



CHRISTMAS 2017

Mr Fay writes....

Once again we have had an excellent term at UVHS. Despite chronic underfunding, which makes the school the worst funded LA secondary in Cumbria, the school continues to deliver outcomes well above county and national averages. We are oversubscribed by parents who clearly identify with our Victoria Values and who understand that this is a real school which offers a broad and balanced curriculum, lots of extra-curricular opportunities, wrapped in a caring environment underpinned by clear standards. You will not find UVHS playing games with your children's future to artificially boost a Progress 8 score as in many schools. As Christmas comes along the ethos of our school is particularly obvious. I see great learning going on, but also a brilliant atmosphere as the children take part in traditional activities which help build the spirit and team work of the school. Merit points are awarded for being in the school panto, the



delightful sound of the practice for the school concert wafts into my office, the new Christmas Fayre is to take place and students take part in trips and activities, some of which they will remember for most of their lives. It is the mixture of the vital work in the classroom with the extra-curricular opportunities which make a great school and UVHS is an exceptional place.

I never lose that warm feeling when, at the end of the term, children enthusiastically wish me a "Merry Christmas".

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We would also like to introduce the Head Boy and Head Girl Teams From Y11 Head Boy Owen, Head Girl Charlotte with Deputies Hal and Amelia.

From Sixth Form Head Boy Tom, Head Girl Sophie with Deputies Ben, Rory & Georgia.



Golden Apple Award Winners Again!

We are delighted to announce that the winner of the Golden Apple Awards 2017 for Inclusion is our very own Engagement Centre at UVHS. This Cumbria wide honour is awarded to recognise an organisation, partnership or initiative which supports students of any age who may face challenges during their education. The Engagement Centre at UVHS is in place to maximise standards of learning and behaviour for these students. This practice is delivered via interventions from Y7 to Y11. The room is staffed by a full time Senior Learning Mentor, Mrs Vanessa Douglas and two part time Learning Mentors, Mrs Dani Butler and Mrs Claire Burnside, within a therapeutic holistic environment, where staff maintain regular contact with appropriate external agencies to support students at UVHS. A key part of the Centre's work is to provide students with social and emotional skills to help with their learning and life outside school. The annual Christmas dinner is a highlight of the year, with students planning, preparing, cooking and eating together with Engagement Centre staff and members of our governing body and the Senior Leadership Team. This is an invaluable opportunity for students to work together as well as to enjoy the festive celebrations. We would like to congratulate our fantastic colleagues for their unstinting hard work, enthusiasm and passion. The school would not be the place it is without their devotion and dedication to the children in their care.



Orienteering Success Continues!



On the weekend of 18th – 19th November the Orienteering Club travelled down to the Forest of Dean to compete at the British Schools Orienteering Championships. It was a very successful weekend particularly for the girls whose teams won a trophy in years 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13. The Y11 girls won silver as did the Y12 boys and the Y8 and Y13 boys won bronze. Individual medals were won by Luke Y7 (gold), Jessica Y7 (bronze), Emily Y8 (gold), Lizzie Y9 (silver), Jess Y8 (bronze), Merryn Y10 (silver), Jess Y11 (silver), Anna Y13 (gold) and Fiona Y13 (bronze). Overall the team came an impressive second with individual medal winners contributing to this silver medal position.

In further Orienteering news the Junior Girls Team, which competed at the World Schools Orienteering Championships in Sicily earlier this year were the richly deserved winners of the Cumbria Junior Sports Team of the Year at the Cumbria Sports Awards 2017.





Educational Project Kenya 2018



Next July, 14 students from UVHS will be embarking on a volunteer trip to Nakuru, Kenya with the charity African Adventures. We will be there to help teach children of all ages, many of whom come from extremely deprived backgrounds, and to aid in the construction of school buildings. During our 17 day stay, we hope to improve the standard of education for the students



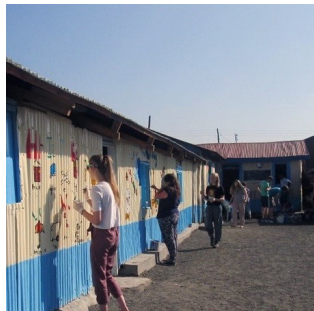
there, in a small way. It is a mission which has become very important to our group of volunteers, who share the belief that a good quality education should be available to everyone.

"We have been busy fundraising

to support this trip since August. You may have seen us at Car Boot sales, bag packing in your local supermarket, busking in town or selling cakes in the annex. We are really looking forward to experiencing a new culture and to making a difference. Any support that could be offered would be much appreciated."

-Alex Y12

For further information contact Mr Ford or Ms Shaw.



Battlefields Trip cont....



on behalf of our school to show that we still remember the sacrifice made by so many. On the third day, we journeyed to the battlefields of the Somme. We saw the vast Lochnagar crater, walked through the preserved trenches of Beaumont Hamel, and lunched at the Ulster memorial. At the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme, amongst the 72,000 names, we found the name of Alfred King, a member of Ulverston Victoria Grammar School and

We had some free time in Ypres and most students enjoyed a bit of chocolate shopping! Later, we attended the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres, where Charli and Zoe took part in the service laying two wreaths



we paid our respects by laying a poppy in his name. Following this, we visited the Devonshire Trench and learnt about the terrible story of the division who were mown down by a machine gun that

was not destroyed in the barrage prior to them going over the top. It was here that Miss Cockburn read the poem 'Before Action' by William Noel Hodgson and we discovered how much these men were aware of the fate that awaited them. On our final evening, we undertook an analysis of the poems of the First World War.

On our last day, we journeyed to Vimy Ridge and learnt about the Canadian role in the First World War. We saw the preserved battlefield including trenches, shell craters and the



impressive underground tunnel system below the trenches. The sun burst through the foggy morning conditions just in time for us to see the Canadian memorial at Vimy Ridge in its full glory and learn the story about its design, which incorporates the names of the 11,000 Canadian servicemen who died

in France with no known grave. It was from Vimy we set off back towards Calais, Folkestone and on to Ulverston and home to rest after a busy, informative and moving trip.

Battlefields Trip

The 2017 Battlefields Trip began with another long journey down to Folkestone to catch the Eurotunnel across to Belgium and a very optimistic weather forecast!

For four days, the 35 students and four members of staff managed to visit a vast variety of sites important to the history of the First World War. We began with a focus on the First World War as a time of medical advancement and discussed this at the Ljissenthoek Military Cemetery built on the site of a number of casualty clearing stations in Flanders. Whilst there we visited the grave of William Gibson, a member of Ulverston Victoria Grammar School who lost his life, aged just 18 in July 1916.

We continued our trip with a full day exploring sites on the Ypres Salient including wandering the reconstructed trenches and learning from the exhibits at the Passchendaele Memorial Museum and finding out about the strategic importance

of this area of the front line from our tour guide, Tony. We visited a number of Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemeteries where many of our students who had researched family members who fought in the Great War prior to the trip were able to find the final resting places of their relatives, which was very moving.





Lord of the Flies Production

On the 17th, 19th and 29th October UVHS Drama Dept. staged the first of its productions for this academic year. The 'Key Stage 3 Boys' Drama Group' presented William Golding's hard-hitting and thought-provoking 'Lord of the Flies' as a studio performance in the Drama Studio.



Set on an uninhabited island, a group of schoolboys struggle to organise their social pecking order. The unnamed war they are fleeing and the lack of information offered about their individual backgrounds gives a timeless quality to William Golding's masterpiece of dystopian fiction....

...but is it a fiction, or a representation of not only what happens when authority figures are removed, but what exists beneath the surface in all our psyches?

This adaptation (by Head of Drama, Mike Vogler) was a stripped back version of Golding's original masterpiece. It put the relationships of the boys under close scrutiny and presented what lies beneath the arguable fragility and frailty of the laws, morals and beliefs that hold society together.

Mike Vogler, Head of Drama, says – "The cast of Year 8 and Year 9 boys have been amazingly astute and enthusiastic in their work to stage this challenging piece of Drama. They have really enjoyed exploring the rivalries that arise between their characters in the play, tackling the searching questions that it poses on many different levels. It was a sheer delight working with each and every one of the cast. Their zeal and boundless energy was an inspiration to us all on the staff directorial team."



Richard Butler, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Performing Arts, said:

"It was amazing to see the boys stage such a demanding piece so well. The atmosphere amongst the audience was electric as the actors performed with such intensity. I am immensely proud of each and every one of them – they have certainly set the bar high for this year's performances."



News from English

Reading Allowed (pun most definitely intended)

Following on from the great success of their work with The Woman in Black last year, Halloween saw the English department once again reading scary stories aloud to a bustling library. The evening started with a book fair – a host of terrifying tales were on sale with what's apparently known these days as a 'cheeky' discount – but the baying wolves heard in the distance seemed to set a few people on edge. Thankfully the wolves were chased away and the fire (courtesy of YouTube) was lit to warm the crowd. Hot drinks and cakes were served (thanks Mrs Harris) and people gathered round the window to watch the snow falling outside – one again, YouTube played its part!

Senior Maths Challenge



News from Maths

UVHS has enjoyed great success at this year's UKMT Individual Senior Maths Challenge. Many of our most able sixth form students entered and I am delighted to say achieved certificates, with three Bronze, seven Silver, and two excelled with Gold! Congratulations to Vince, Philip and Nell who had scores that were impressive enough to earn them entry to the prestigious Kangaroo Challenge

– an "invitation only" event! We will update you on their achievements in the next newsletter! Our UVHS Senior Maths Team also enjoyed success in the regional final of the Team Challenge, beating eight other local sixth forms.

Y5 Maths Club

32 of the finest very young Mathematicians meet every Tuesday after school to sharpen their mathematical skill set, working on challenging tasks, exploring and enriching their mathematical mind. Local feeder primary schools, from Burlington, Church Walk, Croftlands, Lindal and Marton, Low Furness, Pennington, St Marys and SJB attend the vibrant Y5 Maths club at UVHS. Activities vary in nature and help develop problem solvers, creative thinkers, team players as well as hone in on their mathematical dexterity. Students have been discovering patterns in Mystics Roses, solving



logic problems, investigating fractals in the Koch Snowflake and beating the timer in countdown style questions, to name a few of the activities they have encountered so far. The club will continue to run through into the spring term. It is always a pleasure to see enthusiastic students with big smiles on their faces keen to play with Maths. Here are a couple of problems our Y5 students picked for you to enjoy!

Problem 1
Use the numbers 100, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 8 to make 333.
(You can use each number only once but do not have to use all the numbers. You can +, -, x ÷ as many times as you like)

Problem 2

You have a 3-litre and a 5-litre jug that you can fill from a fountain of water. How do you fill one of the jugs with exactly 4 litres of water?

Finally, with everyone seated and heated, Mr Guerrero warmed everyone up a little more with a stirring reading of the legend of the Baskervilles, taken from Conan Doyle's classic, The Hound of the Baskervilles.

He was then joined by Mr Martin and Mr Stubbert for the main reading of the evening. The chilling, wintery tale, Dark Christmas, by Jeanette Winterson, had the audience gripped in terror. Mrs Anderson's background dialogue brought an extra layer to proceedings, but it was her shrill whistle blast that really made everybody jump - you should have seen their faces! Proof that they were fully immersed in the story; proof of the power of reading.

What the audience said:
"Thoroughly enjoyed the atmosphere! Would definitely come again."
"Terrifying!"
"Really enjoyable; thoroughly immersive."
"Atmospheric and spine-tingling."
"Please do more in the future."
"I don't think I'll sleep tonight."

And perhaps most important of all: "It's so nice to do something together, mother and son."
Of course, the event couldn't really have gone ahead without our school librarian, Mrs Downing, who worked tirelessly to decorate the library, get the candles and spooky lights going, serve drinks, sell books and generally bring the feel-good factor to balance out the chills and thrills of a dark October evening. So there you have it! Thanks to everyone who came and supported us. And rest assured, there will be more.





Sports Round Up!

UVHS PE Department and students have already been extremely busy this year.

Cross Country

The week beginning 30th October all pupils took part in the Inter-Form Cross Country Competition. Pupils ran the school cross country course while being encouraged by their year group. The PE department was extremely impressed with the encouragement given by other pupils and their effort on the day so well done everyone! The top 6 from each year group went on to compete in the Barrow Schools Cross Country event on Wednesday 29th November. UVHS took a squad of over 50 students where we had some fantastic results from some amazing efforts. Minor Girls (Y7) Junior Girls (Y8 & Y9) Intermediate Girls (Y10) all came 1st overall. Minor Boys (Y7) came 1st overall and Junior Boys (Y7 & Y8) came 2nd overall. With 18 students finishing in the top 8 they will go on to represent Furness Schools at Cartmel Racecourse in January 2018.



Boys Football

We have had some great success so far with football across the school. U13, U15 and U16 Boys teams are all still in the County Cup competition, awaiting their Quarter-Final fixtures. The Y7 5-a-side competitions were tough events this year for both the girls and the boys. The girls finished second behind a strong Dowdales team, drawing with them 1-1 in the final game. The boys were beaten 1-0 in the Semi-Final by Dowdales.

We had better success in the 7-a-side competitions at Furness Academy. The Y7 boys finished second behind a very strong Furness Academy team. The Y9s were unbeaten and won their competition and the Y8s are hoping to do well at their event, which had to be rearranged due to bad weather.

Congratulations to the UVHS boys who were selected to represent Furness Schools in select squads, chosen from all the schools in the area. These were, U13 – Russell, Coraan and Cayden, with Rhys (Y7) playing too. U14 – Jax, Max, Joe and Ashton. U15 – Alfie, Archie, Oscar and Jack.

More football to come after February half-term.

Girls Football

Our U15 girls have had a very strong start to the season. They beat Queen Katherine School 5-1 in the first round of the Cumbria Cup, with Maya scoring a hat-trick. They then travelled to Queen Elizabeth School and beat them 4-0 with a very strong team performance. They are awaiting their next opponents! Good luck girls.

Our U13 team lost their first match, 5-2 to a strong Dallam side. They played well, scoring two excellent goals and have excellent potential. Our Y7 Football team played in the Barrow Schools Tournament and they play Our Lady's Catholic High School, Preston in the first round of the National Cup.



Hockey

We have had a very strong start with the hockey this year. Our U14 Girls played Dallam, lost 2-0 but played extremely well. Jo in goal was excellent, with Antonia, Alice and Kate excelling outfield. We have also played Cartmel Priory and beat them 4-0 in the first game and 2-0 in the second game.

Rugby League

UVHS Y9, 10 and 11 teams have performed excellently within Barrow Area group games this year. In their first game the UVHS Y9 team battled hard against a very good Furness Academy side finishing the stronger but going down 28-22. Playing Walney in our second game we played excellent Rugby League and although Walney battled back in the second half the result was UVHS 48-18. Finishing second in our group, the Y9 team played a very good Dowdales team in the Semi-Final. Although we put in an excellent effort, Dowdales too strong and skillful running out winners by 42-12.

Our Y10 team has improved considerably over recent times and took part in a double-header afternoon at Dowdales School to see who would take on the stand out St Bernard's Y10 team in the final. The first games put Dowdales against UVHS and Chetwynde against Millom. The last time we played Dowdales in Y8, Dowdales beat UVHS 82-0, but as I mentioned we have improved somewhat. To put it bluntly this UVHS team out-played Dowdales in every department winning 30-12. After a 10 minute break we took the field against Millom who had beaten Chetwynde easily. Millom were the much bigger team but on this occasion size on the Rugby league field did not matter and our excellent play continued to beat Millom 32-8. Our Y10 team will now play St Bernard's on December 1st in the Barrow Schools Area Final. Individually, two Y10 team members, Jamie and David have been invited to train with the Barrow Raiders U16 Academy Squad, which is a great achievement as both are still 14 years of age. Our Y11 team has been together since Y7, so it has been good to watch this team develop having had their good and at times not so good performances. We received a forfeit from St Bernard's in our first game, which is always a disappointment. Our second game was against Millom on a very wet pitch and we ran out resounding winners by 54-6. When writing this piece our Y11 team should have played Dowdales twice by now in the final, but due to a lack of pitches in our area with lighting and some horrendous weather, this game is still waiting to be played. Again, two Y11 team members, Jack and Rhys, have been selected for St Helen's and Barrow Raiders Academy squads respectively.

The Y8 rugby team made great progress this year despite a number of players from last year not continuing to play. In their first game against Dowdales they lost 10-42 but that after being 36 nil down at half time. An admirable second half performance with tries from Benji and Ollie. In the second game they dominated Millom, beating them 44-0 with outstanding performances from Gabriel, Ethan, Harvey and Ruben. Unfortunately they came up against last year's winners Furness Academy in the semi-final and were knocked out. To progress next year plenty of work on tackling and defence is needed. The Y7 rugby team have

impressed in all games so far this year and look like a team for the future. In their first outing they were joint winners of the Barrow Schools Festival, drawing the Final with Dowdales 4-4. In their cup competition they defeated Walney 20-0, St Bernard's 40-6 and Furness Academy 20-6 in the Semi-Final. Their defence has been excellent and once a confident kicker is found these scores will only increase. We need to convert our tries. Outstanding individual performances from Finn (7 tries), Rhys, Harry, McKenzie and Nathan supported by a whole team committed to winning. More than 25 have regularly attended training, making selecting the team a difficult but pleasant problem to have. We now wait to see who our opponents are in the final.



Netball

The Y11 Netball team qualified for the Netball County Championships! On Tuesday 26th September Miss Bird took an U16 netball team to Furness Academy to compete in the netball U16 championships. The first game was against Chetwynde. At half time Ulverston were winning 5-3 with some excellent shots being made by Neive and Charlotte. Unfortunately we could not keep the lead with Chetwynde winning the game by 2 goals at full time. The second game was against Dowdales who had won against Chetwynde so the pressure was on! The team played well under pressure and the attacking centre court players were working well together. By half time the score was 9-5 to Dowdales. Lucy who captained the team remained positive and the team made some tactical changes. In the final quarter the team played brilliantly! The final score was 16-13 to Ulverston! All three teams had won and lost a game so the final came down to goal difference. Ulverston came second scoring a total of 28 goals and are through to the county final to be held at Keswick.

The county finals was fantastic! The girls played brilliantly in a difficult section. Excellent effort by all and the girls should be proud of their efforts.



More Sport!



The Y9 Netball team also qualified for the Netball County Championships! On Wednesday 4th October the U14 netball team took part in the netball qualifier at Furness Academy. The team came second in the tournament, qualifying for the county finals held at Sedbergh! The team played brilliantly in the tournament with some excellent centre court movement and fast passing.

A quick turnaround for the team with the finals taking place on Monday 9th October. The team played against Sedbergh first and Keswick second, unfortunately losing both their games, but making some fantastic tactical decisions providing their opposition with a challenging game.

The third game was against Ullswater in which the team played brilliantly. Indya made some fantastic passes with Maddy scoring some difficult shots. The team won this game 4-2! Unfortunately this was not enough to get them through to the Semi-Finals but I was extremely proud of the team and their continuous hard work and fantastic sportsmanship throughout.

On Tuesday 7th November the Y7 netball team had their first netball fixture against Dallam at home. The team played really well with Heidi and Teigan scoring some excellent shots! I was extremely impressed with the team's movement and passing skills with the team getting into space to outwit the defence. The team won 3-1. Y7 netball club has been extremely popular with UVHS having three year 7 netball teams which is fantastic. On the 14th November the three Y7 teams played, what was for some of them, their

first ever fixture at Dowdales. The girls were fantastic and I was extremely impressed with the enthusiasm of all three teams. The first team drew 1-1 and played really well, making some great tactical decisions and marking was a real strong point. The second team, coached by Rebecca won their game 1-0. This was the first fixture the second team have played and they were fantastic! Rebecca was impressed with the team's short passes to keep possession. Finally the third team coached by Dr Wilkin unfortunately lost 3-1. The team used short passes well in the game and this was a good chance for the team to get used to playing with each other. Well done all teams!

Y10 Netball team continue to play well as a team which was evident in their fixture against Dallam at home, winning 6-2. The team worked the ball into the goal circle well with some quick passing and great tactical decisions. More fixtures to come for this team so watch this space!

News from Science

Medical Mavericks



UVHS hosted a 2 day mini-medics event. Day 1 consisted of 68 Y9 and Y10 students from UVHS, Millom, St. Bernard's and Furness Academy, carrying out a range of medical techniques, for example, looking at respiratory and cardiac tests. Students took blood from an arm, looked at their heart, liver, bladder and kidneys with an ultrasound machine. They applied some of these techniques to sport's science physiology and they found out about a range of healthcare careers to inspire our future medics.

During Day 2, Y11 students alongside Sixth Form biologists advanced the techniques, relating them to some of the content on the A-level biology course. *'This has been a unique experience, that gave a brilliant*

insight into the medical world' - Year 12 biologists

A-Level Masterclass

Y10 students from Dowdales attended an A-level masterclass here at UVHS. In biology, students investigated the properties of arteries and veins by applying load. Students applied their maths skills in order to make conclusions and propose the proportions of collagen and elastic fibres in both blood vessels. In chemistry, students took part in hands on practical session where they used the practical technique of reflux on a microscale in order to make and purify vinegar. In physics, students investigated circuits. Students had a tour of the science department and had many questions about our exciting extracurricular provision at sixth form and the number of successful applicants to Oxbridge and Russell group universities.

Newcastle University Medical School Come to UVHS

Two Medical graduate ambassadors for Newcastle University Medical School came to UVHS to run a Medical workshop with all of our Y8 students. Students had a refresher of heart problems and CPR from their training in Y7,

investigated the structure and problems with the heart and investigated their pulse and oxygen levels. Students had lots of questions about different healthcare careers and they gave a vast array of advice, as well as inspiring our students and what to do in the event of an emergency.



Infinity Festival

On 28th September, seven Y9 students attended the Infinity Festival at West Lakes Academy, Egremont. The groundbreaking Science programme, headlined by Professor Brian Cox, was the first of its kind to be held in Cumbria. It involved over 200 students from schools all over the county and aimed to inspire students to pursue careers in the STEM subjects. Our students took part in hands-on experiments and workshops and attended influential talks by world leaders in Science and Technology. Parents joined us all for an evening reception, which included a showcase of the day, some exciting demonstrations and an interview session with Professor Brian Cox.



History

History Lecture Trip

39 Y12 and Y13 Historians attended a day of lectures in Manchester on Wednesday 29th November 2017. Dr Jenni Hyde from the University of Lancaster gave two lectures on why the personal rule of Charles I broke down by 1640 and what caused the Republican Government to collapse. Followed by Dr Michael Braddick from the University of Sheffield who delivered a fascinating degree level lecture on how important religion was to the outbreak of the English Civil war. Finally, we had a lecture from Dr Ian Atherton from Keele University on the key question of why Charles II was a more successful ruler than James II was. It was a very useful and informative day which both enlightened our students about the realities of university lectures and provided them with a lot of relevant contextual knowledge for their Stuart Britain course.





We are delighted to welcome Mrs Hayton, who was Head PE here at UVHS, to the Pastoral Team.

"I have taken over as Pastoral Leader of Year 9 this year. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with your children this term. I am looking forward to 2018, supporting both you and your children with the Y9 Option process and continuing to support their pastoral and academic journey through UVHS. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year".



Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award

18 Y12 students braved the October elements to go on a two day practice expedition for their assessed expedition in the Summer. They



walked from Corney Fell via Devoke Water to Eskdale, camped, then walked via Blea Tarn to Nether Wasdale. Conditions

were arduous and the camping was more like a practice for going to the Glastonbury Festival, but they showed great resolve and had excellent team spirit. They managed to navigate in the Cumbrian mist and organised themselves really well to keep warm and dry. They showed good and developing leadership skills. Well done to all.

News From MFL

Austrian Students Visit UVHS



From 18th – 22nd September, UVHS welcomed 28 Austrian students and 3 teachers from the Seekirchen Grammar School near Salzburg. The students were paired up with Y9 students

who had volunteered to act as 'buddies' to help our visitors find their way around and get to know our school. The Austrian students attended lessons with their buddies, allowing them to compare and contrast the different education systems in Austria and the UK. Students took a trip to the living history museum, Beamish, in County Durham, where they gained a real insight into what life was like in the

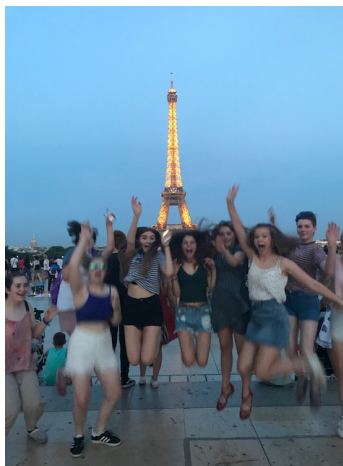


1900s. They also enjoyed a social event at the Old Farmhouse Restaurant in Ulverston in the evening. Our Y9 students have made some very valuable friendships and they are hoping to be able to carry out a reciprocal trip to the school near Salzburg next June.

It has never been more important to build relationships with other nations, and students at UVHS are leading with great example. Well done!

Paris Trip

In July of 2017, we went to Paris on a school trip with some of our GCSE French students. We had a brilliant time exploring the city, and had the opportunity to see some of the most famous landmarks in Paris. We tasted some different foods and dived into the fabulous French cuisine, for example we tried some delicious savoury crepes. We enjoyed a traditional French breakfast of croissants and pain au chocolates every day! We visited some world famous landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower and the Notre Dame. We visited the Sacré-Coeur at night time and watched all the artists paint and we got to see the beautiful lights of the cathedral. We also were able to visit the Trocadero at night and watch the lights switch on for the Eiffel Tower,



which was both



atmospheric and memorable. As well as this, we went to the Arc de Triomphe at sunset and appreciated the vast size of the monument. We also went to many other places of beauty every day and finished the day off by staying in a wonderful hotel in central Paris. The rooms were modern, had a wonderful view of traditional French buildings and were very spacious. To make the trip even more memorable, some incredible teachers who made the whole experience amusing and unforgettable accompanied us, we could never thank them enough!

- Maria Y11

Visit to Normandy

Last term 43 students and 4 staff spent a fantastic week in Normandy. The focus was practising our French speaking skills with the help of 'animateurs' from Le Chateau de la Baudonnière in the heart of the Normandy countryside. On the first evening we visited the world famous Mont St Michel. Students were really impressed by the magnificent structure which is a world heritage site. At the Chateau, students took part in a variety of activities including climbing, fencing, archery and bread-making. All the activities were conducted in French, which helped to extend students' vocabulary and confidence. Students had the opportunity to find out more about the Second World War by visiting the D-Day Landing beaches at Arromanches and the American War Cemetery at Colleville-sur-mer. Other highlights of the visit included a visit to



an organic goat farm where some were lucky enough to hold and milk the goats. Everyone enjoyed practising their speaking skills with the traders at the market in Caen and they were able to buy some interesting combinations for their picnic lunch.

This was another fantastic educational experience for our Y8 students. Plans are going ahead for our visit next year in June 2018.



EmployAbility

Congratulations to Mr Jeschke of Siemens

UVHS would like to extend their warm congratulations to Michael Jeschke of Siemens Subsea who won the award for Outstanding STEM Ambassador at the STEM Inspiration Awards held at the House of Lords, London in October. Michael received his award from the Honorary STEM Ambassador, Dr



Emily Goodman and will now go onto the International STEM Inspiration Awards taking place in January in Cern, Switzerland. Michael is a frequent visitor to UVHS as he supports both our KS3 extra-curricular Science Club and Design and Technology Engineering Club. Michael is also involved in the CREST gold award summer placements that provide our KS5 students with valuable work experience at Siemens Subsea. We wish Michael the best of luck for the awards in Cern.

Students are Work Ready

Last term saw our annual Y10 Work Ready Day take place. Work Ready Day comprises of a series of workshops delivered by over 30 employees from local and global companies. The workshops include the gaining of skills such as:

- Employability behaviours: Finding out what employers wish you knew (delivered by Bender UK)
- Assessment Centre Day: How to communicate effectively under pressure (delivered by Siemens Subsea)
- Aptitude Tests: Tips and Practice – everything you need to know (delivered by Siemens Subsea)
- 'Who wants to be a millionaire?' –Higher Education: Find out more (delivered by the University of Cumbria)
- Presentation skills: Preparing and delivering a successful interview presentation (delivered by Oxleys)
- Building resilience: How to move on if you don't get the job (delivered by FESP)
- Mock interview practise: (delivered by various post 16 providers)

The workshops are delivered and planned by the employers and the workshop content is identified by the employers resulting from their



observation that these are the skills young people in the Furness area lack when applying for work.

John Rogers from Siemens Subsea said *"The day gives the Y10 students the opportunity to fully understand what will be required of them during their path to employment."*

Consequently, the benefit of the Work Ready Day is two-fold in that it helps to fill skills lacking in the local labour market as well as providing our students with the opportunity to gain those skills directly from employers and other post 16 providers who will be looking for them and assessing them in the real world. Tom Gower from Booths said of our students, *"We saw some great potential employees of the future. Students were engaging and positive with good communication skills. They interviewed better than many people we have interviewed for the real thing"* Y10 students concluded, *"The day was a complete success. It taught us a lot of skills that we will need for employment in later life. It helped everyone understand more about employability, teamwork and the interview process."*



UVHS Careers Fair

Our annual careers fair took place on the 1st November with over 30 post 16 providers and 93% of students and their parents in attendance. The fair gave our students the opportunity to gain information from apprentices who were ex-students of UVHS and to meet a range of post 16 providers face to face. Positive feedback was received from all involved including:

"I found the careers fair very useful as I was able to find out about companies I had never heard of but was also able to gather more information on the companies I already knew about." - Jamie Y11

"I found the university stalls particularly useful" – Luke Y11

"It inspired me" – Katie Y11

Parent feedback included *"There was a good spread of companies, the presentations were well delivered and useful, the careers fair was well organised and everyone was very helpful with all the information you needed."*

Julie Shaw from GSK described the fair as, *"Very busy, the students had good questions both about our company and our apprenticeships."*

Dorothy Christie from Sellafield Ltd said, *"It was an excellent careers fair. The students were very polite and interested and UVHS staff were very attentive. Very enjoyable!"*

We would like to extend our thanks to all the post 16 providers who took part and for making the event so successful.



Save the Date... SkillsFest, the exciting careers event for Furness is open to students in all year groups. The event will be held at The Forum, Barrow, on Saturday 24th February, 10am – 3pm. See the Skills Fest poster in the Employability section of the school website for more information.

Check out... the new Employability section of the UVHS website. The Employability section of the website has been updated to include sections especially designated to parents, students, employers and teachers. It now includes useful resources, as well as practical careers information and new information from post 16 providers.

Technology Department Round Up

Textiles

The A Level Textiles students went on a visit to the Knitting and Stitching show in Harrogate. This was a fantastic opportunity for them to see live work from practising textiles artists, watch demonstrations and learn a variety of new textiles techniques. The students also got the opportunity to take part in the Embroiderers' Guild 'World's longest embroidery for schools.' It is a nationwide project to promote embroidery and textiles art within schools and celebrate the Guild's centenary. The piece currently measures 605.55metres long and is still being added to



by schools and colleges across the U.K. Our students took part to ensure that UVHS and Vic6 sixth form are represented in stitch on the world's longest embroidery.



More Technology Round Up

Restaurant UVHS

On Friday 10th November, Aroma Catering and UVHS teamed up to create the first ever Restaurant UVHS. 15 students from Y8-11, plus one Sixth Former worked with Mr Hall to offer guests a 4 course meal. The menu included duck with burnt coconut, goats curd with apple and cider puree, featherblade of beef with pumpkin and artichokes, and orange mascarpone. The students were absolutely outstanding, their work ethic, professionalism and attitude were truly incredible.

Two guests mentioned that the following day they went out for a meal to a Michelin Star restaurant and the food they had wasn't as good as the dishes served at Restaurant UVHS! There have already been many questions about the next Restaurant UVHS; hopefully early on in the New Year the students will once again be able to show off their skills! Thank you to Miss Hillman, Eden Y13, the IT Technicians, and the school canteen for help and support.

Future Chef

Earlier in the year, several students took part in the school heat of Future Chef, a national competition which looks to find young, ambitious cooks who see themselves working in the catering industry. The competition requires high skills in terms of practical ability, but also a good working knowledge of food nutrition. 16 students took part in the school heat and the judges were certainly very well fed! Unfortunately only two students could progress through to the next round. They were Braedon in Y8 and Sophie in Y10.

On Monday 4th December, myself Sophie and Braedon attended Kendal College for the district round of the Springboard Future Chef Competition. In what was a very exciting evening, UVHS competed against other Cumbrian schools and contestants were asked to create a hot main course, and a dessert for two people. Judges' comments for Sophie's dish included "faultless", and Braedon was commended for his ultra modern cooking style using equipment like a thermomix, vackpak machine, and water bath. Dishes from all contestants were to a very high standard, but there could only be one winner. Our very own Sophie has claimed the title and will represent the area in the next stage of the competition in Manchester in February 2018. Sophie will be paired up with a professional chef who will act as her mentor, along with her Food Teacher of course! Congratulations to Sophie, Braedon and all the other contestants who entered.



Sixth Form Art Trip

In November the sixth form art groups visited the Tate and Walker Art galleries in Liverpool as part of their A level courses. As ever there was a wide range of styles and ideas on view and of particular interest was an exhibition entitled 'Portraying a Nation' of inter-war art by German artist Otto Dix, and a set of lesser seen paintings and prints by the Pop artist Roy Lichtenstein.

Pictures from the UVHS Art Gallery

David Y12



Tilly Y11



Eloise Y13



Early Closure : Tuesday 19th December 2017

UVHS closes early at 1.50 pm on Tuesday 19th December. School transport have been informed and will collect students at 1.50 pm. Train students will be let out at 1.45 pm.

Exam Timetables are Now Available

Timetables for Y11 and Y13 are now available on the website for the practice exams in January 2018.

Please see www.uvhs.uk/students & staff/exams / exam timetable for full details

