

# School Newsletter

Easter 2024



Dear Parents

As the Spring Term draws to a close and we approach the Easter holidays, I wanted to share some of the wide range of excellent activities and achievements in which our pupils and students are involved. This has been a short term but as you can see it has been as action packed as ever.

## Lenten Fundraising

Year 8 started our Lenten Fundraising off by doing a



sponsored Jerusalem dance in the Sports Hall, on Friday 1 March.

## Sports Update

### Cross Country

At the Shrewsbury relays the A team took the lead from the start and just increased their lead throughout the race winning with a three and a half



minute lead. B team battled on every leg and narrowly missed 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishing 4<sup>th</sup> overall. This



was a fantastic running by everyone and a great way to finish the cross country season.



Five girls were selected for the Intercounties and English Schools Cross Country: Gabrielle P, Sarah T, Holly C, Hannah B

King Henry Relays saw the Cross Country A team podium again with a battle to the very end. They narrowly missed the top spot and finished 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our B team came 2<sup>nd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> overall.

**Hockey:** Amalie H was selected for County and North West Hockey. Congratulations go to her.



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**Football:** Our U18 team had a fabulous 3-2 victory against Weatherhead



**Pole Vault:** Congratulations to Rebecca, who became North of England Indoor Pole Vault Champion



Well done Niamh who was placed 5th at the National Indoor Athletics championships for the 200m



**Netball:** Well done to the Year 7, 8, 9 and Sixth Form teams who participated in the Wirral Schools' Tournaments. There were some very close matches and outstanding performances





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**Sisters in Sport:** Our U16 team have qualified for the National Quarter Final of this competition



**Gymnastics:** Upton gymnasts finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the North West floor and vault championships



## Tag Rugby

Upton pupils participated in the tag rugby festival in memory of Jess Baker held at Caldys Rugby Club.



**Sports Leaders:** Level 3 Sports Leaders have been leading sessions in our local community and Upton Residential Home and Overchurch Infants' School.





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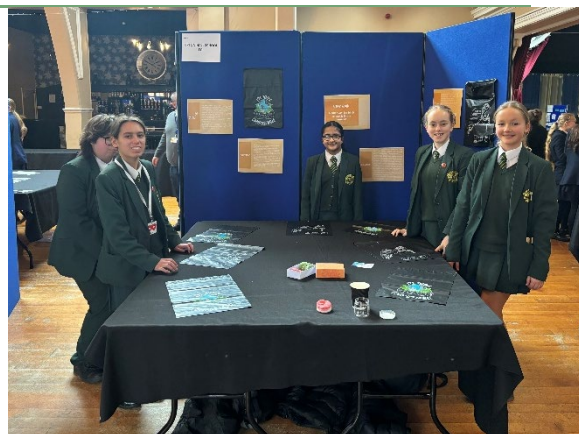
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## Science Update

Year 8 competed in a Unilever Bright Futures STEM competition earlier this month designing a product to encourage better hand hygiene in young children.

Eliza R, Martha G, Isabelle R, Mia B and Lily-Rose F presented to Unilever judges on their product 'slimeeeey soap' which encourages play while washing your hands. A great job – well done girls!

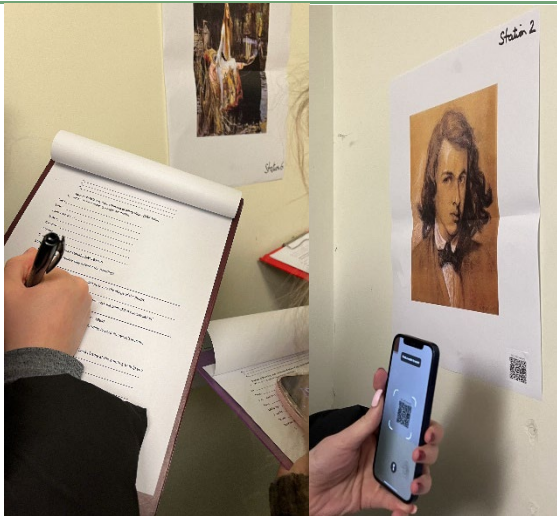


## English Update

### Interactive learning

In our English Literature class, Miss Fletcher set up an interactive exercise to aid in our understanding of the context behind 'Remember' by Christina Rossetti.

The exercise delved into her family's collective passion for the arts (her brother being Dante Gabriel Rossetti), her work with the pre-Raphaelite brotherhood, Rossetti's early life and general career, Victorian society and the art movements that influenced her writing.



We gathered this information through filling out a worksheet using QR codes that led us to audio recordings of Miss Fletcher exploring these topics that would give answers to the questions.

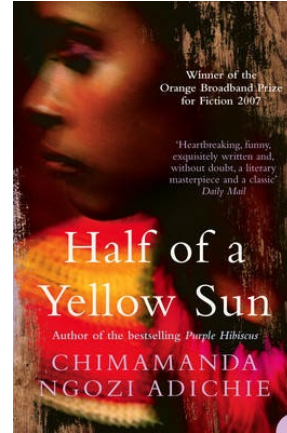


This allowed us to build the foundations of knowledge needed to fully grasp the meaning behind the poem, whilst also allowing for more active forms of learning.

*By Sadie P and Devin W-W*

## Sixth Form's Women's Prize for Fiction book club

At the Sixth Form's Women's Prize for Fiction book club, we have just finished reading 'Half of a Yellow Sun' by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. This novel explores the Civil War in Nigeria, which took place in the 1960's, and shows the perspectives of various characters before and throughout the war. This is typical of the author's interest in sharing stories from a range of perspectives, especially those that are often overlooked, such as a houseboy. We also



watched one of the author's TED talks: 'The Danger of a Single Story'. This really drove home the idea of how we don't always get the full story and frequently see a biased picture of an event or experience. We found the book very meaningful, as it broadened our knowledge on an event we knew little about. It also humanised the people who lived through this war, as the author prioritises love stories and the relationships of family and friends throughout. We would recommend this book to our fellow pupils, as although it may be hard-going and challenging at times, it's insightful and rewarding to read!

*By Amy F and Georgie M*

## Poet Laureate

This term our Poet Laureates have been composing poems about the season of spring.

### *Spring's Benevolence – by Juliette, Poet Laureate*

Green buds blister tree branches,  
Barren for far too long.  
Vibrant shoots pierce through the thawing frost,  
Cracks of bright blue illuminate the grey sky.

Foliage bursts into life.  
Covered in a sheath of lively green.  
Flocks of returning starlings stain the sky,  
A chirping cloud returning to the warmth of home.

Creatures awaken from a winter slumber.  
Emerging from dens and warrens  
They blink in the spring sunlight,  
Drowsiness falling from their fur.

Sun is rising on the spring day;



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Flora erupts into bloom  
And fauna wakes their liveliness from the sheath of winter.

Winter departs as spring flourishes in its wake.

## *Easter – by our Junior Poet Laureate*

In the soft embrace of spring's awakening,  
Easter whispers of hope and renewal.  
A time for hearts to bloom like flowers,  
And souls to dance in the light of new beginnings.

The Earth stirs from its slumber,  
Awakening to the symphony of bird songs.  
As petals unfurl in delicate hues,  
Painting the world with the promise of tomorrow.

Easter morning, a tapestry of pastel dreams,  
A celebration of life's eternal cycle.  
Where the old make way for the new,  
Joy rises like the sun on the horizon.

Amongst the Easter lilies and painted eggs,  
We find the chance to start again,  
To shed the weight of yesterday's burdens,  
And embrace the boundless possibilities of today.

So let us welcome Easter's gentle embrace,  
And let our spirits soar on wings of faith.  
For in every ending, a new beginning lies,  
And in every dawn, a promise of endless skies.

## Library News

### Blue Peter Book Badges



**BLUE PETER  
BOOK BADGES**



Congratulations to all students in year 7 who have been awarded a Blue Peter Book Badge. Imogen and

Anaya in 7C describe their experiences of entering the competition and receiving a Blue Peter Book Badge:  
'For my Blue Peter Badge application, I focused on *The Murder on the Safari Star* by M.G. Leonard. This book is truly amazing, I described how I found the book and how much I enjoyed it and included my illustration of part of the book. Once complete, I followed the instructions on the website and sent it off to their recording studio. A few weeks later, I received a letter in the post with my Blue Peter Badge inside. I had no idea I had actually won one and was thrilled!'  
-Imogen

'When I wrote my Blue Peter Application Form I based it on the book *Anne of Green Gables* as we had been focusing on this book in English. It was written by the author Lucy Maud Montgomery in 1908. A few weeks later I got a letter back with my Blue Peter Badge in it. On the letter it said that I would receive a pass/token that would let me visit over 200 tourist attractions across the UK for free. I got to be one of the first people in my school to receive one, I got to do a speech in front of my class about the badge.'  
-Anaya

## Berlie Doherty Visit

In March we were delighted to welcome award-winning children's author and former pupil of Upton Hall School, Berlie Doherty to speak to students in Year

## BERLIE DOHERTY VISIT MARCH 24



8. The author has written over 70 books and has won many awards, including the Carnegie medal for both *Granny Was a Buffer Girl* and *Dear Nobody*.

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Berlie is pictured below at Upton Hall School: second from the left on the back row.



Berlie Doherty shared her moments of inspiration behind her books, how she tries to bring something she knows and something imagined to every chapter of her writing and many wonderful memories of her time at Upton Hall School. Students were invited to ask questions and take part in a book signing of *The Haunted Hills* and *Granny Was a Buffer Girl*.

## World Book Day



For World Book Day 2024 we celebrated with several events around school. Students and staff took a

in a day'. Students in key stage three entered our two competitions: 'pets caught reading' and 'story in a jar'.

Pictures of entries from both competitions are featured on the library social media pages.

Entries were of such a wonderful level that judges had a tough time narrowing down the winners and had to add several highly commended awards. Thank you to all students who entered in celebration of world book day and congratulations to the winning students.

## Water House win the Reading Engagement House Cup



Congratulations to year 7 students in Water house for their incredible efforts in reading this term. They have won the house cup for reading engagement. Well done to Mr Quinn's form who collected 1217 reading engagement points.

1<sup>st</sup> place: Water (7H) 1217 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Fire (7C) 537 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Aether (7U) 375 points 4<sup>th</sup> place: Earth (7S) 298 points, 5<sup>th</sup> place: Air (7J) 267 points.



Individual prizes were also awarded to students in each house who have gone above and beyond in their reading efforts this term. Congratulations to all.

All reading engagement points have been reset and students can start to collect achievement points towards the trophy and individual prizes for the Summer term.



chance on wrapped up books by reading only a short description of the book in 'never judge a book by the cover'. Throughout the day lessons started with short extracts of Roald Dahl's *The Landlady* as part of 'story



## Carnegie Shortlist



The Yoto Carnegie Medal is one of the UK's longest running and best-loved children's book awards, recognising outstanding reading experiences created through writing in books for children and young people.

The roll-call of past winners includes: Arthur Ransome, C.S. Lewis, Terry Pratchett, Philip Pullman, Noel Streatfeild, Sally Gardner and Elizabeth Acevedo. The Medals are awarded annually with longlists announced in February, shortlists in March and the winners announced at a ceremony in June.

Books shortlisted for the Yoto Carnegie Medal are sure to offer great writing and a story unlike any other seen by the judges. All books from the shortlist are available in the library.

## Donating books to our library



If you or someone you know would like to help our school library, please consider looking at our Amazon Wishlist. Books purchased here will go directly to our school library for students to enjoy.

Upton Hall School FCJ Library Wishlist

<https://amzn.eu/iYK8Mlv>

We also welcome any donations of books that have been published in the last 5 years.

## China Week



The Spring Festival (the Chinese New Year) is the most important festival in Chinese culture. In the Lunar Calendar, we entered the Year of Dragon on 10 February 2024.

At Upton Hall School, the China Week started with a



celebration event at the school Assembly Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> February. 224 pupils participated in the event. All pupils of Chinese classes in Y7, Y8 and Y9 performed

Chinese songs and dance. The highlight was Y7 class pupils showed their talent in creating rap songs about learning Chinese that was superb! Y10, Y11 and Y12 Chinese class students presented the "Our experience in Learning Chinese" and "My Chinese, My Future" speeches provided with insights in learning Mandarin for younger year groups' pupils.

During the China Week, the catering team provided a special lunch - Chinese meal at the school canteen and week-long culture activities for all pupils:

- Making Chinese Dragon
- Papercutting
- Dragon creative Painting





- Making lucky bag



Through activities and the event, many pupils have been inspired by the rich culture experiences. Y7 pupils have seen learning Mandarin as a significant advantage for their future.

**We wish you all the Best for 2024!**

## Y11 and Y12 Chinese class students London Trip

On 11-12 March 2024, Y11 and Y12 Chinese class students went to London to participate in the Schools and Universities Day at the Institute of Education, University of City London.



This event provided an excellent opportunity for our students to discuss directly with universities'

representatives about the Chinese studies-related courses and the requirements of the UCAS. It was in a traditional "fair" environment. Our students met the current university students and recent graduates in Chinese studies and received advices on university life and career prospects.



Devin W-W said: "It opened my eyes to the myriad of opportunities available for Mandarin students and allowed me to discover the

advantages of studying Mandarin at A-Level as it means I can take advanced pathways when starting university and opened my mind to the idea of studying Mandarin as well as another subject. Overall, I found the trip not only added new layers of meaning to my study (through experiencing Chinese culture), but also has helped me to find new routes into my future."

Vickie M said, "This was certainly one of the most memorable trips out of the ones that I have been

on. Not only was this trip exciting being able to explore Chinatown and parts of London, but it also allowed me to obtain knowledge about what my



future path could potentially be", "after the one-on-one talks with representatives from different

universities about the mandarin courses, degrees, modules etc, it gave me a better understanding as to what choices I could make to further my mandarin learning journey. I was able to figure out as to what I truly looking for and which universities would be best suited for me if I did indeed choose to go to a university".

Our students also had a wonderful cultural experience by visiting London China town in this trip.

## Youth Parliament success!



Hannah B in Year 11 was standing in the UK Youth Parliament elections, to become one of the two Youth MPs for Wirral. The results were announced this week and Hannah has been elected, with the most votes of all candidates. We wish her the best of luck in this important role.



## Scopay

The minimum payment which can be uploaded via the app is £10. If this is not affordable, parents should be aware that girls are able to bring in smaller amounts of cash which they can take to the Finance Office who will upload it to their accounts.

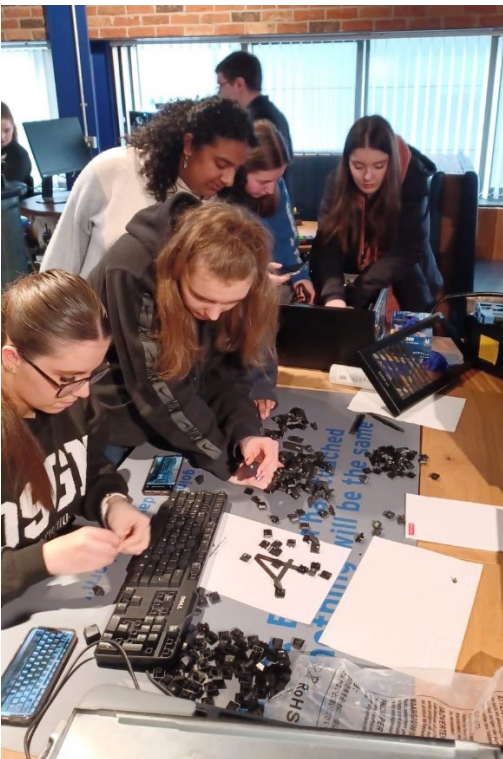


## Computer Science

Thanks to our Year 13 student, Caitlin, getting through to the final ten in the Merseyside Police Cyber Challenge competition from over 4000 entries. 8 pupils from Years 13 and 11 formed a team for the face to face grand final.



Team Upton Hall travelled to Goodison Park to take on 9 other top teams in the 16-18 age group category. The girls spent the day working through 8 difficult challenges: from building a PC to coding and completing cyber escape rooms. The challenges were run by industry experts such as Merseyside Police, BAE, IBM and CGI. At the end of the day, team Upton Hall were announced as champions in their age group!



As well as a trophy, they were also presented with a Liverpool One voucher. A fantastic achievement. Well done to Caitlin, Zoe, Lucy, Annie, Olivia, Grace, Martina and Imogen.

## Budding Author's success

I was delighted to find out that Emily W in Year 8 had received a letter from the new Director for Children, Families and Education, Elizabeth Hartley, following the publication, by Wirral Council, of her horror novel, *My Little Friend*. She is clearly a very talented writer and has been invited to get involved in a young reporters group via the website for young people, Zillo. Congratulations to Emily.







## Uniform

### Summer Uniform - Year 7 and 8

From the start of the Summer term, the style of blouse worn as part of the school uniform for Year 7 and 8 pupils will change to a white short sleeved open necked blouse. This can be purchased from the online uniform shop on the school website.

## Mobile Phone Usage

The rules regarding mobile phone usage in school are changing. This will not affect the majority of pupils who follow and respect this rule. It will however, effect those who don't. Please see the separate letter which has been sent out about this.

## New Fire Evacuation system

As 4pm arrives every day, a new set of professionals arrive on the Upton site. Their mammoth task is the replacement of the entire fire evacuation system across the school. The is a one million pound project for which we were successful in securing funding last year. Over the next few months there will be replacement of many doors, thousands of metres of wiring and many sensors. It will enable a much safer, more efficient evacuation of the school and also a better lockdown process should it ever be necessary. As health and safety is always a priority, after half term, we cannot have pupils in the Holt, D'Houet or Upton buildings at the end of the school day. Pupils who routinely stay in the library will be temporarily moved to other rooms. Sixth Form students and Year 11 who are studying can continue to do so but this will be in the Sixth Form Centre.

## Parental Communication with School

At Upton we aim to develop excellent working relationships with parents to support our pupils and students with their learning. Our expectations are set out in the Parental Code of Conduct, a copy of which is available on the school website. I would ask that parents be polite and courteous in their dealings with all staff in the school community. If you contact school on the year group address, we aim to get back to you as soon as possible. Please be mindful that all staff are primarily teaching staff and that if they have

lessons, these will take priority over your query.

Everyone will however, get back to you as soon as they possibly can, however, please note that we do have a 48-hour response policy. Please do not continually telephone school or turn up at reception as this will not make any difference to the response time.

You should not use your daughter's Google Classroom account as a means of communication with staff. The most effective method to contact staff is via email. Please use the dedicated email address for the year group detailed below:

Year 7: [yearseven@uptonhall.org](mailto:yearseven@uptonhall.org)

Year 8: [yeareight@uptonhall.org](mailto:yeareight@uptonhall.org)

Year 9: [yearnine@uptonhall.org](mailto:yearnine@uptonhall.org)

Year 10: [yearten@uptonhall.org](mailto:yearten@uptonhall.org)

Year 11: [yeareleven@uptonhall.org](mailto:yeareleven@uptonhall.org)

Year 12: [sixthform@uptonhall.org](mailto:sixthform@uptonhall.org)

Year 13: [sixthform@uptonhall.org](mailto:sixthform@uptonhall.org)

I should like to wish you and your families a very enjoyable holiday and an Easter filled with blessings.  
Yours sincerely

Mrs Andrea Gaunt  
HEADMISTRESS