

NEWSLETTER

Mr Fay writes.....

Once more we are coming up to the Christmas season and I hope everyone is looking forward to an excellent holiday period. It has been a very hardworking term at Ulverston Victoria High School during which we have been building on the successes of last year's examination results and we have been constantly looking to add to the all round education which creates our positive ethos.

This year I have asked our Year 11 Senior Students to write you a Christmas message to tell you their feelings about the school:

We'd like to begin by thanking everyone for the opportunity we've been given to represent the students in school and within the wider community. We would also like to express how pleased and enthusiastic we are to take on our new roles.



As the first term comes to a close and the Christmas holidays draw near, we are happy to see the Year 7 (of whom joined us only a few months ago – back in September – and those who have joined since) settled in and enjoying the school life here.

This positive attitude and work ethic seems to be reciprocated throughout the school as well, as Years 8, 9 and 10 are continuing on with their studies – the latter, focusing on the beginning of their GCSEs, including coursework and exam practice.

As for the Year 11, the preparations have already begun for the upcoming mocks and exams. We ourselves are becoming more aware of the crucial importance of this culmination in our school careers and are swiftly recognising the significance of gaining as much out of our schooling as we possibly can.

The Sixth Form, as usual, is a hive of activity with Year 12 adapting to the challenge of AS levels after GCSEs and Year 13 composing their UCAS forms whilst gearing up for A Levels.

Hopefully you will hear from us again soon, we look forward to the next term and hope you have a wonderful Christmas.

Jacob, Megan, Will and Bella. Year 11 Head Boy, Head Girl and Deputies.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! With best wishes from Mr Fay and all at UVHS.

CHRISTMAS 2016

UVHS CELEBRATES SUCCESS AT THE CN GROUP GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS 2016!

The seventh Golden Apple Awards ceremony was held at Carlisle Racecourse on Friday 7th October. This awards ceremony honoured local education, training and skills heroes from across all areas of learning and community life. Of the nineteen categories UVHS was a finalist in three.



(Photo courtesy of North West Evening Mail)

These included Support Staff of the Year (The Admin Staff at UVHS) which was an award for an individual or a team of support staff, who always give exceptional service and make a real difference to their educational establishment through their work.

The Inclusion Award (The Engagement Centre) was for staff or organisations supporting students facing challenges to a mainstream curriculum. Our Engagement Centre is designed to maximise standards of learning and behaviour for vulnerable and hard to reach pupils.

Lastly we were nominated for Secondary School of the Year for being an exceptional secondary school that stands out from the rest. It was an honour to be nominated and we were delighted to be awarded the prize!

It was reported that "The award recognises the role the school is playing on the education scene locally and nationally. As well as being one of Cumbria's most successful secondaries, UVHS is a leader in its field nationally." Awards judges described the school's entry as "A strong allround package which highlighted the pioneering teaching that takes place there. Standards are such that they have been highlighted on a national scale."

We are honoured to have received this accolade and wish to thank all the staff and governors at UVHS for their dedication and hard

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work, the wonderful children who make our jobs so fulfilling and rewarding, and of course you, the parents, who work in partnership alongside us to ensure the best possible outcome for every child. Thank you!













Visit to the First World War Battlefields

On 9th October, 41 Year 9 students and 5 members of staff from Ulverston Victoria High School set off for the First World War battlefields of Belgium and northern France.

Over the course of four days we managed to fit in a huge range of sites important to the history of the First World War and beneficial in helping the students learn more about the experiences of



the soldiers. Our students walked through preserved the Yorkshire Trench' outside Ypres and pondered how the modern world has grown up around this memory of the war as the trench is now located in the middle of an

out of town industrial estate. We meandered through the In Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres making use of the exhibits to

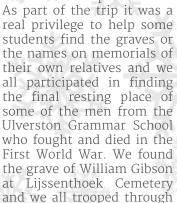
further our understanding of the scale of the war.

We visited a number War Graves Commonwealth Commission Cemeteries and learnt about the history of this organisation and its great task to bury and memorialise the fallen soldiers from Britain and the empire. We saw the enormous Lochnagar crater, and walked through the preserved battlefields of the Somme at Beaumont Hamel, learning the story of the Newfoundland troops who bravely defended their stretch of the front line with most making the ultimate sacrifice. We gazed in awe at the sheer size and



thousands of names commemorating the missing of the Battle of the Somme at Thiepval

Memorial and we paid our respects on behalf of the school with two members of the trip taking part in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres.



the corn fields that have grown over the No Man's Land of the Somme to find Albert Metcalfe's grave at Lonsdale Cemetery. It meant a lot to see our students find the final resting place of these men.

Remembrance News

Alongside the school Remembrance service and assemblies in November we run a number of other projects during the year, including the Year 9 Battlefields trip also covered in the newsletter.

Our Red, White and Blue non-uniform day raised £1165.27 for three charities supporting current and ex-service men and women. Red, White & Blue Day is run jointly by ABF The Soldiers' Charity, The RAF Benevolent Fund and The



Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity. Each of these three charities is responsible for the welfare of soldiers, sailors and airmen and their families. A number of our students also entered the Red, White and Blue competition to write a postcard home from a conscripted soldier in 1916. Lexi B, Chloe T and Ellie W have all made it

through to the national final and we should hear how they have done early next year.

A new section has been added to the UVHS Remembrance website containing research about the evacuees who were

brought
to live in
Ulverston
from cities in
other parts of
the country.
Most of the
information
is from
Ulverston
Victoria
Grammar
School during



the Second World War and it is all available here http://uvhs.uk/evacuees/. We have also scanned and digitised many fascinating articles from the old school magazine about the First World War. They can be read online at http://www.uvhs.uk/remembrance/the-victorian/ or downloaded to search for the names of students or teachers who served in the war.

Medal Haul for Fraser!

Former Head Boy of UVHS, Fraser Minnican, popped into school recently to catch up with Mr Fay.



After Year 11, Fraser went on to Millfield School to study A Levels in Maths, Chemistry and Physics and is currently studying for a Masters degree in Aeronautical Engineering at Loughborough University.

Fraser updated Mr Fay on his successes with the England Swimming

Team for which he had recently won a medal when he swam at Lignano in Italy.

Creativity in Textiles

The Year 7, 8 and 9 Textiles students have had a busy term creating a range of products following a variety of themes.

Following the success of the project last year, the Year 7 students have been creating environmentally friendly Morsbags inspired by marine life. They have been using Tie

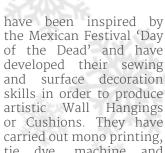


Dye, Printing and Applique to create their masterpieces that can help reduce the use of plastic bags in the community.

Year 8 have been going 'TECHNO' and using CAD/ CAM to create pop art inspired pencil cases, their sewing skills have been

put to the test when adding applique and fastenings. students in Year 9





the Mexican Festival 'Day of the Dead' and have developed their sewing and surface decoration skills in order to produce artistic Wall Hangings or Cushions. They have carried out mono printing, tie dye, machine and hand embroidery in their creations.

Ahoy Sailor!

The UVHS Sailing club had two sailing evenings before the dark nights set in and will pick up again in the summer. The students had the benefit of a superb outdoor pursuits sailing instructor, Ian, who briefed them on how to rig a dinghy, then set them off to sail in pairs.



Ms Hirst was delighted by how quickly they picked up helming and crewing, such naturals, it just seemed they could do no wrong. Watching them pull in the sheet of the gib, set a true course with the wind direction and shoot off down the lake at a rapid set of knots was amazing when you consider this was, for most of them their first time in a boat! Once the wind died down we were left with no other alternative than to tip the boats over and practise capsize drill! The noise level drowned out even the jets flying over, very exciting. It's quite tricky to right a boat but all managed this task brilliantly, so good they kept on capsizing until we had to call it quits and tow them safely back to shore.

The two experienced sailors sailed a catamaran called a dart and flew above the lake until they abandoned it to join in with capsizing boats!

All safely returned to UVHS, dry, warm, hungry and ready to sleep!

Tastebud Temptations!

UVHS Year 11 Catering students carried out their second and final practical exam as part of their GCSE Catering course. Their brief was to plan and create a two course meal for two people based around an international cuisine of their

choice.



Catering students shown have tremendous dedication, enthusiasm and skill in their dishes and they should be extremely proud of themselves!

Students will now

begin to prepare for their written exam at the end of year. Both Mr Hall and Ms Shaw are extremely proud of all of the catering students and how well they have worked in this practical exam - congratulations Year 11!



UVHS ran their first crumble club this Autumn after the bumper harvest of fruits donated bv staff and students throughout September. Students from across Year 7 - 9 stayed behind after school to prepare delicious hot crumbles to take home with the

invaluable help of our top crumble club chefs: Mrs Hillman, Miss Dixon and Mrs Walker-Menzler. It was a fantastic



success to see how much food you can make from the free fruits on offer in our own hedgerows and orchards using local, seasonal produce. Keep an eye out for other exciting seasonal projects in the Food department!



Marvellous Maths!



Year 7 have been extremely busy with the Maths department this half term, working with the likes of BAE Roadshow, Barclays Bank and developing their numeracy skills with Pokemaths!

In a unique partnership between BAE Systems, the RAF and the Royal Navy, the BAE Roadshow aims to stimulate young people about the need for mathematicians, scientists and engineers in the future. We invited the BAE Roadshow to work with our Year 7s to give a live interactive presentation on the applications of



STEM subjects, by exploring light, sound and water waves and how they translate to real-life jobs.

Students in Year 7 have also had the opportunity

to work with Barclay's Bank, who introduced basic financial knowledge and helped develop life skills, enabling pupils to make positive life choices. Pupils learnt about budgeting, direct debits, loans and different types of bank accounts.

Pokemon has been a worldwide phenomenon and extremely popular with pupils and members of the Maths department! So when Pokemon and Maths is combined we have POKEMATHS! Pupils are assigned 49 mathematical activities on MyMaths and every time a pupil completes 2 activities scoring above 70% they receive a Pokemon sticker and the aim is to catch them all! This is run as a form competition, throughout the year. Well done to 7.7 who currently top the leaderboard.

Position	Form	Total Completed
1	7.7	509
2	7.6	247
3	7.1	231
4	7.5	159
5	7.2	96
6	7.4	94
7	7.3	51

The Maths Challenge season is underway and the year 8 and 9 students have started their training for the regional team final. Thanks to our sixth formers Vince, Ryan, Sulagna, Emily, Dylan and Keenan for running these sessions so well. In the Senior Individual Challenge, congratulations to both Vince and Sulagna who won a gold certificate and to all the others for their silvers and bronzes. Special mention for Diego from Italy who coped fantastically with the tricky language of the questions and achieved a bronze.

To keep up to date with the latest news from the Maths department follow us on Twitter!

Things that go bump in the night....

UVHS celebrated the world of reading in October with a Halloween-themed book fair.

There was a broad selection of blood-curdling books available to buy at discounted prices (supplied by the excellent Hills Books in Workington); two terrifying witches (or was it Mrs Anderson and Miss Herrington?) worked tirelessly at the

counter; the library was bedecked with deadly decorations and bone-chilling backdrops courtesy of a fierce, untameable werewolf (or was it the school librarian, Mrs Downing?); and a sordid selection of Halloween based treats – bat-shaped





bloodnachos, infused salsa (not ghoulish, really), gourmet cakes and, of course, fresh blood (well, blackcurrant cordial) to wash it all down with were all supplied Frankenstein's by monster, the Bride of

Dracula and a horde of slithering swamp things. Of course that could easily have just been Mr Hall, Ms Shaw and some of their catering students! Whoever these oddities were, the evening was described by parents and students as a huge success: 'a great evening, really enjoyable' and 'let's have more like this, please' were just two of the many positive comments made.

The evening closed with a couple of ghostly readings from two members of staff who may or may not have been wearing Halloween masks – no one can tell. Mr Stubbert read some terrifying extracts from Bram Stoker's Dracula whilst Mr Guerrero enthralled the crowd with a traditional ghost tale, assuring us all that the spirit described is to be found only in the region of North Wales...Or is it? (Even if you do see it, you'll hardly be able to pronounce it: the Gwrach-y-Rhibyn.) There will be more book fair fun at Christmas, complete with the additional opportunity to contribute to a festive-themed collaborative reading. (You can still watch last year's 'Twas The Night Before Christmas via the school's website or on Youtube.) The new date is yet to be confirmed, but there'll be more food, more books and plenty of merry fun.

Ho-ho-hope to see you there! It'll be a cracker. (Sorry!)

Sixth Form Visit to Glaxo

On 21st October eight of our 6th form students attended a day shadowing experts from Glaxo.

Students had a tour of the factory and worked alongside those in the discipline areas across their career choices. The day also included an opportunity to hear about being an apprentice; the scheme itself, as well as gaining guidance on the application process.

Some students had never visited the site so seeing first hand how the Pharmaceutical company worked from research and development to manufacturing was an experience enjoyed by all involved.





Year 11 Careers Fair

EmployAbility uthampton and

From Scotland to Southampton and many places in between!

On Wednesday 2nd November, UVHS held a career's fair for Year 11 students. A total of 34 exhibitors attended and gave us lots of useful and helpful information that will help us make the right post 16 choices. I found the careers fair interesting as it widened my outlook to what is available to me once I leave UVHS. It allowed us to ask any further questions to the exhibitors that only they themselves were able to answer. Attending the career's fair confirmed how much focus I need to apply to lessons to achieve the grades I want to achieve. This will enable me to go into a profession I know I will enjoy and will be able to do for many years to come.



There was a good variety of different businesses, colleges, training providers and universities attending the fair, which included lots of local organisations. There were also organisations from further afield, such as Scotland's Rural College and Southampton University. Job Centre Plus gave a talk on Labour Market Information which gave us information that was unexpected and informative.

I really enjoyed the Careers fair and I hope the next year 11's will find it has helpful as we all did.

By Demi, Year 11.

Boccia Stars Celebrate Success!

On a cold and crisp morning 10 students from the Sports Ability club travelled to Penrith Leisure Centre and took part in The Cumbria Lord Taveners County Boccia Competition.

The students were quickly engaged in a competitive tournament



with 2 UVHS teams reaching the semi-finals. the day progressed the excitement and tension built up as all the players used their tactics and skills. Congratulations all players for a fantastic day and team performance.

Success was achieved by Ella (team Captain), Harvey and Alfie securing the bronze medal and a place at the regional finals at Liverpool in the new year.

Exploring Health Careers

On Saturday 22nd and Saturday 29th October, UVHS students attended an Exploring Health

Careers event held at the University of Cumbria, Lancaster University and the Royal Lancaster Infirmary. The event was hosted by the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay (UHMB) and UCLAN, and Edge Hill University were also present.

The aim of the day was to give students an insight into

different roles available in the NHS and what their duties contain as well as the possible routes to take to get there.

The day was spilt up into three main parts: Acute Admissions, On the Ward and Rehabilitation & Discharge. In order to connect these areas, the event organisers had created a patient scenario- 'Dan', 18 years old, was riding his bike to the university and then was hit by a car. We then followed Dan's journey through to his recovery.

Oliver from year 11 concluded, all in all, this

University of Cumbria
WWW.cumbria.ec.uk.
Experience
University

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event was highly educational; expanding my understanding and knowledge of medical careers. The event made me more interested in pursuing a career in medicine but it has also opened the doors to other careers inside the NHS that I haven't thought of before. If this trip was to run again, I would highly

recommend it even if you are only questioning a career in healthcare or are unsure about it.

Lexi from year 11 said, after this event I felt excited and motivated for my future as I was able to conclude that a career in Occupational Health was certainly a likely possibility for me. Thank you Miss Herrington for informing me of the event and giving me the opportunity to discover what my future may hold.

Year 11 Exam Preparation Evening

Year 11 parents are invited to an exam preparation evening on Thursday 5th January 2017. The evening commences at 6.00 pm for one hour and will give vital information to assist parents in supporting their child in the final run up to the GCSE examinations, as follows:

A presentation on supporting your child's revision process. A presentation on what is needed by Heads of Core subjects. An opportunity to discuss what your child needs to do to succeed – with core subject leaders.

An opportunity to purchase stationery items in readiness for the Practice Examinations.

Letters of invitation will be sent to Year 11 parents very soon.

Ulverston Victoria High School

Sports Round Up!

Girls Football at UVHS has been outstanding this term. Well done to our Under 13 Football team (pictured below) who have beaten Walney, Dowdales, St Bernard's and most recently Ullswater Community College to get to the final of the Cumbria County Cup competition. They will play St Benedict's school of Whitehaven in the final early next year.

Our Year 7 and Year 8 girls also won the Barrow Schools 7-a-side competitions, a huge well done to all those involved. Our Under 15 Girls Football team have also reached the semi-final of the County Cup. They now play Trinity School, Carlisle at home, date and time yet to be confirmed.



Our Under 15 girls have scored 20 goals in their last 2 games against Cartmel and Dowdales! We currently have over 50 girls coming to extra-curricular training for football and new members are always welcome. Well done girls!

Netball

Our Year 7 Netballers have started the year extremely strongly. We currently have 40 girls that attend training every week. Our Year 7a team are currently unbeaten and our Year 7b team have shown great team spirit and are improving every game. The Year 8 girls netball team are also experiencing regular success in the friendly fixtures so far which bodes well for next year when the more formal competitions take place. We have 30 regular netballers attending training each week in Year 8 on a Thursday after school.

The Year 9 Netballers again have started really strong. 30 Year 9 girls train every Monday and have played really well in their friendly fixtures, recently beating St Bernard's 26–1.

Boys Football

Year 7 boys have had good results, winning their local fixture against Walney, and their first National Cup fixture against Dowdales 6–3, but losing the next round against a very strong St Benedict's team.

They did win the Furness Schools 5-a-side competition, only conceding 1 goal and scoring 22. They now progress to the regional finals in Sunderland next February.

They also narrowly lost in the Furness Schools 7-a-side semi-final to St Bernard's.

Year 8 boys are into the County Cup quarter finals against Trinity school in Carlisle after beating Dowdales in the previous round.

Year 9 have only had 1 full match this year due to there not being an U14 County Cup competition. They won this against Millom school and now await a semi-final against Dowdales. They also entered the Furness Schools 7-a-side competition and despite being unbeaten, finished a close second behind St Bernard's.

Year 10 didn't have the run they were hoping for in either the County or National Cup competitions. They won their first games against Millom, Queen Katherine, Dowdales and Chetwynde before being beaten by Kirkbie Kendal School in both competitions. It was unfortunate for them this year that they were drawn against the same school in both competitions for two fixtures in a row, meaning that they only played two teams over four fixtures. Hopefully next year will be more fruitful for them.

They narrowly lost on penalties in the Furness Schools 7-a-side competition, the first time they haven't won this since starting at UVHS in year 7. They also still have the Furness Schools league cup to finish, again, something they have won every year so far.

Year 11 were unfortunately knocked out of the National Cup by Kirkbie Kendal after beating Dallam in the first round 11-1. They won their Furness Schools cup match against Millom school and now await Furness Academy in the Semi-Final.

Year 7 Rugby

The Year 7 rugby team (pictured below) have worked very hard to develop their skills this year by training twice a week with Barrow Rugby star Joe Bullock. In their first outing they played in a festival at Dowdales competing against all other schools. With only one student who played rugby regularly it was obvious they had a lot of potential but needed to work on their understanding of positions. They lost their first 3 games but with a last minute try in the final game they managed to defeat Chetwynde. This gave them a good foundation to build on for the Barrow Schools cup matches. In the first game they came up against Walney and after lots of hard work emerged as winners by 18–12.



This boost in confidence continued in the next game where they defeated St Bernard's 24–6. Coraan C and Benji S scoring the all important tries. In the semi-final the team came up against a very strong Dowdales team and despite never giving up lost by 32–6 with Kai T scoring our try. Great effort and potential for the future from a very inexperienced team. Well done!

Year 8 Rugby League

The team travelled to Millom School for their first group game of the Barrow Schools Year 8 Rugby League Town Cup Competition. The field was not in the best condition with it being very muddy and wet underfoot. Having performed well in their first year as a Year 7 team, high hopes were had for this team in Year 8. Unfortunately, the side missing some players from last year found Millom just too strong losing 18 – 4. The boys never stopped trying though and simply made too many handling errors giving Millom too much possession during the game. Our second game against Dowdales was a disappointing forfeit with the game clashing with a Barrow AFC Junior Football competition. Unfortunately we simply could not find enough reserves to fill the positions left, which meant we progressed no further in the year 8 competition this year.

Ulverston Victoria High School

Sports Round Up!

Year 10 Rugby League

The team were up against Chetwynde and Millom Schools in the group games of the Year 10 Barrow Schools Town Cup this year. Playing against Chetwynde at UVHS, the team put together a good performance to win 32-12. Our second game was at Millom School to play on a very wet and boggy field which hindered our attacking style of play. The game was again a tough fought affair between the two schools. UVHS held the upper hand at 18 -10 when unfortunately the game had to be cut short with approximately 8 minutes to play. Our two wins across the groups stage gave the team a home draw in our Semi-Final clash against St Bernard's. The weather had not been kind over the previous weeks before, which left the ground in a wet and slippery state. Both schools were up for the match but some very sloppy defense early on in the first half gave St Bernard's easy points and a lead they would never relinquish. The UVHS team managed to score two trys to St Bernard's four across the first half and St Bernard's took a 22-10 lead to the half time break. A much improved effort was required from the UVHS boys and that is what they gave. We were the dominant side over the second half, but unfortunately some really good try scoring opportunities on 3 occasions were squandered and although we won the second half 8-6 the final score finished 28-18 to

English Schools Cross County Cup

16 pupils from UVHS ran in the Cumbria round of the Cross-Country Cup in October at Sedbergh School. All 16 ran extremely well, on quite a challenging course. A big well done

special and mention should go to the four Year 7 and 8 girls, who finished all the top in from 20, 96 runners. This meant were placed 2nd in Cumbria!

St Bernard's.





Well done to Abigail B, Molly W and Eva N for an excellent race but a huge well done to Olesia W in Year 7 (pictured above), for finishing 1st – 200m in front of the rest of the competitions!

Year 10 Visit to Paris

The 2016 visit to Paris was fantastic and the weather was very hot! The group was made up of 22 students and 3 members of staff who spent 3 days in the French capital

from 17th-20th July.

During those three days we travelled around Paris on the Metro. We went to the top of the Eiffel Tower, took a boat trip on the river Seine, visited Notre Dame Cathedral,



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we saw the Mona Lisa (a surprisingly small painting!) in the Louvre Museum, we visited the Sacré-Cœur and we went to the Musée D'Orsay.

It was a great experience and opportunity for us

to practise our French whilst shopping, visiting markets and eating in restaurants. Thank you so much Mr Bates, Miss Cockayne and Mr Green!

By Lucy, Year 11.

Art Gallery Visit to Liverpool

Year 12 and Year 13 Art students enjoyed a day visiting galleries in Liverpool at the end of November. The first part of the day was spent in the Tate studying a range of inspiring contemporary works arranged as "constellations". At the heart of each constellation was a 'trigger' artwork, chosen for its profound and revolutionary effect on modern and contemporary art. Surrounding the trigger works were artworks that relate to it and to each other, across time and location. We enjoyed making contextual links with an imaginative display of art works by Barbara Hepworth, Marcel Duchamp, Joseph

Beuys, Rachel Whiteread, Glenn Ligon amongst others and also enjoyed a well curated display of the work of William Blake and Tracey Emin displayed alongside each other, demonstrating a shared concern with birth, death and spirituality in both artists' work.

We also visited the John Moores 2016 Painting Prize at the Walker Gallery and looked at works whose influence ranged from George Orwell's



'Animal Farm' to a statue of an assassinated politician. Similarly diverse were the painting materials used by some of this year's artists, from Plasticine on an altered book cover to acrylic on sheets of industrial aluminium foil. We also took time to absorb influences from the large range of paintings, from the 13th Century onwards, which are permanently housed in the magnificent, atmospheric building. After this thoroughly inspiring and enjoyable visit which will have an significant impact on informing our studies and driving forwards our creative practice, we look forward to many more gallery visits in the future.



Ulverston Victoria High School

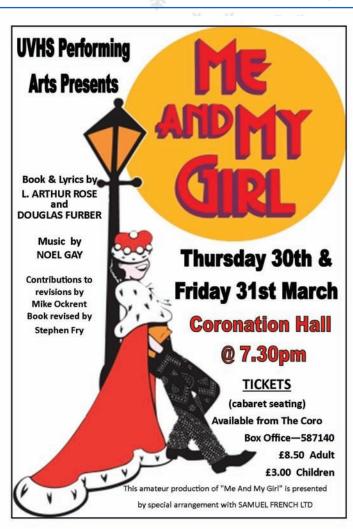


Boxes of Hope

On the 15th November 39 brightly coloured shoeboxes filled with Christmas gifts left UVHS on their journey to Eastern Europe.



local Charity Boxes of Hope Cumbria co-ordinate the collection and distribution the boxes bringing a little bit of Christmas magic and hope children do not who have the same opportunities we have at a time of giving.



Early Closure: Friday 16th December 2016

UVHS will close at 1.50 pm on the last day of Autumn Term, Friday 16th December 2016. School transport have been informed and will collect students at this earlier time. Students who use the train to Barrow will be able to catch the train that leaves Ulverston at 2.00 pm for journeys to Dalton/Roose/Barrow. Students return to school on Wednesday 4th January 2017.

Dramatic Productions!

Educational excursions to the theatre and reviewing live productions has been the mainstay of A Level and GCSE Drama for many years now. And whilst visiting the theatre for the purpose of fulfilling specification requirements is necessary, it is by no means – and never should be – the sole reason for organising theatre trips.

Fostering a love of theatre in students and providing them with a mixed programme of theatre opportunities has always been something which Mr Vogler, Head of Drama has enjoyed doing.

Mr Vogler's first term at UVHS has been no exception. Students have run the cultural gauntlet of Sophocles' Elektra which they went to see at Theatre by The Lake in Keswick back in September. This rather wonderful contemporary rendition of the classical tragedy was cleverly staged in the Traverse, complete with modern dance and political references. Something lighter followed with Alan Ayckbourn's futuristic and somewhat dystopian comedy 'Henceforward' at The Old Laundry Theatre in Bowness. But the theatre season seemed to return to the visceral with a trip to the Brewery Arts Centre to see the Black Eyed Theatre Company's touring production of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein in November. It hasn't been all doom, gloom and gothic, though. Students also joined staff to see the rather excellent 'Happy Hour' at the Coronation Hall, a riotous and zany physical comedy piece examining the pursuit of happiness, just in time for Panto season! Next term sees students travelling to Salford to see the acclaimed 'Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time', a touring National Theatre production, as well as a trip to see a staged musical production of 'The Commitments'. More visits are planned for the remainder of the academic year and students in all Key Stages can find out about them from the Drama notice board, the Performing Arts blog and Performing Arts teaching staff.

Engineering Accolades

This year's Barrow and District Association of Engineers Bursary Awards evening saw Luke O (year 13) awarded 'Best of the Best' from students studying STEM subjects across Furness schools and colleges. The bursaries, awarded each year, are for academic achievement in year 12 and a commitment to extra-curricular activities in engineering. Luke is applying to Cambridge to study engineering and we are confident that this award will help with his application.

Also at the presentation evening were displays of engineering projects from Charlie B, Jamie S, Matthew T and Ben E. The projects were carried out over the Summer holidays at Siemens as part of the Nuffield Physics programme. The students, now in year 13, had been given a research and design project to carry out over four weeks during which time they impressed Siemens engineers with their aptitude, commitment and ability to keep pace with a very steep learning curve. The students also entered their projects into the Cumbria Big Bang fair where Matthew was awarded Young Engineer of the Year. All four have achieved coveted Gold Crest Awards which will be presented at prize giving evening; only five Gold Crest awards have been made in Cumbria this year so this is quite an achievement for our students. Our thanks go to everyone at Siemens who have supported the students throughout the entire process.



Ulverston Victoria High School

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