



Mr Fay writes....

Recently I have been researching what our parents feel about their child's school. Obviously, I know, based on my experience and instinct, that I feel this is a great place, which is valued by its community, but what have you told me about our school?



As evidence for my research, I have used this year's parent voice questionnaires that many parents complete at our various parents' evenings. This year so far we have had parents' evenings for Years 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 and approximately 40% of our parents have been kind enough to let me know their views on the school. The results are very heartening and new parents must be able to draw the conclusion and comfort that they have made the right decision in choosing UVHS.

Those of you who know me will understand that not getting 100% for all categories is a source of real frustration! However, I am particularly pleased, in a world where it is impossible to please everyone all the time, that 97% of parents considered their children to be happy at school and agreed that the school cared for and "looked after" their children well. An even higher figure of 98% of our parent voice considered that their children were taught well, behaved well (and their behaviour was well managed) and that their children made progress.

Our lowest satisfaction score was homework at 92% and we will be looking at the issue of homework in the forthcoming months. My experience tells me that some parents want more homework and others less for their children. It is always a knotty problem to unpick. Perhaps it can be a discussion topic for our new Parent Council in September 2017 when it replaces our Parents' Advisory Group, which has now run its course.



It was particularly pleasing for an aged Headteacher, and our SLT and other leaders in the school, that 98% of respondents considered the school to be well led and managed. Which is favourable, as I have just realised that I had posed for a Year Book photograph with a Donald Duck, Goofy and Mickey Mouse computer mat in full view alongside a cartoon Newcastle United Magpie coaster. Is there any truth in the rumour that Mickey Mouse wears a Mr Fay wristwatch?

Really heartening was that 98% of our parental sample said they

would recommend UVHS to other parents. You are great ambassadors for Ulverston Victoria High School.

Have a lovely Easter.

Mr D Fay, Headteacher.

SPRING 2017

We've Been To Twickenham!

On Friday 3rd February 19 pupils with 5 members of staff travelled to London for an experience of a lifetime! UVHS is part of the Rugby Football Union's "All School's Programme", which is an initiative to get more Schools playing the Union Game. As well as playing Rugby League, UVHS now offers Rugby Union



in core PE lessons and the opportunity to play competitive games.

UVHS, alongside Millom School were nominated by Cumbria Rugby Union and were selected to play in a curtain raiser for England v France;



England's opening game of the 2017 Six Nations.

The girls travelled to London after school on the Friday, where the excitement was clearly evident! The Saturday morning arrived and we all travelled to Twickenham to meet and greet the RFU staff. After a walk around the stadium, some celebrity

spotting and a quick stop at the souvenir shop – we were given our match day tickets and made our way into the stadium. Nothing could prepare the girls for the size of the stadium, they were in complete awe – and it was empty! The girls got ready and made their way back to the pitch to play against Millom in some friendly touch rugby games, where Eddie Jones came over to show his support (Mr Reid, for once, was completely lost for words!).

The girls then had half an hour to prepare for the guard of honour. As we waited in the tunnel, you could hear the approximately 82,000 capacity crowd singing and cheering. All of a sudden, we had 19 very nervous girls! But they walked on to the pitch, in immaculate UVHS kit, heads held high and smiled for the crowd as "Ulverston Victoria High School" was read out over the loudspeaker. They sang the National Anthem and then watched England victorious – on the front row of the stand.

But they hadn't finished! They then went back onto the pitch to support England Women! They formed the guard of honour and sung the National anthem again. After the women beat France convincingly, they then had the opportunity to meet the women's team and it was probably the highlight of their weekend!

The girls were described by the RFU as "one of the best behaved schools" they have had play in the curtain raiser and were told how they were exemplary role models for the school. It was an incredible weekend – one I am sure they (nor Mr Reid) will ever forget!





Reading Allowed (pun intended)

When we're younger, there are few pleasures to beat those we receive from being read to. But who says that enjoyment has to end?

With this in mind, the English department offered students and parents the opportunity to come along and immerse themselves in Susan Hill's Gothic novel, *The Woman in Black*, which was read across four hour-long sessions by Mr Guerrero, Mr Martin, Mr Stubbert and Mrs Wiper in a candle-lit library by a roaring fire.* The audience was hooked from start to finish. Here's what they had to say:

"An absolutely splendid experience. The reading of the novel was captivating and the atmosphere created in the library was eerily brilliant. Thanks for this. Do another!"

"Great reading – having 4 voices really helped – loved the fire and candles. It was really immersive. Enjoyed it a lot."

"I loved it."

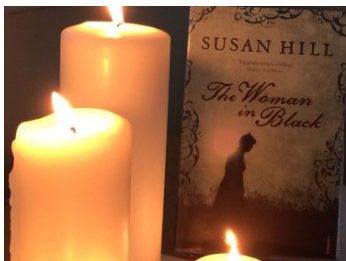
"Absolutely awesome!!! Especially Week 3. Summary: happy, frightened, happy, sad."

It doesn't end there, though. The following week, we took 46 parents and students (including most of those who attended the reading) to see the stage performance of the same text at Salford's Lowry theatre, and the following week we were back in the library watching the film adaptation. And as if all that wasn't enough, we then got everyone back again to run a creative writing workshop based on the various experiences of *The Woman in Black* – some of the fruits of this labour will be available to read soon.

We'd like to offer enormous thanks to all those who attended for making it such a success. An even bigger thanks goes out to Mrs Downing, the school librarian. As ever, she was the glue that held it all together, welcoming parents, providing drinks (and the odd sound effect), and making sure everything ran smoothly.

The full journey, from text to stage to screen, was an enthralling, highly enjoyable experience and is hopefully the first of many more to come. If you can't make it, then set your own up in the comfort of your own homes. Many great films come from great novels, and everyone loves to be read to! Let us know how you get on (English Blog@uvhs.uk) – we'd love to hear from you.

* Found on YouTube and projected onto the big screen, but the effect was there!



Meet Our Head Boy & Head Girl Teams

Well done to our Head Boys', Head Girls' and their Deputies from the Sixth Form and Lower School for all their fantastic organisational skills and hard work so far this year.

Lower School Team

Jacob, Megan, Bella and Will.



Sixth Form Team

Alex, Dea, Georgia, Isobel and Tom.



Maths Team Challenge

We are delighted that we have once again won the regional final of the United Kingdom Maths Team Challenge held at Barrow Sixth Form College. We now go forward to the National Final with the top 88 schools from the 1700 schools that entered from across the entire country. The winning four students are James and Robin from Year 8 and Eleanor and Freddie from Year 9.

Congratulations too to our other students who took part and thanks to our wonderful sixth form mathematicians for spending the last 4 months running training sessions to develop the Year 8 and 9 problem solving skills.



In the individual UKMT Maths Challenge our Year 9 and 10 students again received lots of gold, silver and bronze certificates. Special mention to

Chris in Year 10 who is through to the Europe-wide Pink Kangaroo competition and to James in Year 8 who, despite his youth, is through to the Olympiad round for the top 1000 students in the country in Year 9. Last year he came in the top 200 in the country so our hopes are high!

Reading Buddies



Here at UVHS we aim to support our students with their reading.

Early in the year all Y7 students undertake a Star Reader Test, which tells students what 'level' they are reading at (it measures vocabulary, close reading, comprehension and inference skills) and guides them towards

appropriate material. The test helps identify students who may need extra help with their reading. The selected students are paired up with a Reading Buddy.

Miss Steele, the Assistant Head of Sixth Form, recruits students from Y12 (perhaps they are interested in teaching, working with others or wanting to enhance their UCAS application) to become a Reading Buddy. We have approximately 30 involved this year.

The programme runs for the majority of the academic year and the atmosphere in the library every Thursday form time is warm, purposeful and full of enthusiasm. The Y7 students respond with great positivity to the one-to-one attention they get from the Y12 students, who in turn get something from the support and encouragement they offer. It is an enormous commitment from all involved, but one with enormous benefits too.





Performing Arts

Me and My Girl



UVHS Performing Arts staged a successful production of "Me And My Girl" on Thursday 30th and Friday 31st March in the Coronation Hall. If you attended we hope you enjoyed it!

Written by Douglas Furber and L. Arthur Rose and with music by Noel Gay, the musical is set in the late 1930s and tells the story of an unapologetically unrefined cockney called Bill Snibson (played by Connor Year 13), who learns that he is the 14th heir to the Earl of Hareford in Hertfordshire. The plot follows the attempts by the Duchess of Hareford (played by Sarah Year 13) to re-educate and refine Bill – against the wishes of his cockney girlfriend, Sally (played by Phoebe Year 10).

The musical had a hugely successful original run in the West End in 1937, and was turned into a film in 1939, titled *The Lambeth Walk*, named after one of the show's songs. Other well-known numbers from the show include "The Sun Has Got His Hat On" and "Leaning on a Lampost". Since it's revival by Stephen Fry in 1984, the West End production has received 2 Olivier Awards. On Broadway it received 11 Tony Award nominations.

Directed by Head of Drama Mike Vogler, this production provided a full evening's entertainment, with laughs and dance routines throughout (choreographed by Florrie Year 13) as well as toe-tapping solo and full cast songs, courtesy of the 30-strong cast, accompanied by a student show band under the direction of Head of Performing Arts, Richard Butler.



The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines to Make a Welcome Return to Ulverston

UVHS Music Department is delighted to announce that the Band of the Royal Marines will be returning to The Coronation Hall to perform alongside UVHS Wind Band.

On Saturday 27th May the Royal Marines Band, regarded as probably the finest military band service in the world, will be coming to Ulverston to perform yet another blockbusting concert alongside our very own 95-strong UVHS Wind Band who are not only ranked amongst the best school bands in the UK but also have an enviable reputation across Europe. Last year the band enjoyed a superb concert tour to Austria culminating in an amazing performance at the home of the Salzburg Philharmonic Orchestra, and this year they are travelling to the Rhine Valley region of Germany to give three high-profile concerts. The visit by the Royal Marines will be the ninth time since 2004 that they have agreed to share the stage with us – further strengthening the unique relationship between the two organisations. Indeed, following the concert, four of our Year 10 GCSE musicians will be travelling down to Portsmouth for a week on work experience at the Royal Marines School of Music.

Amongst the Marines Band there will also be several former UVHS music students making a return to the Coro stage – Sergeant Andy Spain (sax), Musician Rob Norrie (trumpet), Musician Ruth Tarr (violin and sax) and Trainee Musician Jodie Giles (oboe) – as well as a couple of former Marines musicians from UVHS in the audience.

As has become tradition, the concert will be in three sections – a set from UVHS Wind Band, a set from the Marines and then a Massed Band Finale, where 35 UVHS instrumentalists will join the Marines to perform a programme that they will have rehearsed in workshops both the previous day and that afternoon.



Dance Platform

The annual Primary Dance Platform took place during our Year 5 Taster Week, and we saw almost 450 primary school pupils (from 19 different schools) come through our doors over three nights to perform on the stage in the Main Hall in front of over 800 parents. Christine Jamieson yet again had the unenviable task of not only producing the three performances but also coordinating a lengthy series of dance workshops in each school, delivered by herself or other professional dance teachers, in order to choreograph and then rehearse each individual dance routine. The three evening shows were fantastic. The combination on stage by UVHS and Barrow Sixth Form College dancers as well as a few local dance schools, gave the audiences a great evening's entertainment as well as allowing parents to see the progression from reception dance through to A Level.



All in all a brilliant festival of dance for the Ulverston area.





Sports Round Up

Boys Football

There have only been four games this term so far. Year 8 boys played Dowdales on a very muddy UVHS pitch. Both teams struggled with the conditions and the match ended 1-1 after Jax scored the opener. Sixth Form played 3 games in the County Cup competition. Firstly beating Barrow Sixth Form 4-3 to progress to the Quarter Final where they had to travel to Nelson Thomlinson school. They played on a very sub-standard pitch in poor conditions, playing some excellent football but couldn't capitalise on their good play. Matthew scored a well-finished goal before Nelson Thomlinson equalised late in the game. Neither team managed to score in extra-time so the match went to penalties. UVHS scored all of theirs and Thomas made two fantastic saves to ensure the victory. Unfortunately, the boys came up against a very strong side from Trinity school in Cumbria who in the end ran out clear 3-0 winners.

2017 U13 Boys Barrow Schools Indoor Cricket Competition

Well it was a case of so near yet so far for our U13 Boys team in this competition. Having won the last 3 indoor county U13 championships. We were attempting to win our 4th area U13 comp in a row. Stood in



our way this year were our usual two opponents in Furness Academy and Chetwynde school. Having played our round games, we had won 2 from 2 with a mix of Yr 8 and 7 boys making up our team. Playing Furness Academy in our first game UVHS bowled first and kept Furness Academy to 30 runs for 3 wickets from their 7 overs. UVHS took little time in scoring 37 for no wicket in 4 overs. Our second game saw us play Chetwynde School who batted first

and scored 48 runs for 6 wickets. The batting order was changed around for this game to try and give others a bat. UVHS passed Chetwynde's score in the 6th over at 54 for 1 wicket. Furness Academy and Chetwynde then played off to play UVHS again in the final and it was Chetwynde who would be our opponents and unfortunately as the first sentence of this report states stop our winning run. Chetwynde batted well to score a good 63 runs for none off their allotted 7 overs. UVHS referred back to our strongest batting line up but did not bat as well as we could have in the final and with 3 run-outs, always left us struggling to gain any momentum. Needing 4 to tie and 5 runs to win off the last ball, it was not to be this time around leaving our score on 59 runs for 5 from our 7 overs.

Sports Leaders of the Future

Here at UVHS we welcome on a regular basis the students from the local Primary Schools to partake in sporting activities that would not necessarily be the norm at their own schools. It allows them to use the facilities we are lucky to have here and compete in competitions. These occasions also give the UVHS students the opportunities to lead these sessions.



In February, Y10 girls helped organise, run and score the local round of the Key Steps 1, 2 & 3 Gymnastics, where KS1 & KS2 students from Burlington, Church Walk, Croftlands, Low Furness, Pennington, Pennybridge, SJB and St Mary's took part in floor routines and vaults.

In March, Low Furness pupils were going to take part in a fun run around the school grounds but due to the recent wet weather the grass was a bit muddy so a

quick alternative was thought of.... a mini multi sports event. So the Y7 girls stepped in to lead the event. The UVHS students lead the young visitors in various events to test their balance, co-ordination and agility. Great fun was had by all!



Sports Ability Club

Students from the Sports Ability Club have been learning to play Boccia, a game similar to bowls only played with leather balls. After securing a place and bronze medal at The Lord Taverners County Competition in November 2016, 6 students from the Sports Ability Club (Alfie, Harvey, Ella, Michael, Daniel & Owen) travelled to Liverpool to take part in the Northwest Regional Finals on Thursday 2nd February 2017. The students were engaged in a competitive tournament with 1 team reaching the semi-finals. As the day progressed the excitement and tension built up as all players used their tactics and skills to gain the bronze medal position, the first medal Cumbria had won in the PAN division.



Congratulations to all players for a fantastic day and team performance. Sports Ability Club is held Tuesday lunchtimes in the Sports Hall, come along and have fun.

UVHS Orienteering Students to Represent England

Superb performances from UVHS Orienteering Club at the British Schools Orienteering Championships back in November 2016, has gained England selection for 12 UVHS students.

UVHS will be sending both Junior and senior girls teams and have two senior boys individually chosen to run in the select team at the World Schools Orienteering Championships in Italy this year.



The junior girls team is: Ellie, Lucy, Merryn, Jess and Alice with their reserve being Sophie.

The senior girls team is: Megan, Fiona, Daisy, Catherine and Anna with their reserve being Polly. The Boys for the select team are Stewart and Harry.

These talented athletes make up an impressive



30% of the England team and will be heading off to Palermo, Sicily at the end of April to compete against teams from over 20 other countries including Spain, China and New Zealand.

This week long event involves three days of competition and then a friendship relay, where a mixed nationality team of three works together to complete a course. There is also a cultural day where each country has a stall and puts on a performance to represent their country. Traditionally the English team will Morris Dance to the amusement of the other countries. There are also opening and closing ceremonies for the event so the students will be kept very busy.

The team, club and band of committed parents and helpers have been very busy raising the money to get the children to Sicily. They have been bag packing on the run up to Christmas, held cake stalls at local orienteering events and have a raffle running. They have also been lucky enough to have been financially supported by many local businesses.

The Orienteering Club have been out to some large events recently to practise. The Northern Orienteering Championships were held at Bigland on the 26th February and saw some impressive results from our selected team members. Both Stewart and Harry won their events. Ellie

and Merryn were 2nd and 4th in their event and Catherine was 4th in hers. We wish them all good luck and hope that they have a fantastic time.

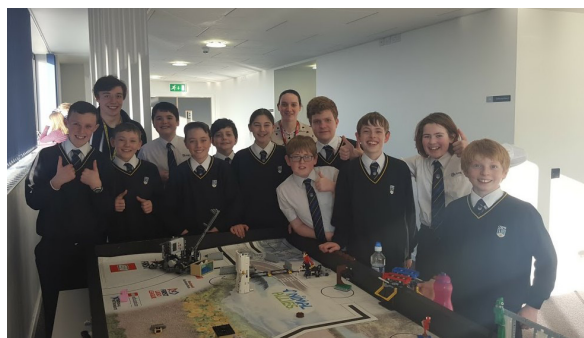




Technology Round Up

Engineering Club

On the 24th of January, a group of students from year seven, eight and nine travelled to Furness College with Miss Dixon to the first Lego League Competition, where they were judged on their core value, the robot design, the robot game and a project presentation.



The team worked on all of these aspects on the run up to the competition in the engineering afterschool club. The core value aspects

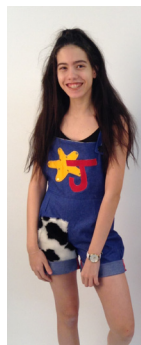
ranged from sharing, good sportsmanship to co-operation and inclusion of all members of the team. Showing excellent aspects of this in sharing out equipment with Croftlands Primary School who also attended the competition.

Members of the team worked hard in designing and programming the robot to complete as many of the robot games challenges as possible. On the day of the competition, our top programmer Michael worked amazingly to complete new programs to become the only team to complete one of the more difficult challenges on the day.

The hard work from the team was rewarded with a trophy for best robot design. The robot an elephant based on the theme of animal allies. This design won the judges over, along with the excellent effort in the presentation of the robot during the day.

GCSE Textiles Photoshoot

The Year 11 Textiles students have once again been very busy completing their products and modelling them on a professional photo shoot. The themes set by the exam board this year ranged from winter children's wear to costumes for a west end show. The pupils responded with imagination and creative flair, they were very professional and produced amazing results as you can see from the selection below. Well done all Year 11 Textiles pupils.



Photography Club

This term's competition theme is "Light and Water" and the entries will be judged shortly after Easter, so look out the competition results early next term. Photography Club is held every Tuesday and is open to new members.



Cookery Club

We are proud to be able to say that in February, UVHS started its very own cooking club! Open to KS3 pupils, with students in Year 10 Food Preparation and Nutrition there to lend a helping hand, participants have already covered topics including: street food, one pot meals, crumbles, cakes and puddings, knife skills and pancakes.

Our latest project has been creating



afternoon tea, and we will soon be looking at food photography, molecular gastronomy, how a professional kitchen works as well



as carrying out bushtucker trials and a themed event for Red Nose Day! The hope is that students not only develop their practical skills, but also learn about exciting areas of food and cooking which can't be covered during Food Technology lessons.

Special thanks must go to Lucy and Alfie, both in Year 10 who have kindly been volunteering their time to come and assist members attending Cooking Club. Also a huge thank you to Eden in Year 12 who has been taking incredible photos of the food produced each week.

Cooking Club takes place in D5 on Mondays, 3:30-4:30pm.

Junior Rotary Master Chef

We've been very busy in DT this term running a fantastic Master Chef competition with Year 10 to find a competitor for the Rotary Junior Master Chef competition 2017. After 5 gruelling weeks, Jamie was chosen by the ADT faculty to represent UVHS.



On Thursday 9th February, Jamie went head to head with 9 other students from schools across Cumbria and Lancashire at the Lakes School.

We are delighted to announce that Jamie won first place at this event, judged by three exceptional local chefs: Richard Booth, Head Chef at Lakeside Hotel, Steven Doherty of the First Floor Cafe at Lakeland Ltd and Marc Sanders, Resort Chef at Low Wood Hotel who were very impressed with Jamie's menu. The winning menu was:

(Starter) King prawns on cannelloni beans with bacon and pine nuts (Main) Chicken pie with broccoli, green beans and roasted new potatoes (Dessert) Lemon posset and shortbread.



On Saturday 18th March, Jamie travelled down to



Rochdale as the representative for Cumbria and Lancashire in the North West Regional Rotary Young Chef competition. The standard from all competitors was exceptionally high, and we are delighted to report that Jamie came 3rd overall in a group which covered a geographic area from the top of Cumbria down to mid Wales! A fantastic achievement! Special thanks must go out to Jamie, his family, the local Rotarians for their support and Chef Booth from Lakeside Hotel who provided invaluable advice and guidance. Well done Jamie!



Sixth Form Trip to Poland

History trip to Krakow, Poland – in the pupils' own words

After an early start our journey down to Liverpool airport was quick and painless as was the flight. After a brief stop to drop off our bags at the hotel we began a walking tour around the Jewish quarter of Krakow. Whilst we walked we visited a practising synagogue and cemetery and we learnt more about Jewish culture in Krakow before World War



Two. Our tour continued and we saw part of the filming location for Schindler's List and other Jewish memorials. Our tour ended at Oskar Schindler's Enamel Factory Museum where our informative guide showed us round. In the evening, we had dinner at a traditional Polish restaurant and headed back to the hotel.

After learning about the history of Krakow on Tuesday, we visited Auschwitz-Birkenau on Wednesday. We had a guided tour around all the buildings. The silence as we walked in made us instantly see how important this place was to remember everything that happened here. We visited the buildings where the prisoners were kept in tiny rooms and also the gas chambers where they were killed. The hair of many of those who were killed was placed on display, and it really hit home about how individuals were affected; the lives that were destroyed. It's not just statistics. We then visited Birkenau, which was 20 times the size of Auschwitz. The railway track on which all prisoners travelled to the camp paved the entrance to the large site. A huge watchtower looked over the entirety of the camp. Only a few of the buildings from the 1940s remained however as the majority of them were destroyed by the Nazis a few days before the camp was liberated in January 1945. We visited the barracks and saw what remained of the gas chambers.



We also saw a monument which remembered all those who perished at this extermination camp – the whole trip to Auschwitz and Birkenau was poignant and eye-opening.

After our day at Auschwitz-Birkenau, we had dinner in a traditional Jewish restaurant called Ariel in the Kazimierz district with live Klezmer music from Jewish cultures around the world. It was lively, interesting and something a bit different!

On Thursday morning, we had a guided tour of the Wieliczka Salt Mine which opened in the thirteenth century and is one of the oldest salt mines in the world. We learnt about the legend behind the origins of the mine which claims that the Princess Bela Kinga brought salt to Poland after she found her lost engagement ring at the site of the mine. The most impressive part of the mine was the deepest – the huge Chapel of St. Kinga, complete with enormous chandeliers made entirely of salt; as were the carvings, the walls and the floor. That afternoon, after our tour, we returned to Kraków for free time in the city. This included activities like shopping, horse drawn carriage rides around the Kraków city square and a trip to the amazing hot chocolate shop.

On the final day, we once again embarked upon a walking tour around Krakow town; our first stop was Wawel Castle, the home of many Polish monarchs and Hans Frank during World War Two. Wawel Hill also featured an impressive cathedral, bell tower and catacombs. We touched Sigismund's Bell, the largest bell in Poland, to grant us luck for the remainder of the trip. St. Mary's Basilica featured impressive Gothic and Renaissance architecture and was the final stop of our tour. Then back to the airport and home.



Toilet Twinning

Over the course of the year the Vic Medics group have been working hard to fundraise for our chosen charity, Toilet Twinning. Since September we have researched the charity and come up with various different ways we can help.

The charity works with schools and communities in underdeveloped areas of the world to provide clean water and flushing toilets. The charity works particularly with schools and helps build changing rooms, toilet blocks and install clean running water for the children. Something as simple as running water and flushing toilets can make a world of difference

to the young children in these schools and villages. It allows young girls to participate in sports activities and get changed in private whilst the boys are in a separate room. We felt this charity makes a difference to these students' lives as they don't have to waste time walking miles to collect water during the school day. To fundraise for this charity and provide information to the school, sixth form and community; I did various talks and went into assemblies with Molly and Georgia. To raise money in sixth form and school we held a cake sale and raffle in November. We raffled off a six layer cake which was won by a Year 13 Sixth Form student and also sold cakes to students at break time. We raised money in Ulverston by attending UVHS Senior Prize Giving and doing a short talk followed by a collection. We are extremely grateful for the generosity displayed at this event and have successfully raised the funds required to build 2 toilet blocks in Uganda. In total we raised £800; enough to fund two toilet blocks and to support the following trip. On the 20th August this year, myself and Molly will be participating in a 2 week volunteering program in Arusha, Tanzania. We will be working in a public hospital. The money left over will be used along with other funds we will raise separately for this trip. The funds we raise will provide supplies for the hospital out there which we will purchase whilst we are in Africa, this will also help the local community.

This trip will be a valuable experience and a memory which will last forever. We hope to keep gaining support for this cause and make a difference to people's lives in Africa. **Written By Hannah, Year 12**



Duke of Edinburgh - Bronze



This year has seen 24 of our Y10 students working towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award since November. This has included weekly training meetings while also attending activities towards their physical, skill and volunteering sections. Participants have shown independence, perseverance and commitment to a demanding training schedule of first aid, expedition and camp craft. The participants have taken part in a cook off competition, learning to use gas stoves and familiarise themselves with suitable camping foods. Their meals were judged on suitability, taste and presentation. Students were due to take part in an evening walks to Urswick in March which was unfortunately cancelled due to snow. Instead each team took part in a range of team building exercises designed to improve their team work, leadership

communication and problem solving. Miss Clapham's group "Really Attractive" came out as the winners for the evening with a total of 90 points winning them the Golden Boot Award for the Spring Term.





EmployAbility

UVHS

Year 10 Work Experience



The value to employers of work experience was demonstrated by the success of our annual year 10 work experience week, which this year, was held on 13th-17th March. Feedback from Employers included:

WH Smith said Rhys was, "The best work experience student they had ever had. Anything we have asked of him, he has got on and done willingly"

GSK, who hosted work experience for Amelia commented, 'She was so professional, my colleagues thought she has a visitor from Head Office'

Emlyn Street Garage hosted work experience for David and said, "We can't fault him, he asks all the right questions and is willing to learn"

Loui who experienced work at J G Black Polymers was told he was "An asset to the school and an absolute treat to have"

Over 100 businesses took part in our work experience week enabling our students to develop employability skills and gain crucial experience.

Year 10 student, Chloe said "For my work experience I asked to go to a primary school, and I was placed at Church Walk C of E School, which I was really happy about. I really enjoyed my placement because I got involved with lots of different duties, including helping the children with Maths and English mainly, but also all other subjects and PE."

Elle who attended West Lakes Adventure Woolpack farm commented, "Work experience is an important life experience because it gives you an insight into what you would do if you went into this career."

George who experienced work at MGF Motors said "It has exceeded my expectations. I have learnt more than I thought I would and I have improved my communication skills because I am communicating with different types of people. I have enjoyed it so much I will start doing it as a hobby" Thank you to all employers for their hard work and support, which made this such a successful and enjoyable week for our students.



Vic Medics Have the Edge



Dave Lawson, a current tutor at Edge Hill University and Operational Department Practitioner (ODP) came to talk to Vics Medics about being an ODP and paramedic. He gave an informative presentation about the two courses and what Edge Hill has to offer. He also talked about great skills and techniques to base personal statements on when applying for a job in medicine, such as mentioning the 6C's of the NHS. He went through all the different types of ODP's and the important roles they have.

Dave has been an ODP for 20 years working in a number of different roles. He spoke a lot about working alongside midwives and assisting surgeons. Hearing his experiences and the clear passion he holds for his job was amazing.

Using the training equipment provided by Dave, myself and a key stage 3 pupil,

they go through when preparing the patient for surgery. It was a lot harder than it looked! As well as this, Dave brought along the mass array of tools that an ODP uses when assisting a surgeon. He went through how observant and alert you have to be. At the start of each operation all the tools need to be counted, and they then need to be counted at the end of the operation a number of times to ensure no equipment is left where harm to the patient or workers could occur. He stressed how the job was never dull, that every day was different. It was fantastic to learn so much about the role first-hand and we are very grateful to Dave for taking the time out to speak to us.

Written by Georgia, Year 12.



Year 12 BAE Apprenticeship Open Day

21st March 2017 saw 26 students from year 12 attended the BAE Open Day at The Forum. Students attended numerous workshops which focused on topics such as; The Application Process, It's not just a Job and Why choose BAE? The afternoon also allowed time for a tour of the Exhibition Hall to talk to staff representing a multitude of disciplines and roles across BAE. Students found the whole experience informative and insightful as they move into a critical year of pursuing potential career choices.

Robert said "I found my experience at BAE comprehensive, interesting and I feel I have come away with a greater knowledge of the job roles at BAE."

Harry said "The day gave me a good insight as to how BAE help develop their apprentices, and it showed me what each course had to offer"



Year 13 BAE Mock Assessment Centre



Early February, UVHS welcomed 5 members of the BAE Higher Apprenticeship Programme who conducted a Mock Assessment Centre. The 13 students from Y13 who are currently in the process of applying for a Higher Apprenticeship themselves took part in a group exercise and presentation.

The purpose of the presentation was to assess the students' knowledge of the BAE business and how well they presented. Key factors to consider for applicants were how important it would be to have a good background knowledge of the company, have a structured presentation and keep the assessors engaged. The second part of the mock assessment was an individual 10-minute interview. All the students received individual written feedback on their presentation and interview performance as well as tips for the real assessment centre in March.



Year 5 Taster Week



The week of 13th March saw UVHS host a Year 5 Secondary Taster week: our 12 principal feeder primaries sent us their Year 5 pupils to experience a full day at UVHS prior to them beginning the process of choosing their secondary school. Accompanied by our brilliant Year 7 ambassadors, they went to a wide range of lessons and thoroughly enjoyed seeing what life is like at 'big school', including having lunch in our canteen, trampolining in PE, cooking amazing pizzas in DT, carrying out a Crime Scene Investigation in Science and learning to play the keyboard in music. With many of them saying it was "the best day of [their] life" we look forward to seeing them again for future visits, and possibly, their entry into Year 7 in September 2018.



University Success at UVHS

UVHS Sixth Form is celebrating a bumper year of University application successes for the current year 13 students. A record 5 students have received offers for undergraduate study from Cambridge and Oxford having written lengthy applications and undertaken a gruelling interview and examination process over several days. For a state school to be so successful in terms of Oxbridge is remarkable and, we believe, ranks UVHS very highly in terms of state school Oxbridge entries in Cumbria and the North-West:

Isobel - Queen's College Cambridge- Veterinary Medicine / Emily - Corpus Christi College Cambridge- Music / Dea - Downing College Cambridge- Psychology / Ella - Queens College Oxford- French + Linguistics / Dylan - Queens College Cambridge- Computer Science

Rob Rastelli, Head of UVHS Sixth Form, said: "I am immensely proud of all our students, but to have 5 receive offers from Oxbridge is just amazing. It reflects not only the phenomenal amount of work that they have put into their studies here at UVHS, but also the fantastic quality of teaching here in the school as well as the excellent out-of-lesson support provided by both teaching and non-teaching staff. Everyone at the school goes the extra mile to help Year 13 students gain the post-18 places that they both deserve and desire, and to achieve their potential, whether that be at university, in an apprenticeship or in the world of work."

All 4 of our Medicine students have been made conditional offers after interview:

Mary - Lancaster and UCL / Brandon - Lancaster / Alex - UCL / Emily - Glasgow

1 student has been made an offer to do Dentistry:

Francesca - Leeds

This is on top of all 3 of our year 13 Vet students being made offers too:

Rhys - Liverpool/ Isobel - Cambridge and Bristol / Daniella - Surrey

We are delighted that all the hard work that goes into an application from both students and staff has resulted in a 100% success rate.

They were all regular attenders of the thriving Vic Medics club and worked hard to build up skills for their application and interview.

Thanks should also go to Professor Andy Renwick who, as an ex admission tutor for Medicine at Southampton, puts our students through a mock interview type process.

Lynne Sharpe, a former Vet also was a great help with our Vet students with their interview preparation.



Year 10 Most Able Students

5 of our most able students have been taking part in a competition as part of their 4 year University Membership to Warwick University's UniTracks Scheme. They have been busy competing with other schools nationally and locally for the last 10 weeks on a Business Enterprise Project.

Our own entrepreneurs completed some research and identified a Social Enterprise Project that would fit the needs of residents in our local area of Ulverston.

Project Pet is for Pet owners to offer up their pet pooch to be looked after by an elderly member of the community. This offers a more personal and cost effective way than sending canine family member to the kennels during short breaks away or holiday times and helps to reduce loneliness among elderly residents without the long term commitment of owning their own dog.

The Project Pet Enterprise proposal will be presented to a panel of judges from Warwick University, Business Management School on Monday 27th March....Good Luck Ulverston!



To keep up to date with exam timetables and information please refer to the website: www.uvhs.uk/exams



Keep an eye out for our exciting new look website....coming soon!

