



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!

I want to take this opportunity to 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:

- Mr Liam Hale, Teacher of Psychology has taken the decision to pause his teaching career and go travelling.
- Miss Tess Bain, Teacher of English (maternity cover) has secured a post at West Kirby Grammar School.
- Miss Deborah Kelly, Teacher of Mathematics (maternity cover) is returning to Ireland. This has also impacted our Catering staffing as her partner, Aaron Duffy works in the Catering team and he will also be leaving.
- Mrs Ying Sun, a member of our Chinese Department will be leaving us to return to China.
- Mrs Tina Hill from our Catering Team. Tina has been responsible for the creation of a whole array of delicious cakes and baked during her

time at Upton. We wish her a happy retirement.

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.



Wedding bells will ring this summer and we send our congratulations to

- Miss McHarron, Teacher of English and Head of Year 10 who is getting married in the summer and will be known as Mrs Brereton on her return.
- Miss Heatlie, Teacher of Mathematics who gets married during the holidays and will return as Mrs Hodge.

Parental Feedback

Thank you to the many parents who recently took the time to complete our school questionnaire. We are grateful for such a strong level of engagement. Your feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and when compared with national benchmarks, your responses were higher in every category. This is a hugely encouraging reflection of your confidence in our school and the experience your children receive

The highlights were:

- You would recommend Upton to your friends
- You feel your daughter is accepted and included at school
- The school communicates effectively with you
- You feel the school is well led
- You strongly agree your children feel safe at school

Culture Week

Culture week once again provided a plethora 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, Art and Science departments respectively and some Year 7 enjoyed a trip to Spain. There were also Year 8 Geography trips to Bounce World in Blaenau Ffestiniog and Cadbury World for DT and Computer Science as well as a 3 day residential in Glan Llyn. Year 9 enjoyed a 2 day trip to

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London and a visit to the World Museum in Liverpool organised by the Science department. Meanwhile, Year 10 took part in work experience for 5 days and Year 12 for 3 days followed by two days focussed on UCAS preparation.

DofE

This year has seen another round of successful expeditions despite the changeable weather. 83 Year 10 students completed their Bronze expedition in sunny Loggerheads early in May. Many thanks to all the staff and our 7 wonderful Year 12 Young Leaders for their assistance in making this expedition a success.



Silver Trial was completed at the start of July in the pleasant Clwyd Hills. Our 20 participants enjoying the chance to be outdoors following their GCSE examinations. We wish them success in their Silver Test expedition right at the end of term! Our 8 determined Gold participants completed their Trial Expedition in March despite some unpleasant weather. Gold Test took place at the end of the May half-term in the beautiful Snowdonia National Park. Participants faced all weather conditions and were delighted to complete in Trefriw after a challenging few days.

Many congratulations to all participants!

Wirral Way Walk

This year we completed our Whole School Sponsored Walk on Friday 3rd July in aid of Alder Hey Children's Hospital and School Funds. The weather was lovely as we began the walk in Parkgate and everyone was



able to enjoy the lunch spot at Thurstaston with a BBQ from the kitchen staff. Tired but happy students arrived at West Kirby, having completed the walk in good time. We hope to raise as much money as possible for these excellent causes so please ensure any sponsor money is brought into school or paid in on Scopay. Thank you for your generosity!

Leavers' Ball

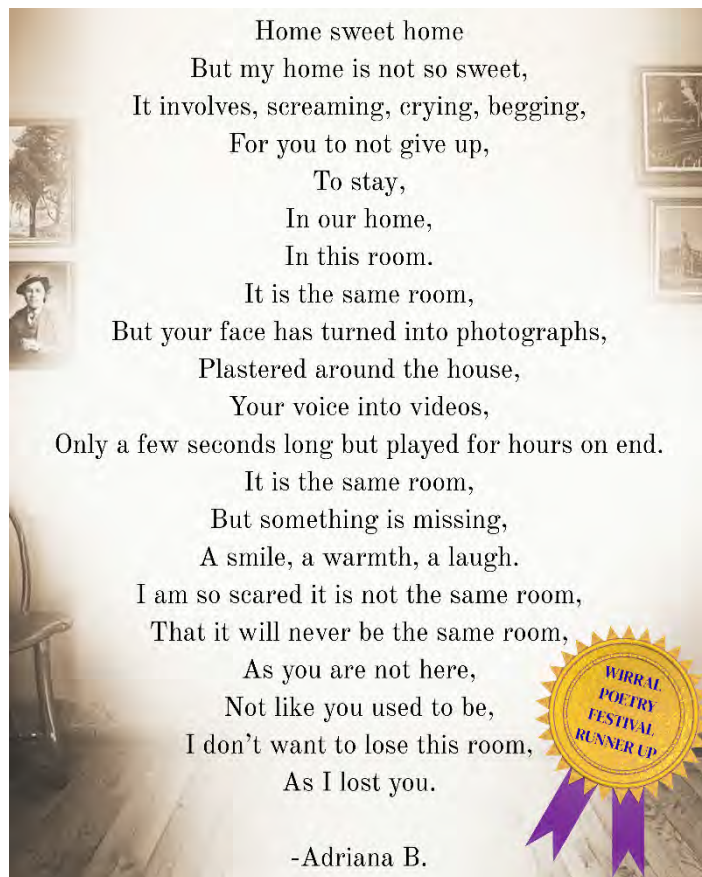


On Friday 10 July, Thornton Hall was the spectacular venue for Year 13 to celebrate their departure with staff, friends and family.

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.

Student success in Wirral Poetry Festival Youth Poetry Competition 2026

Adriana B's poem: "Home Sweet Home" was awarded a runner-up prize (£25) in the Wirral Poetry Festival Youth Poetry Competition, 2026.



Careers' News

Careers News

It has been another exciting and productive term for the Careers Department, with students across the school taking part in a wide range of inspiring careers and employability activities.

During Culture Week, our Year 10 and Year 12 students completed their work experience placements, gaining valuable insight into the world of work and developing essential workplace skills. We are incredibly grateful to the employers who welcomed our students and provided such enriching

and memorable experiences.

Our Year 7 students enjoyed a dedicated Careers Day, where they explored key employability skills including teamwork, communication and negotiation through a variety of interactive activities. They also put their creativity and problem-solving abilities to the test during an engaging enterprise challenge.

Students in Years 7 and 8 were inspired by the "Material World: Engineering the Future" roadshow, an entertaining and informative performance highlighting the exciting opportunities available within engineering. This experience was further enhanced by the Science Department, who delivered a dynamic live lesson featuring exciting demonstrations and careers inspiration from BAE Systems, the Royal Navy and the RAF Red Arrows. The session demonstrated how studying science in the classroom can open the door to an extraordinary range of future careers.



On Tuesday 16th June, a group of students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 visited the Cheshire Show. It was a fantastic opportunity to take part in hands-on activities, discover the wide variety of careers within agriculture and the food industry, and meet professionals passionate about their work. The visit provided valuable insight into sectors that play a vital role in our everyday lives.

To finish the year, we had a visit from an ex-pupil Laura Leung who gave an inspirational talk to our Yr7, 8, 9 and 10 pupils about her career journey and the range of fantastic careers in the construction industry. Laura had always wanted to become a teacher until a school trip to a construction site, led to her doing work experience with the construction company who were building the Upton Holt

building. After spending her August and October school holidays working on the site, she decided to apply for an apprenticeship with Laing O'Rourke after studying her A Levels. Fast forward 21 years and



Laura is now a Senior Project Manager. Construction has given Laura the opportunity to work on some amazing projects including the Hill Dickinson Stadium, Manchester Airport T2 and 4 years working in Australia.

We are proud of the enthusiasm and commitment our pupils have shown throughout these experiences and look forward to providing even more opportunities to explore future careers in the year ahead.

Useful Websites

Parents Zone

'Amazing Apprenticeships' has created a Parents Zone to support parents in supporting their child's next steps. Parents can use the zone to learn about and explore different career options available for their child.

It also contains 'Rapid Read' guides, covering three major career pathways - apprenticeships, T Levels and HTQs

<https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/zones/parents/>

Degree Apprenticeships - Your Questions Answered

With key decisions about life after sixth form fast approaching, the summer term is a vital opportunity for

students to start considering their future steps. **The Sixth Formers' Guide to Degree Apprenticeships** is a great place to start researching alternative routes to a graduate role. The free, online 140-page guide covers everything students need to know about Degree Apprenticeships and highlights a range of exciting opportunities with leading UK employers across a variety of industries, including law, engineering, banking, construction, accounting and technology
<https://read.degreeapprenticeships.guide/view/548515636/>

Art Department Update

On Tuesday 30 June 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!

Mandarin Department News

It has been another exciting and successful term for the Mandarin Department, with pupils embracing a wide range of opportunities to develop both their language skills and their understanding of Chinese culture.

A particular highlight was the outstanding achievement of **Poppy Smith (Year 12)**, who received a commendation in the prestigious **Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators**. Her success is a wonderful recognition of her linguistic talent, creativity and dedication to Mandarin, and we wish her every success as she continues her translation journey with the Stephen Spender Prize.



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Our Year 9 students also enjoyed a live online exchange with a partner school in **Chongqing, China**, giving them the opportunity to use their Mandarin in authentic conversations while learning about life and culture from their peers overseas.



It was a fantastic experience that strengthened pupils' confidence, communication skills and global awareness.

Year 7 and Year 8 celebrated the **Dragon Boat Festival** by designing and testing their own boats in a



STEM-inspired challenge, combining creativity, teamwork and problem-solving with cultural learning.



Meanwhile, Year 9 enthusiastically took part in a **Mandarin Song Challenge**, using music to improve

pronunciation, listening skills and confidence in spoken Mandarin.

We would also like to congratulate our **Year 11 and Year 13** Mandarin students on completing their GCSE and A Level courses. Their commitment, resilience and enthusiasm throughout their studies have been exceptional, and we wish them every success with their examination results and future endeavours.



We are incredibly proud of everything our students have achieved this year and look forward to building on these successes in the year ahead.

To see highlights from [the Year 9 Mandarin Song Challenge](#) and [other Mandarin activities](#), please scan the QR code to visit our Mandarin Department Instagram page.



Drama News



Another busy term, the Drama Department. During Culture week, students in Years 8 and 9 created a 'Play in a Day' based on the musical *Moulin Rouge*.



Students had the day to devise their own original drama based on themes from the popular juke box musical, which included creating their songs and dances to communicate narrative and meaning.



Students worked creatively throughout the day, culminating in a range of imaginative performances.

KS3 Drama and Music Festival



On Friday 19th June a number of students across years 7, 8 and 9 came together and performed in the Drama and Music Festival showcasing their hard work and talents. It was a lovely afternoon, which included a variety of pieces from acting, dancing, Musical Theatre pieces alongside instrumentalist,

soloist singing and a band. Well done to everyone who participated!

Year 13 Component 2 exam



Earlier this term, our year 13 A' level Drama and Theatre studies students performed/ designed for the final time, at Upton. They successfully presented a selection of devised and scripted pieces. Their unwavering talent, hardworking attitude, creativity, companionship and commitment were truly evident as they presented five very unique performances, in varying styles. Well done, Year 13. We will miss you!

Year 11 Component 2 exam



Year 11 GCSE Drama students also successfully performed their final scripted performance pieces. Students worked in the role of either an actor or designer and presented extracts from a range of plays including 'Stags and Hen's' by Willy Russell and Teecher's by John Godber.

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Theatre trips

Throughout the year we have been to the theatre multiple times to see shows, this term has been no different with trips to see 'Mallory Tower's' by The Emma Rice Company and the critically acclaimed musical 'Moulin Rouge'.



The girls are always a credit to school showing resilience, excellence and companionship. We have a range of trips planned for our first half term of the new academic year including, 'The Mouse Trap', 'The

Curious Incident of the dog in the night-time', 'Mamma Mia' and the pantomime, 'Aladdin'.



School Production November 2026

This year's school production is Rodgers and Hammerstein's 'The Sound of Music'. Performances will take place on Tuesday 24th, Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th November 2026, in the Assembly Hall.



Auditions will be the week commencing Monday 7th September, all information will be posted on the Drama Extra-Curricular Google Classroom. The announcement last week was met with much

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excitement, and we can't wait to get started on the show!

We couldn't be prouder of all our students, well done on another great year with the Drama department. Keep an eye on our Instagram page for department updates, productions notices and theatre visits @uptonhall_dramadepartment 😊

Library News

Sixth Form Pop-Up Library



On the 6th June 2026 the Culture and Communications Team and Mrs McDonald, our librarian, hosted a pop-up library in the Sixth Form Centre for students in Year 12.

A range of titles were available for students to browse and loan. Year 12 took part in our dot graph activity to showcase the benefits of reading both for enjoyment and for learning. Students were also asked to nominate books for us to add to the library. We heard book recommendations from staff and speeches from the Culture and Communications team to encourage students to read more.

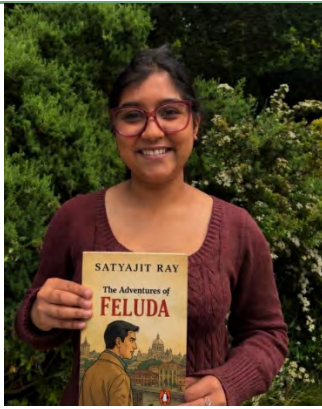
The event was a special morning that allowed us all to connect over our favourite books and explore some new titles.



Head Student Team: Recommended Reads



Martha: One of my favourite books is 'Where The Crawdads Sing'. It centres on Kya, a young girl who grows up in the marshes outside town in North Carolina after being abandoned by her family. She grew up alone in the wild. The novel explores how this affected her and how she is perceived by the community in town. It explores themes of love, loss, abandonment and isolation. I enjoyed it because it is a story that focuses on a young girl's journey into adulthood and the struggles of doing so independently whilst she discerns the difference between those who truly love her and those who will hurt her.



Hanshika: One of my favourite books I have read is 'The Adventures of Feluda' by Satyajit Ray which is a collection of short detective stories featuring the detective Feluda and his cousin Topshe set in India. What I enjoy the most is the uniqueness of the mysteries and how engaging they are with complex plots that aren't easy to guess. They are very memorable stories which I grew up with. I recommend this book because of the way it combines the aspect of mystery and humour while showcasing historical details of India making it overall a very enjoyable read.



Lola: Tara Westover's memoir 'Educated' is a book which I found very interesting. Mormon raised Westover accounts of her journey from only knowing what her father knew to earning a doctorate in Intellectual History at Cambridge University. Her family was preparing for the End of Days and her father believed that the family should interact with government healthcare and education as little as possible. Consequently, she first entered a classroom aged 17.

Her father became more radical and her brother more abusive. At 16 she knew she had to leave but did not want to lose her connection to all she knew for so long- her family. She explores how much she had to sacrifice to become 'Educated'.

She is never cruel when writing about some of her father's most extreme beliefs and speaks openly

about her brother's violence, yet without intense and conventional hatred. I felt more 'Educated' after this read, which is why I would recommend this book.



Jasmine: One of my all-time favourite books, 'Wuthering Heights' follows the complex relationship between Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff, and the lasting impact of their choices on those around them. I particularly enjoy the novel because of its memorable characters, atmospheric setting, and exploration of themes such as love, revenge, and social class.

Despite being written in the nineteenth century, its portrayal of human emotions remains remarkably powerful and relevant. It's a classic for a reason and a book I'd definitely recommend to anyone looking for a compelling read.



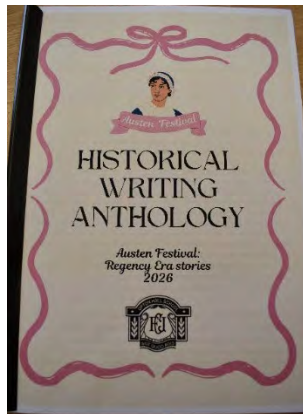
Daisy: 'Wonder' by R.J. Palacio is one of my favourite books. The story follows the experiences of August Pullman, a boy with a facial difference, as he starts a mainstream school for the first time and struggles to fit in. I love this book because of its uplifting and inspiring message. The different perspectives explored in each chapter throughout the novel encourage readers to look beyond appearances and treat others with compassion. 'Wonder' helps readers to understand how our actions can affect others.

I would highly recommend 'Wonder' because it is a memorable read with a powerful lesson that will change your perspective on life. This book is perfect for anyone who is looking for an impactful message that will stay with them long after they finish the book.

Austen Festival: Historical Writing Awards



This half term the History Department welcomed the Year 8 Historical Writing Award Winners to the library to celebrate their achievements. All students in Year 8 have explored life in the Regency Era as part of the Austen Festival. Then they were tasked with a story recipe exercise to let their creativity demonstrate their newfound historical knowledge.



The following students were commended for their efforts and their work features in our Austen Festival Historical Writing Anthology: Hope A., Larissa G., Maddison M., Madison T., Phoebe G., Marie-Ange R., Hallie C., Isla M., Scarlett M.

Young Quills Awards

Each year students are invited to take part in our Young Quills scheme in school which is part of the national scheme hosted by The Historical Association.

Students read books that have been highlighted for their historical accuracy and then reflect on the knowledge they gained from reading the narrative work. This half term we presented the following awards:

Young Quills Gold-

Genevieve S.

Young Quills Silver

Nmesomachi A.O.

Young Quills Bronze

Miley S.



To find out more about the national scheme follow this link:

<https://www.history.org.uk/primary/categories/532/info/4528/young-quills-2026?srsId=AfmBOOqDqMmnye80wJnnEV7aDUW38n84kgeBTmWN77tDR4qKp0wUTzI>

To sign up for our school scheme speak with Dr Campbell or Mrs McDonald

Manjeet Mann Author Visit

On Tuesday 30th June we were delighted to welcome multi-award-winning author, playwright, screenwriter, and actress Manjeet Mann to our school. Students in Years 9,10 and 12 were all involved in inspirational talks about the authors early life and career, her charity work and her creative process as a writer.



Local bookseller Lingham's offered students a chance to take part in a book signing with the author before an afternoon creative writing session. Here students were invited into the author's creative process using visual prompts and emotions to craft poems. If you were inspired by the visit, try one of Manjeet Mann's verse novels: *Run, Rebel*; *The Crossing* or *Roar*. All titles are available in the library.

Poetry by Heart Success

This year we had a host of beautiful entries to Poetry by Heart. Well done to all of our students who took the time this year to learn a poem by heart and to our entries who received the following accolades:



Elodie- Best in County

(Group Entry) Olatoni, Larissa and Miley- Highly Commended

(Group Entry) Elodie and Elizabeth- Highly Commended
Olatoni- Highly Commended
Brooke- Commended
Sydney - Commended

Reading Champions and the House Cup

Congratulations to year 7 students in Fire house for their incredible efforts in reading this term. They have won the House Cup for reading engagement.

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

Individual prizes were also awarded to students in each house who have gone above and beyond in their reading efforts this term. Congratulations to: Kayleen T., Okikioluwa K.A., Paige R., Abigail G., Anna G., Hattie P., Eva P., Aoife R., Edith O., Grace E., Ia E., Martyna K., Daisy J., Niamh S., Rose M..

Students can earn reading engagement points for reading around school; finishing their books; handing in reading bookmarks to the library and pushing themselves to read more.

Congratulations to Fire House and all of our inspirational Reading Champions!

READING HOUSE CUP



FIRE WINS!

READING CHAMPIONS



Upton Hall School FCJ Books of the Year 25-26

After a wonderful year celebrating our Upton Hall School FCJ Book of the Year shortlist we have three winners.

KS3 Book of the Year: 'Safiyyah's War' by Hiba Noor Khan

KS4 Book of the Year: 'Heartstopper' by Alice Oseman

KS5 Book of the Year: 'Piranesi' by Susanna Clarke

Thank you to our student judges and to all students and staff who read a book from the shortlist this year. Make sure to come and tell us about any brilliant books you read over the Summer so that we can add them to the longlist for the Upton Hall School FCJ Book of the Year 26-27!



Carnegie Medal

Led by the vividly portrayed 'Red,' the story draws on the different tropes of Red Riding Hood as we know it and masterfully subverts them. Readers are offered a window into her world and lived experience, and are offered insightful comments on the impact of psychological power. There's a boldness to this reimagined tale that is fresh and exciting. The Carnegies are the UK's longest running and best-loved children's book awards, recognising outstanding reading experiences created through writing and illustration in books for children and young people.

The Carnegie Medal for Writing is awarded by children's librarians for an outstanding book written in English for children and young people. The Carnegie Medal for Illustration is awarded by children's librarians for an outstanding book in terms of illustration for children and young people.



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Music Department news

On Tuesday 14th July, our annual Summer Concert took place in our Sports Hall, celebrating and showcasing the musical talents of our pupils. Their dedication and commitment have been superb, and



this was evidenced by the high-quality performances they produced, from Strauss to Sister Act, and everything in between! The music department wishes to thank you all for your support during this academic year, and we look forward to entertaining you again next year!

This term, we also launched our Parish Choral Contribution programme, which began with our Chamber Choir providing music to enhance the liturgy at Sunday mass at Our Lady's church in Birkenhead. The students were commended by numerous parishioners for their beautiful singing. If you would like to nominate your parish for the Chamber Choir to visit, then please contact Mrs Hulme.

DoE Community Service



Amelia in Year 9 has been helping out at Tam O'Shanter's Urban Farm as part of her DoE.

Amelia and her friend made and sold cakes, on a regular basis, donating funds to help feed the animals. Such a great example of community spirit.



Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm

3h · 🌐

Two wonderful members of our farm family are hosting a bake sale on site today to raise some money for us!! 🐑

We are so grateful, so come down and try some of their homemade tasty treats today 🍰



All in for Fin – your help please...

"All in for Fin" is a community initiative supporting a local 19-year old boy from Prenton, Fin Cormack. You may have read Fin's story in the media as it has recently been published in the Wirral Globe, Liverpool Echo and nationally in the Daily Mirror.

Fin has lived with a severe congenital heart condition from birth called Ebstein's anomaly. Despite multiple surgeries, Fin's heart is now failing again. He is currently being assessed to go on the UK heart transplant list, but after seeking expert advice from the world leader in this field in the US, the family has been offered a life changing and preferable alternative. Dr Dearani at the Mayo clinic believes he can replace Fin's failing valve, giving him the chance of a more normal life and potentially delaying the need for a transplant for at least 10-15 years. The procedure is not available in the UK, but in consultation with the medical professionals, Fin's family have concluded this is the best option for him.

The challenge is the significant costs of the surgery, which must take place by the end of the year. As a

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community, we are working urgently to raise the necessary funds through a range of initiatives. More information can be found on the dedicated website - <https://www.allinforfin.co.uk>.

We are reaching out to Wirral schools to ask whether you might be able to support this appeal in any way. Fin's younger brother, Jacob, shared that Fin's favourite colour is red, and so his school is holding a "wear red day" in Fin's honour in return for a small donation. We were hoping that other local schools may be able to do something similar. Any other fundraising ideas that align with your school's ethos would be warmly welcomed.

The Wirral is known for its kindness, generosity and strong sense of community. Supporting Fin offers a meaningful opportunity for pupils to learn about compassion, the importance of community and helping others in need, which in today's day and age of social media and AI has never been more important.

We would be extremely grateful if you could let us know if your school is able to support our appeal and, if so, what you may have planned. If helpful, we would be delighted to acknowledge your support through our social media channels. Thank you sincerely for taking the time to read this and for considering supporting Fin and his family.

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 avoidable uniform issues.

Mobile Phones

Earlier this term, we introduced phone pouches as part of our commitment to creating a calm, focused

learning environment. Thank you to all parents who supported this by purchasing the pouches and reinforcing the expectations at home. This initiative, which aligns with current government guidance, is already helping students enjoy a much-needed digital break during the school day.

A gentle reminder to those parents who have continued to contact their daughters during school hours: please avoid doing so. When students are encouraged to break the rules, it places them in a difficult position and may result in a suspension. We appreciate your support in ensuring all students can follow the policy consistently and safely.

Free School Meals

From September 2026, eligibility for Free School Meals is expanding to include all children in households receiving Universal Credit, regardless of earnings. Therefore, we are encouraging all families to check whether they may be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM). Eligibility can be checked by using the link below:

www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-wirral

Dates for your diary

Thursday 13 August: AS/A2 Results

Thursday 20 August: GCSE Results

Thursday 3 September: Years 7, 12 and 13 return

Friday 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

Mrs Andrea Gaunt
HEADMISTRESS