



UVHS Hosts Literary Festival Fun!

Mr Fay writes.....

We are coming to the end of another exciting year at UVHS: one of extreme highs tempered with the bitter challenges of our financial situation.



The school as a learning institution is in rude health. We are eagerly anticipating this year's examination results which we hope will be, for the third year running, our best ever! We are enjoying our best standard of pupil attendance ever. Behaviour continues to improve and our merit system has become almost a cottage industry churning out over 3000 merits to deserving students.

We have already set the bar high but we want to be outstanding so next year we

will further challenge our students by making our criteria for ATL 1's more demanding. We will also bring in a firmer criteria base for the awarding of Headteacher WOW's and introduce a new more rigorous regime for homework which I know is a concern for many parents.

When parents are surveyed they tell me that the school is a safe, enjoyable place for their children. They believe that the school is well led and managed (phew!) and their children are well taught. Evidence suggests, however, that we have not got our message across regarding everything we have done to create a "Healthy School" and all the many extra curricular activities we offer. We have already made great strides on the catering front and next year will see a quantum leap! We will be able to cater effectively for Year 10 who will be expected to stay in school at lunchtime ending the pilot scheme designed to give us the space to develop our catering facilities and menus. Also I have received concerns from the Town Council about the feelings of local citizens about crowded lunchtime pavements and as we will have record numbers in our Sixth Form I must respect the sensibilities of our whole community by reducing the number of students in town at lunchtime.

Another reduction, through no fault of its own, the school has to make major financial cutbacks and we have had to reduce the number of teaching groups in Year 8 (2010/11) to 5 in most subjects. I know that will mean large groups but I do not have the staff, nor can I afford the staff to teach a sixth group which would cost £50,000. One of the results of funding mechanisms is that whilst schools further north have enormous surpluses UVHS has a large deficit.

Ironically we are beginning to grow in numbers in all year groups as our quality has become obvious to parents across Furness. Ulverston Victoria High School is already a very good school and it will be fantastic. I can clearly see our destination even through the trails and tribulations of our financial situation and student numbers. Charles Dickens coined the phrase in "A Tale of Two Cities", it was the 'best of times and the worst of times'. Soon it will be only 'the best of times!'.

Our fantastic UVHS Literary Festival 2010 took place on Saturday 19th June and went extremely well. There were many activities in which to take part and all were well supported.

UVHS students began the day with face painting, taking part in competitions and reading. Soon the audience for the reading was full of tigers, lions, dogs and butterfly faces! The toddlers section was first where Year 8 students read books suitable for very young children. The toddlers were rapt and listened to a range of stories. The Get Caught Reading Winners were : Years 3-4 : Jamie (pictured right), Years 5-6 : Robert, Years 7-9 : Lewis and Years 10-13 : Jo, Sophie and Tom.



Whilst this was happening, those shortlisted for the writing competition were taking part in writing workshops with award-winning author Alan Gibbons; something they enjoyed immensely.

The lunch break provided time for people to get food from the fantastic burger van on site before Alan Gibbons gave a question and answer session for audience members.

The afternoon saw the start of the formal presentation for the writing and 'illustrate a poem' competitions.

This year's theme was 'The Sea' and there were over 600 entries in total. Shortlisted writers had their work read (by UVHS students) before being awarded their prizes and we were also able to see the fantastic illustrated poems that had been shortlisted. Alan Gibbons awarded the prizes for both of these competitions.

The winners of our writing competition were Years 3-4 : Holly Fisher, Years 5-6 : Emily, Years 7-9 : Eleanor and Years 10-13 : Ross.

The Illustrate A Poem pieces were amazing. Many entries were boxes or wonderful shapes or 3d pieces, which couldn't be scanned, so they are currently displayed in the entrance of UVHS. The winners were Years 3-4 : Georgia, Years 5-6 : Francesca and Years 7-9 : Anna. All the entries were brilliant and showed the outstanding talent the youngsters in Cumbria have. Log onto the UVHS website to read the shortlisted pieces, see the photographs and the illustrate a poem entries.

This was once again an amazing event. Ms Nicholls would like to thank everyone who helped to make the day such an enjoyable and fabulous success.



Charlotte Reaches the Peak

Year 11 student Charlotte has been awarded the Richard Pickering Memorial Trophy for her outstanding achievements in skiing.



Charlotte, a regular skier with both school and family, achieved maximum marks in skiing as part of her practical GCSE Physical Education assessment on the Cumbria Schools Ski Course in Austria earlier this year. The quality of her skiing was recognised by several instructors who could see her star potential and enthused about her technique and skill. Charlotte has ambitions to become a ski racer or instructor and is investigating the possibility of a scholarship from one of the top ski providers in the UK.

Adult Education Courses

Good News - Plenty of NEW courses on offer through Ulverston Adult Education.

I am sure many were saddened last year with the closure of Ulverston Adult Education and the uncertainty this generated over whether any kind of adult education provision would continue in this town. I am happy to report that a good bulk of the provision did continue to run this year, being administered by Cartmel Community Education. These courses, as well as many others have now been added to the curriculum which will be offered from September 2010. Ulverston will once again have its own brochure and identity and classes will run in a variety of locations from Pennybridge School to the various church halls in Ulverston, also at 6 Cross Street which is the adult education office as well as at Pennington village hall and parish rooms and at the Lantern House. We hope, with your support, that provision can continue to grow and to that end we have tried to gain feedback on the types of classes you would like to see. Laura Marsden of the Extended Services team is also circulating a questionnaire, which we hope will elicit useful feedback to enable us to plan future courses which are requested. We will be holding an enrolment day at Ulverston library on September 9th 12:00-14:00 hours. Over the summer you can enrol by phone on 015395 36323 where we have a 24 hour answer machine or by post, sending your forms to Cartmel Community Education, Headless Cross, Cartmel, LA11 7SA. All cheques are made payable to Cumbria County Council and remember if you are paying by card to include the valid from and expiry date, as well as the 3 digit security code on the reverse. We look forward to welcoming you in the new term.

I Remember

I remember leaving my mum and feeling sad.
I remember being crammed into a train and feeling claustrophobic.
I remember the city turning into the countryside.
I remember getting off the train and smelling the fresh air and feeling a bit happier.
I remember my itchy jumper and gas mask.
I remember meeting my new family.
I remember my first stew - carrots and vegetables.
I remember thinking of my mum as I drifted to sleep.
I remember the sweet sound of silence.

By Tony Ray 7.2

National Doodle Day

Thank you to everyone who took part in our recent Doodle Day for Epilepsy Action and Neurofibromatosis.



Our Doodle Winner was Sam in Year 8. Sam's Doodle (pictured below) will go forward to the national competition for schools. Well done Sam!



Pictured Doodlers above are Hannah, Anna and Dan with Jessica and Sam's doodles.

Year 9 McBrides Make-It Challenge

UVHS will be represented at this event on 6th July by a team of Year 9 students: Eloise, Becky, Mia, Ellie, Harry, Brad, Josh and Robin. This is the first round of heats for the competition, where we will be up against local schools. If we are successful we will go through to the next round of heats, which will be the area finals. We wish them all the best of luck!

World Owl Trust

We thought you may like to share in some of the positive comments from the general public that have been received by Muncaster Castle about our students' work there this year.



Hilary Lange, UK Conservation Officer for the World Owl Trust explains..... When asked during our work parties, what we were doing with the area and why the pupils were involved. I explain to people that we are enhancing the area for wildlife and that it will be open to the public with information and tips on how they can help wildlife in their own garden. I also explained that the pupils from your school have been working with us to clear out some of the silt from the pond, created a new island for a wildlife refuge, cleared vast areas of invasive plants which are detrimental to the native flora, and transplanted plants to the new pond, when clearing out another overgrown pond nearby. One gentleman from Cumbria who visits Muncaster on a regular basis said that "he thought it was great that there is an opportunity for the kids to learn practical skills in a hands on way, and wished that there had been something like that when he was at school".

A couple stopped to see what the pupils were doing, and the lady asked me to pass on to the pupils that "we really appreciate what you are doing and it is good to see such hard work from young people, please say thank you from us, as this is something that will benefit everyone".

Everyone who has asked about the area has had a positive response, especially when they have seen the pupils working on the site.

I would like to say a big thank you from us for all your effort and hard work so far.

National Healthy School Award

UVHS is working towards the **National Healthy School Award**. In the award there are four themes, these are **PSHEE** - this is taught to all students in years 7 to 11 as part of the Citizenship curriculum and supported in the 20 minute tutor time. **Physical activity** - this includes both curriculum and extra curricular activities and encourages students and staff to walk or cycle to school and take part in other physical activity out of school. **Emotional Health and Wellbeing** of students and staff, this includes feeling happy and safe at school, being able to access services and learning how to relax! Then we have **Healthy Food** and a positive dining experience including learning about balanced eating and lifestyles; this happens through the curriculum and through the work of our fantastic catering team. Over the past term Mrs Wren our Catering Manager has been working with Mrs Jones our Healthy Schools, Citizenship/PSHEE Coordinator to redesign the school menus to meet the government nutrient based standards. As a result there will be new dishes on the menu that will be trialed in the week commencing 28th June. We have exciting developments in September including a brand new Pasta Bar for a low priced filling lunch option. We are putting together meal deal options with consultation of students and staff. We would like to encourage our students to eat in the dining room and get a great value nutritious meal. We would welcome any thoughts on this from parents, carers and students. Please e-mail tjo@ulverstonvictoria.cumbria.sch.uk Please see our sample menus on the school website.

ICT Celebrate Best Ever Results!

This term the ICT department has been really busy with community work. Low Furness school have visited UVHS, taking



part in control, modelling and programming, ably assisted by five Year 10 students. Mr Rayner and Mrs Silcocks have run two after school sessions for local primary colleagues on using the Internet, email, Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. The Brownies are visiting on two occasions to do their computer badge as part of

the Primary Hub work. In addition to this the Department is thrilled to have received its best ever results for



Year 11 – with 100% A*-C, thanks to students for all their hard work.



Language News

After a hectic revision period in which all year 11, 12 and 13 French and German students have had individual practice speaking sessions after school, we are now busy preparing for our forthcoming visits to Germany with Year 8. 25 students will travel to Rosbach east of Cologne and spend 3 nights at a youth hostel. In a packed programme visits include Cologne city, a leisure pool, a mining museum, a cable car and boat trip. Pupils use their language skills to communicate with hostel and café staff and shopkeepers. 14 year 10 students will fly to Paris for 3 nights and do a cultural tour of art galleries, Notre Dame, the Eiffel Tower and Sacre Coeur as well as practising their language skills. Year 7 are looking forward to their French theatre production in the hall when they will see "Les Trois Mousquetaires" and be entertained by juggling and circus acts. Key stage 3 and 4 classes have been doing café role plays and fashion shows in French lessons which have been filmed so that they can analyse their pronunciation skills and artistic interpretation.

Pictured right : Year 8 students well-protected for fencing in Normandy.



Attention New Year 7 Parents!

If any parents of our new Year 7 students would like to join the Parents' Advisory Group or The Friends of the Vic from September - please pass your details, including e-mail address, telephone number and name of child to Andrea Herman at school. You may be a skilled PTA member from primary school - don't let those skills go to waste - we need you!

Home Access Grant Eligibility

Are you eligible?

If you are a parent and think you are eligible for a Home Access grant simply call the Home Access Grant Helpline on 0333 200 1004 to an application form.

Quick eligibility check

Have a look at the eligibility requirements below. You may be able to qualify for a Home Access grant if you:

- Answer yes to three questions in Section one

AND

- Answer yes to at least one question in Section two

Section One:

Are you a parent or guardian responsible for and living with a child

..... Who is in school years 3 to 9?

..... Who attends a state-maintained school in England full time?

..... Who has not already had a computer from a Home Access Grant or similar programme, such as Computers for Pupils?

Section Two:

Do you receive at least one of the following?

- Free school meals for your child

- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance

- Income support

- Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit and an income of less than £16,040

- Guaranteed Pension Credit (not Savings Credit)

- Income-based Employment Support Allowance

- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

School Uniform

Next September sees the arrival of our new school uniform. It is compulsory for Year 7 but other year students have two years before it is necessary for them, although they are welcome to wear it at any time.

Already some students are wearing the new school shirt. The shirt must be worn with the tie. There is now a version of a long and short sleeved shirt available.

Piercings and Hair Colour

A reminder to parents that apart from one stud in each ear no piercings are allowed. To be absolutely clear, that includes:

No tongue piercings.

No nose piercings.

No tummy button piercings.

Also, the school rule is that if a colour is applied to hair it should be subtle and sympathetic to the natural colour of the student's hair. Vivid purples, reds, blues or pinks are for instance, unacceptable.

If your child enjoys the relaxation of the summer to experiment with his/her hair colour please make sure that colour has washed out by September, so that we are not faced with a difficult issue which could compromise good relationships between school and home.

Early Closure - Thursday 15th July

UVHS will close at 1.50 pm as is traditional. Early buses have been arranged with the exception of the service buses which go via Bardsea and the Coast Road. If there are students who need to wait in school please let Mr Fay know and arrangements will be made for them to remain in school until 3.30 pm.

Mrs Cooper : Year 7 Pastoral Leader

Hello! My name is Amanda Cooper and I have been at Ulverston



Victoria High School for 3 years now as the Development Co-ordinator for German. I really enjoy teaching German and French but recently have felt that it was time to try something different.

I am delighted to say that from September I will be the Pastoral Leader for year 7. I am already meeting and getting to know the year 6 pupils and I am really looking forward to welcoming them on their first day. As a parent of a

year 7 pupil I am only too aware of how exciting, yet also daunting the prospect of moving to secondary school can be but I know that with the support of a fantastic team of form tutors the pupils will soon be settled and happy in their new school. Have a great summer!

Charitable Donations

UVHS have donated to the following charities/organisations April 2009 - June 2010:

D Blackhurst - carer of Isaac Mwangi	:	£648.93
Kinamba Project	:	£52.00
Samaritans Purse	:	£110.00
Flood Relief	:	£1,266.66
Haiti Earthquake Appeal	:	£653.00
World Owl Trust	:	£650.00
Sports Relief	:	£987.04
Lakes Leisure - Hoist Appeal	:	£300.00
Total	:	£4,667.63

It's History

The past few weeks have been really busy for the History Department. All our Year 11, 12 & 13 students have been working really hard to prepare for their exams. I am also pleased to report that all the History papers have now been sat and they were all lovely papers, with no horrible questions thrown in.

To help Year 13 prepare for their module on International Relations from 1945 to 2004, we were very pleased to welcome into school John Aldred, the Chief Examiner for this module and the man who wrote their textbook. He worked with the

students for a day and they found this very helpful. As our Year 13 leave to start the next stage of their lives, all staff in the department wish them all the very best. You have been



fantastic and we will really miss you!

Our Year 10 students have also been working hard, preparing work for their Controlled Assessment, which has replaced the coursework element for the first time this year. A few weeks ago we visited Brougham Castle, near Penrith, which is now the focus for this module. It was cold and a bit damp but the students worked hard looking at the different features of this castle.

Ms Lomas' Year 9 class celebrated VE day in style in May – students brought in sandwiches, biscuits and cakes, which we ate whilst listening to Vera Lynn. The picture is of an amazing cake that Rachel Dorricott baked and decorated for our party. After the



food, the students all played marbles and hop scotch!

Finally, at the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to Mr Bryant. He has been a fantastic member of the department and we will be very sad to see him leave. We would like to take this opportunity to wish him all the very best in his new school.



Free to be Me!

A number of Year 7, 8 and 9 students recently entered a national competition "Free to be Me" through their Citizenship/PSHEE lessons. Our school had the most entrants so our department has won a video camera, worth £300, to use in lessons for projects. Grace won a Play Station Portable Console, Katie won a £15 i-tunes voucher and a Neutrogena® Wave power skin cleanser and Libbi, Lucy and Natasha have all won goody bags with Johnson's® beauty products. Information for the site was written by Mrs Jones and the prizes provided by National Schools Partnership. Well done to all those who participated!

Years 7 to 10 Celebrate at Prize Giving

On the evening of Thursday 24th June, students from Years 7 to 10, together with their parents, members of UVHS staff, governors and special guests met at the Coronation Hall in Ulverston to celebrate the range of achievements and progress made throughout this year. We have always celebrated the achievements of our senior students at Christmas, but we felt that we would like to complement this by encouraging high achievement in the main school by hosting a prize giving for them.

Prizes were sponsored by a variety of local companies and traders such as Fingerprints Art Prizes, Pure English Prizes, Marl Design and Technology Prizes and CGP Maths Prizes to name but a few. Special prizes were kindly donated by Brathay, Town Lands Trust

and Dr Helen Edwards and were presented to students by Alyson Knowles and Graham Chadwick of Brathay. Our Head Girl Amelia and Head Boy Mark gave a vote of thanks for the evening.

It was a tremendous success, well attended by all. At the end of the evening tasty refreshments were provided by Mrs Lister and her team in the Supper Room. The audience listened to the fantastic UVHS Jazz Combo who played throughout the evening.

Congratulations to all those students who received prizes. Special mention must go to Daniel Year 7 (pictured right) who won a grand total of four prizes - well done Daniel! Fraser from Year 9 won three prizes, including the Special Headteacher's Award. Katy from Year 10 (pictured left) thoroughly deserved her prize of The School Award for Fortitude.



Sports News

ESAA English Schools T&F Cup 2010 - On Tuesday 18th May we took 4 teams to Carlisle for the Track and Field Cup and the students performed exceptionally well. There were excellent performances from the **Junior Girls** (Years 7 and 8). Molly who won the 1500m and Zarina came 3rd, Lorna won the 800m and Freya won the 200m. There were also some good performances from Lucy, April and Louisa in the track events and Tia, Kirsten, Shannon and Clara in the field events. Our JG relay team (consisting of Kirsten, Lucy, Shannon and Freya) won by 12 metres!

There were some outstanding performances from the **Senior Girls** (Years 9 and 10) including Lydia winning the 300m. Carys, Kate, Katie and Katie performed well in the distance event. Lisa also made her debut at the hurdles! Our SG relay team of Rosie, Katie, Anna and Lydia continued with the girls winning streak and won the final relay. The senior girls were – Carys, Amy, Lisa, Lydia, Katie, Kate, Alex, Rosie, Katie, Anna and Emma.

The **Junior Boys** (years 7 and 8) consisting of Dan, Arlen, Mark, Ben, Patryck, Kieran, Billy, James, Jack, Adam, Morgan, Sam and Adam performed well. There were great performances from Dan (Hurdles and Javelin), Mark (100m and Discus), James (800m), Billy (High Jump) and Morgan (Shot). The team scored a creditable 216 points placing them 5th in the competition.

The **Intermediate Boys** performed exceptionally well and were very close to going through to the next round scoring 273 points. There were some outstanding performances from Fraser (Discus and 1500m), Macaulay (Discus and 200m), Josh (Hurdles), Kieren (200m and Javelin), Greg (100m) and Dalton (Shot). The intermediate boys were Danny, Josh, Greg, Kieren, Macaulay, Edward, Dalton, Angus, Ben, Fraser, Will, Reece, Andrew and Greg.

35 of our UVHS athletes achieved their ESAA Track and Field Badges. There were 30 BRONZE awards, 3 SILVER awards – Lydia, Molly and Macaulay, and 2 GOLDS – Fraser (35 points overall) and Freya (43 points, 2 off the highest accolade – Platinum).

Freya - Freya in year 8 (pictured left) has had an exceptional athletics season this year. Freya has run for Barrow Striders and has had an excellent season. She has won the district 100m and 200m, and won the 200m at the County Championships with an amazing time of 26.6 seconds. She ran the Manchester 150m and won that! Freya then went to Gateshead and ran for Cumbria, she ran the quickest race so far, with an amazing time of 26.5 seconds – 0.1 seconds off the National Qualifying time. We are in no doubt that with Freya's outstanding effort and brilliant attitude she is only going to continue to improve. Well done Freya – an outstanding season!



Athletics - In May we took over 60 athletes (across the year groups) to Blackpool to compete in the South Lakes Selection Competition. All athletes did themselves credit and 23 finished in the top 3 and were therefore selected to represent South Lakes at the County Final. Special congratulations go to the following students for coming first in their events; Fraser (discus), Lorna (800m), Freya (100m and 200m), Aaron (100m), Kieren (javelin) and Natalie (shot and discus).

Tennis - Congratulations to the boys year 9 tennis team of Peter, Patrick, Will, Angus and Josh (pictured right) on their achievement of becoming County Champions. They were undefeated in the group stages and then played QES Penrith in the semi-final. Thankfully, with the game tied at 3 rubbers each it came down to a 10 point tie break. Peter and Patrick stepped up to the mark and won 10-0. It was a similar story in the final where they played Sedbergh. This time in the tie break it was much closer with the final score being 10-8. This is a great achievement as the boys were playing against year 10 students. The boys also entered the Barrow Schools doubles championships held at Dowdales with both pairings reaching the finals. This time Patrick and Peter won the battle to become champions.



Geography Gad About!

It's that time of the year again when the Geography Department gets out of the classroom and into the field! The first fieldwork days involved the whole of year 8 going to Ambleside over four days to avoid swamping the town with 180 students. The weather



conditions varied from rain on Tuesday, strong winds on the Wednesday to glorious sunshine on Thursday and Friday. The objective of the visit is to collect data on the shop types and economic activity of Ambleside and then use this data to test the hypothesis that Ambleside's main function is as a tourist town.

Students happily recorded the shop types and economic functions whilst gazing longingly through the windows of the



Chocolate House and the Lakeland fudge shop with quite a few students getting equally excited by the contents of Greggs!

We then set about ascending to the summit of Loughrigg fell above the town with glorious views down Windermere, to the Langdale pikes in the west and the Fairfield horseshoe in the North. From the summit, students recorded the glacial features and tried to imagine the power of the ice which created this unique and dramatic environment.

All the days went superbly well as a result of the enthusiasm and hard work of the students - well done Year 8.

Year 10 Geographers visited the Duddon valley to collect data to test the hypothesis; "Why do channel characteristics vary downstream at a number of sites on your chosen river?"

After a demonstration at site one, students then set about collecting the cross-sectional



area, the wetted perimeter, the average speed and data on the characteristics of the rivers load at a further 8 sites. Despite the lack of rainfall over the previous weeks there was sufficient water in the river to gather the necessary data.

The students worked well together and on both days collected reliable and meaningful results. After completing all this hard work we called at Broughton post office for a well deserved ice cream! - well done year 10.

Board Games

Do you have any unwanted board games you could donate for lunchtime recreation in the Study Skills Centre? If so, please drop them off at UVHS Reception.

Dramatic Success!

Two Drama students from UVHS have encountered national success this year! Year 13 student Rachael has attained a place to study for a Theatre degree commencing in September 2010 at East 15 - the prestigious Drama school in London.

Competition for entry to East 15 is always extremely tough and Rachael succeeded in becoming one of the few students nationally to be offered a place after her interview. The playwright and theatre director Joan Littlewood (author of "Oh what a lovely War!") endowed the school 's theatre and past alumni include many famous film and stage actors. Rachael is delighted to be going to live near the bright lights of London to study and excited to begin her course.

Meanwhile, Sam in Year 11 has been invited to spend a second summer season at the National Youth Theatre in London. He participated last

year, when he and Lewis were successful out of thousands of students nationally in competitive audition. This is an opportunity afforded to very few students



each year in England and Wales so this is highly to his credit. Miss Hicks would like to offer congratulations to both students and hope they both enjoy the experience - well done!

Astronomy Photography

The first astronomical photographs by UVHS students using a telescope in the Canary Islands have been taken over the last few weeks. Sadly there have been no trips to Tenerife but instead the students have used online facilities to take the images using Bradford University's Robotic Telescopes.

Use of the telescopes has been aided by a grant from the Institute of Physics but is not only available to physics students, anyone at the school with an interest in astronomy can access the service.

There are tutorials and quizzes available for teachers to set for whole groups of students or individuals can browse the



information themselves. The tutorials recommend a series of images to take but again, users can request photos be taken of any astronomical object they like from constellations to the moon, the planets, galaxies and interstellar gas clouds.

From year 7 beginners observing the phases of the moon to sixth form experts taking measurements in support of cosmological theories, there is something for everyone to try.

From September we hope to use the website to showcase students' work - watch this space!

Any student or teacher interested in using the telescopes should see Mr Thompson or for more general information see <http://schools.telescope.org/>

By Royal Command!

UVHS is delighted that 12 of our musicians have been invited to play for the Queen at her annual Garden Party on 6th July. They will join about 30 other musicians from around the country who are all members of the Army Cadet Force Corps of Music to form a national representative band which will entertain both Her Majesty and all her guests. One pupil, George Pamerter (Year 10), has also been invited to be soloist with the band and will perform 'What a Wonderful World' at the party. The other students involved are: Year 9 – Patrick, Ben, Harry; Year 10 – Bar, Henry, Iain; Year 11 – Haley, Kathryn, Amelia; Year 12 – Charlotte; Year 13 – Michael. Good luck to all of them and many thanks to our own woodwind teacher Michelle Reed who is the officer in charge of the Army Cadet band in Ulverston and also the county.

Chamber Concert

The Music Department staged the chamber concert in May, giving an opportunity for all the smaller musical ensembles in the school to perform: the Choir, Year 11 Chamber Choir, String Orchestra, Brass & Saxophone Ensembles, Senior Flute, Junior Flute and Clarinet Choirs all entertained the large audience with a wide variety of music, some of which had been used by Year 11 students in their GCSE Music exams. The String Quartet played a piece composed by Year 11 student Jess (written for her GCSE exam). Some of our departing Year 13 students also got the chance to give a farewell solo performance - well done to Faye, Michael, Charlotte, Guy and Laura.

The Junior Band (directed by Ms. Reed) played Bandstand Blues featuring Patrick on trumpet and Sam on tuba as well as Disney on Parade and the evening was rounded off by the phenomenal Little Big Band (pictured below right) who gave a toe-tappingly brilliant performance including Glen Miller's 'In The Mood' as well as some jazz-funk.



However, the whole evening was stolen by the debut performance of the Ulverston Primary Orchestra (pictured left), conducted by Mrs. Heginbotham. This is a group of Year 3 – Year 6 students who now rehearse every Wednesday after school and they are to be congratulated for holding their nerve so well and delivering a great performance!

Many thanks to all those who supported the evening.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 18th November - Jazz Night at the Coot with the UVHS Little Big Band and the Royal Marines Dance Band (tickets from UVHS Music Dept. - £5 each).

Friday 19th November - The Band of H.M. Royal Marines in concert with UVHS Wind Band - Coronation Hall @ 7.30pm (tickets from the Coro Box Office).

Tuesday 14th December - UVHS Christmas Festival at the Coronation Hall @ 7.30pm (tickets on the door).

Wednesday 15th December - UVHS Senior Prizegiving - Coronation Hall @ 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm.



Governors News

The Governing Body take their monitoring role very seriously and in doing so are keen to support the school on its journey to outstanding. Therefore, this year we have concentrated on getting to grips with our school policies and ensuring they are live documents which drive forward the improvement agenda. All policies will be available for parents to read on the school website when it is relaunched in August 2010. Alternatively parents can access hard copies of policies on request to the headteacher.

Recently the Governors sponsored an award at the newly introduced Year 7 – 10 prize giving which took place on the 24th June. The evening was a great success and we look forward to it becoming part of the tradition of celebration at UVHS. The Governors fully support the celebration of the school's successes, are very proud of all that the students and staff have achieved this year and are grateful for the tremendous support parents give to their children and the school.

We wish our current school leavers good luck in their summer exams, we know you have worked really hard because your teachers tell us you have and that they and parents have equally worked hard to ensure very positive outcomes for all. So a big thank you from Governors to students, staff and parents. We are once again looking forward to a bumper crop of excellent GCSE and A Level results, our tracking systems indicate we are on target to achieve, once again, the best ever results, so no pressure there then!

Our focus for next academic year is community cohesion. This is an increasingly important aspect of our work. There are three strands to this including:

- Helping pupils to learn to understand others and to value diversity.
- To promote equality of opportunity and excellence in learning.
- To engage with extended services beyond the school building and the school day to provide pupils and their families and the wider community with access to services thus building a positive and supportive community spirit

You will see many examples of how we are engaged with community cohesion in this and previous newsletters. For a more detailed explanation about this important government initiative please go to teachernet.gov.uk.

A further priority for the Governors next academic year is to start to think more creatively about how we can raise additional funds to support the school in its journey to outstanding. If you have any ideas we would love to hear from you. Please contact the school via the school office e-mail address.

Governors are now confident, and many internal and external indicators tell us this is true, that the school is now solidly good with many outstanding features. However, we will continue to work hard, along with the school, on our journey to be outstanding in all aspects. We wish you all a good summer break and look forward to working on your behalf next academic year.

Maths and Computing News

The ICT department has achieved outstanding results in this year's GCSEs. 100% of students achieved grade A*-C and 86% of students achieved a second ICT GCSE. This is an excellent performance. Well done to both students and teachers in the ICT department.

Almost one hundred of our year 11 maths students attended a maths Sunday revision session on the day before their modular exam. Well done to those who came and let's hope for a bumper set of results! Thank you also to the staff who gave up their Sunday to support the students.

UVHS maths students have excelled in national maths challenges this year. They won eight gold awards, fourteen silver and fourteen bronze in the Intermediate Challenge. In the Senior Challenge for sixth form students UVHS earned two golds, three silvers and four bronzes. One of our sixth form students, Nathan Holmes, progressed to the Olympiad round and was also runner up in a separate maths competition run by the Liverpool Mathematics Association.

In September we have record numbers of students choosing maths and further maths at AS level which is a reflection of the success of the subject at UVHS.

In recent months the maths department has run training sessions for primary teachers. In the first maths session we focused on problem solving and in the second on 'Wow Maths'. Both were very well received and we have been asked to deliver further sessions. The ICT department also ran training sessions for primary colleagues on the efficient use of different software packages. They also hosted several of our partner primary schools who took part in ICT projects and all commented on how much they had enjoyed the experience.

Community News

Mrs Lister and Chef Murray are currently running 'Champion Chef' sessions for our partner primary schools. These sessions have been hugely successful. The pupils have come into UVHS and worked on sessions including healthy lunchboxes, super soup and exciting and varied ways of serving and eating fruit. Parents were also invited to attend and join in the fun.

The first UVHS primary sports festival has taken place. This consisted of inter-primary netball and football competitions. Pennington School were winners of the netball and Croftlands Juniors were winners of the football. Each school is the first holder of the new Victoria Cup so congratulations to them.

We have forged a strong partnership with the Honey Pot Community Group holding several meetings to discuss joint projects. To date Chef Murray has given a cookery demonstration focusing on healthy eating and cooking on a budget. Additionally some children from the Honey Pot took part in a taster boxing session which took place during the half term holiday. The Honey Pot Community group have very kindly volunteered to help to paint the planned murals on the UVHS tennis courts for which we are very grateful.

UVHS and Sandside Lodge are currently exploring a new and exciting partnership. We hope that Sandside sixth form students will be able to attend UVHS one day a week from September. They will have maths, ICT and English lessons and both they and our sixth form students will have the opportunity to spend time together. We are hopeful this can be organised and look forward to working together on this.



Meet Our Summer Term Sponsor

Guy McCullough Building Services Ltd, have worked closely with UVHS through provision of Student Placements and wish the school continued success in its future achievements.

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