

MR HARDWICK WRITES...

It could be argued that I am a bit of a fraud, my job title is "Headteacher" but I teach very little these days and although I feel I have the best job in the world, I miss actually teaching. In fact, the idea that as teachers gain leadership responsibility their teaching commitment is reduced in recognition of their skill as teachers is somewhat counterintuitive. My great love has always been History and initially the attraction of a career in teaching was the opportunity to spend my life immersed in it. I have never been a true academic historian, with massive knowledge of a small specific period of history; my interests have always been much broader and shallower. It is the colour and feel and excitement of the past that inspired me and finding ways to bring this to the classroom has aways been the joy for me. Teaching has now moved on and the new generation of classroom teachers bring modern methodologies born of academic research and experience, that enable the new generation of children to achieve even more.

The summer term has always been my favourite time of year. Although judging by the weather over the last month or so, "summer" is developing into an abstract noun. It is the time for the hardest work as teachers, pupils and the often-unacknowledged parents prepare for the internal and external

examinations. But it is also the time when the true meaning of education becomes more obvious. Even in the world of OFSTED and League Tables, it is the trips, domestic and foreign; sports day, sponsored walks, enrichment week and summer outside that students will put into their treasure trove of memories. So let me end by wishing our examination year groups the best of luck for their examinations this summer and the joy for the events of the summer term to the rest of the school.



Message from the Governors Welcome to the first entry by governors into the UVHS school newsletter. We

Welcome to the first entry by governors into the UVHS school newsletter. We felt this was a good opportunity to tell parents and carers a little bit about school governance and to encourage you all to engage with us in understanding how we can help UVHS to be even more ambitious in its aims for our young people.

UVHS governors have a variety of skills and

experiences: business management, education, law,

safeguarding, health, finance and accounting, human resources, and training to name but a few. We mostly all have full-time jobs but have become school governors because we want to see our local school thrive and deliver the best opportunities it can for all children. Our role is voluntary and unpaid, sometimes stressful, but mostly very rewarding and we work together as a strong team. Expectations of governors have increased in recent years, by both the Department for Education and Ofsted, so in the past 18 months our team has worked really hard to get to know the school better and to meet and talk to staff, subject and senior leaders. We have met many amazing and incredibly committed staff who are driving positive change throughout the school. Now we need to find ways to speak to parents and carers too: you may have seen our table at parents' evenings - please come and talk to us if you have a spare minute. The involvement of parents at every level of school life, from dropping your child at school in the morning to becoming a parent governor, is hugely important and we will only achieve the best possible outcomes for children if

We look forward to talking to you soon and hope you had a happy Easter holiday.

UVHS governors

we work in partnership.

Y10 WORK * EXPERIENCE

We are once again celebrating the end of another highly successful Year 10 Work Experience. The students have enjoyed their placements across a diverse labour market and have returned invigorated, having gained many essential employability skills needed for their future steps.

We have benefitted from the support of over 135 businesses and organisations, each offering a thorough programme of activities and tasks. Students have been challenged in all disciplines and have had to work outside of their comfort zones, but all have left with a definite sense of achievement. Feedback from employers has been extremely positive and all report that our cohort has increased their awareness and capability in all the employability skills: communication; problem solving; initiative; organisation; financial capability; resilience; teamwork and confidence.

I can honestly say that all students displayed a high degree of maturity and an excellent working ethos which mirrors our Victoria Values.

Staff enjoyed visiting the students throughout the week and found them all to be thoroughly engaged, asking meaningful questions when they found activities more difficult than others, but all rising to the challenges set. We have those that have decided that they would like to pursue a career in the sector where they worked, but others have decided they may not take the career path they had envisaged. The goal of any Work Experience Programme is to open opportunities to students and to give them a taste of the world of work. It further enhances students' awareness of the importance of punctuality, dress-code, working to deadlines and teamwork.

Many students have been offered part-time jobs and even apprenticeship opportunities when they leave Year 11 because of their diligence. All will now add their different experiences and what they learned to their CVs and applications.

Our Year 10 Work Experience Programme would not be possible without the continued help of our supportive employers and providers. We continue to forge new employer links and we are looking forward to working once again with all our providers on a variety of career events later in the year.

We have exceptional students at UVHS who always make us proud. Well done Year 10!

- Mrs J Adams 2027

To the right is a selection of pictures taken during the Year 10 Work Experience week. The full selection of pictures taken during the Work Experience week is available on the UVHS website under:

Our School - Photo Galleries - 2324 Photo Galleries



































6th Form Trip

HARLET

What we did

To help us with our study of Hamlet, Miss Smith invited our English class to see a one time screening of Hamlet at Barrow cinema. A group of us began our Tuesday evening with a bus journey to the Vue, where we sat at the back and discussed our thoughts in anticipation. Prior to this trip we all had varying levels of familiarity with the story of Hamlet, so we found this interesting to compare and explore on the way there. After arriving in Barrow (and rushing to eat our MacDonald's food in record time!) we met with Miss Smith and Mr Sims, as well as the rest of the class, then armed ourselves with snacks before sitting down to watch the show. I found the production to be unlike anything I'd seen before, although I was surprised by how much of the story I was actually familiar with, despite never having encountered the actual

be unlike anything I'd seen before, although I was surprised by how much of the story I was actually familiar with, despite never having encountered the actual text before. Once the film was over, Miss Smith kindly gave three of us a lift home, during which we all discussed the play and shared our thoughts about the production, and I found this conversation just as interesting as the play itself. Overall the trip was a lot of fun, and left us all keen to begin our study of the text. - Martha

The Production

wouldn't have otherwise. - Nuala

The production is a modern take of Hamlet with lan McKellen reprising the iconic role over 50 years after he first performed it with a Prospect Theatre Company in their UK and European tour. The film is an adaptation of the play shot in the The Royal Windsor using the boxes, the basement and even the fire escape. Production was undertaken during lockdown taking advantage of the empty theatre similar to the National Theatre production of Romeo & Juliet. It is a testament to the innate sense of play given by Shakespeare to actors, directors and producers alike even in mediums that wouldn't be invented for multiple centuries after he wrote the original text! Alongside McKellen, standout performances were given by Alis Wyn Davies as Ophelia and Emanuella Cole as Laertes portraying not only a convincing sibling relationship but compelling individual performances too. For example, Ophelia's musical mad scene (which follows the theatrical trend of actor musicianship in Shakespearean plays such as Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead at the Old Vic [2016] and As You Like It at Theatre By The Lake [2018]) bridges the gap between Shakespeare's text and contemporary performance to create an accessible way to experience such a famous moment in theatre. Overall, this interpretation of Hamlet was a really great way to see another perspective we

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Blue Peter Book Badge Award

Students in Year 7 have been encouraged in their English lessons to apply for the new Blue Peter Book Badge award designed by Quentin Blake for book lovers.

To earn the badge, students had to share their love of books by writing about a book they have read and enjoyed.

They then needed to get creative and produce an illustration of a character or a scene from the story. This could be a drawing, painting or even digital artwork. Finally, they needed to share what other books and authors they have enjoyed reading and why.

'It's been great to recommend and share the books I've enjoyed with other people.'

'I've tried books I wouldn't normally read after hearing about them from someone else.'

The students are proudly showing off their award on their lanyards.

For more information on how to apply, go to: www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-book-badge

VHS continued its tradition of celebrating Pi day on 14th March. Our

annual Pie eating competition was well

received and contestants comprised

of staff and 6th formers who had

to eat 6 pies as quickly and as

graciously as possible. A valiant

attempt was made by Mr Eccles and

Mr Ironmonger got caught hiding

pies in attempt to win. I would like to

congratulate Mason (Year 12) who was



The Maths department ran an anagram competition where each member of the Maths department had a maths question on their back. Each numerical answer corresponded to a letter. 1 = A, 2 = B, C=3 etc and this produced an anagram of a ten-letter mathematical word. There were entries from all year groups, but the winners were, Pippa (Y10), Ruby (Y10), Holly (Y7), Toby (Y7) and Bradley (Y9) who won an Easter Egg each.





We set off from school at 5 am and after a lot of eye spy and music from the back of the bus we made it to Hampton Court Palace, one of the homes of Henry VIII, his wives and children. This was my favourite place we visited on the London trip because of the amazing architecture of the buildings and the well-manicured grounds including a maze. Most of the Palace has been kept as original as possible and one of the highlights was the Chapel Royal with its vaulted ceiling was installed by Henry VIII in the 1530s and is the grand culmination of Tudor opulence at Hampton Court. After this we went to the hostel to drop off our things and headed to Pizza Hut for our tea. When Mr Pearson asked for a table for 50 it was quite the experience. We then went to the Duchess Theatre to see 'The Play that Goes Wrong' we were unsure about this to start with, but it was very funny and unexpected.

After a night of listening to the bells of St. Paul's and an early start for breakfast we went to the Houses of Parliament for a tour. We managed to sit in on a debate for both the Houses of Commons and the House of Lords which was a fantastic opportunity. We then had a go at our own House of Commons debate in the education centre where we debated issues that were important to us. Members of the group were voted PM and opposition leader as well as Speaker of the House to control proceedings. It was at this time that we had the chance to meet Simon Fell our constituency's MP and ask him questions, this was a very interesting discussion, and we were able to ask about issues that are important to us including a new swimming pool in Ulverston.

We were then taken on a whistle stop walking tour of Buckingham Palace, the Mall and Horse Guards Parade before a visit to the Imperial War Museum. This was an opportunity to visit a variety of exhibitions including the very moving Holocaust Memorial exhibition. This was a really moving and educational thing to experience. Before we knew it we were back on the bus and heading back to Ulverston, tired but having had a great time.







Day One - by Olivia

The trip began when we arrived at Kefalvik airport, very excited and tired at 10:30 am. The first stop of day 1 was the bridge between the continents, (Euroasian plate and the North American plate). It was eye-opening to see the rock ridges that connect two of Earths biggest plates. These plates move 2cm a year but the gap was substantial enough for us to get a group picture spread out in a line between the plates. The next stop was Gunnuhver hot springs which had mystical history and was fascinating evidence of Iceland's geothermal activity, along with an eggy sulphur smell we all hated. Following from this, our afternoon in the capital Reykjavik was filled with sightseeing from the Hallgrimskirkja Cathedral, coffee and souvenir shopping.







Day Two - by Olivia

The second day was a southwest tour of Iceland which began with swimming in a geothermal pool, The Secret Lagoon. These few hours of relaxation and fun were needed after our previous day of early travel. The next stop was one of the most impressive; Gulfoss waterfall. This magnificent waterfall was situated within a retreating gorge which was steep and icy. Afterwards was a stop at Geysir which was filled with laughter and soaking clothes from its eruption. The picturesque bus ride then took us west, to Thingvellir National Park which had unique rock formations, waterfalls, the continent plates and breath-taking views of the snowy mountains further afield. That evening ended the day perfectly with some heated card games and quizzes which brought our group even closer.







Day Three - by Joe

On the Monday, we began our tour in the LAVA Centre, located within the south coast of Iceland. We walked through the interactive experience, interacting with the history of Iceland's formation through the mantle plume it sits upon as well as peering at the vast depth it reaches beneath the Earth's crust. The viewing platform gave us a fantastic sight of various volcanos including Eyjafjallajökull, Katla and Hekla before watching a film including previous volcanic eruptions on the island. We then headed to the Skogafoss waterfall with it's relentless spray creating a myriad of rainbows and a nice opportunity for photos. We climbed to the top to fully marvel at the sheer 60-metre drop into the plunge pool. The Solheimajokull glacier, the next stop, gave a wonderful view of various glacial landforms such as moraines as well as the level of retreating that has occurred. Other stops included a walk along a black basalt sand beach with columns on the cliff face and ferocious waves, as well as a stop at the local village of Vik to fill up on snacks! The evening included many games, including a particularly competitive round of Uno.



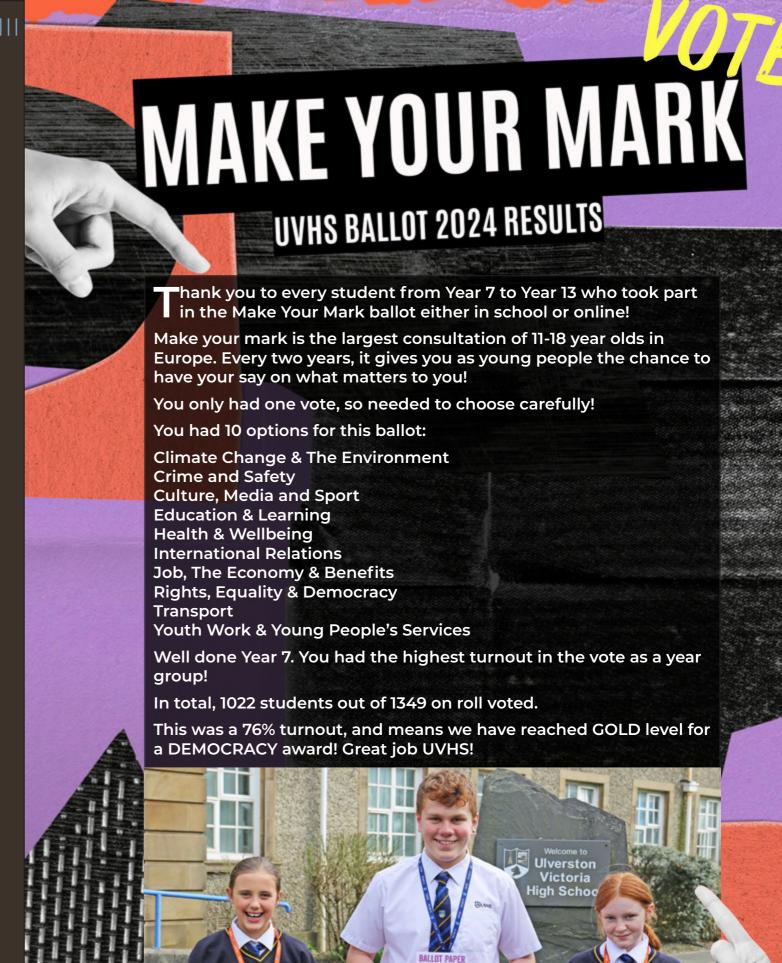






Day Four - by Joe

On the last day, we woke up to a ground caked with thick white snow. We packed our bags for home and reluctantly tossed them on to the coach. Before the airport, we took part in a range of activities. Such as a trip to the Kerid Crater, where we walked around the deep blue lake within. We then headed to Hverageroi hot springs where we walked up a geothermally active valley where the water stream was warm to the touch. We walked past hissing springs and bubbling mud and took in the impressive views at the top. Our last stop was to the Hellsheidi Power station, where we received an interactive presentation and toured how Iceland generated nearly 90% of it's electricity. This concluded our fantastic Geography trip to Iceland, where we solemnly made our way to the airport.





RED NOSE DAY 15TH MARCH

TOTAL RAISED

Total raised was £1139.89 which exceeded our target!

Thank you to everyone who took part in this years Red Nose Day celebrations.

UVHS students, staff and parents helped contribute to the incredible £37 million raised for Red Nose Day 2024.

JOKE COMPETITION

1ST PLACE - KATIEBY7

I got fired from the bank today, an old lady came in and asked me to check her balance.

So I pushed her over!

2ND PLACE - KATIEL Y7

I hate Russian dolls.
They're so full of themselves!

3RD PLACE - SEB Y8

What kind of shoes does a frog wear? ...Open Toad

||||PAGE 17 | LAKES LANGUAGE AMBASSADORS |||

UVHS is Leading the Newly-Formed Lakes Language Hub

VHS is proud to have been selected by the Department for Education to lead a regional Languages Hub together with Keswick School. Our Languages department is a thriving area of the school, and we are proud to be the only school in the area which teaches three foreign languages up to A Level. Due to our continual strong examination outcomes and our engaging curriculum, UVHS has been tasked with helping to improve languages education across Cumbria, including raising the number of entries at GCSE and A Level, as well as supporting primary schools with their foreign language teaching.

Under the leadership of Miss Beardsley from UVHS and Mrs West from Keswick School, seven partner schools have been selected as a focus group (Dowdales School, Furness Academy, Cartmel Priory, Kirkbie Kendal School, Ullswater Community College, St Joseph's Catholic High School, and Whitehaven Academy). We were pleased to welcome Heads of Department and Senior Leadership from these partner schools to our official launch event at the Low Wood Bay Hotel in Windermere on Tuesday 5th March. We were also extremely privileged to have in attendance Bernardette Holmes MBE – Director of the National Consortium of Languages Education, advisor to the DfE and ex-chief inspector of Languages.

We are thrilled to be leading this project for Cumbria and look forward to raising the standard of Languages education across the county over the next three years. You can follow our progress on Facebook and on our website www.lakeslanguagehub.uk



SPACE TO LEARN







On 9th February, Mr Thompson from the National Space Academy delivered masterclasses to our Year 10 Separate Science groups. Through exciting hands-on activities, students learnt all about space exploration, space travel and the challenges of surviving in space. Our scientists were put to the test in building their own oxygen-hydrogen rockets and then they learnt about the effects of microgravity and low pressure on the body. Students were able to see a real space suit and even had the chance to try on an astronaut's helmet. They gained an insight into the vast amount of career opportunities in the space industry and we certainly had a few budding astronauts by the end of the day!





SPORTS IEIGH

U19 NETBALL REGIONAL ROUND

On Saturday the 27th of January Miss McKenny and Mr Pierce took the U19 netballers to the regional round of the national schools final.

The girls played really well and did themselves, and us, proud! They came 8th overall in the North West.

It was a cold day with games being played outside, with long waiting times between matches. They kept their heads up the whole time, against some challenging teams. It was a great experience for them!

We would like to congratulate the girls for their awesome efforts in getting that far and for all the dedication to early morning training sessions each week!



GIRLS INDOOR CRICKET

A fter a 6 year break, the Cumbria girls indoor cricket competitions took place once again. The U15 and U13 South Cumbria competition took place on March 1 and 8 respectively and as in previous years, the UVHS teams moved onto the County Finals.

Our U15 team came up against Dallam and Kirkbie Kendal schools in a 3 school round robin. Our first game saw the UVHS girls field first and restrict the Kirkbie Kendal girls to 39 runs. In reply we batted really well to score 65 runs against a willing Kirkbie Kendal team. Our second game against Dallam was a much more hard fought affair. The UVHS girls batted first and scored 46 runs in a good batting display. Our bowling had to be good and although Dallam produced a good batting display, the UVHS bowling and fielding kept Dallam's score to 36 runs to give the U15 girls 2 wins and progression onto the U15 County finals day against QEGS – Penrith, Appleby and Dallam.

A week later our U13 team had to contend with Sedbergh, Dallam and Kirkbie Kendal Schools in their competition. The UVHS girls were drawn against a very good Sedbergh team and whilst we bowled and fielded wonderfully, our batting was a little subdued and we fell 8 runs short of Sedbergh's 44 run total, scoring 36 runs in total. We then had to play the winner of Dallam and Kirkbie Kendal's game and only a strong win would give us a chance of moving through to the U13 County Finals day as runner-up in the South Competition. Dallam were our opponents and they batted first, scoring just 23 runs in what was a brilliant bowling and fielding performance. We then had to put a big score on the board and the girls did not disappoint scoring 80 runs off 8 overs to give us 2nd place behind a very good Sedbergh team. Second place allowed us to progress to the U13 County finals day which was held at Kendal Leisure Centre.

As we placed second place in the South, UVHS were drawn against North Cumbria winners, Ullswater. Batting first, our girls dominated from start to finish, scoring a good 64 runs for 3 wickets and then bowling and fielding beautifully to hold Ullswater to 42 runs for 6 wickets. This win put us through to face the winners of Sedbergh and Appleby in the final and it was Sedbergh once again we would have to play, after losing to them by only 8 runs in our first competition. Having won the toss we bowled and fielded again fantastically well holding a really strong Sedbergh to 46 runs for the loss of 5 wickets, but when batting some poor shot selection and excellent bowling from Sedbergh gave us an uphill battle and whilst the girls did their best we once again fell just 8 runs short with the UVHS team being bowled out for 38 with one ball to spare. The girls were the equal to a very strong Sedbergh School, we really turned up to play and did not shy away from a sporting powerhouse! Well done girls!





FURNESS SCHOOLS NETBALL CUP

n Monday the 11th of March U16 and Year 8 took part in Furness Schools Netball Cup. Both teams showed some excellent skills to end their netball season. Year 8's were triumphant in the efforts coming first overall! Well done to everyone involved.



FOOTBALL NEWS

Years 8, 9, 10 & 11 have successfully reached the finals of the Furness Schools Cup.

They will be playing the Finals after Easter, hopefully at Holker St!

KEEP AN EYE ON THE LATEST NEWS SECTION OF THE WEBSITE, OR ON FACEBOOK FOR OUR LATEST SPORTING NEWS!