

School Newsletter

May 2021



Dear Parents

Half Term is upon us and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Upton Community for their efforts over the past weeks and months since we returned after lockdown.

It has not been without its challenges, not least of which have been faced by the staff in setting assessments for our GCSE and A Level candidates which will then be used alongside other materials to determine their grades in the Summer. Meanwhile staff have also been ensuring they get the best out of all our pupils and students to try and make up for the time missed in the classroom during the pandemic. There remains a lot of work to be done, but we are confident that this will be achieved as all our girls have shown resilience and determination to succeed.

Staffing update

Mrs Pollock, Head of Year 7 has now left Upton. We wish her success and happiness in her future endeavours. Year 7 parents please note that Mr J Harkness will take over this pastoral role and any issues should be communicated using the Year 7 dedicated email address yearseven@uptonhall.org

Royal Academy of Art Success

Ruby in Y11 has had 2 pieces of work accepted into the Young Artists' Summer Show at the Royal Academy. They are a stop frame animation using models and a set designed and made by Ruby https://youtu.be/UU9SV_ucpYM and an oil painting.



A panel of passionate and award winning artists and art professionals work together to select the artworks to be exhibited online and onsite at the Royal Academy in London. This is such an amazing achievement and we wish Ruby the best of luck in the show.

National Thank A Teacher Day 2021



If you feel that any of our staff at Upton are deserving of this [click on this link](#) to register your interest and send your message of thanks.

JASS Award

A small group of Year 7 pupils have been partaking in a trial of the JASS award. The Junior Award Scheme for Schools (JASS) is an accredited award scheme for young people. By providing a structured programme, JASS aims to support young people through the transition from primary school to lower secondary school. JASS has been designed to be flexible and adaptable to the interests and abilities of individuals to ensure it is achievable by all participants, whilst matching the goals of their Schools Curriculum.



Over the last few weeks they have been designing and making bird boxes.

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Request for Parents to take part in a research project

We have received a request from a former pupil...details are below if you are able to assist her. Hello. My name is Rachel Kelly and I am a student at the University of Chester currently completing my MSc in Applied Psychology. I am also a former student of Upton Hall School who completed her studies in 2013. As part of my course I am completing a dissertation project that focuses on parental perceptions of bullying behaviour within a sporting environment. I am writing to you as I believe your school may fit into the participant criteria I have set out. I require participants to be parents/guardians of children aged between 10-14 years who take part in some form of organised sport.

The whole study is entirely voluntary and there is no monetary or financial gain for taking part. There is the opportunity to be a part of research into an under reported area. The study involves a questionnaire which will take around 20 minutes to complete and is all completed entirely online. If you would like to take part in this research, then click on the link below:

<https://chester.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/parental-perceptions-of-bullying-behaviours-in-a-sporting> .

Thank you for your support.

School Day – Update

During the course of the year we have had to adjust the timing of the end of the school day in order to stagger departure times for each year group. This has resulted in Years 7 and 8 leaving earlier. After careful consideration of the situation, the plan from 21 June, subject to the government roadmap going ahead as planned, is for all year groups to leave at the end of the school day, 3.45pm. I recognise that there are still restrictions in place but we will have fewer pupils on site given that Year 11 and 13 are leaving us at half term.

Badges

An increasing number of badges supporting various groups, organisations or charities are appearing on girls' blazers. I should like to remind parents that the only badges which are permitted are those awarded by Upton and pertaining to a role within the school.

Please ensure that your daughter does not attend school with any other badges.

Farewell to Year 11 and 13

At the end of this half term we have said farewell to our Year 11 pupils and Year 13 students. To say it has been quite a challenging 18 months for them is an understatement. We have, however, been delighted to see their spirit of determination and resolve as they faced very different assessments to normal. They truly embraced the Upton ethos of 'Age Quod Agis'. We look forward to seeing them in the summer as they collect what we hope will be excellent sets of results and will allow them to move on to the next phase of their education/lives.

New Head Girl's Team

In the past few weeks, we have appointed a new Head Girl's Team to replace Molly and her fabulous team of Deputy Head girls. At Upton, we take this process very seriously and, in many ways, it is much tougher than an actual job interview. All of the students who are interested must initially apply by letter. This year, the applications were outstanding. A shortlist was made from this group and the students chosen gave a talk to all Year 11 and 12 students about what they would hope to achieve in this role. This was a very tough task and I know that many adults would find this extremely stressful. All of the candidates were brilliant and I was very proud of them all. From this group, eight were chosen to move to the interview stage. I can honestly say that choosing six from the eight and ultimately choosing which one was to be Head Girl was one of the toughest things that I have had to do this year (and it has been quite a year!).

Finally, the decision was made and the Head Girl's Team for 2021/2022 is:

Maddie - Head Girl

Rachel - Deputy Head Girl

Cassandra - Deputy Head Girl

Phoebe - Deputy Head Girl

Francesca - Deputy Head Girl

India - Deputy Head Girl

We wish them every success in their new roles and look forward to seeing their action plans being put in place.

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Sporting Success

Congratulations to the cross country team who took part in the Virtual King Henry VIII relays. Our A team came joint first overall and our B team came 2nd. Ellen Mary got the fastest overall time, with Gabby getting the second fastest overall time and Holly 3rd fastest overall time. Holly was also awarded fastest Year 7 time. Well done to all the girls that took part in the race.



Congratulations to Team Kearney. Sarah, Mum of Ellen Mary and Aileen former pupil broke the mother and daughter combined Marathon challenge. Sarah did 1:29:57 and Aileen did 1:36:45 — giving them a combined time of 3:06:42 which is a new WR!!! beating the old world record by over half an hour.

Chaplaincy News



During this month of May, Pope Francis launched a marathon of prayer, asking Catholics to pray to Mary for an end of the pandemic. Through the daily prayers we joined in this initiative. At the same time the Catenians donated rosaries so we organised a treasure hunt for this month's chapel lessons based around important moments in Mary's life with clues around the school, finishing in the chapel where the treasure was: a rosary for each girl.



PSHE/RSE/Retreat days

We have ended the term by providing some opportunities for our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils to explore the FCJ values through a variety of learning experiences by exploring their faith and spirituality in our Chapel as well as considering their companionship, kindness and gentleness with themselves, one another and the wider world. A Year 8 pupil commented, "I enjoyed our PSHE/RSE day because we explored our FCJ values, especially companionship."

Both year groups had different activities and it all made for an interesting learning experience. One Year 8 pupil commented, "I really enjoyed learning about all the different topics because they were very diverse and informative. The group activities on being kinder to the environment really interested me."

The theme for the Year 7 day was: 'Where am I going?' with a session in the Chapel on making choices. We discussed inspiring quotes from 'The

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Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse', thinking about important choices already made, such as choosing your secondary school, how to make good choices and using prayer (especially the Examen) to help us make choices. The Examen is the prayer we pray every Friday looking back on the week and helps us to notice what went well and where we struggled. It's a simple reflective practice to help us gain insight but also to hand over to God or ask for help. Needless to say we finished with this prayer, this time looking back over the past half term.

Our Year 7 had an interesting and informative presentation by PC Hodgson and PC Scarratt on online safety.



Both year groups also enjoyed a RSE cinema experience which one student commented was "an interesting way to teach life skills."

The Year 7 pupils heard from the Head Girl's team elect for 2021-22 and this hopefully inspired them to become student leaders and/or get involved in the many extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities to make a difference to their own educational experiences or indeed impact on that of others and the wider world.

The theme for Year 8 was FCJ values with an assembly on Pentecost, linked to the FCJ values. Our RE trainee teacher then led a session in the chapel for 2 forms deepening these insights and further

emphasising resilience.



Our pupils were also treated to a virtual performance and question and answer session by 'Here At Last'; the biggest UK boy band on 'TikTok' with 1.5 million followers. The group have all experienced their own issues during national lockdown and experienced cyberbullying and mental health issues. The boys answered a range of questions from our students and agreed to a photo opportunity at the end of their virtual performance and enjoyed the opportunity to educate and inspire our students. They will also be performing for our Year 9 pupils after half-term.



We hope that these opportunities will help our students reflect on what it means to be a student at Upton Hall and live out the FCJ values in all aspects of their lives and make a positive difference to themselves and the wider world.

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I should like to wish you all a restful and enjoyable half term break. Hopefully we can all benefit from some pleasant weather.

Stay safe.

Yours sincerely

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

Mrs Andrea Gaunt
HEADMISTRESS