

Dear Parents

As another busy year comes to a close, I would like to thank you for supporting us as we work hard to provide excellent opportunities for all of our pupils. The vast majority of pupils are working hard and making progress in all aspects of their development. I hope that you all have time to enjoy a rest and some good weather during the summer break either at home or further afield!

Staffing update

We bid farewell to the following staff at the end of this academic year:

- Miss Davenport – Teacher of Drama. Jane has been at Upton for 20 years in the Performing Arts Department.
- Mme Fitzgerald – Teacher of French. Brigitte leaves us after 20 years at Upton. She is moving to a teaching post at the Queen's School in Chester.
- Miss Donnelly – Teacher of RE. Eimear is moving back to Ireland to continue her teaching career
- Mrs Graham retires as Senior Science Technician. Julie was originally appointed in September 2011 for 3 years before she moved abroad to work. She was reappointed in January 2021.
- Mrs Stotesbury-Holland – School Librarian (Maternity Leave Cover). Ruth has covered for Charlotte McDonald's maternity leave and we are very grateful for her assistance.
- Sr Els Claessens FCJ – School Chaplain. Sr Els has been at Upton since September 2018. She is moving to Romania to work with the refugees.

We will miss all these members of staff and wish them well as they move to pastures new.

- Congratulations to Miss Nelson, Head of Year 8 who is getting married in the summer and will return as Mrs Stones.
- Good luck to Mrs Collins, Teacher of Chemistry who is expecting her first child and starts her maternity leave over the summer.

Parental Drop In – 25 September & 9 October 2023

Following the success of these sessions last year, we are planning to continue with them again next

academic year. In September you will receive curriculum information in an electronic format (it is also on the website). You will also receive links to some videos put together by key staff. This is much more convenient for parents to watch when you have time. In order that you can still see staff face to face if you wish, we will then hold a 'drop in' on the 25 September from 5-6pm (Years 7-9) and one on the 9 October from 5 – 6pm (Year 10). This will be informal but Heads of Year, Form Tutors and Senior Leaders will be available to answer any of your questions. You may just want to say hello and have a cup of tea. Year 11 and Sixth Form parents will be invited to other information events.

Leavers' Ball



On Friday 7 July, Thornton Hall was the spectacular venue for Year 13 to celebrate their departure with staff, friends and family.





It was a glittering occasion when our Upper Six looked stunning and celebrated in style. We wish them every success and happiness with their future plans.



Culture Week

Culture week provided a range of activities and visits which enhanced our pupils' cultural educational experiences. These included Year 7 trips to Liverpool, Conwy Castle and Chester Zoo run by Geography, History and Science departments respectively. There were also Year 8 Geography trips to Bounce World in Blaenau Ffestiniog and Year 9 trips to London. Meanwhile, some Year 7 pupils visited St Omer with the French department and a Lourdes trip was also arranged by the RE team.

Year 7 trip to France June 2023

During Culture Week, our Year 7 had the wonderful opportunity to spend four days at the Château d'Ebbingham in St Omer on the Opal Coast in France.



They had the chance to practise their French in an authentic context buying local products at the local market.



The girls had a great time visiting Boulogne and the famous Nausicaa Aquarium and the Bagatelle Theme



Park. In the evening they were busy with cultural activities including making crêpes and trying snails. "De bons souvenirs!"



Trip to London and Oxford

On 24/25 April, pupils studying Chinese in Y8, Y9 and Y10 visited London and The University of Oxford. The



aim of the trip was to provide pupils with a cultural experience and a access to future higher education plan.

In London, pupils visited China Town and the Chinese section of the British Museum. Through taste of Chinese food, pupils learnt about Chinese eating habits and customs. Pupils also learnt about Chinese history.

In the University of Oxford. Pupils visited the China centre and had a tour of the campus. They listened to an inspiring speech about what it is like to study

there and they even met up with former Upton pupils who are now Oxford University students.

All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the two-day trip. They



are looking forward to participating the forthcoming China trip in 2024.

Pupils' comments on the trip:

"I thought it was so intriguing to learn about what it is like to go on to study Chinese at university. It was eye opening" Hannah K, Year 8



"The China exhibition gave us an insight into Chinese culture which was honestly a great learning experience" Aimee M, Year 8

"I found the trip very enjoyable and it gave me aspirations for the future. It gave me options of where I could go to study and what

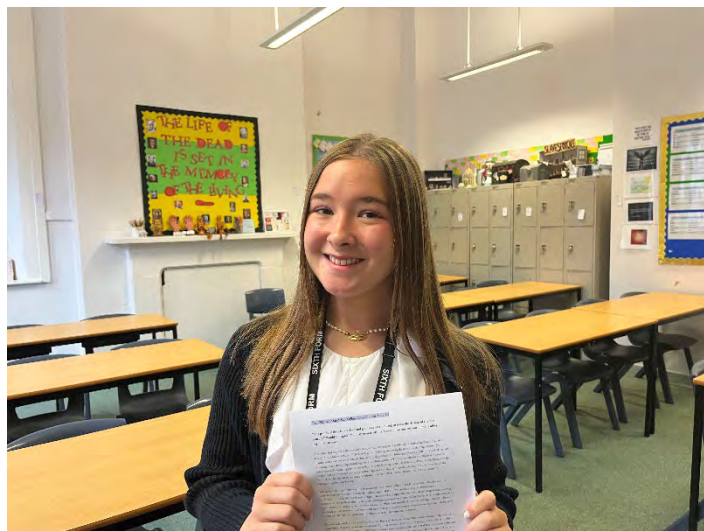
the environment at Oxford is like. Also, I enjoyed going to the British Museum to learn about Ancient Chinese history and culture" Olivia S, Year 9

"Another aspect of the trip I really enjoyed was talking to past Upton students. It helped me realise that anyone can go to universities like Oxford if they work hard. It motivated me to do well in my studies at school" Isabella T, Year 10

"I would recommend this trip to anybody wanting to explore opportunities beyond secondary school" Olivia T, Year 10.

Cambridge College recognition

Erin O'H in Year 12, has been awarded an Honourable Mention in the Magdalene College Arts and Humanities Essay Competition 2023. The judges were very impressed with Erin's essay and found her thoroughly deserving of the recognition. Erin has been invited to a prize-giving celebration at Magdalene College, Cambridge on Friday 15 September 2023.



Erin is pictured holding her highly-commended essay, which was a discussion of the statement 'The people of the past are dead and gone and have nothing to teach the citizens of the 21st century.' Erin has been in Cambridge this week at the celebration event for those who had completed the Corpus Christi College Pelican Programme - an academic programme of advanced study, which she completed for History. She made friends with people from all over the country and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to discuss her historical ideas with fellow students and academics. The History department are very proud of her hard work.

Film Competition Win!

Year 13 student Ruby entered the short film she had made for her A Level coursework into *Media Magazine's* Production Competition. Her work was shortlisted in the animation category and she was invited to the British Film Institute at London's Southbank for a film screening and awards ceremony. On the 4th July Ruby attended the ceremony and her work was judged the best in her category! This is what the judges had to say about

her winning entry, Laika, an animated film about the first dog to go into space and orbit Earth:

"This beautiful and evocative animation built a unique world through a blend of different styles and techniques that brilliantly came together. I was extremely impressed by the boldness and ambition of this film, telling the story of one of history's most famous dogs in an original, quirky and most importantly, heartfelt way."



Poet Laureate 2022-223

Our Poet Laureate, Enya, and Junior Laureate, Lea, have produced some lovely poetry for us during their tenure in this position. Below are the poems they have worked on for the summer term. In the autumn we will launch our Poet Laureate competition again on National Poetry Day.

Our Trees Are Growing – Enya, Year 10

Our trees are growing wiser,
With every lesson that we learn,
Every ounce of new-found knowledge,
And each chapter that we turn.

Our trees are growing taller,
With the power of the Sun,
It shines its light through laughter,
And pride felt from jobs well done.

Our trees are growing wider,
With each new person that we know,
As we tend to one another's roots,
And form friendships as we go.

Our trees are growing stronger,
Every time it rains,
As our leaves are always greener,
When we learn from our mistakes.

Our trees are growing braver,
As the seasons change their ways,
And when harsh winds break our branches,
They grow back stronger from the pain.

Our trees are growing always,
Strong and tall and proud,
They'll keep growing and learning and shining,
Right until they reach the clouds.

Upton Girls – Lea, Year 9

Dressed in green and hair tied back,
Library books in hand and carrying a rucksack,
A new year of school and it's back to work
And the fun and drama and secrets that lurk.
Hopping on the bus, Metrocard not working,
A new term's excitement with adventures for
uncovering.

These trees, this old building, what have they seen?
Centuries of girls, all wearing green.
Starting high school aged 11 and a half,
Nervous with nerves and a blazer too large.
Nose buried in books twenty-four seven,
And feeling very small, being only 11.

Now we're all a little older,
And our skirts seem to be rolled up a lot shorter.
Wandering down to the field, the sun shining far,
We're Upton Girls, that's who we are!
Hurrying to lessons, only two minutes to spare,
Revising on the go for the test about which we care.
The worry of exams, the relief when they are over,
Every student can relate from Glasgow to Dover!
The end of the day, hurrying for the bus,
Is there time to buy some sweets? Yes, of course!
Almost the weekend, one day to go,
But we'll be back in Monday morning as we all know.

Maths, physics, break then history,
Doing our homework on the bus rather hurriedly!
Walking to lessons on the haunted corridor,

Sporting Success Athletics



Gabby, Niamh, Holly and Lexie managed to secure excellent times and qualified for the English Schools Championships. Gabby and Niamh both won their events! This is an outstanding result for this very prestigious event. Well done girls! Gabby is also the U20 Northern 2000m Steeplechase Champion and record holder. Gabby works so hard and continues to go from strength to strength. She is one to watch out for in the future.



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Niamh also continues to be successful and was a U20 Northern 100m and 200m bronze medallist.

The Year 7 & 8 team were Merseyside Champions and qualified for the English schools Cup Regional A



Final, eventually finishing 4th. Years 9/10 were Merseyside schools' runners up.

Gymnastics

Congratulations to our Gymnasts finishing 5th at the National Finals for floor and vault.



Football



The U15 football team reached the finals of the sister in sport plate competition. This is a national

competition and so finishing 2nd is fantastic. Well, done girls!



Our under 13 Football Team are now Wirral School's Summer League Champions, well done to all of those who played within the league!



Congratulations to Elodie, Isla, Katie, Megan, Ellie and Zoe on their county selection for the Merseyside v Cheshire football match.



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Acro

Phoebe and Eleanor become National Acro Champions



Snooker

Congratulations to Zoe K. She was selected for the World U21 Women's Snooker Championships where she made it to the final 16. She also made it to the semi-finals of the British Women's U21 open.



Rounders



Year 7 took home the silver medal from the Wirral School's Rounders tournament last Tuesday. It was a tough final which ended in a draw in terms of rounders scored and players got out. We had to play

a final innings again and narrowly lost out. Well done to all year 7 pupils who played as this is a new sport for many of them.

Year 8 took home the silver medal. It was another



tough final which ended in a draw for rounders scored but we had one more player out and therefore ended as runners up. Well done to year 8s who played, tremendous effort and determination was shown throughout.

Year 9 pupils also competed in this tournament, had a fabulous time and finished 4th overall.

Cricket

Our under 13 and under 15 Cricket Teams are now Wirral School's champions after the tournament played last Thursday. They go on to play the Cheshire finals the day before we break up, good luck to everyone playing!





Also, congratulations to the cricket team who reached the semi-final of the Cheshire cup. They put up a super performance against a very strong Kings Macclesfield side.



Duke of Edinburgh Trips

DoE expeditions and tests have continued during the



Summer Term with girls in Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 taking part in activities in North Wales.

Bronze DofE: This year our Bronze Test took place at the end of Culture week on 16th and 17th June in the Clwyds. The weather was very pleasant, if a little hot! Participants came well prepared with water and sun cream and staff were on hand to top up the water when needed...we topped up around 300 litres!!! Navigation and campcraft were brilliant and participants had really acted upon advice from the trial. We were very proud that all 96 students completed their expedition and we look forward to welcoming them back for Silver. Please look out for the registration letter.



Silver DofE: This year Silver Test took place from 29 June until 3 July. Participants showed resilience and real commitment to the Award Scheme, taking part in the expedition after only just finishing their GCSE exams! Navigation skills were put to the test in the new location of the Berwyns and participants used their experience from Bronze to get through that extra day for Silver.



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A massive congratulations to all participants!
Remember to update your eDofE and to sign up for Gold!!

Wirral Way Sponsored Walk

Last week we completed our whole school sponsored walk, raising money for both Claire House and for mental health services in school.

The students had a fabulous time walking from Parkgate to West Kirby, stopping for a BBQ lunch at Thurstaston.



We had many checkpoints along the way, some were beautifully decorated with super photo opportunities!



Behaviour was impeccable and everyone enjoyed being out in the sunshine. We had many, many positive comments from members of the public and some have even written into school as they were so impressed by our lovely pupils.

Please don't forget to send your sponsor money into school or to make your donations via Scopay.

Chaplaincy news



During Culture Week 38 girls from year 8 and 9 went on Pilgrimage to Lourdes. They experienced the difference is between being a tourist and being a pilgrim. They learned about St Bernadette and about Lourdes, visiting the key places and most importantly praying for their many personal and school intentions by the Grotto and taking part in the torchlight procession. We all agreed Lourdes is a very special place and it is our hope that many will return.

Year 13 Leavers Mass



We celebrated the end of year 13 with the Leavers mass in St Michael and All Angels. The theme was 'companionship' which was evident in the readings, songs, symbols, homily, but most of all in the speech of the Head Girl, Eleanor and the interaction of the students with each other. It was a fitting celebration for this year group who have been so supportive of each other throughout the years.

Celebration of Holy days

We welcomed Father Lucas twice this half term. He celebrated a voluntary mass for staff and pupils on



the holy day of the Ascension in the Mary Garden and also on the feast of St Peter and Paul in the chapel.

Retreat Days



Years 12 and 10 had their retreat days this term. Both had a strong emphasis on social justice. Year 12 learned about the Sustainable development goals and at how Jesus models leadership. They then thought of what sort of leader they might be. In groups they came up with projects that could be implemented in school such as raising awareness, fundraising, campaigning, community building all linked to sustainable development goals. They presented these to each other and hopefully feel inspired as they take on their various student leadership roles.

Year 10 retreat day was during Refugee week and the theme was 'Welcoming the Stranger'.

Representatives who work for charities such as Caritas, Pax Christi, Asylum Matters, the Columbans and FCJ sisters came into school to witness to their personal faith and how this inspires them to take a stand for social justice and for radical hospitality. The day was organised around the See-Judge-Act principle of



Catholic Social Teaching. We firmly believe that everyone can make a positive difference and this was especially visible in the various acts during the afternoon. Some pupils wrote to their MP, others made and wrote welcome cards to refugees, making banners, writing prayers and poetry and planning for the future.

Mini DASH

DASH is a meeting of diocesan headteachers. When they meet, young people from all of their schools also meet. This term there were two mini-dash meetings in Altrincham. At one meeting pupils engaged in a variety of creative activities and prayer linked to Pentecost. At the second one the annual school mass took place which was celebrated by Bishop Mark. Both were attended by a group of ethos reps from Upton and pupils who have recently made their confirmation, taking their faith a step further. It is always lovely to meet other pupils from Catholic schools in the diocese and celebrate our Catholic faith together.



Finally, this last term there have been various chapel lessons and some activities during lunchtime. In May year 7 learned about Mary and the rosary by doing a treasure hunt on the school grounds ending by finding a rosary and praying a decade in the chapel. Many pupils from Yr 7-10 came into the chapel during break and lunchtime to make their own rosary bracelet. Year 8 made the most of our lovely school

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grounds whilst learning to pray with nature and these last two weeks year 7, 8 and 9 had a final chapel lesson to review the year and to look forward to the next in a prayerful way.



STEM club sunflowers Our Year 7 stem club members planted some sunflower seeds 8 weeks ago and this week we replanted them near our solar



dome so they can take root in the summer holidays. We look forward to seeing their sunny faces very soon!



Former Pupils Reunite!

On 24 June, the Class of '71 gathered for a reunion. They were be joined by Mrs Barker and Sr Catherine Bibby FCJ and had a tour of the school as well as a short service in Chapel. They then spent the



remainder of the day together. The group is pictured in one of the friend's gardens. They said it was a fantastic event with everyone having such happy memories of Upton and all really rating the schooling they received.

Shoe Collection

We have been approached by the FCJ sisters from St Hugh's in Liverpool to request that we arrange a collection of unwanted school shoes at the end of the academic year. If pupils are unlikely to wear their current school shoes next academic year, please could you donate them to be passed on to families who are struggling financially. Any school shoes, boys or girls, of any age, can be accepted as long as they are in reasonable condition. Pupils were asked to bring them in today as they are in non uniform, however, we would be happy to receive any more at the start of next term.

Uniform

Details of how you can purchase uniform for the new school year are available on the school website. Please pay attention to the times that the uniform shop will be open as we will be unable to staff it outside of these times. Please could you ensure that when your daughter returns in September she is in the correctly attired. It is likely that she will have grown and may need a longer skirt. The rule is that the skirt should be knee length. I mention this specifically as this is the one item of uniform that the pupils seem to get wrong. Please can you also ensure that your daughter does not return in September with freshly pierced ears or false eyelashes. We aim to start the year full of positivity rather than wasting time on

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avoidable uniform issues.

School Bus Update

We were delighted to learn from Mersey Travel that following their retendering process they undertook a review of services. Owing to reallocating resource, one of their vehicles is able to do a double run and they have therefore introduced a 683 service for Upton Hall, starting from West Kirby Concourse via Hoylake and Meols.

The updated information on our services from September is as follows:

Operator	Service	From	Dep Time	To	Arrive Time
Stagecoach	603	Eastham Raeburn Avenue	0715	Upton Village	0810
Als Coaches	607	Barnston Private Drive	0740	Upton Village	0817
Stagecoach	683	West Kirby Concourse	0745	Upton Hall	0812
Stagecoach	603	Upton Village	1555	Eastham Raeburn Avenue	1652
Als Coaches	607	Upton Village	1600	Barnston Private Drive	1630
Stagecoach	683	Upton Hall	1600	West Kirby Concourse	1620

These changes will commence from Monday 4 September 2023 and the timetables will be available on the Merseytravel website in due course.

Mobile Phone Usage

Pupils should not be using mobile phone during school hours in line with our policy. Pupils breaching this policy will have their mobiles confiscated. Should a parent/carer need to contact their child during the school day, they can do so through the Admin Office. Please do not encourage your daughters to use their phones by accepting calls from them in the day and then calling into school yourselves as a result.

School Attendance

Medical Appointments

Please ensure that you notify school of any appointments in good time. If you have an emergency appointment booked, please try and

notify school as soon as possible so that we can make arrangements for your child/ward to be at Reception in good time.

In line with our **Attendance Policy** and instruction from the Local Authority and DfE, we request that a copy of the appointment letter is sent in to school. Alternatively, a photo of the letter sent via the attendance email address will also satisfy this requirement. An appointment card or text are also acceptable providing the pupil's name is clearly written on it.

Please try to make appointments outside of the school day. It is understood that hospital and orthodontist appointments are often immovable, but could we please ask that dental check-up appointments or non-emergency optician appointments are made after school hours, in the case of opticians, this can also be done at the weekend (e.g. Specsavers and Vision Express are both open over the weekend for testing).

Leave of Absence

A request for leave of absence will need to be made for **any** event in term-time which affects the school day, for example, taking part in a sports/dance event at competition level, sitting a music exam.

The **Leave of Absence form** may be found on our website under the following area:

School Life/Pupil Parent Key Information (bottom of the page)

Please provide any supporting information with the form e.g. a letter from the organisation running the event/activity.

A request for leave of absence for a family holiday in term time will not be authorised unless there are very exceptional circumstances. This does not include holiday bookings re-arranged due to covid or holidays booked to fit with other work colleagues.

Attendance reporting reminder

If you are reporting that your child is absent, please could you either call the absence line **0151 641 8133** or email the attendance email address:

attendance@uptonhall.org, or for Sixth Form absences email **sixthform@uptonhall.org**. Always include the following information:

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- Your child's first and last name
- The year or form group
- The nature of their illness
- The length of absence expected

If you receive a truancy notification or unexplained absence notification, please respond even if you think you have already reported the absence. These messages are generated by the marks on the register so there will be an outstanding query if you receive one. If you are unsure about any notifications you receive, concerning previous absences, please give a call to our school attendance officer, Ms McMaster after 10.30am.

I should like to wish you an enjoyable and restful summer break with your families. Stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Andrea Gaunt
HEADMISTRESS

Friends of Upton Hall



The Friends of Upton Hall are looking to recruit new members of the parent body to assist them in their valuable fundraising activities for the school.

If you would like to get involved please complete the form by scanning the QR code or clicking on the attached link [Friends of Upton Hall School - Can you help?](#)

Dates for your diary

Thursday 17 August: AS/A2 Results

Thursday 24 August: GCSE Results

Tuesday 5 September: Years 7, 12 and 13 return

Wednesday 6 September: All pupils return to school.

Keep safe

Holidays are to be enjoyed but please be aware that the community police are always concerned for the safety of young people, especially in parks and on our beaches. The internet is a great resource but it needs to be used responsibly so please encourage your daughter to manage her digital footprint.