

ULVERSTON VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL

Winter
Newsletter
2018

THE GOVERNORS ARE VERY PLEASED TO CONFIRM THAT THEY HAVE APPOINTED MR MATTHEW HARDWICK AS HEADTEACHER OF UVHS

Ten years ago, when I joined our school as an Assistant Headteacher, I was asked for a photograph and a small piece of writing about myself to go in the newsletter. I am now writing to you all, for the first time as Headteacher of Ulverston Victoria High School. During the last ten years both the school and myself have changed beyond all recognition.



I joined UVHS at a dark hour in its history. It was in Special Measures following an OFSTED inspection. I was employed to support the acting Headteacher at that time to develop teaching and learning and behaviour for learning. When I look at the school now, with a positive OFSTED report, first rate teaching, exceptional examination results and the wealth of enrichment activities available for our children, it seems almost miraculous to see how far we have come. As I look back at the rapid progress we made to move from Special Measures to Outstanding, it might have appeared, to someone looking from the outside, as miraculous. However, we know that this was achieved by collaboration and hard work by our students, parents and teachers; led by a determined, passionate leadership team. It was in this environment that I learnt my trade as a senior leader. As the school moved forwards I held different roles, with different priorities, requiring different personas, first as Deputy Head, driving the curriculum and school improvement, but with an overview of behaviour management in the school. Then as Head of School when I fulfilled the role of Headteacher for two days a week. It has been a fantastic journey, and as the school has developed, so have I. I now have a new challenge, requiring additional skills, that of leading this school into

the next chapter of its history.

I am extremely proud of UVHS present, it is a place of industry, achievement and high aspiration. I am constantly awed by what our children achieve inside and outside of school and the skill and dedication of our teachers and support staff. Ulverston Victoria High School is a beacon for modern education, at the centre of a warm supportive community, where parents are proud to support and send their children. Now is the time for this school to develop further, to grow in ambition and deliver the best education possible for our amazing students.

Enjoy a Merry Christmas as we all look forward to a fantastic New Year.

Mr M Hardwick, Headteacher

Mr Hardwick with the Senior and School Head Boy and Head Girl Teams.

SENIOR TEAM: Tom (Head Boy) Bella (Head Girl) Dan, Ella, Heather & Pascal (Deputies)

SCHOOL TEAM: Toby (Head Boy) Ruth (Head Girl) Max, Niamh & Oliver (Deputies)





Girl Powered Robotics Workshop

In October, five Y9 Computer Science girls visited Queen Elizabeth School for a robotics workshop using VEX IQ speed build kits. After a keynote speech on robotics, associated careers and routes into them through school courses, the students moved on to the hands-on activities.

First was a speed build activity. Each of the 6 teams was given a VEX IQ kit, and had to quickly assembly the robots. Fiddly connectors from the brains to the motors and sensors ensured attention to detail was required throughout! Once built there was a short explanation on how to program the robot brains, which the students quickly took to. Soon enough 6 VEX IQ robots were allowing their controllers to master driving them around the class.

Once proficient, the teams competed over a challenging course devised by Mr Evason and Miss Chambers. The friendly competition began with all teams showing moments of excellent control and some interesting tactics. Both UVHS teams did brilliantly with Chewbacca ending up at the top of leader board of 6 teams. Well done to all students involved.



VIC MEDICS



We're pleased to introduce our new cohort of Y12 Vic Medics. We have 29 Y12 students who have joined the Vic Medics group, coming together weekly and each having varied interests in Medical careers including surgery, nursing, physiotherapy, neuroscience, clinical psychology and many more! Term one starts with a range of dissections, followed by visits from guest speakers including medical professionals and ex-students in Medical careers.

If you are a medical professional and you could help support and visit the Vic Medics group please contact Mrs Hodgson, Head of Science.

The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines
Directed by: Captain Steve Green BMus(Hons), MA, URSM, AMus TCL, RM
in concert with
U.V.H.S. Wind Band
Directed by: Richard Butler MBE BMus(Hons), ARCM

Saturday 2nd March
7.30pm
Coronation Hall
Ulverston

Tickets
Balcony: £18
Front Stalls: £12 (£4)
Rear Stalls: £9 (£4)
From the Box Office: 01229 587140
www.corohall.co.uk



We now have a new 'Careers Hub' in the library, above Centre Block. There are lots of different resources available for students to use, including different college, sixth form, university and apprenticeship prospectuses, and websites that could help students to decide what may be a suitable career path for them and how to go about getting the qualifications they need for it. The Careers Hub will be open for the students to visit at their leisure every break, lunch and after school. Miss Herrington will be there every Tuesday break time to offer guidance to students.



November saw over 60 brightly coloured shoeboxes filled with Christmas gifts leave UVHS on their journey to Eastern Europe. The local charity Boxes of Hope Cumbria co-ordinate the collection and distribution of the boxes bringing a little bit of Christmas magic and hope to children who do not have the same opportunities we have. There were some fantastic and generous contributions from across the school.



SIXTH FORM FUNDRAISING

As our UVHS Sixth Form no longer wear school uniform the students still like to have 'Non Uniform Days.' The Sixth Form Head Boy and Girl Team arrange these days and choose which charity is going to be supported. This term the Sixth Form students have supported



Mind with a Halloween themed day, raising £187.45. The students have also had a 'Formal Friday' where a bow tie or two was spotted around school but no prom dresses!



UVHS are again supporting the local Food Bank Christmas drive. We are again helping to create Christmas Family Hampers. Over the past 3 years we have actively supported the Food Bank. In 2015 we donated 660.6 Kg of Food (or an incredible 1,573 meals) and raised £1,233.34. In 2016 we donated hundreds of mince pies and last year we made 51 Christmas family hampers (That's 3 more than we had forms collectively!)



UVHS BACK ON TOP

On Sunday 18th November Ulverston Victoria High School attended The British Orienteering Championships. UVHS won the large secondary school category along with numerous individual and team awards. The Y7 girls and boys teams came second. In the Y8 category the girls team came first with Jessica 8.2 placing third individually. The Y8 boys team came second. In Y9 both the girls and boys team won first place. Emily 9.7 and Laura 9.1 taking the top two places in the girl's category and Dylan 9.8 coming second in the boys. The Y11 girls placed first with Ellie 11.2 taking second place in the individual category. Y12 boys and girls teams both placed third with Jess 12.7 taking second individually. Finally, Y13 girls placed first and in the individual category Catherine 13.1 placed third with the boys getting second place.

- Harriet 12.1

After the amazing results at the BSOC both of the UVHS girls teams (all being well) will be selected to go to WSOC next year in Estonia.

It was the first time in a number of years for UVHS to win the overall Large School category, although we have had our name on the trophy 18 times in the past. We beat our local rivals Cockermouth by 2 points.

EXAMS



For the most up to date information regarding exams and revision please see the school website:

www.uvhs.uk/exams

EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURE

UVHS will close at 1.50pm on the last day of term, **Friday 21st December 2018**. School transport have been informed and students who use school buses will be collected at this earlier time.

BACK TO SCHOOL

UVHS will reopen **Monday 7th January 2019**.

UVHS PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS:

hairspray

The Broadway Musical

Friday 22nd March
Saturday 23rd March
@ THE CORONATION HALL

TICKETS:

£8.50 (£4 children/students)
from The Coro Box Office
www.corohall.co.uk

Book by Mark O'Donnell
 & Thomas Meehan
Music by Marc Shaiman
Lyrics by Scott Whittman
 & Marc Shaiman



Based on the New Line Cinema film written and directed by JOHN WATERS.
Orchestrations by Harold Wheeler, Arrangements by Marc Shaiman.

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe. www.mtishows.co.uk

New Starters at UVHS

On the 5th September, 217 tiny children dressed in over-large, pristine uniforms entered the UVHS hall, all ready to start “an awfully big adventure”. In their first term, they have grown in confidence, stature and into their uniforms, and it has been an absolute pleasure to see them settle in so well. There have been far fewer fall outs, tears and Lost Boys than I had expected!



On their first day, I told them I wanted them to be the best year group in the school, and they have certainly risen to the challenge; they have been so keen to get involved with all the school has to offer and every one of them is mindful of our Victoria Values. Teachers are always telling me how well-behaved Y7 are, and I am extremely proud of all they have achieved in their first term.

Thanks to Mr Martin and the rest of the English department, Y7 were given the opportunity to show off just how exemplary their behaviour was on our school trip to see Peter Pan at The Dukes in Lancaster at the end of November. The show was

brilliant, and we even had some of the year group get on stage as pirates! I am sure none of us really want them to grow up, but I am sure that they are in the best place to do it here at UVHS.

USA College Visit

Jim Bock, vice-president and dean of admissions at Swarthmore College, Philadelphia, USA gave a presentation to around 50 UVHS Sixth Form students.

Swarthmore College is one of a growing number of liberal arts colleges in the USA where students get to study a mixture of humanities, social sciences and the natural sciences. At Swarthmore, 13% of their student body is made up of international students.

For British students, the upfront cost of US colleges can be eye-watering – one year of tuition at Swarthmore costs \$44,368 (£29,000). Jim was keen to stress that the selective college can offer grants and scholarships to those who get in. He explained that about 50% of the college’s students receive grants, and the average is for about \$38,700 dollars a year. This means that the actual cost to students is actually around \$6000 a year.



Jim then went on to explain how the application and admissions process works for applying to University in the USA. The talk was very informative and very well received by our students.

ENGLISH Extra Curricular Activities for Sixth Formers

Our various extra-curricular activities for sixth-formers recently resulted in the creation of IngSoc: the UVHS Sixth Form English Society. As well as our department magazine, *The Tenth Circle*, we’re now running a programme of weekly events that includes ‘Write Club’, for the creatives; **Cinema Night**, for the film buffs; **Debating Club**, for the speakers; and a **Book Club**, for the obsessive readers. Many of these activities are student-led, and non-English students are very welcome; if you’d like to start your own IngSoc club, or simply want more information about the events we currently offer, please speak to Mr Guerrero.

This term, **Reading Allowed*** went from strength to strength. Some weeks, Mr Stubbert and Mr Guerrero weren’t even able (allowed?) to read to the students, owing to the numbers participating and their eagerness to share. Our weekly themes have included Dragons and Mythical Creatures, Food, and Poetry. We’ve really seen a change in the confidence and ability of our regulars, some of whom compose their own texts to read aloud (yes, that’s allowed), too! Currently, we have enthusiastic readers from Y7-10 attending, and look forward to welcoming some new faces in the New Year.

Most significantly of all, we celebrated this Halloween with another of our spooky after-school reading events in the Library, fast becoming an annual fixture. The readings were also accompanied by a highly successful book sale at which students bought a selection of spooky titles for themselves as well as early Christmas gift purchases. Look out for details of our next after-school event, coming soon. * pun fully intended.





On Friday 16th November the UVHS dancers took to the stage in the Dance Extravaganza!

Over 100 pupils performed in the dance show, showcasing a range of different dance styles. The performances ranged from contemporary, tap, street dance, lyrical, commercial dance and ballet solos.

Both Y9 dance groups and Y10 GCSE dancers presented pieces in the show along with the UVHS dance team and individual group choreographies.

The pupils were fantastic and worked so hard in the run up to the show, rehearsing most nights and even at the weekend to ensure they put on an exceptional performance....of which they did!

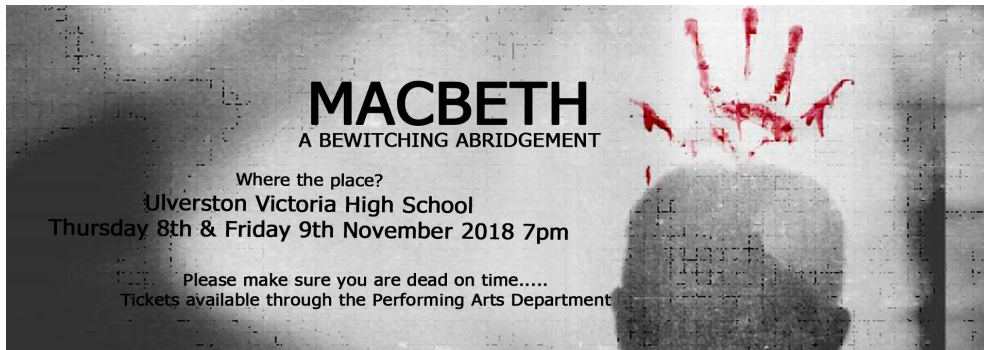
Well done to all the pupils for your outstanding commitment and effort! A lot of money raised for the new dance department with exciting things to come! Watch this space.



This academic year UVHS are proud to introduce a new Dance Kit for the Y9 Dance and GCSE Dance classes.

Dance Kit





Amongst the broad and diverse Performing Arts enrichment programme run at UVHS, students from Y10 and Y11 took part in a two night run of Shakespeare's 'Scottish Play' in November. When Shakespeare first staged 'The Scottish Play' back in 1606 in Hampton Court Palace, he knew full well that King James I would appreciate it. Not only was it about his ancestors, Banquo and Fleance, but also on a subject matter that intrigued the king—witchcraft. Indeed he had written a book about it.

But Macbeth is so much more than that. It is of course not just history. And yet like so many of Shakespeare's plays it is history—the history and examination of the human condition. What drives us and motivates us.



Work began on the project during the second half of the Summer term last academic year, when the text was abridged and arranged for the students by Mr Vogler, the Head of Drama. Parts were cast and initial rehearsals and responses to the play took place. Students busied themselves with learning lines and developing their roles in readiness to conduct a series of intense rehearsals between September and the October half term.

For the students, their abridgement of the play presents the beguiling lure of power and how it can corrupt and be corrupted. Their concept examined the power of the media in a society driven by 24 hour news and how

decisions made by the establishment seem to furnish those in power rather than always for the greater good. Their performance of Macbeth reverberates recent events in current affairs with the echoes of the timeless temptation of power and its ability to seduce the mind, which have resounded from well before the days of the bard and continue to ripple far into the future of the human consciousness.

Mr Vogler would like to extend his special thanks to all cast members for their effusive and energetic input into the shaping of this abridgment. Thanks must also go to co-director Mr Rice for his ideas, creative decisions and technical support.



Gold DofE Remembrance



Well done to the eighteen Y12 students who went on a two day practice expedition in November, where they experienced some proper Lake District weather.

They made it up Scafell Pike on Day 2, for a short service, paying our respects with a two minutes silence in remembrance of those who lost their lives. One student had a special reason to visit the Pike.

'Being able to go up Scafell Pike for the remembrance day was a very unique experience. It also gave me the opportunity to take up a remembrance cross in memory of my cousin Sgt. Peter Thorpe, who died in the war in Afghanistan in 2006, as well as other soldiers that we have lost though other conflicts. Even though the weather was quite bad, this prompted me to make it all the way to the top'. - Elysha (12.6)

The service was more poignant this year, as Scafell Pike was gifted to the National Trust soon after 1918 along with 13 other summits. The students showed amazing grit and determination to reach the top of the 'world's greatest war memorial'. They conducted themselves admirably and it was a fitting close to UVHS's Remembrance activities.

BATTLEFIELDS & REMEMBRANCE

October saw some of the Y9 students travel to France and Belgium for the English and History Battlefields Trip, the significance of which was more poignant with it being the 100 year anniversary of The Great War.



Students visited battlefields and saw the extent of the war with the vast number of gravestones and names on memorials. Some



students were even able to find lost family relatives and pay their respects. The students also experienced what life would have been like in the trenches. Adam and Jessica were given the honour of representing UVHS by laying a wreath at a ceremony at the Menin Gate.

The students put pen to paper each day on the trip to reflect on the day's events sometimes in the form of poems. This has all be correlated into an Anthology which can be found on the website.



1st Ulverston Victoria Scout News

1st Ulverston Victoria Scout Group has reached an amazing milestone this term – it's 90th anniversary! The troop was set-up in 1928, when UVHS was a Grammar School, and became Ulverston's first Scout troop. Anniversary celebrations will continue throughout the year and began with a BBQ for Scouts & parents with traditional games such as conkers and tug-o-war! In a surprise ceremony, Scout Leader Tony Maddox was awarded with his 'Wood Badge' recognising him as a fully trained leader. His own Scout Leader came along to make the presentation.



The Scouts have been very active adventuring outdoors as much as possible – a weekend wild camp, where they made their own bread; survival shelters; night-time man-hunt in the woodlands; fire-lighting and even axe-throwing!

The Scouts attended the Remembrance Day Parade. It was the first time the re-formed 1st Ulverston Victoria Scouts had attended for many years, and they proudly paraded with the original Troop Scout Flag; flag bearers for the Troop were Patrol Leaders James (9.2) and Finley (9.8)



Visit to Paris

Although it now seems a long time ago, the Y10 French visit to Paris at the end of the Summer term was a very memorable experience. We arrived at the airport just as France had won the 2018 World Cup. The atmosphere on the Metro was amazing and it felt like the whole of France had come to Paris to celebrate. Our first meal was spent looking out onto the Place de la République where we could view the celebrations from a comfortable distance.

We managed to fit lots of activities into the 3 days. These included a boat trip down the Seine, a visit to the The Louvre Museum, fantastic views from the top of the Eiffel Tower while others enjoyed the visit to the Pantheon to see the final resting place of famous people such as Marie Curie and Louis Braille. It was encouraging to hear the students practising their French in the shops, market, restaurants and hotel.

As always, the students were excellent ambassadors for their school and country. They coped well on the Metro system and didn't complain about the long distances we made them walk. It was such a unique experience being in Paris at the time of national celebrations and we are sure it is one that our students will never forget.



Sixth Form Trip to Kenya

In July a group of 13 sixth form students, accompanied by Mr Ford and Miss Shaw, embarked on a volunteer trip to Kenya. We arrived at Mama Kerry's Hope Academy in Nakuru (just outside Nairobi) armed with donations of clothes, toys and school equipment brought over from the UK. The children and staff were very happy to see us, and gave us the warmest welcome, singing and dancing for over half an hour. These children came from the most challenging of backgrounds, and would not get any education without this provision.

Before we knew it construction work on the school building began. The local builder, Benji, had us mixing concrete, fetching water and taught us a new method of plastering which was simple enough...throwing spades of wet concrete at the wall. It was hot, dirty but fulfilling work.

The school was set up by the charity African Adventures, and although it receives no government funding, our second day on site brought a government inspector who said the existing classrooms were too small and lacked light. This was enough to close the school. We all set to work with the rudimentary tools available, and within two days, two classrooms had been doubled in size, and now had windows. This satisfied the inspectors who



returned just as we finished. Playtime offered us a welcome break from the tough building work. The children taught us new games and songs, which we were all singing by the end of the week. The last day of volunteering arrived all too soon and after a chap-atti party with the staff, a tearful goodbye marked the end of a fantastic few weeks.

Our Kenya adventure ended with a tough five day trek up Mount Kenya. The altitude and physical endurance required everyone to push themselves further than they had ever done before but the sight of the sun rising above the mountains was definitely worth it.

After being part of this amazing adventure, we believe everyone learned something new. Experiencing life in such a poverty-stricken area made us appreciate the things we take for granted and gave us a completely new perspective on life; the children we worked with were so happy and accepting of the world they are living in. We experienced a very different culture the most authentic way and the memories and lessons we have learned will stay with us for a very long time. - Alex 13.5

FUTURE CHEF

November saw UVHS once again kick start another year of involvement in the national competition, Future Chef.



Last year, UVHS's very own Sophie, demonstrated incredible skill and vision and was rewarded for her efforts



by winning the school heat, the local final and then coming second in the nationals. This year, 14 students entered the school heat where they were given a brief of producing a hot main course for two people, spending no more than £10.



Dishes included; pizza and dough balls, prosciutto wrapped chicken with tomatoes, chicken and mushroom risotto, steak with triple cooked chips, and incredibly, two similar dishes of hake with beau blanc sauce, one finished with leeks and samphire, the other with cockles and mangetout. Dishes were judged by Food Preparation and Nutrition teacher, and founder of Charity Aroma Catering, Mr Hall along with the Head Chef of Virginia House, Craig Sherrington who recently appeared on BBC's Great British Menu, and who is also an ambassador for Aroma.

The two judges said that the scores were very close, and the quality of the food cooked, along with the presentation, was superb, especially given the students cooking were between the ages of 12 and 15! They also commented saying that with such a shortage of chefs, not just locally, but nationally, it was great to see so many young cooks engaging and being passionate about cooking.

The UVHS heat of the Future Chef competition was shared by Braedon - 9.3 and once again Sophie - 11.2 in a very competitive round. They will now progress to the next round where they will compete at Kendal College in December against the winners from other local schools.

For more information about Aroma Catering, including the Foundation and how to apply for support, please visit their website. Pictures taken by Lauren (10.4)



UVHS Food Masterclass Session

Aroma Catering Foundation, linked with Mark Heirs, 'Private Chef of the Year 2018', to create a Food Masterclass session in which selected Y9 students were able to cook alongside the man who has featured on BBC's MasterChef the Professionals, and worked with well known faces such as Heston Blumenthal.



The students, alongside Mark, created a chicken or salmon flatbread with a variety of accompaniments including a kale and cabbage slaw, and an

avocado smash. Whilst cooking, students were able to ask Mark questions about his highly decorated career, including why he made the move from working in some of the best restaurants in the country, to now cooking privately for businesses and celebrities.



Our Girls U15 Football Team have made the Final of the Cumbria Cup after what was a very tough Semi Final against Solway Academy. There have been some exceptional performances from our girls and we are looking forward to the Final after Christmas (we are waiting to hear who our opponent will be!)



The U13 Girls Football have reached the Semi Final of the Cumbria Cup. We play St Benedict's away, after Christmas. Well done girls!

5-a-Side We took both a girls and a boys team to the Barrow Schools 5-a-Side Competition on a very cold, wet night in November. Both teams performed superbly well and the boys ended up winning the competition with 4 wins and 1 defeat. They now go on to the County Finals in Carlisle in the New Year.

In other news there have only been a few fixtures so far, predominantly County Cup matches, all off to winning starts. Y10 reached a Quarter Final. Y11 (who reached the Final last year) have started strong and will next play Dallam in the Quarter Final.

THANKYOU
UVHS would like to thank BENDER UK Ltd for kindly sponsoring the U16 football kit



Inter Form Cross Country

UVHS mixed it up this year for the school cross country event. The students had to run the course set out around the school field as many times as they could in 15 minutes, getting to the nearest marker point in the allotted time. The laps converted into points which were then added up for a form total.

Over the week there was a mixture of weather conditions to contend with. But all students did well.

The winning forms were 7.6, 8.5, 9.8 and 10.6.

Olesia and Louis (both Y9) completed the most amount of laps, 5.75 each! Y11 have not yet had the opportunity to run.



UVHS Rugby League

Y7 Rugby League squad have started their playing career at UVHS very promisingly. We have had excellent attendance at Monday practice sessions and the match performances starting with the Y7 Rugby League Festival through to the Barrow Schools group games have shown huge improvement.

Y8 rugby squad have continued to impress improving in all their games so far. In their toughest game they managed to score their first points against Dowdales in 3 attempts. The team made it to the Semi Final of the Barrow Schools Competition against Furness Academy where they unfortunately were beaten by a very 'big' strong side. Keep 'trying' boys!

Y9 team have continued to progress and despite being knocked out in the Semi Final of the Barrow Schools Competition by a strong Dowdales team there were some impressive performances in their games leading up to this.

Y10 boys started the season with a mini tournament against Millom School and Furness Academy. The boys weren't too confident about the matches but put in two strong performances, to reach the Town Final of the Barrow Schools Competition against Dowdales.



The Final was held at Craven Park and the boys again were very concerned about the prospect of facing what they already knew was a strong Dowdales side. However,



the boys started superbly. They went into the second half 16-14 ahead and full of confidence. Unfortunately, fitness played a part and a lot of the boys tired second half. Dowdales ran out winners but the boys were all very pleased with their efforts, securing a place in the County Championships. Well done and good luck lads.

Y11 Rugby League Squad have improved year on year and having played 2 games this year look capable on their day to beat the best in the area. Our first game against a St Bernard's team who are the benchmark for Rugby League in our area at this age group, ended in a draw. Our second game against Millom was a far more dominant and controlled performance. This has secured us a place in the Final of the Barrow Schools Competition to be played in the near future.

WELL DONE TO ALL THE BOYS TAKING PART AND REPRESENTING THE SCHOOL

Barrow Schools Netball Champions

The Y9 netball team have done it again! They are the Barrow Schools Netball Champions for the third year running. A massive well done to the team for their outstanding performance only conceding 3 goals in the whole of the tournament.

The team then went through to Sedbergh School for the County Finals. With some tough competition the team did extremely well and won their first game against Windermere School. Unfortunately the team did not get any further but aim to do so next year. Well done!

