue after this week and it is vital that lessons are not missed.

# School Newsletter

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## Advance Notice

Date for the diary – we will be holding our biennial careers fair on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March from 6pm – 8pm. Pupils and parents from Yr7 upwards are invited. There will be an opportunity to hear careers talks about medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, law, marketing, psychology, broadcast journalism, primary teaching, nursing and apprenticeships. There will also be representatives from over 40 careers areas from accountancy to radiography as well as representatives from leading universities. A full programme will be issued nearer the time.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'a Gaunt'.

Mrs Andrea Gaunt  
HEADMISTRESS