

ULVERSTON VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL

Summer Term Review 2019



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MR HARDWICK WRITES...



There is always a slightly apprehensive mood amongst teachers as the day Years 11 and 13 receive their exam results approaches. The amount of work put in by students, but also by teachers and of course parents, to give our children the best possible chance, is immense and it is not surprising that everyone involved is nervous with anticipation as they open envelopes or look

down lists, searching for individuals from their form or teaching groups. So the joy is shared by all involved when a set of results as good as those attained by our students is revealed. It is therefore with great pleasure, that I open this Newsletter by congratulating our children on their exceptional results. By the government's favoured measure, these are the best GCSE results that UVHS students have achieved. There have also been astonishing individual successes at GCSE and at A Level, with many students achieving exceptionally high grades and making brilliant progress from their starting points. These outcomes are one of the aspects of working in a school that make being Headteacher of UVHS a privilege and a delight and give me a sense of pride in the achievements and dedication of our staff and students.

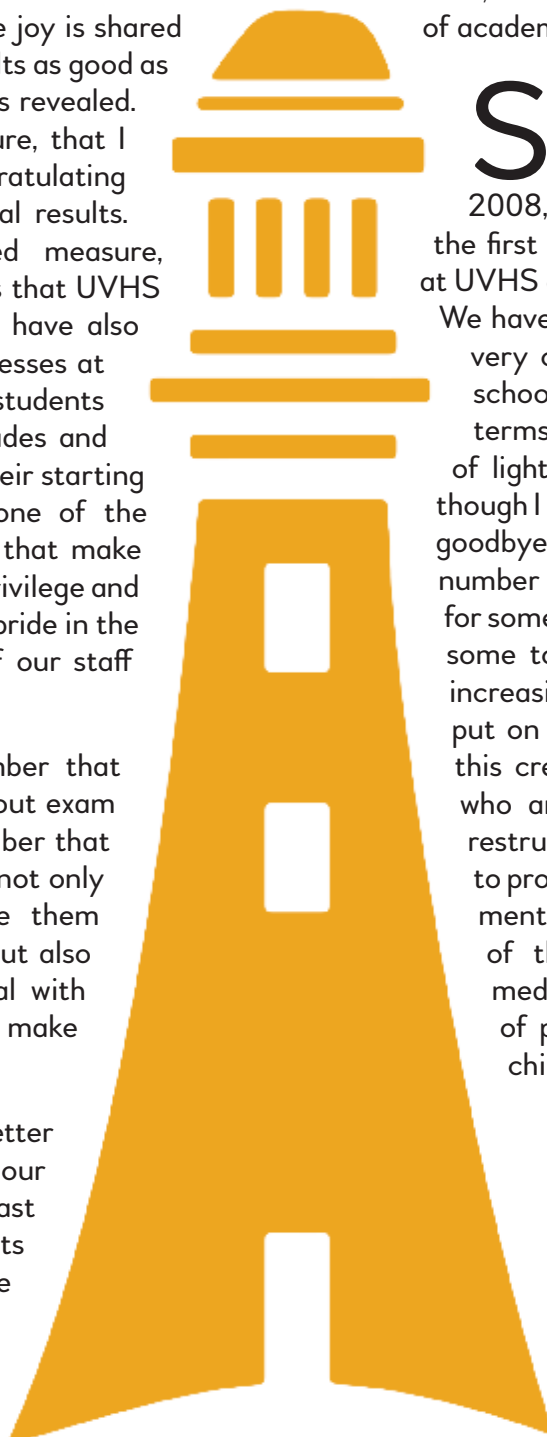
However, we must remember that this school is not just about exam results; we should remember that every Year 11 student this year not only left with qualifications to take them to the next stage of their life, but also left as a well-rounded individual with experiences, skills and values to make them successful in the future.

You will see from this newsletter what opportunities our students have had in the last term; from being on the sports field competing for their house on Sports Day to representing

the school in area and County events. Some have taken part in the concerts or shows, then toured with the Music Department around Lake Garda in Italy as ambassadors for the excellence of the music provision at UVHS and the ethos and values of the school. Students have shown incredible determination to complete Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Gold awards where they have been put outside their comfort zone. Year 10 have been challenged with interviews by real employers and Year 7 have worked on the John Muir Award as part of Enrichment Week. All of this against a background of dozens of other extracurricular activities taking place every day at lunchtime and after school, to say nothing of the day to day business of academic achievement.

So to the future, as we start the new term, UVHS is the biggest it has been since I joined the school in 2008, with the Sixth Form topping 300 for the first time. This is an exciting time to be at UVHS and I am optimistic about the future. We have had to manage the school finances very carefully over the last few years as school budgets have been slashed in real terms. However, there is just a glimmer of light at the end of the financial tunnel, though I say that with fingers crossed. We say goodbye this year, with sincere sadness, to a number of staff who have worked at UVHS for some time, but we also welcome new staff, some to lead new initiatives. I have been increasingly concerned about the pressures put on our children today and the anxiety this creates. In order to support children who are struggling in this way, we have restructured our Learning Mentor Team to provide dedicated support in the area of mental health and anxiety. A great many of these issues permeate from social media and I would appreciate the support of parents in monitoring the way their children use this.

I am proud that UVHS remains at the heart of the community. This has been a great year for UVHS and together we look forward to making the year ahead even better.





Year 8

Historical Re-enactment

On Thursday July 18th, Year 8 enjoyed an exciting day of activities put on for them by Historia Normannis, a 12th Century combat and living history society. In the morning all pupils participated in throwing balloons filled with water from a wooden siege engine, medieval dancing, archery, a camp tour, learning to drill and fight with swords and shields and hot seating a medieval knight. In the afternoon the whole year group experienced a display of medieval warfare using swords, axes, maces, flails and then cabbages to demonstrate the damage that these weapons would do to a human head! Then the re-enactors, fully armoured up, battled it out between them to much cheering and chanting from the pupils. A first for UVHS; a great day and hopefully one that we can repeat next year.



History of Parliament

On Wednesday July 17th, Year 8 learnt about the history of our parliament and the constituent parts of law making and debate. They then prepared for two parliamentary debates, which took place in the school hall, set up to replicate the House of Commons with Mr Wallace as the Speaker of the House. The two debates were; should teachers be armed & should the voting age be lowered to 11. In both cases the pupils had to vote through either the 'Aye' or 'No' lobbies (the Annex and the math's corridor!) and in both cases they voted decisively against the motion.



Alfred Huberman writing award

In Summer 2019 our pupils entered the Alfred Huberman writing award, organised by the Lake District Holocaust Project. This writing competition had 500 entries and was judged by three independent judges, including representatives from the Huberman family. Four of our pupils have done exceptionally well and were highly praised by the judges.

Megan & Freya – Commended. Daniel – Highly Commended. Erica – Third Prize.



Geography News



The penultimate week of the summer term meant the return of our A Level geography fieldtrips. All A Level pupils attend 4 days of fieldwork which are tailored around their non-examined assessment projects. Pupils are required to come up with a focus for their investigation and then to design their own methodology which they then carry out in the field.

This year we have a wide range of geographical enquiries being undertaken, from the success of regeneration projects in Morecambe to drumlin investigations in the Lake District, to water quality in Keswick & Salford Quays.

The first of the 4 days involved a day trip to Keswick. Pupils split into small groups to collect an assortment of data in a variety of locations in the town. Day 2 took us to Conistone where pupils walked up to the Coppermines Valley to investigate the impacts of human activity on the glacial landscape. Our 3rd day trip was to Salford Quays where our A Level geographers were able to explore the site to determine whether the area has been successfully regenerated, and the impacts of new developments in this diverse corner of Greater Manchester. Our final day of fieldwork took place in Morecambe where UVHS pupils were able to meet with Julian Inman, Senior Planner (Regeneration) at Lancaster City Council. This linked brilliantly with the Regenerating Places topic completed in Year 12 and we were then given a walking tour of Morecambe to see first hand where regeneration has already occurred, but also the priority areas for future regeneration.

Our now Year 13 cohort will work with the data they collected on their four days of fieldwork in order to begin to draw conclusions and evaluate the success of their investigations.



Bonjour Normandie 2019!

At the end of the summer term we went to Normandy for our annual French language visit. 45 students spent the week practising their French speaking skills with the help of 'animateurs' from Le Chateau de la Baudonnière in the heart of the Normandy countryside.

At the Chateau students took part in a variety of activities including climbing, fencing, archery, aeroball and bread-making. All the activities were conducted in French which helped to extend students' vocabulary and confidence. We had a visit to Mont St Michel where students could practise their buying skills and appreciate the UNESCO protected site. This year with the 75th anniversary of D-Day, students had the opportunity to find out more about the Second World War at the 360 degree cinema which gave a moving account of the sacrifices made by our ancestors during the liberation of France in 1944. We also visited the D-Day Landing beaches at Arromanches and the American War Cemetery at Colleville-sur-mer.

Other highlights of the visit included a visit to an organic goat farm where some were lucky enough to hold and milk the goats. Everyone enjoyed practising their speaking skills with the traders at the market in St Hilaire and they were able to buy some interesting combinations for their picnic lunch. Pupils also participated in the final talent show and a special mention must go to Noah, Joe and Lucas for their outstanding individual performances.

This was another fantastic educational experience for our Year 8 students. It was great to see the way they responded to new challenges. They were great ambassadors for our school. We intend to offer a similar visit in 2020 to Year 8. For further information contact Mr Bates.



Gutentag Bad Salzdig 2019!

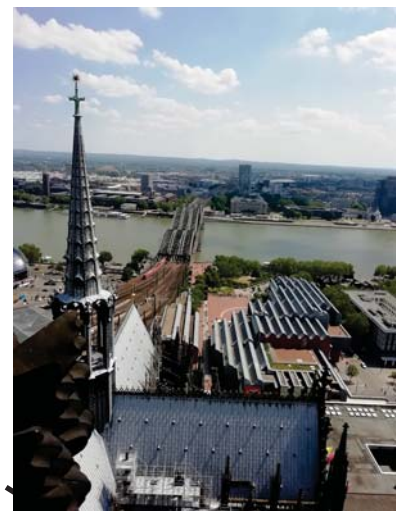
40 Year 7 students and 5 members of staff made the trip to Germany in June. The group were based in Bad Salzdig, a picturesque town on the banks of the River Rhein. The trip included a visit to the world famous Cologne Cathedral and many of us managed to climb to the very top; no mean feat in 33 degrees. We also visited the Lindt chocolate museum there. A highlight of the trip was a Rhine river cruise, where we sat on deck and admired the scenery. We also enjoyed a visit to a musical museum. Our final day was packed with castles where we impressed the tour guides with our questions and genuine interest. It was a pleasure to accompany the group and their enthusiasm was infectious. They learnt lots of things about Germany, not least how efficient the German transport system is!

‘We started the day with a good breakfast. Followed by a long journey, (not as long as it took to get to Germany, but it was still a little long!) we arrived in Cologne. We drove around the city and took LOADS of photos.’ - Martha

‘We saw a lot of churches on our cruise along the River Rhine; all of the German churches have very tall spires compared to the ones in England! We all got an ice cream and some of us, including me, got a very big pretzel. It was delicious and it made me feel very German!’ - Carla



‘On Day 3 we headed to Burg Eltz. It took us around 20 minutes to walk through a beautiful forest to get to the castle and everyone was very hot by the end of it! We went around the castle but unfortunately we weren't allowed to take any pictures in the rooms, but they were full of artefacts ranging from the early Medieval period to the 19th century.’ - Oliver



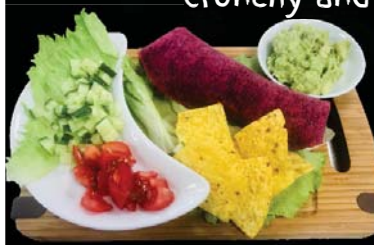
National Vegetarian Week Cook off



UVHS is full of creative chefs, and our in house cook off on Thursday 16th May showed off the very best vegetarian and vegan dishes in school as part of National Vegetarian Week 2019.

Variety was definitely the spice of life with a mixture of sweet and savoury dishes from the best KS3 cooks. Judged by our very own long standing vegetarian for over the last 30 years, Mr Ford who had the following to say: "Even though alternative ingredients and recipes are constantly improving, it's still sometimes a challenge to make a delicious dish without animal based ingredients. Judging was incredibly difficult as all the students prepared and presented the best plant based dishes in school and everything was cooked to perfection. Well done everyone!"

Sam: Crisp baked peppers with a panko breadcrumb in a beetroot wrap. Zingy lime infused guacamole with salad and nachos! Crunchy and delicious!



Alex: Amazing vegan savoury tartlets with mixed Mediterranean vegetable toppings! Fantastic flaky, golden pastry with olives, tomatoes and courgettes.



Jacob: Fit to bursting mixed vegetable fajita wraps served with spicy homemade salsa and a cool chunky salsa! Well done Jacob, fantastic flavours and dovetailing of lots of tasks tonight!



Daisy: A Middle Eastern delight! Pittas stuffed with homemade falafel and raita with salad, olives and sweet chilli dip. Well done Daisy for bringing in the most beautiful handmade dishes and wooden serving spoons too!



Bethany: A superstar vegan twist on a local classic! Sticky Toffee pudding got a modern makeover with a sweet and gooey sauce on the side. The sponge was light and packed with fudge flavoured dates and was devoured by everyone!



Alfie: The quesadilla king! Cheesy baked crisp wraps baked with smokey sweet potato wedges. A full on Mexican fiesta!



Briony: Rogan Josh Aubergine. Fiery and sticky aubergine which was pan fried and reduced in the oven with crunchy poppadoms and cooling and refreshing coriander on the top. Wonderfully warming!



Eleanor: Pasta Alla Norma! Fresh egg Italian tagliatelle with a rich reduced aubergine sauce! Rich with parmesan cheese and herby Oregano this was a big bowl with big flavour!



Ewan: Our overall winner for the night! A rich and dark chocolate soufflé dusted with sugar. Not too sweet or too bitter, but beautifully risen and light as air. Well done Ewan!



A brilliant night in the DT kitchens! Thank you to everyone who took part and helped!

Restaurant UVHS

This is the third time the school restaurant has opened, and it's fair to say this was the biggest and most successful event so far! 32 students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 worked alongside Mr Hall (Food teacher at UVHS and the Founder of the Aroma Catering Foundation) and three special chef guests – 3 Michelin Starred Steven Doherty and Sam and Josh from Chefs Catering.

For the first time ever, Restaurant UVHS offered a stunning 6 course taster menu which included ingredients such as scallops, lemon emulsions, lamb cooked in two ways and pineapple with rum caramel! 30 guests dined in the transformed school canteen where students had arranged and decorated tables to try to make the room match the high standard of food and cooking that was displayed.

Guests seemed incredibly happy with the night, and comments included "food was beautifully presented and delicious" and "The two year 7 students who took care of our table were accomplished and rigorous in their care and service. Furthermore they engaged with us at a conversational level as well as ensuring our satisfaction. They were delightful and so confident."

The school restaurant offers students a glimpse into the workings of a chef and waiting team. It is an opportunity to work on and develop a wide range of skills not just with food, but with organisation, time management and team work. The students worked incredibly hard, and it was noted multiple times just how much of an asset they are to the school.

Restaurant UVHS will return in the new academic year. In the meantime, keep up to date with everything Aroma is doing, including the opening of applications for financial support by checking out their website www.aromacatering.co.uk. You should also visit the Chefs Catering website who are doing some incredible work in Morecambe and Lancaster www.chefscatering.co.uk



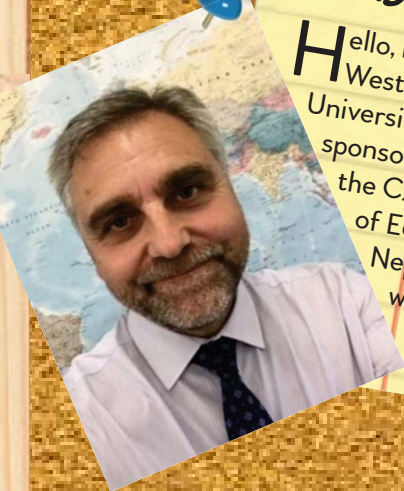
MR BARTON - TEACHER OF GEOGRAPHY

Geography has always been my favourite subject and I hope that my passion, enthusiasm and teaching inspires future generations of geographers. For me, it is the the subject on the curriculum that links together other subjects to deepen our understanding of the ever-changing world around us. I am really excited to join the Humanities team and hope to add to its strength with my experience as a former Head of Geography at Dowdales and Assistant Headteacher at Walney. Teaching and living on the edge of the Lake District National Park is the dream for any Geography teacher! I love exploring new places with my family in our campervan, mountain walking, road biking, trail running and football. I have led variety of school trips including ski and snowboarding trips to Italy and Austria, outdoor adventures at the YMCA, a canoe descent of the Ardèche Gorge and fieldtrips to Iceland. I am excited about providing such opportunities to our students at UVHS.



Mr Bowns - Teacher of Science

Hello, my name is Mr Bowns and I am very pleased to be joining the Science Department. I grew up in West Cumbria but have lived in the South Lakes for over 20 years. After graduating from Liverpool University in 1991 I worked as a Science Teacher in Barrow for 15 years. During this time I was sponsored by Glaxo to work with Charles University studying the effects of acid rain on the forests of the Czech Republic. In 2006 I joined Dowdales School as a Physics teacher where I set up the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and World Challenge. I have led expeditions to several countries including Nepal and Malaysia and will be taking 14 students to Tanzania in 2020. My hobbies include fell-walking, cycling, canoeing and spending weekends in our VW campervan. I'm really looking forward to working at UVHS and getting involved in the great activities on offer here.



Miss Gardiner - Teacher of German with French

Hello, my name is Miss Gardiner and I am delighted to be joining UVHS as a Teacher of German with French. Originally from Barrow-in-Furness, after completing my A levels I went on to study French, German and Italian at Lancaster University. Since graduating from Lancaster University in 2016, I decided to pursue a career in teaching Modern Languages and what better place to continue my career than at UVHS!

I am an extremely passionate learner of languages, outside of my studies at University I have enrolled in a night course in Spanish and I am currently in the process of learning Dutch and Portuguese. To help my students share in this same passion, I will be setting up lunch time clubs for Italian, anyone is more than welcome to come! In my spare time I enjoy playing netball, running, hiking and all things sports related! I am very much looking forward to becoming a part of UVHS in September this year.



Mrs Scott - Deputy Examinations Officer

I am really enjoying my new role as Deputy Exams Officer at UVHS, I worked here as the Librarian over ten years ago, and it's great to see the many changes that have taken place over this time, and also to see many familiar faces of members of staff who are still here! I have worked in Barrow Sixth Form College and primary schools over the past few years, and looked after my own children. If I get any free time, I spend it walking in the mountains or cycling.



Mrs Robinson - Teacher of DT & Art

Hello, my name is Mrs Robinson and I am really looking forward to joining the Art, Design and Technology Department here at UVHS in September. I have been teaching Design, Technology and Engineering for three years and really enjoy the challenge of working with young people to help them achieve their very best.

I am originally from a small village just outside Lancaster, and went to school at Queen Elizabeth School in Kirkby Lonsdale. I graduated from Leeds Arts University with a Degree in Fashion and completed my PGCE three years ago, doing part one of my placements at UVHS, so I'm really looking forward to being back!

Outside school I enjoy running, having just done Total Warrior, playing with our spaniel puppy, Rio, reading lots of books and my favorite band are Keywest.

I'm really looking forward to being a year 7 form tutor and meeting you all.



Miss Herbert - Teacher of Maths

I am delighted to be joining the UVHS Maths department in September. I always wanted to be a teacher and realised early on I had a passion for maths. After studying Maths, Further Maths and Law during my A Levels, I earned a place at the University of Liverpool to study Mathematics. Following my graduation in 2018 I moved back to the local area and completed my PGCE at the Edge Hill University. During my placement at UVHS, I was really impressed by the outstanding behaviour and work ethic I saw across the school and I knew this is where I wanted to be. I enjoy spending my free time walking in the Lake District and dancing in local competitions. One of the things that I love about UVHS is the huge range of extra-curricular activities on offer to students and I can't wait to get involved.



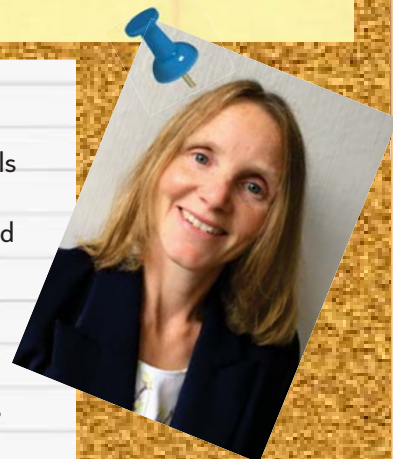
Mr Ironmonger - Teacher of Mathematics

I am delighted to be joining the Mathematics team at UVHS in September. Following the completion of my first degree, MA Philosophy, from the University of St Andrews I moved to England to complete my PGCE in Secondary Mathematics with the University of Huddersfield. I have 10 years teaching experience, having started out working in a large comprehensive school in Yorkshire before moving to The Lakes School in Windermere and most recently working, for the past 4 years, as Head of Mathematics at Barrow Sixth Form College. Outside of work I enjoy spending time with my young family and being active; taking part in various pursuits including walking, climbing, football and golf. During my visits to the school I have been thoroughly impressed by the attitude and enthusiasm of all the students I have met and am very much looking forward to working with everyone at UVHS.



Mrs Pike - Teacher of Science

I have been at UVHS last year covering general Science and Physics at GCSE, so many pupils will already recognise me. I am looking forward to continuing to develop my professional relationship with pupils to engage and inspire them into enjoying Science. I am an experienced Science teacher who tries to instil in pupils that Science is not just about learning physics formulas or chemical equations (it helps), but Science is relevant in all aspects of their lives. For pupils I taught last year, I am sure they picked up on the idea that I like Space. In my spare time I am a keen fell runner and enjoy most outdoor pursuits, such as hiking, climbing, skiing or snowboarding. I am a qualified Mountain Leader and enjoy being out in the hills as much as possible.



Mrs Morris - Mental Health & Wellbeing SLM



Hello, my name is Mrs Morris and I am really pleased and excited to be joining the UVHS team as a Mental Health and Wellbeing Senior Learning Mentor.

Understanding how to keep ourselves mentally healthy and knowing where to go for help and support are vitally important parts of our overall wellbeing. Schools are a place where we have a fantastic opportunity to educate and support a large number of young people both pastorally and academically to reach their potential.

I grew up in Lancaster and have always loved the Lake District, its hills, lakes and friendly communities and so I am really pleased to be home.

I graduated from Loughborough University with a degree in English and Physical Education/Sports Science and then completed a PGCE in PE at the University of Cumbria. I taught for five years before finding myself drawn towards more pastoral roles within education, health and social care.

This is the first time that anyone has been employed in this role at UVHS and it comes at a time when the need to support the mental health of young people is at the forefront of educational policy.

When I am not at work, you will find me at home being a mum to my two boys. I love keeping fit, hiking, cycling and running and I also love baking to refuel afterwards!

Mrs Pitman - Deputy Office Manager

I was delighted to join the UVHS office team towards the end of last term as Deputy Office Manager. I'm really looking forward to playing my part in the running of the administration in this large, successful school that's in the heart of Ulverston's community.

I'm lucky enough to be able to walk to work as I live five minutes down the road with my husband and two daughters who are both students at UVHS. We moved here five years ago and have never looked back; Ulverston is such a friendly, vibrant and bustling town with everything we need on our doorstep and more. To have the coast on one side and the mountains on the other is a great location to live in.

When I'm not at work I love nothing more than walking in the Lakeland Fells with my family, ticking off a Wainwright or two. I also enjoy cooking, fitness (especially dance) classes and trips to the theatre.

I look forward to meeting everyone properly as we go into the new academic year.



MISS GARNE - SUBJECT LEADER OF MATHEMATICS

Hello everyone, I don't own many photos, not being the biggest fan of the camera! The photographs where I am at my happiest, are with a cup of Yorkshire tea contemplating the day's ascent up a mountain! My two favourite things are mountains and Maths. Returning to Cumbria to become Head of Maths at UVHS is a dream come true for me because I can do both. I am really looking forward to getting to know everyone in the school and hopefully continuing to build on what is already a very strong Maths Department. I have taught in Lancashire, France and London over an 11 year career thus far. I am constantly finding new and interesting ways to approach lesson planning and problem solving within Maths and it will be great to share some of these ideas with the students at UVHS. You all made a great impression on me whilst I was being interviewed, UVHS seems a thriving community where everybody is valued. I intend to take a full role in that community and am up for being involved in everything from DoFE to extracurricular Maths support. My door is always open and the kettle never far from boiled, I look forward to meeting you all.





Forms on the Fells - Charity Walk

On the 28th of April 12.1 had an enjoyable walk up Coniston Old Man in aid of Cancer Research. After a rather inclement Saturday it was a relief that the Sunday brought us a dry and fine day. We had an enjoyable walk with members of the form. It was a nice walk with some lovely students. Thanks to Mr Simms for coming too, and for Mr Evason for popping by on a long run!

LIBRARY NEWS

CUMBRIA PUPIL LIBRARIAN of the YEAR AWARD 2019

Mrs Downing, the School Librarian, nominated Katie for this award because she was so impressed by Katie's hard work and enthusiasm helping out in the school Library for a year.

Katie was awarded a Highly Commended certificate and the judges commented on her efforts to encourage her peers to read and her love for the school Library. Well Done Katie!



Medical Needs in School

Students with asthma are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler at all times. Parents are asked to ensure that their child has regular asthma checks at their GP or with their respiratory nurse and that their child brings their prescribed inhaler to school every day.

All inhalers must be clearly labelled with the child's name, dose and expiry date. Parents should inform school of any changes in medication and complete the annual Individual Health Care Plan available from the school office.

Children with potentially serious allergies will often be given an adrenaline auto-injector to carry at all times. This can help stop an anaphylactic reaction becoming life threatening.

This should be used as soon as a serious reaction is suspected, either by the person experiencing anaphylaxis or someone helping them.

If you've been given an auto-injector, make sure that you have informed UVHS of the medical condition and that a spare pen is kept at reception as well as the pen your child carries in their bag at all times.

STEM Faraday Challenge

On 13th June, 36 year 8 students took part in a "Remote Operations" Faraday Challenge supported by Lancaster Uni. In teams of 6, they had to build a prototype of a robotic arm that could be used to perform a surgical operation.

The students worked under a very tight time scale and had a limited budget to buy the required materials. They used their engineering skills to share their ideas and develop their designs into functioning devices. An Engineer from Siemens supported the students and assessed their progress throughout the day.

The prototypes were tested and showcased at the end of the day. Each team had to mimic an organ transplant operation using their device, and to make the challenge even trickier, they had to control their device by looking at a projected image of the operating table.

In addition to testing their devices, each team had to give a short presentation about how they had designed and built their prototypes and what they had learnt throughout the day. The enthusiasm and progress made by the students was incredible. Well done to everybody involved!



This July saw the annual **Year 12 Biology field trip** to Sandscale Haws. Students did their ecological sampling of the succession on the sand dunes for their required practical. Students were investigating the effect of the environmental conditions on the different species of plants present. Students spotted the Dune Helleborine and the Common Spotted Orchid, which are very rare and important species. Students said they've 'never learned so many plant species' and will always be able to spot the plant Hawk bit from Mr Ford's demonstration!



Engineering Masterclasses

Two of our students dedicated their time to attend 6 Engineering masterclasses on Saturdays at Lancaster University. They worked in groups on various challenges, each designed to explore how engineering is contributing to global progress in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Each masterclass was led by a different engineering professional and involved some teaching and discussion before the students took part in hands-on activities including successfully flying micro drones, designing electric vehicles and investigating self-driving cars.



Primary Science Fair

Y10 Biology Challenge

Mrs Hodgson Challenged the Year 10 separate scientists to take part in the national Biology challenge alongside 50,000 other pupils. The content was challenging and involved aspects of biology that they have never studied. All students were at least highly commended, however 9 students achieved in the top 15% of the country to be awarded with the bronze award. These students were James, Dorje, Robin, Abigail, Indya, Gavin, Henry, Adelaide and Ruby.

We are also really pleased that two students achieved the silver award, by achieving equal marks and within the top 9% of the country. Congratulations to Matthew and Josh and to all involved!



This year, children from twelve local primary schools have participated in a science morning at UVHS. The year five students improved their investigation skills when conducting various experiments in the laboratory. They identified variables, made predictions, used scientific equipment to collect data and formed conclusions. Each group worked really hard and enjoyed themselves.

The students then went away and produced a display about their investigation and were encouraged to extend their projects back in their schools. On the 3rd of July they were invited back to UVHS for a Primary Science Fair where a small group from each school presented their projects. The competition was judged by Mike Jeschke from Seimens. He had a difficult task deciding on a winner but after visiting each display and questioning the children about their work he decided that the winner of the UDECC Year 5 Science Wizards trophy for 2019 was Lindal and Marton Primary School for their project on the effect of solvents and temperature on the sugar coating of skittles. Mike commended them on their scientific method and enjoyed the demonstrations they brought along. Well done to everyone who took part. We look forward to running the competition again next year.



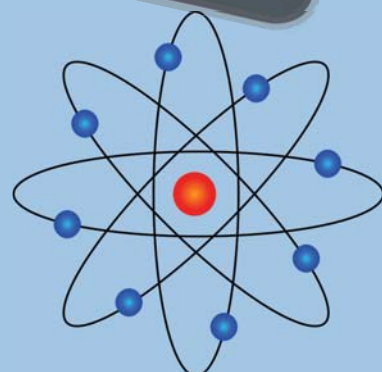
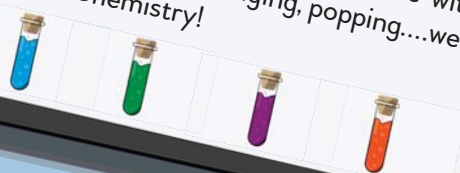
DT Engineering Club

In Engineering club this term we have been very lucky as Siemens has sponsored the club and bought over £1000 of new Lego Robots and equipment. We all really appreciate this support and it will hopefully help us improve our programming and problem solving skills. The club has run after school all year and during this time we have continued to modify the models with extra pieces of Lego, such as light, sounds and touch sensors. We have plugged the robots into the computer and made program blocks on the NXT program.

We were set the task of making the robot move accurately a certain distance forward and backward when we clapped. We then moved onto more advanced programming. We had to make the robots move around a rectangle of paper without touching it. This was a harder challenge, especially for the people with light sensors fitted, as the robots had to have further adjustments made to the programming. This was fun, even if you failed, and it was really good learning how to design the program. We entered the Lego League competition where we had to work as a team and with Tom, a STEM Ambassador from Siemens there to guide us, we were able to solve problems and produce a presentation. We really enjoyed this experience and gained lots from it.

Salter's Festival of Chemistry

In April Mr Gannon and Mrs Lees from the Chemistry Department took some Year 7 and 8 students to Lancaster University for the Salter's Festival of Chemistry. They were given a series of practical challenges and had to compete against many other schools to solve a chemical problem. The students did very well and learned lots about Chemistry and how a University chemistry department works. The day finished with a colourful demonstration lecture with plenty of fizzing, banging, popping....well that's Chemistry!





Royal Society of Chemistry Schools'

UVHS sent a Year 12 team down to UCLAN to participate in the Royal Society of Chemistry Schools' Analyst Competition. Run by the RSC's Analytical Division, this competition offers students studying A-level Chemistry in the first year of sixth form, the chance to put their experimental and analysis skills to the test. The competition was an opportunity for students to use analytical equipment not usually available in schools, gain additional practical experience and apply their knowledge of chemistry to problem solve.

The UVHS team of Jasmine, Chris and Louis were up against 27 other sixth form teams. In a very high quality and competitive field the students did themselves proud coming 3rd overall and deservedly winning individual prizes.



Internships

Well done to our 8 Year 12 students who have been successful at gaining internships at Siemens, Oxley and Bender this summer. This is a fantastic work experience opportunity for them to develop their skills in a local industry. The students will spend 4 weeks designing solutions to real life engineering problems within their business areas. They will each produce a technical report and deliver a presentation which will ultimately lead to a Gold CREST Award.

Oxford Open Day

On Monday 1st July 9 Y12 pupils from UVHS travelled down to Oxford to participate in the Open Day Plus event in order to get a taste of university life and access talks and workshops about the university, the application process and subjects they were interested in.

The group were hosted by the historic Queen's College, whose alumni include Rowan Atkinson, Tim Berners-Lee and King Henry V. After arriving in the afternoon and settling into their rooms, the pupils ate in the college dining hall and socialized in the evening. The group put on a strong performance against other schools from the North West to win the Oxford themed quiz!

The next day, the pupils took part in a selection of talks and workshops learning about the university, how to put together a strong personal statement and getting a chance to speak to current students at Queen's.

Afterwards everyone split into groups for a range of academic tasters across different departments.

In the afternoon the pupils used some of their free time to broaden their experience of the city by seeing the sights, doing a bit of shopping and trying their hand at punting.

The final day consisted of the official university open day. UVHS pupils visited lots of different colleges and departments across the city before meeting back up for the long drive home.



A Body in the Lab

Mr Blue was lying still on the lab floor, bottles of chemicals around him. He had been working in the lab with various substances. Was it these chemicals, his nearby medication or something else that had killed him?

This is the scene that 25 Y12 Chemistry Students saw when they travelled to Lancaster University for a Chemistry Master class with Mr Gannon and Mrs Frost. They had to determine which of the substances had caused the 'fictitious death'. They established this by using infrared, ultra violet and mass spectrometry along with thin layer chromatography and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, which the university provided.

UVHS covers the theory of these analytical techniques, but students had a hands on experience to help solve this hypothetical crime. Student were challenged to complete practical techniques and make conclusions using secondary data to identify compounds in the bottles and identify the culprit. Chemistry came through and we solved the crime.



ENGLISH

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

**ASK THE EXPERTS**

Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

**CHECK THE AUTHOR**

Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?

**IS IT A JOKE?**

If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.

**READ BEYOND**

Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?

On July 1st Miss Thompson and Mrs Anderson took a group of English Language students and some prospective students of English Language in our leaving Yr11 to Lancaster University for a day of fascinating lectures on the relatively new area of study that is Forensic Linguistics. We were given a brief history of the specialism by Dr Willem Hollman that took us through some of the earliest applications on cases like the wrongfully accused Timothy Evans, whose story was made famous in film Rillington Place. This put the day into context well for what was to come.

Next up was an interestingly titled section called, "Pressure-cooked pets and a ban on bagpipes: how to spot misleading and fake news." William Dance talked to us about his research in this area. Giving us insight into how we can fact check and ensure we are not taking in by "news" with questionable bias or less than honourable intentions.

Then came perhaps the most fascinating section of the day, and the most poignant; "Catching a killer with forensic linguistics." Dr Claire Hardaker is a forensic linguist who helps the police in their investigations. After some guidance on the types of language patterns we could consider and how she goes about her work, we were given a selection of real texts that were involved in a murder case that Dr Hardaker had consulted on. There were known texts from the victim, known texts from the accused and a series of texts that were in question. Through analysing these texts the group was able to ascertain that the questionable texts were more likely to have been written by the accused to cover his tracks than by the victim, even though they came from her phone. These findings were part of the evidence that sent him to prison.

Finally the day finished with a session on lie detection - not the Jeremy Kyle kind, but the linguistic kind. Matthew Gillings took us through some of his work looking into the linguistic "tells" we have when we lie and how these can be applied by organisations like border control and immigration.

Overall, it was a fascinating day. I think everyone left having learnt something new that we can apply in our lives outside the classroom.

**SUPPORTING SOURCES?**

Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.

**CHECK YOUR BIASES**

Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.

**CHECK THE DATE**

Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.

**CONSIDER THE SOURCE**

Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.



MATHS



Our UVHS team of Dylan, Rebecca, Dan & Lily won the South Cumbria event and joined other aspiring mathematicians from across the UK to compete on Monday 17 June in the National Final of the UKMT Team Maths Challenge 2019.

Over 1700 schools entered the competition and the best 88 qualified to take part in the fiendishly testing grand finale. First and foremost, the teams fought for the kudos of being crowned the best school maths team in the UK. We didn't win but we got our best ever result and beat many other schools both selective state and private, we were the only school from Cumbria to get to the final!

Problem 5 of the Group Circus Round from National Final:

The word facetious contains the five vowels in alphabetical order. Place the letters F,A,C,E,T,I,O,U,S, with one in each blank cell, so that adjacent letters horizontally are a prime number of letters apart in the alphabet.

The Team Maths Challenge is sponsored by LetterOne, an international investment business which is interested in boosting the innovative skills needed for future modern economies and societies.

Who knows, the next Maryam Mirzakhani or Terence Tao (both winners of Nobel Prize for maths) could have been in the room?



Buon giorno Italia!



Just before the end of the summer term, UVHS Wind Band went on concert tour to Italy – 90 students and 10 staff departed on 11th July on what was to become yet another unforgettable Music Department trip.

After a 31 hour coach journey (!!!) we arrived at the beautiful sight of a great swimming pool at the hotel, and the obligatory game of water-polo took place. But we were there to work, and over the next 5 days we performed 4 outstanding evening concerts around the Lake Garda region to hugely appreciative audiences – they kept demanding encores!



We also had the opportunity to do some exploring and sightseeing, visiting the awesome city of Verona (with a colosseum, the Romeo & Juliet house and balcony and countless other architectural sights alongside the markets), the lakeside towns of Garda and Malcesine, and going on Europe's longest cable-car up into the Dolomite Mountains and to the top of Mount Baldo. We also had a great day at Gardaland themepark. Obviously we couldn't ignore the amazing ice-creams, pasta and pizza on offer throughout each day either!

The tour was an amazing experience for everyone – not only was the culture, food and music phenomenal (as one would expect from a UVHS band), but the camaraderie that developed between all year groups over eight days was fantastic.



Work Ready Day

Our work ready day, designed in collaboration with local businesses, took place in July. The day consisted of 6 workshops that aimed at helping participants acquire the skills and attributes they will need to gain employment. The itinerary of the day was 'intensive', challenging participants at every moment to step out of their comfort zones and really find out what they are capable of.

Miss Herrington, the former UVHS Employability and Careers Leader said "As well as providing students with the academic foundation to succeed, we pride ourselves on the wide range of Employability opportunities we provide, from Year 7 through to Year 11, for students to explore future pathways and receive quality advice and guidance so that they are able to make the right choices, when they leave us at the end of year 11. I would like to thank all the employers that have supported our students this year – without you, our employability programme would not be the success it is."

One student reflected upon their experience:

"The employer gave me real, concrete examples of how I should conduct an interview such as my body language, further details on what I should add to my CV and also how I could possibly sell myself better."

I was advised to include real life situations when I was a good team member and also talk through my portfolio a little more."

I really liked the day and it was great to actually be interviewed by employers rather than just our form teachers or careers lead. It felt real."

I was really nervous but the interviewer put me at ease and I actually enjoyed it although I didn't think that I would!"

The interview passed so quickly and I don't feel I included all that I set out to. The interviewer gave me tips on my performance and scored the overall interview. I was very happy with my score and I was also told that I would be nominated for an Employer's WOW certificate."



Kick Start



This year saw UVHS year 7 and year 8 students taking part in the Kickstart programme for the first time. With games, puzzles and a half term trip to Keppleway, The programme is designed to improve student's communication, resilience, teamwork and confidence. In addition to this, the year 8 students embarked on a campaign to promote the mental wellbeing of young people with a poster campaign. The students came up with ideas and worked in collaboration with Oxley Development who produced the posters. Shamus said, "Kickstart was fun and the people who run it are really nice."

Another of our students reviewed his experience. Harrison said:
 "I loved Kickstart! We had some great experiences in school, because we got to play lots of games to help us bond as a team. One game we played was "Ghost" where one person didn't have a chair – I loved it because it was all about team work. We also got to play a game called "Drop the Block", which was about catching large dominos and helped us to develop our hand-eye coordination.

During half term, we were invited to an outdoor activity day in Keppleway. The best bit was when we got to jump off the pier into Coniston – the water was so cold! But coming a very close second was the crate stacking activity. In this we were attached to a harness and we had to climb a stack of crates which got higher and higher! We also canoed to an island in the middle of Coniston, and took part in archery and woodcraft. We all had a brilliant time!



Gold Duke of Edinburgh Expedition



In the last week of summer term Mr Gannon, Mr Reader and Mrs Anderson had the pleasure of taking 16 Students on their Gold DofE assessment in the Cairngorms.

They challenged themselves and walked unsupported for 4 days with full kit, food and water, camping in wild country, sometimes 20km from a road.



Some of these students had never been in a tent before this year, but we were 100% successful with all passing with flying colours.

The DofE Assessors were most complementary about the groups, commenting on their organisation, communication, leadership, ability to solve problems and ability to work as a team. Their skill level was noted and we were praised for the training the students had clearly undergone over the last year.

Here are some Statistics from the expedition:
 (Totals of all individuals and all groups)

Distance walked = 1,193.9km....That's about 1.3 times the distance between Ulverston and Paris.

Height gained = 24,622m....That is about 2.8 times the height of Everest!



GCSE Results

The staff of UVHS are delighted with this year's GCSE results and the amazing achievements of our Year 11 cohort.

We are delighted that the school is again seeing a great set of GCSE results from our fantastic students here at UVHS. Children across the ability range have made excellent progress with many examples of high achievement. Today, our students are learning where their immense efforts over the last five years have got them and I would personally like to congratulate all of them as well as my dedicated staff (both teaching and support) and the parental body for their hard work. With all the pressures that youngsters now feel themselves under, the UVHS community has once again risen to the challenge. There have been great achievements in many areas.

-Mr Hardwick - Headteacher



A Level Results

UVHS would like to congratulate all of our 6th Form students who collected their A level results this summer – we hope that they are just as proud of their achievements as we are.

The majority of Year 13 students hoping to go to university have been accepted into their first choice universities with several other offers pending. Also a considerable number of students have also qualified to take up highly sought after degree apprenticeships with the likes of BuroHappold and local accountancy firms as well as a record number of Higher Apprenticeship positions with BAE.

Head of Sixth Form Mr Rastelli said: "Yet again, we have a Year 13 cohort whose overall performance reflects the commitment, dedication and sheer hard work that they have put into their time at UVHS, both inside and outside the classroom – the excellent results achieved by them are fully deserved. As usual, it has been an absolute privilege and pleasure working with these students and I wish them all the brightest of futures."

Sports Events 2019

World Schools Orienteering Championships

In May Miss Bird and the Lakeland orienteering club took the UVHS orienteers to Estonia to compete in the World Schools Orienteering championships. What an amazing event and experience for the pupils! We took a Senior and a junior school team as well as Dillon who was selected to be part of the junior select boys team. The behaviour of the pupils was outstanding throughout the week and we were extremely proud of how they represented themselves in competition.

The Junior girls team came 7th overall and had some excellent results in an extremely hard competition. The Senior girls came third overall with Jess having fantastic individual runs on both days. Finally Dillon's team also came 6th.



U13 Girls Regional Cricket Championships

On Tuesday 30th April Miss O'Conner and Mr Quint took 10 girls down to Bolton Arena (what a venue for sport) to play in the U13 Girls Regional Indoor Cricket Championships. We were representing Cumbria and were competing against 7 other schools from across the various Northern regions. The competition was split into 2 groups of 4 and we got Alder Grange School (Lancashire), Sandbach School (Cheshire) & Ponteland School (Northumberland) in our group.

The first two games were very close and Holly in particular batted very well. Ultimately, the team finished fourth in the group.



Globe Area

During the holidays Miss Bird took the selected Youth Sports Trust leaders to a conference at the Globe Arena. The pupils were fantastic and spent the afternoon planning and leading fun sporting activities for primary school children from the local area. In the morning pupils had a talk from Jeremy Simpson, a Premiership football referee, and got to meet and interview the Morecambe football club players. As you can imagine the group of girls were delighted! The highlight of the day for the pupils was having a photo with the premier league trophy! Amazing day!



Cumbria Schools Orienteering Championship

On a beautifully sunny 3rd of July, 35 UVHS students took a trip over to Haverigg sand dunes for the annual Cumbria Schools Orienteering Championship. Primary and Secondary schools from throughout the county descended to compete on and in what students described as a "tough" conditions.

Our students were, as always, motivated and keen to get running. Heading off to the start line for their allocated time and sometime later appearing at a distance for the final lap of the rugby field. A wide range of pacing strategies were employed by our runners, some saving an impressive amount of energy for the final run in. Matthew pipping the other students to claim the plaudits.

Once runners from all the schools had returned and timings ratified. UVHS had 17 individual prize winners and 7 first places. In addition, we retained the trophy for Secondary School champions for 2019, outright victory over Cockermouth School.

