



Dear Parents,

Once again, the Christmas holidays are here. This is the longest term of the year but staff and pupils are still pushing on, squeezing the most out of every day despite fighting off the seasonal bugs. The tiredness everyone feels is a tribute to the huge effort that goes into every day. I hope the holiday will quickly restore energy and that zest that makes Upton such a great place.

School Performance Tables

These were updated in England and published on Thursday 5 December. Once again, we were so happy to see that Upton pupils topped the league tables once again. Our progress score this year was 0.91 which placed us well above average in terms of the

deserves to be congratulated on this as it really is exceptional and I am extremely proud.

RE Update

In 2023, the Bishops Conference of England and Wales published a new Religious Education Directory (RED) titled 'To know you more clearly'. This directory informs all Catholic schools in England and Wales as to what students must be taught and provides a model curriculum to allow the fulfilment of these requirements.

At Upton Hall we have planned to be fully compliant with this new curriculum in December 2025 as required by the Bishops Conference. However, both Year Seven and Year Eight students already study a rich and challenging curriculum based on the requirements of the new directory.

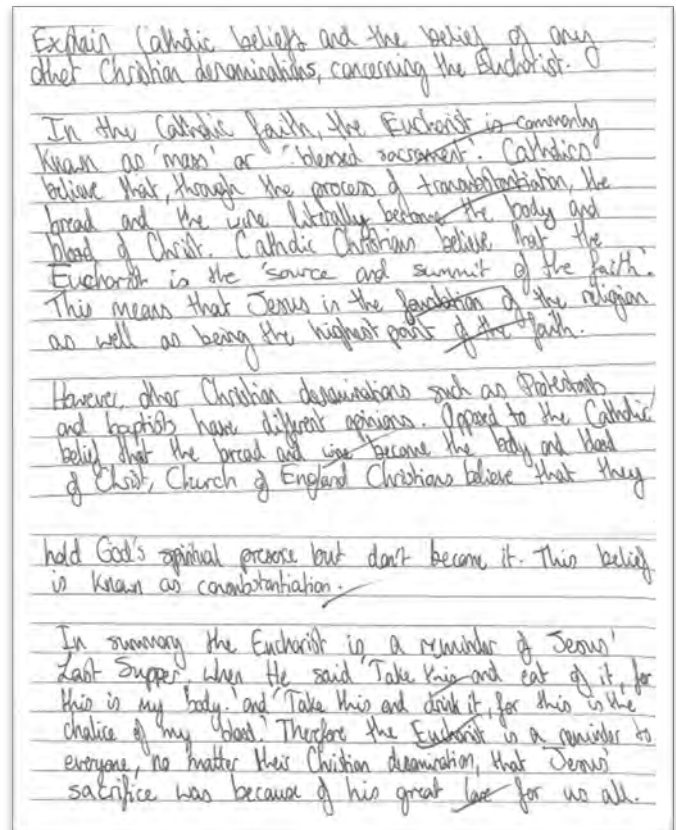
Our new curriculum and assessment policy has given our students the opportunity to shine (as they always do!).

Below is just a small sample of some of the excellent work Year Eight students have produced this year.

School name	Type of school	Number of pupils at end of key stage 4	Progress B	Score & description	Entering EBacc	Staying in education or entering employment (2022 leavers)	Grade 5 or above in English & maths GCSEs	Attainment 8	EBacc average point score
Upton Hall School FCJ	Academy	159	156	WELL ABOVE AVERAGE 0.91	98.1%	98% (148 of 151 pupils)	89.9%	68.2	6.58
Birkenhead High School Academy	Academy	129	128	ABOVE AVERAGE 0.43	54.3%	93% (100 of 107 pupils)	38.0%	47.7	4.18
West Kirby Grammar School	Academy	184	162	ABOVE AVERAGE 0.42	86.4%	99% (176 of 178 pupils)	94.0%	68.3	6.39
Wirral Grammar School for Girls	Academy	180	174	ABOVE AVERAGE 0.38	76.7%	97% (173 of 178 pupils)	88.9%	67.3	6.22
Wirral Grammar School for Boys	Academy	157	151	ABOVE AVERAGE 0.36	93.0%	98% (157 of 160 pupils)	93.6%	65.7	6.2
Calday Grange Grammar School	Academy	221	209	ABOVE AVERAGE 0.31	86.9%	96% (218 of 226 pupils)	91.0%	64.7	6.17

progress our pupils make compared to those nationally. This puts us in the top 1% of schools nationally and one of the top performing girls grammar schools.

This is down to fantastic teaching, fantastic pupils, supportive parents and an amazing team who support the work of everything we do. Everybody



Here a Y8 student is not only able to succinctly and accurately describe Catholic views concerning the



Eucharist, but also able to consider how other Christians view the breaking of bread.

I think that people could agree with this statement because having and reading a translated Bible is better than having none at all. Again, before the 1400's, there were no English translations, everything was written in Latin and everyone managed to experience the Bible in one way or the other. There is not a lot of difference between English translations, and they all get the meaning across in the end, so there is no reason, ever, no need, to translate the Bible. The Bible is God's word, and as long as a Bible gets across the will of God, and everything he has done for us, then that Bible is worthy of reading, and in no need to get translated any further.

I think that people could disagree with this statement as some of the translations that have been made are less precise or convey meaning instead of detail. Detail is essential as people need to know exactly what happened, why, when, how, for this is extremely important for the growth and development of their faith and their understanding. For example, Protestant Bibles have only 66 books, and Catholics have 73 books in their Bible. This is because Martin Luther hated the idea of having a middle sort of position between Heaven and Hell, and took them directly out of the Bible. This is why the Protestant Bible only has 66, and the Catholic Bible has 73. Another example, on top of the earlier one, is when King James was alive, the Bible once said 'thou shalt not kill', but today, this statement stands at 'You shall not murder'. This is a very good example of just how much languages can change over time, and just how much a small translation can make such a big difference.

My personal point of view would be linked strongly with the second paragraph of text. I agree that changing the wording in the slightest can make such a huge difference in how people see it, how they interpret the Bible, as a whole. It is important to evaluate this, and choose a Bible that has been approved by the Church Of England, or you could be facing, reading a Bible that would focus, not necessarily on truth, word by word, or detail, but just the overall meaning of the text. This is not what anyone would want, for they would want truth, they would want detail, for this the true word of God, as way to speak, to communicate with God.

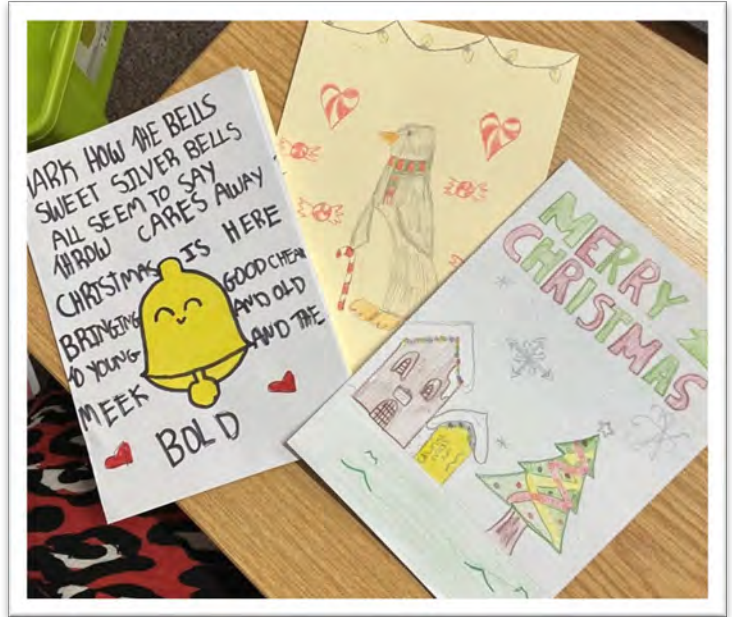
Here a Y7 student evaluates whether it matters as to which translation is used at home by Christians.

We are all very proud of how the students have been able to adapt to the challenges and learning opportunities in the new curriculum. As always, our students and staff have lived up to our school motto: Age Quod Agis

Youth SVP Society

The Youth SVP society were hard at work this term learning about some of the more commercial aspects to Christmas. Our lunch time sessions involved delving into the religious story of Christmas, learning about the nativity and evaluating whether Christmas in the modern world has maybe lost some Christian elements. We looked at the overarching themes of the Christmas period: peace, hope, joy and love. Using this knowledge and with these themes in mind, members of Youth SVP created Christmas cards for the SVP support centre in Birkenhead and some of

the wards at Arrowe Park Hospital. Each card was beautifully hand-drawn and decorated, with warm wishes written inside. Every card was given to a vulnerable person in the community, spreading the joy and love of Christmas. Youth SVP take pride in putting our faith into action to help those most in need.



Christmas Celebrations

During the lead up to the end of term, pupils have been involved in the following activities:

Ferries Families' Toy Appeal

Thank you to all the students and their families who supported our local charities this Advent. We supported 'Ferries Families' with a toy appeal and they were all collected in time for Christmas. We received many donations which will help those in need this Christmas.

Feast Day celebrations

On Friday 6 December, we celebrated the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception. Our focus this year was on Catholic Social Teaching and this was built into many tasks and events held throughout the day. Proceeds from the day will go to the young Kenyan girl, Jane who we are sponsoring through the charity 'Change a Child's Life'. The current fundraising total is £4850.44 which will make a massive difference to the life of this little girl.



We celebrated Mass with every year group in our Chapel with Fr Louis or at Saint Joseph's Church with Fr Lucas as it is an obligation for Catholics (and those who choose to study and work in a Catholic school) to attend Mass.

Many of our students had the opportunity to write Christmas cards and/or letters of companionship to fellow FCJ companions in secondary schools in Australia, Ireland and London as well as a primary school in Jersey. Letters of companionship were also written to local parishioners as well as residents in Woodheath Care home in Upton. The range of letters which our students participated in writing showed dignity and respect as well as a spirit of community participation which is extremely important, especially at this time of year when some people can experience isolation and loneliness.

Our students also had the opportunity of considering our global community as they were tasked with writing in solidarity for prisoners of conscience or people who have been imprisoned as a result of discrimination. The letters showed much thought, dignity and empathy.

Our Form Tutors also led form auctions and this was a fun and engaging way for the students to get into the spirit of giving as we considered those in need in our world. An activity specifically to raise awareness of Catholic Social Teaching using CAFOD resources was also organised.

Our Sixth Formers, ably assisted by their form tutors, led a Christmas 'Winter Wonderland' activity where our students had the opportunity to purchase Christmas novelties and confectionery or have their nails and hair done (to name but a few) as well as having the opportunity for selfies at Christmas displays with their Upton companions. The purpose of this activity was to raise funds for those in need in a fun and engaging way during Advent.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

From 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm on Monday 16 December, we welcomed Senior Citizens from Upton and beyond to this annual event. Festive refreshments

were served thanks to our Dining Room staff with the assistance of members of the Sixth Form. The entertainment was provided by our very enthusiastic Junior Choir along with Senior and Chamber Choir and the School Orchestra who performed a variety of Christmas Carols and seasonal songs. They also enjoyed bingo and a raffle.

Christmas Carols

Congratulations to Mrs Hulme, members of our Music Department and the very talented young musicians and singers who provided a beautiful programme of music at our Christmas Carol Service held this week at St Michael & All Angels in Woodchurch. Particular thanks to the Parish Priest, Cannon Niall Mullaley, for his kind support and hospitality. The collection from this event will be donated to our chosen charity 'Change a Child's Life'

Last day of term

On Thursday 19 December, we will have a non-uniform day for all our students. They are encouraged to donate at least £1.00 and all proceeds will go to Maggie's Cancer Care. Staff will be taking part too. Year 7 will take part in the annual Elf Run on the last day of term, raising money for the Tiny Stars Neonatal Appeal at WUTH Arrowe Park.

Rewards Week at Upton Hall

During our last week of term, Year Heads have been leading reward events for groups of students in recognition of their hard work. There is a criterion (as always) and this includes achievement and behaviour points using our school information management system (SIMS).

Each Year Head has organised something different and these range from reward breakfasts to 'box rounders' to movie events with cookies.

Thank you for all your support in ensuring that your child aspires to the high standards and our FCJ values that underpin school life at Upton Hall.



Drama news



The Drama Department has had a wonderfully busy term staging this year's school production '*The Addams Family Musical – School Edition*'. Performed over three (sell-out) nights in late November our hardworking cast and crew put on a fabulous and extremely entertaining show.

We had so much fun producing this dark and wacky musical comedy with our very talented, (double) cast, chorus, musicians and production team. We hope all of our young participants enjoyed the process as much as we did and that they will cherish the memories made and experience, forever.



We are incredibly proud and grateful to all of the dedicated staff and students who took part and/ or contributed to this year's school production, both on and off stage. We couldn't have done it without you!



We would also like to thank all of the parents and wider school community for their generosity, support and contributions in making this year's school production a great success!



Year 7 Drama club has also proved very popular this term, with our Year 12 Drama students leading two separate group Drama sessions, each week. Our very talented Year 7 students have been extremely creative in devising their very own pantomimes and nativity performance's... what a lovely way to end the term!





Year 8- Apple Day

The Geography Department have been regular participants in Apple Day over the years and this year was no exception. We ran sessions on the importance of soil in cultivating the wonderful apple crop in the school's orchard. Below is an account of the day from Honor and Emmie (Year 8):

"We thoroughly enjoyed Apple Day as we got to see how the apples grow and why. We began with a lovely morning prayer and then we had a fun time creating apple crumble. It was such a good experience. We then learnt about the business side of apples and how they are turned into apple juice. Next, we learnt about the history of harvesting and we learnt about not wasting food and about those less fortunate and how grateful we should be because of how lucky we are. We learnt that if we harvest from all over the globe it can cause a bigger carbon footprint, but the sharing of cultures and food is important as we are stewards of the earth. We enjoyed learning about the soil and how if time and care is given anything can be cultivated carefully and sustainably. We most enjoyed picking the apples from the orchard and next time we are in a shop we will know how our schools' apples that we harvested have been made into apple juice. "

Here are some images of the soil session with 8C

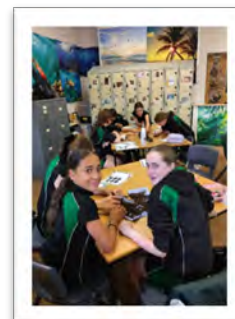


As we look forward to next term we have a range of live theatre visits planned in the spring term, including two in- school productions; *'Terriers – Eve's Story'* Performed by The Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool (January 2025) and *'I Love You Mum – I Promise I won't Die'* Performed by TIE It Up Theatre Company (March 2025).

We also have a range of external theatre trips including *'Spend, Spend, Spend'* at The Royal Exchange Manchester (January 2025) and *'Blood Brother's'* at The Liverpool Empire (March 2025).

Geography Departments Adventures in the Autumn Term 2024

Well, it has been a very busy term which our geographers from Year 7 -13 have embraced with their usual passion for the planet. There have also been many opportunities for our Geographers to extend their geographical skills and interests beyond the classroom. Here are some of our highlights from this term.





Year 10- GCSE Geography Fieldtrip to Formby Sand Dunes



Our wonderful GCSE groups got to experience their first fieldtrip at Formby Sand Dunes earlier in the term. Here is an account from two of our GCSE Geography Ambassadors, Hannah and Maggie in Year 10:

“Recently we went to Formby, Liverpool to observe how vegetation changed across the dunes through percentage coverage, species type, climatic analysis and gradient of the dunes. This was interesting as we were able to see the concepts we had previously learnt about in action. We also investigated the forest behind the dunes and the impact of human intervention. We were on the lookout for the rare/endangered species such as the natterjack toad and red squirrels. Unfortunately, we weren't able to see any, but we did see conservation of the forest. We enjoyed it thoroughly as we were able to apply our knowledge and skills to the landscape around us and explore the dune system.”

Year 9 Fieldtrip to Martin Mere

The whole of Year 9 got to visit Martin Mere as part of their annual Geography Fieldtrip. This experience was to further enhance the topics they learn about in their lessons, which in Year 9 focuses on the key issues facing the Earth today; ocean plastic pollution, endangered wildlife and conservation, the impact of consumerism and inequality.

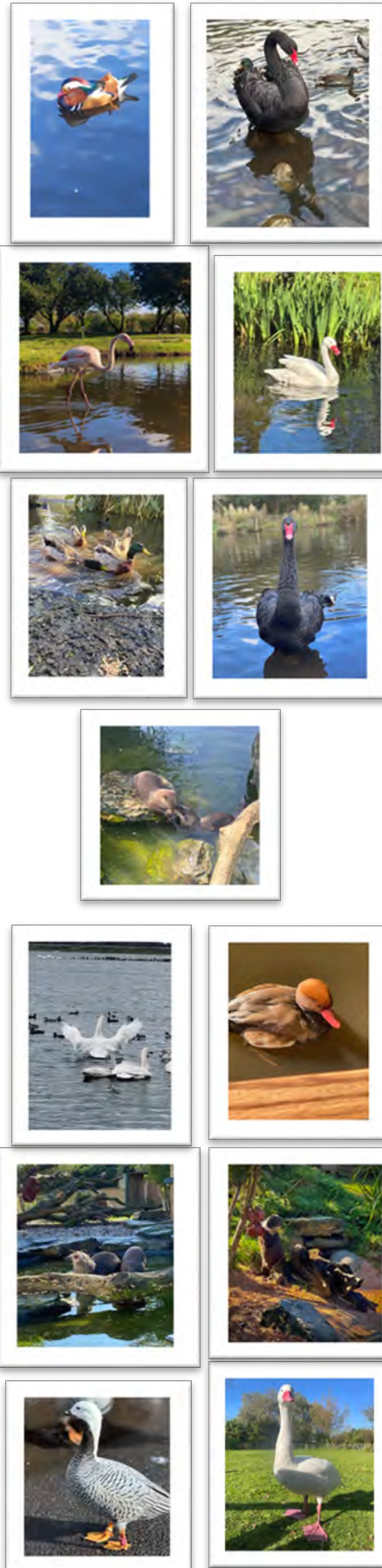
Each pupil got the chance to explore the wetland rehabilitation centre through the various hives including the Harrier Hive and seeing the array of species interacting naturally in their environment. They also got the chance to hand feed a variety of birds including flamingos, ducks, geese and swans.

There was also the opportunity to see the resident otters and go on an exploration walk of the wetlands. In the plastic planets session pupils got the chance to further discover and apply their knowledge of ocean pollution, to the wetlands and offer suggestions on how to combat the plastic problem. The staff at the centre commented that our “pupils were really polite, enthusiastic and engaged.”



All pupils had the opportunity to enter the ‘Wildlife photography’ competition and we had over 100 amazing entries! It was so difficult to judge the spectacular array of photos, but our year 12 Geography Ambassadors helped to choose the following winners. First place Ffion, second place Holly and third place Daisy.

Congratulations also to Charlotte, Minnie, Isabelle, Grace, Esme, Elizabeth and Sophia for the cutest animal captured, funniest photo, best action photo, cutest baby animal, best close up animal photo, trickiest photo to get and best photo of animal in their natural habitat respectively.



Year 8 Antarctica Flag competition

All of year 8 submitted outstanding entries for the competition and a huge thank you to our GCSE



Geography Ambassadors for giving their time to help judge this competition. This amazing opportunity is to have their own designed flag represented in Antarctica by having it photographed by one of the Antarctica Expedition Scientists. The 5 winners (one from each form) are awaiting their prize as their flags are currently on their way to Antarctica. The scientists are waiting for them to arrive. Congratulations to every one who took part and especially to the winners!

Year 8 & 9 World Wide Quiz

Year 8 and 9 World Wide Quiz organised in association with the Royal Geographical Association. On Wednesday 4th of December, seven Year 8 and 9 pupils were selected to take part in the Geographical Association 2024 World Wise Quiz at Chester University. In two teams of three the pupils competed against other Geography Department from a range of schools from Wirral, Cheshire and North Wales. Our year 9 team came 8th and our year 8 team came 15th. This is an impressive achievement for our pupils competing against so many schools from the region.

Abigail in Year 9 writes about her experience:

I really enjoyed our time participating in the quiz. We took part in many team and individual rounds which included: volcanoes, geography in the news,



geography of sport, geography from the air, and the global south. Our team came 8th and the Year 8 team did very well too!

The Geography Department would like to pass on our congratulations to Elodie, Shalikhah, Dania, Amy, Abigail, Elizabeth and Maria for representing our department with such enthusiasm and skills. We are very proud of your achievement.

We would also like to also express our thanks to all of our geographers who have worked so diligently all term and achieved many great successes across the year groups. Have a wonderful and restful Christmas and a Happy New Year. We have many great adventures planned for 2025 including our upcoming residential to Iceland in July and look forward to sharing these stories in the next newsletter.

Historical Association Great Debate



The Merseyside final of the Historical Association Great Debate was held at John Moore's University in November. 13 participants from 10 schools took part, answering the question 'How can our local history tell a global story?' Lois and Hannah from Year 12 took part and both spoke brilliantly. There could only be one winner and we were delighted that Hannah won and goes through to the national semi-final, thanks to her excellent speech on the story of local shipping heiress, Nancy Cunard and her remarkable life. We

are extremely proud of both students.

High Flying Writers



This term the Year 7 High-Flying Writers group have been exploring FCJ values and looking at poetic form including the original haiku form, the extended haiku, Acrostics and sonnets.

In addition, we have looked at classic poems such as Stopping by Woods On a Snowy Evening by Robert Frost and Like as the Waves - a Shakespearean sonnet.

We meet to discuss, share and write our own poems. Here are a selection of those poems so far.

Haiku

To write is to think,
To express the ravaging,
Of mindless visions.

Loss

The wind and the rain:
Are obvious signs of one
More terrible loss.

The sun and the moon,
The two opposite spirits
Could be signs of hope.

As I enter the
Once raging battlefield
Of Poppies - now, I weep.



The Forest is Burning

Tails trailing through the forest,
Heartbeats so small, the chattering creatures
conversing
Even that mushroom over there seems so large.
Flickering light through firs climbing tall,
Over the moss where shadows fall
Rivers murmur soft and slow
Echoes of a breeze blow
Silent pathways, underfoot
Tales of the earth, in root and soot.

In the flowing river, the ice melts quicker and more often.
Songs passed between the birds grow quiet as they watch.

Buried nuts hidden by squirrels are
Uncovered, as the earth is
Ripped up by a roaring beast of reddish-orange hue
Never had the animals seen anything like
It, and it slowly eradicated the forest; they did
Not think it would ever be the same again but there
was a shoot. And it slowly started
Growing...

Scarlett, Year 7

Summer

Fun days in the sun,
Let's play with our water guns
Joy for everyone.

Bonfire Night

In the dark night sky
Bright and sparkly lights whizz by
Everywhere they fly.

Aarini, Year 7

Rainfall

I can feel the rain
It refreshes me gently,
Yet I still burn on.

Zara, Year 7

Life in a Haiku

The pen is writing,
Writing many new stories
Of unknown journeys.

The mind is thinking,
Thinking many vibrant thoughts
Of young mysteries.

The mouth is speaking,
Speaking words both good and bad
Of revealed concepts.

Motunrola, Year 7

School

A place for learning
A place where friendships are formed
Lots of memories.

Writing

The blankest canvas
Imagination is caged
Wanting to shine bright.

Olatoni, Year 7

Colour

Colour is passion,
It is everything we are.
It's love and our stars.

Red is brilliance,
It's a blazing heart on fire;
Of passion or grief.

Orange is the strength.
It shows confidence and pride.
It is bold and brave.

Yellow spreads its joy,
The radiant sun showers,
The flowers have bloomed.

Green sprouts from the Earth
It represents the new life
That we shall welcome.



Blue is the waters
 Mysteries undiscovered
 The rain and our tears.

Purple is wisdom
 Guiding lives through this maze of
 Power and much more.

Daisy, Year 7

Poet Laureate 2024-2025

For the third year the English department have appointed pupils to take on the role of Upton Hall's Poet Laureate.

A poet laureate is a poet officially appointed by a government and they are typically expected to compose poems for special events and occasions. The British Poet Laureate is an honorary position appointed by the monarch of the United Kingdom, currently on the advice of the prime minister. The role does not entail any specific duties, but there is an expectation that the holder will write verse for significant national occasions. The current Poet Laureate is Simon Armitage.

Our Upton Hall Poet Laureates will write poetry throughout the year to reflect local and national events and the changing seasons.

Pupils across all key stages were invited to submit a piece of poetry in application of the post. We had so many that we decided to appoint a Poet Laureate and a Junior Poet Laureate. Our successful entries were Hannah in Year 10 as our Poet Laureate and Scarlett in Year 7 as our Junior Poet Laureate. We look forward to reading more of their work during the rest of this school year. Here are their winning submissions:

The Cry of the Silenced – Hannah, Year 10

It's like bonfire night all year round
 Burning cities to the ground.
 The buildings are left in ruin;
 Their walls weep because of what they have witnessed.

The innocent people killed are human too

However, authorities don't see this to be true.
 They work off numbers, not off names
 They send people's worlds to flames.
 If only they would stop to think
 Of what they are doing to their fellow human.

The holy land is transformed to hell
 No time to turn around and think of the fallen.
 If you did, you would see someone's father and
 someone's daughter.

You would see someone's everything and hundreds
 of stories.

With every bomb dropped millions die,
 Yet no one seems to hear their cry.

Birds of the Seasons Fly for Many Reasons - Scarlett, Year 7

A single owl takes off in the night;
 The coming of autumn marked by its flight;
 Its silvery feathers shine in the moonlight;
 The owl hoots on the way.

The owl's wings beat hard, and on they flap;
 And far below, the sound of the pony and trap;
 The trees listen intently while squirrels forage for a
 snack;
 In the wind, the autumn leaves sway/

The owl comes to a stop at a faraway nest;
 For a meal of a vole, simply the best;
 And in a tree adjacent sit two robin red breasts
 Now ready to fly away.

A pair of robins fly high at noon
 The coming of winter marked by their chirpy tune;
 Their breasts of deep scarlet will be white with snow
 soon;
 The clouds start rolling in.

They panic and their feathers flap fast;
 The clouds turn dark and heavy at last.
 There is no rain, but the snow now blasts
 Onto the pair of poor robins caught in the wind.

The snow slows to a stop, they breathe a sigh of a
 relief;



They flutter down onto the first spring leaf.
 And on a lower branch a cuckoo wakes from its sleep
 And the cuckoo's flight begins.

The cuckoo bird with a branch in its beak;
 Does not fly far, for it is far too weak,
 And its landing signifies that spring shall seek
 Refuge in the time that is now.

The branch shall work to build a nest
 Where three speckled eggs will happily rest.
 Spring brings new life and also manifests
 A brand new start for the chicks.

The feed on mushed worms as they grow
 And now they must start to go.
 They take off as one trio
 Off to a flamingo lagoon.

A flock of flamingos fly (though not too fast)
 And the summer season has come at last.
 Their salmon-coloured feathers glid one past
 And they honk in the setting sun.

The flock of flamingos stop at a lake
 While the other wildlife just starts to wake.
 They each stand on one leg and start to make
 A symphony of deafening calls.

And one last time the flamingos take off
 Into the summer air they take off.
 Into the pink-yellow sunset they swiftly take off
 And they steadily fly away ...

Poem by Heart



This term Year 8 have been working on the Poem by Heart project. Each pupil committed a poem to memory and performed the poem in front of their

class. Winners were selected from each class to go to our in-school Poem by Heart final which took place in the chapel just before October half term. All of our finalists did a fantastic job of performing their poems in front of each other, some A Level English Literature students and our staff judges. Entrants were marked for their use of their voice, their understanding of the poem and their accuracy.



It was a tough decision but the judges decided that Ava (8H), Lauren (8S) and Bethan (8J) were our winners. These pupils will now work with our librarian to prepare their entries for the national Poem by Heart competition.

Olympus Challenge



Fifty students have recently completed the Olympus Challenge, under the guidance of Mrs Assam O'Hara. Students had to: investigate Greek mythology and create a personal response to it; learn Latin (with a



little help from Dr Campbell); participate in a cultural event, which was a trip to the British Museum and the musical 'Hadestown', based on the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice; and present their ideas in a debate.



We asked some students what they enjoyed about each of the challenges.

- 'I have really enjoyed learning about Greek mythology and meeting new people who share my interests.'
- 'I enjoyed learning about the different Greek myths and how they impact and teach us the right way to live our lives and the values we should have, such as bravery and compassion.'
- 'I really enjoyed going to the museum and seeing all of the Greek art and culture as it was interesting to see their ancient beliefs and ideas.'
- I enjoyed learning Latin as I was learning about the roots of many languages and recognising things from our own language in it.'



Pupils were thrilled by the performance of 'Hadestown' and one summed up the message as, "Love, sacrifice, and hope are powerful forces that

can transcend even the deepest struggles and the harshest fates, but they also require faith, resilience, and sometimes painful choices."

However, teachers were even more thrilled by the high quality of personal responses and the debate where pupils fiercely debated topics such as, 'The story of Orpheus and Eurydice proves that everything in life is predestined' and 'Orpheus should be considered a hero.'

Some pupils argued that Orpheus should be considered a hero because he made the extraordinary journey into the underworld, which is a feat that very few heroes in Greek mythology attempt. His love for Eurydice drove him to face the dangers of the underworld, showing not only bravery but also the love and devotion. This unique journey sets him apart from other heroes, as it shows his willingness to confront death itself in order to save his beloved, making his story a great example of heroism. That there is value in trying, even if you fail, and being a hero isn't about success, but the journey you take and your bravery.

On the other hand, others claimed that Orpheus went to the Underworld empty handed, and came back empty handed. He did not save Eurydice and instead gave in to temptation. Although Odysseus went to the Underworld and he was a hero, he was driven for his country, Ithaca, and his wife, Penelope.



Pupils felt the Olympus Challenge was demanding but rewarding. They highlighted their gains in historical knowledge but also greater resilience and openness to new experiences.



- 'I have learned creativity from creating my own poem. I really enjoyed that and I actually felt like I could do. It made me feel happy for that... I usually don't create my own things as you create things that others tell me to make or things that I have copied from something else so I really enjoyed making something that belongs to me.'
- 'I've learnt to try new things and do something I normally wouldn't choose to do with my creative response and I got better at finding confidence to speak in front of others during the debate.'
- 'I hope to take on other challenges like this and push towards other achievements to give me more and better chances in the future.'

'DiscoverSMART' Careers event at Edge Hill University

On December 4th, a group of Year 8 and 9 students attended 'DiscoverSMART', a careers event hosted by Edge Hill University in Ormskirk. Daisy, Hope, Roma and Grace would like to share their experiences with you.

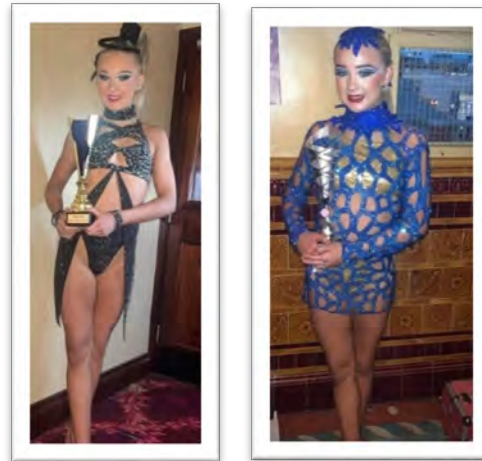
"During our time at Edge Hill University, we experienced an excellent opportunity to help us to decide about our future careers. At the beginning of the day, we had a tour around the campus from our guides Georgia and Drew. They were very kind and welcoming towards us all. They showed us the different parts of the campus, where you could go to study, to eat and most importantly where the Library was. We visited many buildings, for example the 'Catalyst', the 'Hub', and the Founders hall of residence.

One of our favourite buildings was the Faculty of Medicine, where they have interactive robot bodies that behaved as if they were humans. They are used for students who are training to enter the nursing profession; how amazing they were! Following the tour, our guides shared presentations with us about the different subjects that can be studied at Edge Hill, and what courses they were taking. We also participated in a series of workshops about possible future careers. We explored which University courses celebrities such as Jennifer Lawrence studied before they became famous, and took a survey to discover which career options might

suit us all individually. After lunch we took part in a team activity where we designed our own mobile phone app to help new students adjust to university life.

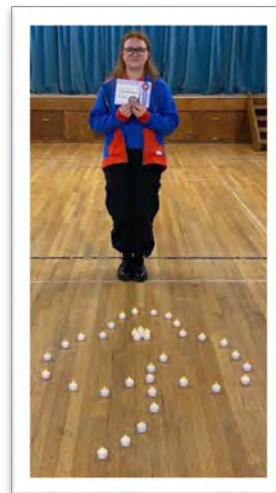
We are very grateful that we were given this opportunity to think about our futures, and would definitely recommend the course to other students."

Blackpool Tower Dance Success!



Lydia K in Year 9 took part in a dance competition in Blackpool dancing at the Ballroom Tower. She came 1st in one of her dances along with a 2nd, 3rd & 7th place out of 177 dancers!

Top Girl Guide Award



Rachel A in Year 9 completed her 6 theme awards for Girl Guides and then went on to complete her Guide Gold Award; the highest award a guide can achieve.



Bar Mock Trial Success



On Saturday Upton Hall team took part in the Bar Mock competition. Despite facing exceptionally well prepared and Professional opposition in all rounds Upton Hall won the regional heat and now progress to the national final in London in March. Well Done to all students who took part in this fantastic competition!

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 your daughter's first and last name and her form or year group.

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.

Parking

Parking is always an emotive subject and we are frequently contacted by local residents with concerns about parents parking their cars when dropping off and picking up their children. Please could I give a polite reminder to parents that they park in a considerate manner which enables our local

residents to access both to the road, in which they live, as well as their driveways. The current situation outside the gates before and after school is frequently hazardous, with an accident waiting to happen.

Parking on the lines outside of school is prohibited. If parents ignore this, we have no jurisdiction to do anything about it, however, I would hope that the prospect of causing harm to a child is deterrent enough to act safely in your cars around school.

Website & Social Media

Our website is constantly being updated, so please use it to keep up to date with current activities.

www.uptonhallschool.co.uk. Significant dates for next term are shown in the website calendar.

Similarly look out for latest news on our Twitter page (@UptonHallFCJ), as well as our Facebook (@uptonhallschoolfcj) and Instagram (uptonhallschoolfcj) pages.

Upton Community

This Christmas will be difficult for many families associated with the school because they are coping with the illness of a family member or a recent bereavement. As is often the case, we have had a number of pupils who have lost a close family member this year or indeed have suffered through illness themselves. I would ask you to remember these families in your prayers.

Finally, I want to thank you for your support this term and wish you all a very happy and joyful Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Andrea Gaunt
HEADMISTRESS