

School Newsletter

Summer 2025



Dear Parents

Another busy year has come to an end and I want to thank you for your support. There is no doubt that pupils and Sixth Form students are more likely to thrive when home and school work together to provide the very best for them. There is plenty of evidence that this has happened and the vast majority of our pupils have excelled in the course of this year.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you a restful holiday, thank you for your support and provide you with important information as well as reflect on the many opportunities that have been offered to the girls.

Numerous trips abroad have taken place and each one has been full of well-planned opportunities for the girls to experience the language and culture of different parts of the world. Other enrichment trips to theatres, universities and places of educational and cultural interest have been organised.

None of these would have happened without the hard work and dedication of our staff who, each year, provide better and richer opportunities for more and more pupils. They are to be congratulated on their efforts this year and deserve very well earned holidays. It is with thanks and sadness we say some farewells. Goodbye and Good Luck to the following members of staff:

- Mrs Z Hu – Head of Mandarin Chinese. Mrs Hu has been at Upton for 20 years and has shared her passion for the Chinese language and culture with everyone she meets. We are grateful to her for the innumerable opportunities she offered pupils to immerse themselves in the Chinese culture via trips to China and relationships developed with link schools in Shanghai.
- Miss C Cassidy – Head of Geography. Miss Cassidy joined us in September 2022 and has made an excellent contribution to her department.
- Mr G Seed – TA. Mr Seed has supported large numbers of pupils to thrive both in their education and personal development at Upton. Mr Seed left us in June.

- Miss L Thomas-Winkworth has been providing cover as a Teacher of Spanish. She has secured a permanent job at St Julie's in Liverpool. We are grateful to her for her contribution to Upton and wish her well in the future.
- Miss E Guinness, Teacher of Science will continue her role covering for Mrs V Holmes' maternity leave until October half term. She will then move on to a new role at BHSA.
- Miss A Breen-Buckley has provided excellent cover in the RE department for the past 18 months. She has secured a permanent position at Broughton Hall School in Liverpool. We wish her continued success.
- Mrs M Rayner has been at Upton for the past 12 months and has covered a maternity position in the library. In the time reading has continued to flourish and many new ideas of how we can use the library have been developed. We thank her for her passion and enthusiasm.

We thank these staff for the excellent work they have undertaken at Upton and wish them health and happiness as they move on or retire.

- Congratulations to Miss Statham, Teacher of PE who is getting married in the summer and will return as Mrs Crossley.

Culture Week

Culture week provided a range of activities. Many visits took place during the week which enhanced our pupils' cultural educational experiences. These included Year 7 trips to Liverpool, and Chester Zoo run by Geography, RE, Art and Science departments respectively. There were also Year 8 Geography trips to Bounce World in Blaenau Ffestiniog and a 3 day residential in Glan Llyn. Year 9 enjoyed trips to London. Meanwhile, some Year 9 pupils visited Spain and Year 7 visited France. Year 10 took part in work experience for 5 days and Year 12 for 3 days followed by two days focussed on UCAS preparation.

Year 9 Spanish trip

During Culture Week, forty of our Year 9 Hispanists had the opportunity to spend 5 days in sunny Spain, staying in the seaside town of Santa Pola and exploring the surrounding Alicante province. We

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were lucky enough to be staying in a hotel right on the beach, perfect for relaxing in the evening after a busy day's sightseeing! Pupils had lots of



During our day in Alicante city, we spent the morning having a guided tour of the *plaza de toros* (bullring), finding out lots of fascinating facts about this Spanish tradition and getting to try our hand with the cape – ¡Olé! In the afternoon we headed up to the castle, perched on a spectacular hilltop, and enjoyed the amazing views over the sea and city.



opportunities to practise the language they have been learning over the last two years, whether it be ordering food and drink, buying gifts and souvenirs or trying to strike up conversation with Spanish pupils also on school trips.



The next day we took to the waves for a boat trip to the beautiful island of Tabarca. Later we headed to the nearby city of Elche where we climbed the many steps to the top of the basilica for the best view of the palm forest and then visited the *Museo del Palmeral* to find out more about the importance of the palm trees to the city, before some much awaited shopping time.





We rounded off the week with a visit to the *Terra Mítica* theme park, where pupils (and some staff) impressed with their heads for heights!

Well done Year 9 for making it such an enjoyable trip for everyone involved, and for making such a great effort to use some of that Spanish you've been learning. ¡Un viaje fantástico!

Year 7 trip to France June 2025



During the culture week, our Year 7 had the wonderful opportunity to spend five days at the Château de Chanteraine in Upper Normandy 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 Rouen and the Joan of Arc museum and the Bagatelle Theme Park.



In the evening they were busy with fun activities including trying snails. "De bons souvenirs!"



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Leavers' Ball

On Friday 11 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.

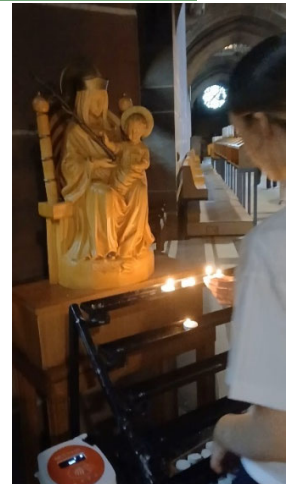
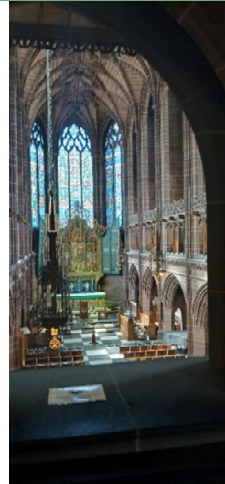
Year 12 Year of Hope Pilgrimage to Hope Street

In June, the whole of Year 12, led by Director of Sixth Form- Miss Griffiths and Sixth Form staff, took to the streets of Liverpool for the first Upton Hall FCJ Pilgrimage between the Anglican Cathedral and The Metropolitan Cathedral.

The students explored the history of art in both cathedrals and the history behind each building, including visiting the Lutyens Crypt in The Metropolitan and The Lady Chapel in the Anglican.

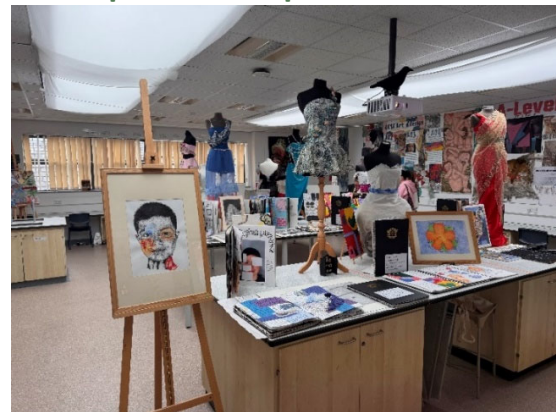


During their pilgrimage across Hope Street, they stopped to observe 'The Warlock Statue' and 'The History of the Hope Street Suitcases'. Students had time to reflect in hope and prayer for the year ahead and enjoyed seeing parts of the City that they otherwise wouldn't know existed.

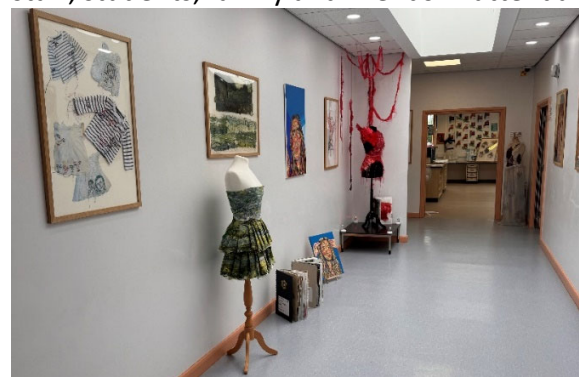


We ended the day at The Liverpool Exhibition Centre for the UCAS Conference, students considered their futures through various Universities, Further Education and Degree Apprenticeships. The students will take with them their reflections and learning from the day into their final A Level year, and final year as an Upton student.

Art Department Update



On Tuesday 1st July we held a 'Celebration Exhibition' showcasing the GCSE and A Level Art & Design student's work. The evening was a great success with staff, students, family and friends in attendance!



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Our Year 12 'A' level Art and Design students are exhibiting their work at the Floral Pavilion, New Brighton Tuesday 5th - Sat 9th August. 10a.m -5p.m Why not pop in for a look around.

NEW BRIGHTON
FLORAL PAVILION
THEATRE · PLAZA · BLUE LOUNGE

Tues 5th to Sat 9th August
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Rotary Art Exhibition
2025

Organised by
Wallasey Rotary
wallaseyrotary.co.uk
In aid of Local Charities

Interested in exhibiting? E-mail chrisjordan0001@outlook.com
Free Admission - 360 Original Paintings for sale

Green Is Our Name, Making Energy Is Our Game
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Careers Department

Advance Notice – Careers Fair (Spring term 2026, date tbc)



Next academic year, we will be holding our biennial careers fair for pupils and students in Yr9 upwards. The event is held in the evening to allow parents to

attend with their child and will consist of talks from the most popular career areas, and a market place in the school hall where representatives from different companies, universities, apprenticeship providers and colleges, are on hand to talk to pupils one to one. **If any parents would like to share their career with our pupils, or who work for a company that may like to attend the careers fair, please email kdouglas@uptonhall.org**

Future Innovators' Day

In June a group of Yr10 pupils were invited to participate in a science day organised by The Knowledge Quarter to introduce them to the wide range of careers that are opening up in that area of Liverpool.

Part of the trip was a visit to The Infection Innovation Consortium (iiCON) at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. They are a world leading centre for infection innovation (<https://www.infectioninnovation.com/>) specialising in antimicrobial resistance (AMR). iiCON are fighting AMR by building a library of bacteria and fungi to search for new antimicrobial compounds. In preparation for our visit pupils were asked to swab areas of our school to help build up this library.

During the visit, they learnt how to streak their swabs out onto agar plates which are now being incubated and grown by the team. Pupils will be able to see what has grown during a follow-up session next term.



Work Experience

Year 10 and Year 12 were on work experience placements after the half term break. The

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placements were very varied. One of our pupils, Summer in Yr10, was lucky enough to work with a local journalist and radio presenter, Justin Hopper at La Vida Liverpool.



You can read about Summer's work placement hear:

<https://www.lavidaliverpool.co.uk/my-work-experience-with-la-vida-liverpool-2/>

Useful Links

Parents' Guide to University

<https://www.unitasterdays.com/university-support-for-parents/parents-guide-to-university-brochure/>

Parents' Guide to Apprenticeships

<https://www.successatschool.org/advice/parents/a-parent-s-guide-to-apprenticeships/1204>

<https://read.degreeapprenticeships.guide/view/548515636/36/>

Talking Futures

<https://www.talkingfutures.org.uk/>

Labour Market Information (LMI) and why it is Important

<https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/what-is-lmi-how-can-it-help-young-people-and-how-do-you-use-it/>

High Flying Writers – Year 7 Writers' Group

This term we have been looking at ways into writing poems through visual stimulus. We chose a classic painting and explored the images closely to give us a starting point to our ideas. Here is a selection of the poems and the works of art they were inspired by Mr Pearson.



American Gothic

O, weary traveller of an ancient age,
Grim is your face and death is on your door.
Did harvests fail and did they drop your wage?
Your family should be kind to you much more.
But is there a strange determination
Shining behind your eyes?
Your daughter, she looks nothing like you, sir.
Although your mood reflects that mood of hers.
Are you a widow, miss? Or are you poor?
"Oh, thanks, why don't you insult our oak door?"
This woman's sense of humour sounds quite sly.
I wonder why that is.
"Good sir, good sir, when will you finish this?
There is a hearty feast that we will miss.
It starts in a minute!
The painting - just bin it!
We'll pay you, but you are dismissed!"

A New World

Throw me into your world with different views
No war, no hate, no enemies to loathe.
A world where we see ultraviolet hues
And no hidden secrets to soon unclothe.
But first I must cleanse myself of *my* hate;
Impossible, for hate partners with love
And all the wars within me must set straight.
Impossible, for there will be no doves.
One more thing I must tell you when we leave,
My deepest secret buried far inside,
That death is something that we really need,
For without death, there would be no more life.
But without that world, my biggest desire,
At least that world, for our world, can inspire.

Scarlett M, Year 7



The Lady with the Glove

Oh, my lady, my lady.
There you stand all in black.
Is your husband dead my lady?
Are you a goth?
Or are you sad?

Oh, my lady, my lady.
What shall I say?
Why is your husband dead my lady?
Why are your gloves off?
Did you kill him yesterday?
Did he truly die at noon?

Oh, my lady, my lady.
What did you do?
Make amends my lady
You need to be true
You need to be happy
Do not be blue.

Oh, my lady, my lady.
You need to change your dress
Pick up your glove my lady.
You should not be in black
My lady,
You should be in Red.

Beatrice F, Year 7



Girl with a Pearl Earring.

Girl with a pearl earring,
I see your silent scream,
I see the sadness in your eyes,
I watch them as they gleam.

Girl with a pearl earring,
You are not alone,
Yet you sit so quietly,
Silent as a stone.

Girl with a pearl earring,
Gaze into empty air,
Dreaming for the past to change,
Wishing that you were there.

Girl with a pearl earring,
Grief masks your face,
Your eyes are full of longing,
As you stare off into space.

Girl with a pearl earring,
You remember that day,
When death took your husband,
Far, far away

Girl with a pearl earring,
As his hands unfurl,
You see his final gift,
A single, shining pearl.

Isla McL, Year 7

D&T Update

This term, the Design and Technology department has been a hub of activity and achievement. Our Year 11 and Year 13 Product Design students have successfully

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completed their final Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) projects, demonstrating a commendable level of skill, innovation, and commitment. The range of products they manufactured spanned from educational toys and sports equipment to a full-size bench for our Upton site, embodying the FCJ value of companionship.



Our Year 7 students have concluded their first D&T project, producing an adjustable timber lamp. Meanwhile, Year 8 students have been industriously creating products for a variety of real-life users, including their teachers, Upton Library, local shopkeepers, and a speech therapist. Their creations ranged from a sticker dispenser to a reading-themed lamp. Additionally, six members of 8U represented Upton at the Faraday Challenge held at Ellesmere Port Catholic High school and emerged victorious in their round. This was a valuable opportunity to participate in a STEM event and gain insight into Engineering.



Year 9 students have crafted a table centrepiece for Nando's restaurants and produced some exceptional animal-themed lamps made from folded aluminium. We eagerly anticipate the commencement of the GCSE course with them next year.



Year 10 and Year 12 Product Design students have completed their mock NEA and are now in the process of selecting users and contexts for their final NEA projects. This year's themes include supporting charities, reducing waste, and creating products to assist in the home. They recently visited a range of locations in Liverpool to conduct primary research, including the FACT digital arts centre and cinema and Lush, where they learned about ethical sourcing and community support whilst making their own bubble bar!. Year 12 students also visited the LJMU BA Hons Product Design and Engineering degree show, which they found highly inspiring.



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In conclusion, this term has been a testament to the hard work, creativity, and dedication of our students. We look forward to the continued success and innovation in the coming year.

Library News

Earth House win the Reading Engagement House Cup
Congratulations to year 7 students in Earth house for their incredible efforts in reading this term. They have won the house cup for reading engagement.

1st place: Earth (7S), 2nd place: Fire (7C), 3rd place: Air (7J), 4th place: Aether (7U) 298 points, 5th place: Water (7H).



Individual prizes were also awarded to students in each house who have gone above and beyond in their reading efforts this term. Congratulations to: Zara M., Elsie A., Georgia H., Jasmine L., Jess R., Larissa G., Olivia Y., Erin L..

Upton Book of the Year

The Summer term saw the launch of our new and exciting Book of the Year awards. Students and staff have been nominating titles to be part of our awards for the next academic year. We look forwards to broadening our reading community with the shortlisted titles next year. Students will have two

weeks left to vote in September, so if you read a

UPTON HALL
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brilliant book over the break, please do pop up to the library to vote for it! Follow along on our library Instagram page to see regular voting updates.

Follow along on our Instagram: [uptonhs.library](https://www.instagram.com/uptonhs.library)

Carnegie Winner



In a year where new talent triumphed, twenty-seven-year-old debut author Margaret McDonald was announced as the Carnegie Medal for Writing winner, the youngest in its almost ninety-year history for her “life changing and emotional” novel Glasgow Boys (Faber). This “honest” and “hopeful” young adult story explores mental health, trauma, inequality and identity through the friendship between two boys who have grown up in foster care.

The Carnegies celebrate achievement in children’s writing and illustration and are unique in being judged by an expert panel of children’s and youth librarians. The winner of the Carnegie Shadowers’ Choice Medal for Writing is King of Nothing by Nathanael Lessore (Bonnier Books UK), a YA novel about a bully whose new friendship with an unpopular classmate proves a catalyst for change, exploring young masculinity with “warmth, humour and authenticity.”

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Poet Laureate 2024-2025

Our Poet Laureate, Hannah, and Junior Laureate, Scarlett, have produced some lovely poetry for us during their tenure in the position. Below is the poem that Hannah has worked on for the summer term. In the autumn we will launch our Poet Laureate competition again on National Poetry Day.

The Butterfly Cycle – Hannah, Year 10

Like a butterfly, summer unfolds,
Emerging from its cocoon of cold.
The sun's rays shining down,
Lighting up an entire town.

Coated in an array of flowers,
Causing all solemn thoughts to cower.
Their colours bold and bright,
Like a butterfly's wings ready for flight.

A sunset walk with a friend,
Those long summer chats which never end.
Oh! Something caught your eye.
Look! It's a butterfly!

Music Department news

As we approach the end of this academic year, I'd like to thank you all for your continued support of the Music department. Without your support, encouragement, and in many cases transportation, our pupils would not be able to access the many wonderful opportunities that are offered to them.

This year, we have celebrated the wealth of musical talent we have at Upton at numerous performances, including our Christmas Carol Concert, Chapel Concert, and most recently our Summer Concert, where we've enjoyed both solo and ensemble pieces, showcasing a variety of styles and genres of music. Our whole school production of *The Addams Family* in November gave many of our instrumentalists the opportunity to perform as part of a pit orchestra, and they rose to the challenge admirably, and thoroughly enjoyed the show! We have strengthened our relationship with the Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool this year, too, working closely with the Cathedral Music Department in preparation for our whole school mass that took place in November, and

also accepting the invitation for our Chamber Choir to collaborate with the Cathedral Girls' Choir, singing at weekday mass together back in January.

At the beginning of this month, our Chamber Choir was also invited to lead the music at Sunday morning mass in the Cathedral Crypt, at which they enhanced the liturgy beautifully.



Back in March, our Year 7 students enjoyed a trip to Liverpool Philharmonic Hall to see the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra perform a variety of pieces, exploring different cultures and identities. Our Drama and Music Festival took place in June, which featured many vocalists and solo pianists, some of whom were then invited to perform their pieces again at Summer Concert.

Congratulations to everyone who took part throughout the year

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

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pierced ears or false eyelashes. We aim to start the year full of positivity rather than wasting time on avoidable uniform issues.

The use of deodorant spray will be banned from the new academic year. Pupils will only be able to use roll on products. We have a large number of pupils with medical conditions such as asthma which can be triggered by the use of these anti-perspirant sprays.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 14 August: AS/A2 Results

Thursday 21 August: GCSE Results

Wednesday 3 September: Years 7, 12 and 13 return

Thursday 4 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.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Gaunt'.

Mrs Andrea Gaunt
HEADMISTRESS