# Ulverston Victoria High School Autumn Term Review 2023



#### Mr Hardwick Writes

Schools have changed dramatically over the last decade and have become much more holistic in their care of their children.

#### **Sporting News**

Read all about our sporting sucessess over the Autumn term.

#### Also in this edition

- -FutureChef Competition
- -Remembrance Service
- -Prize Giving
- -ULVERSTEM
- -Y11 Mock Interviews

# MR HARDWICK WRITES...

have the best job in the world. There is much written in the press at present concerning the challenges that teachers are facing, not just the spectre of OFSTED, but the roles schools now fulfil. Schools have changed dramatically over the last decade and have become much more holistic in their care of their children. For example: services to care for the mental health of young people have diminished in direct proportion to the increase in need. Schools have had to fill the gap. The same is true of a myriad of other agencies we took for granted.

Consequently, if we are not careful, we can become emersed in the detail of these challenges and fail to appreciate just what wonderful institutions schools are, the life and dynamism that is their life blood and the wonderful achievements of our children. I am quite reflective, which is another way of saying I worry about the school and how it is developing, and I suppose recovering, following the pandemic. I was therefore taken a little by surprise by the sheer joy of the Christmas concert. My first experience of UVHS was the summer concert, way back in 2008, where I was simply spellbound by the difference in my experience of what "school shows" were like and the professional quality concert I watched then for the first time.

Mr Butler said to me a year or so ago that it would take him three years to build the UVHS music back to where it had been, and I suppose, subconsciously I was using this as a measure of the school's renaissance. However, bearing in mind my ability to judge the finer aspects of music is limited by my own lack of musical talent, this year's Christmas was the best performance that I have seen in this school, or any other for that matter, all of the things I have come to expect, plus strings! It was a truly heartwarming experience, not only for the quality, but the number of our students involved.

And this is only a snapshot of all the things that are now available again. There are a host of foreign trips and opportunities in the arts and sport. Duke of Edinburgh is back to normal as are such things as the Maths Challenge competition. The school moving forward and the warmth and colour which makes it a great place to be is becoming more evident week by week, I feel very fortunate to work here.

Victoria High School

Happy New Year.



#### 

# SPORT NEWS

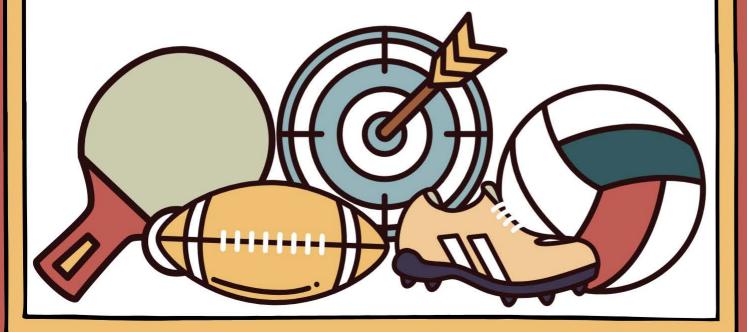
**SWIM TEAM NEWS** 

**NETBALL SUCCESSES** 

TABLE TENNIS COMPETITION

UPIM BIATHLON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

CROSS COUNTRY NATIONALS



# SWIM TEAM NEWS

On Friday the 6th of October, we had 20 swimmers (5 teams) in the NW Schools Swimming Relays in Liverpool.

They were exceptional and as expected, the standard was incredibly high. We came away with 3 team medals. A gold, silver and a bronze! The Senior Girls took silver in the medley, with a fantastic fly leg from Jamie. They then won gold, beating the next school by 3 seconds in their 4x 50m Freestyle race. The boys took the bronze in the Medley.

They were fantastic ambassadors for our school.

Well done!





# NETBALL SUCCESSES

In November our U16 Netball Team competed at the County Finals at Sedbergh, representing the Furness District along with Dowdales. Both teams showed some great teamwork and skill on the day but were unfortunately unable to make it any further in the competition.

Well done girls – from both UVHS and Dowdales!



U14 were the last of the three UVHS teams to make it to the Netball County Finals held at Sedbergh School in November.

The girls showed some great teamwork and skill throughout, which led them to reach the semi-finals. Well done girls! Also well done to Furness Academy who attended as the other representatives of Furness District.



Congratulations to our Sixth Form Girls' Netball Team who came second in the Cumbria Netball finals and, along with Sedbergh School, go on to represent Cumbria in the North-West England

U19 Netball Finals. Having only had one day's notice of the county competition and no full-team training session it is a phenomenal achievement.

This follows on from our yr7 & 8 teams winning their fixtures against St Bernards earlier this week – yr8 are still unbeaten as a team since they started at UVHS!!



# TABLE TENNIS COMPETITION

riday 24th November saw UVHS host our first ever Table Tennis competition.

Students from Years 7-10 competed for the title of Table Tennis Champion with trophies available for both the boys, and the girls' competitions. The first round of the competition saw students from across the year groups compete in a best of 3 game. Some results turned out as expected, but there were a few surprises right from the very start. As the competition progressed, we eventually came down to our finals. Euan and Jake both in Year 10 fought it out in the boys final, and Scarlett and Ezri battled for 1st place in the girls comp.

Both games were brilliant to watch with competitors giving it their all in two very close games. There can only be one winner though, and that was Jake in Year 10, and Ezri also in Year 10.

Both winners were presented with their trophies by Keith Dymond, Chairman of the Barrow and District Table Tennis league who kindly gave up his time to run the event. Keith, and the league have become friends to UVHS helping source new equipment like tables, bats and balls, as well as providing coaching, and extending invites to local competitions. UVHS remain incredibly grateful for all of their help and support.









# UPIM BIATHLON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

ongratulations to Penelope in yr9 who had the amazing experience of →going to Bali in November as part of the Great Britain team competing in the UPIM Biathlon World Championships.

With her partner Ewan, from Bath, they won the Bronze medal in the Junior



Relay competition, an AMAZING achievement. Now that Biathlon is going to be included in the Olympics programme we may well see the two of them on an even bigger stage in the future. Go team UVHS!

# CROSS COUNTRY NATIONALS

n December, Mr Pierce and Miss McKenny took the Cross Country teams down to a very cold lpswich.

All pupils were amazing throughout, even for the extra unplanned stop over due to the weather back in Furness!

We were competing against 27 other schools across the country for the National competition. The junior boys made a good attempt and placed 22 overall. Outstanding performances from Noah and Theo who placed 23rd and 24th, against older year 8s - ones to watch next

The senior girls had an excellent run after waiting a long time for their race in the cold. They placed 6th overall as a team. Georgia came in 7th and Marina 14th - again competing against older year 13 students.

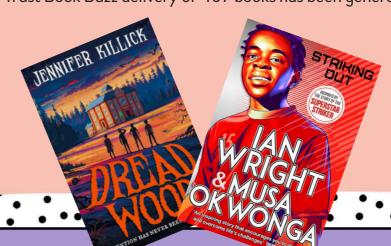






Christmas came early for year 7 and 8 students who each received a brand new book at the end of term. The most popular books were Dread Wood and Striking Out, with two sets of all 16 books also going to the school library. Students in both year groups have been anxiously awaiting their new books, which can be counted towards their achievements in their Reading Challenges.

This year's Book Trust Book Buzz delivery of 407 books has been generously supported by CGP.







To:

UVHS

Munich Trip!! Subject:

Dear UVHS,

After a week wondering if we would make it out of the snow in the Furness peninsula, Year 11 finally embarked on our festive journey to the snowy landscapes of Munich. Which was a delightful experience for our students and the staff that accompanied them.

Despite a delayed arrival on the Friday night, we set off early Saturday morning on a fascinating walking tour, where students were taught about the history of the Altstadt (old town) and had the opportunity to delve into Munich's rich cultural heritage.

The Weihnachtsmärkte (Christmas markets) provided a captivating setting for some free time, with twinkling lights and stalls brimming with seasonal delights. The students had a wonderful time exploring and immersing themselves in the Christmas spirit.

In the afternoon we had a snowy walk through the park to look at some of Munich's beautiful architecture, and to see the surfers on the Eisbachwelle. We then visited the iconic Allianz Arena, home to FC Bayern Munich. The stadium, adorned in pink and red lights, offered our students the experience of exploring its history and atmosphere.

In the evening, the Tollwood festival brought further excitement to our adventure, where pupils had another opportunity to test their language skills.

On the Sunday we visited Dachau concentration camp. The snow-covered site and our informative tour guide brought a moment of reflection to the weekend, and we all came away with a deeper understanding of the atrocities that occurred there.

Concluding our journey on an exciting note, the Krampuslauf parade introduced our students to local folklore and added an element of mystery to our Christmas adventure.

The trip was a memorable experience and Miss Groves, Miss Steele and Mr Hardwick were all very proud of the students for both their impeccable behaviour and for how they embraced the weekend.

See you all soon!

Year 11 & Mrs Groves



# History News

Ulverston Victoria
High School
Edition



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# **UVHS** Remembers Former Pupils

#### **Derrick Hadwin**

Derrick was born on the 27th May 1921 in Ulverston. His father was Edgar Nelson Hadwin, who was born in 1884 in Dalton and was the man who set up Hadwins Coaches. His mother was Jane Jackson, born in Millom in 1882.

Derrick was a pupil at Ulverston Grammar School from 1932 to 1939. Derrick had just started his new job as an aircraft parts engineer at the old Ashley's factory on Morecombe Road when war broke out in 1939.

In 1943 he was Flight Sergeant Derrick Hadwin of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. He was a pilot of a Halifax 11 bomber, which was part of 78 squadron based at RAF Breighton in Yorkshire.



Pictured: Derrick Hadwin's Grave

On Friday the 30th
July 1943 at 22:10
hours, he and his
squadron set off on
a bombing raid to
the Ruhr valley in
Germany. During
the raid, a total of
871 tons of bombs
were dropped.

107 industrial buildings were destroyed. 3115 houses were destroyed. 1120 people were killed and a further 6700 were injured. Post war British bombing survey estimated that 83% of the town was devastated.

This raid cost Germany 3 months of production and it never regained previous levels. In December 1943 The Victorian reported that Derrick had not returned from operations over enemy territory.

He died on 31st July 1943, when his squadron was shot down by a German night fighter. He was the pilot, and he was 22 years old when he died. He had only been on active duty for two weeks. All 7 men of his crew also died that night.

His family had been informed that he had died along with the 7 crew members of the Halifax Bomber when it was shot down by a night fighter, but they never expected to have any more information or details surrounding his death.

Years later, the soldier's nephew, Derek Forrest, of Milnthorpe, was surprised to find out from searching on the internet, that kind and thoughtful villagers had created a memorial at the

site of the crash, with local witnesses having posted their first-hand accounts of the night of the fatal incident. Derrick had jettisoned the bomb load in a nearby forest before trying to land the plane on the only available open fields. During this manoeuvre the aircraft was seen to avoid buildings to the immense relief of the witnesses, one of whom was a child who was peeking out of the black-out curtains. The crash site was commemorated by locals from the village of Rengen, who erected a stone memorial and planted seven oak trees in memory of the soldiers.

The 7 crew members on board the plane that night were buried locally in a beautiful little churchyard in Rengen. They were given a full Christian burial by the locals & the graves were carefully maintained by the people of Rengen, as if they were their own. Then in 1947 the bodies were exhumed & taken for burial at Rheinberg Cemetery in Germany. He never had the chance to get married so his effects were left to his mother Jane Hadwin.

The inscription on his grave reads: To one of the best and brightest of boys, whom we all loved.

## Raymond Cannon

Raymond was born in Ulverston on 21st June 1921. He was a pupil at Victoria Secondary School. When war broke out in 1939 he was living at 29 Dale Street with his parents Joseph Cannon & Ada Winder and working as an apprentice plasterer. He signed up as a Private in the 1st

Battalion The Border
Regiment number
4207070. In 1943
the Border Regiment
was reassigned to an
airborne division to
train in gliders. On
the 9th July 1943 in
'Operation Ladbroke',



Pictured: Syracuse Cemetary in Sicily

130 gliders were towed by American Dakota aircraft and set off from Tunisia to invade Sicily. This was the first ever assault using gliders. Many of the gliders were released too early and ditched into the sea, whilst others crash landed. Private Cannon died on the 10th July 1943 and is buried in Syracuse cemetery in Sicily. The inscription on his grave reads: In memory of our dear son Raymond. He died that others might live.

# Operation Ladbrooke



Pictured: Waco glider

## A personal account of Operation Ladbrooke by Bernard Halsall

It was June 1943 and North Africa was in Allied hands. At a watering point near Mascara in Algeria, we met up with over 100 wooden crates, each of which contained a Glider, an American product which none of us had seen before. We had to assemble these craft, and then, towed by American Dakotas, we each had a very few flights, and no more than two of them at night, trying to get familiar with the glider. Within three weeks we were to embark on the first ever mass flight of gliders by the Allies, a 600 mile flight over the Atlas Mountains, flying at 9000 feet to land in Tunisia. Severe turbulence was experienced over the mountains and the heat in the cockpit was extreme. The flight took over four and a half hours and was by far the longest flight any of us had done. About ten gliders failed to make the full trip.

We had just over a week to study photographs and for all the other activities in preparation for the attack, culminating in a Church Service on the edge of an olive grove. The 1st Air Landing Brigade flying 130 gliders was to land on Sicily, in darkness, about 8 hours before and 25 miles ahead of the main assault by the 8th Army. This would be the first return to European soil by the Allies since Dunkirk. The objective was to land near to and then to capture by midnight, a bridge over both a river and a canal, just south of Syracuse. During the night we were to occupy Syracuse town which the 8th Army units would reach before 11am. I was airborne around 7pm. The navigational plan was elementary. Fly due east to Malta, round the beams of three searchlights which would be pointing vertically upwards, and then due north to the target. To avoid enemy radar, we were to fly at under 100 feet for the estimated flying time of 41/2

hours. To make the flight even more hair-raising, a 30mph wind caused navigational and stability problems.

At about 11.15pm I saw the coast line but did not readily recognize it from the photographs we had been shown. The US air force tug was anxious to return home and as we had seen firing on the ground as well as flak coming up at us, we released at about 800 feet. At about 250 feet we crossed the shoreline and flew on into the darkness. We hit the first tree of the olive grove at about 80mph.



Pictured: Waco glider

Several minutes later, after we had all regained consciousness and gathered ourselves together (one had a broken leg but the rest were more or less all right), we moved off in the direction of the firing. It took us about four hours to reach the bridge, picking up stragglers and having to fight through several enemy positions. One glider had landed only 20 yards away and had captured the bridge without difficulty. However, most of the gliders had been released too early and had come down in the sea. Many men were drowned, others were scattered over scores of miles. With the arrival of our party there were just 87 of us to hold the bridge. During the rest of the night and throughout the morning the enemy launched a series of vicious counter-attacks. Completely surrounded by an estimated 1000 enemy, and with very little ammo left, the eight survivors finally surrendered at about 3pm.

About 20 minutes later the 8th Army arrived and their tanks swept over the bridge we had managed to occupy long enough to prevent it being destroyed.

History had been made that night of the 9th July, 1943. This was the first mass landing by glider behind enemy lines by the Allies. Four more were to follow before the end of hostilities.'



# History News

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## The 6 Men

# **Ulverston War** Memorial

n Ulverston town war memorial there are listed 8 men who fought in the Second World War & who died 80 years ago. in 1943. 7 of these men were pupils either at Ulverston Grammar School Victoria Secondary School.

We have been able to find out information about the lives and deaths of all of them.



Pictured: Ulverston war memorial

September

Satterthwaite

Robert Ingram

Robert was born on 24th

Ulverston. His parents were

William Ingram & Catherine

Dustan and we know he

was living in Byron Steet,

just south of the canal,

with his parents in 1911. In

1926 he married Evelyn

When war broke out in 1939

he was working as a labourer

in a gun shop. During the war,

he served in the 5th Battalion

The Seaforth Highlanders as

a Private. He was killed in

action on the 15th February

1943 aged 38 in North

Africa & is buried in Tripoli,

Baynes.

1904

# Arnold Campbell

Arnold attended Ulverston Grammar School from 1932 to 1939 and is mentioned in magazine Volume 9, edition 1 dated December 1941, as Force Volunteer Reserve. The next mention he gets in The Ulverstonian is Volume 10 edition 2 dated July 1943 & this entry says 'We regret to record that Sergeant Navigator Arnold Campbell is missing from a raid over involved 826 aircraft, much

The Ulverstonian, the school an Old Scholar on Active Service. He was a Royal Air Dortmund'. During this raid over Dortmund, which

devastation was wreaked across large parts of the city. Ir particular the steelworks were put out of action. In total 38 aircraft were lost. This was the last sizeable raid on Dortmund for exactly one year. His death was recorded in Volume 11 edition 1. Arnold's plane was shot down by a night-fighter and crashed west in Holland. He died on the 24th May 1943 aged 22 years. He is buried in Bergen Cemetery in the Netherlands, 43 kilometres northwest of Amsterdam.

Libya.

#### For more information

We have been very lucky to collate a pictorial history of more than 170 of our past students, including the 28 who lost their lives during the conflict. To see this collection, please see the Community section under Parents & Community on the website.

#### John Gaitskell

John was born on 5th July 1918 in Ulverston, to parents John Gaitskill senior & Florence Robinson. He went to school at Victoria Secondary School. When war broke out in 1939 he was living with his widowed mother at 69 Hart Street, Ulverston. He served in the Manchester Regiment Royal Artillery as a private. He died on the 7th August 1943 back in Britain, presumably of wounds received. He is buried in Ulverston Cemetery. On his grave is the inscription: Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee.

#### Arthur Miller

Arthur was born on the 24th March 1919 in Ulverston, to his parents Arthur Miller senior & Sarah Bessie Taylor. He attended Victoria Secondary School and when war broke out in 1939 he was living with his parents at 37 Devonshire Road, working as a grocer's assistant. He served in the Kings Own Royal Regiment Lancaster as a corporal, Number 3713151. He died shortly after the British took Tripoli on the 16th November 1943 and is commemorated on



Pictured: UVHS Upper School

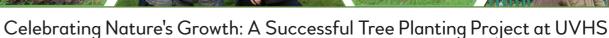
a memorial in Athens as well, where the inscription reads Remembered with Honour. He is also commemorated on the Ulverston Town War Memorial, as are all these brave men.

## George William Arthur Standfast

George was born in 1914, the year that the Great War started. We can find out very little about George but we do know he attended Ulverston Grammar School. From 1933 to 1935. During the war he served in the Royal Navy as a leading sick berth attendant on HMS Egret. The Ulverstonian records that he was Killed in Action on the 27th August 1943 aged 29 years. His final resting place is unknown but he is remembered on our Ulverston Town War Memorial and on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

### James Grundy

James was born in 1913 and attended Ulverston Grammar School from 1923 to 1931. He gets his first mention in The Ulverstonian Volume 9 edition 1, dated December 1941, when he is congratulated for his appointment to the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. He is next mentioned in the December 1943 edition. when the entry says 'We regret to record that James Grundy has not returned from operations over enemy territory'. At some point he was interred at Minden Prisoner of War camp, in Germany and The Victorian records his death as the 3rd October 1943, aged 31 years.



In our commitment to enhancing biodiversity on our school premises, we are delighted to share the success of our recent tree planting project. Over two hundred trees have found a new home on our grounds, transforming previously unused sections of the field into vibrant, 'wilder' spaces. The goal of this initiative is to introduce wildflowers, woodland plants, unmowed patches, and shrubs, creating an environment that fosters an increase in the local insect, bird, and wildlife population.

What makes this project even more special is the active involvement of all our Year 7 students. Each form was allocated a specific section within the rewilding project area, and during the past week, students dedicated form time and a single lesson to learn about and actively participate in this tree planting activity.

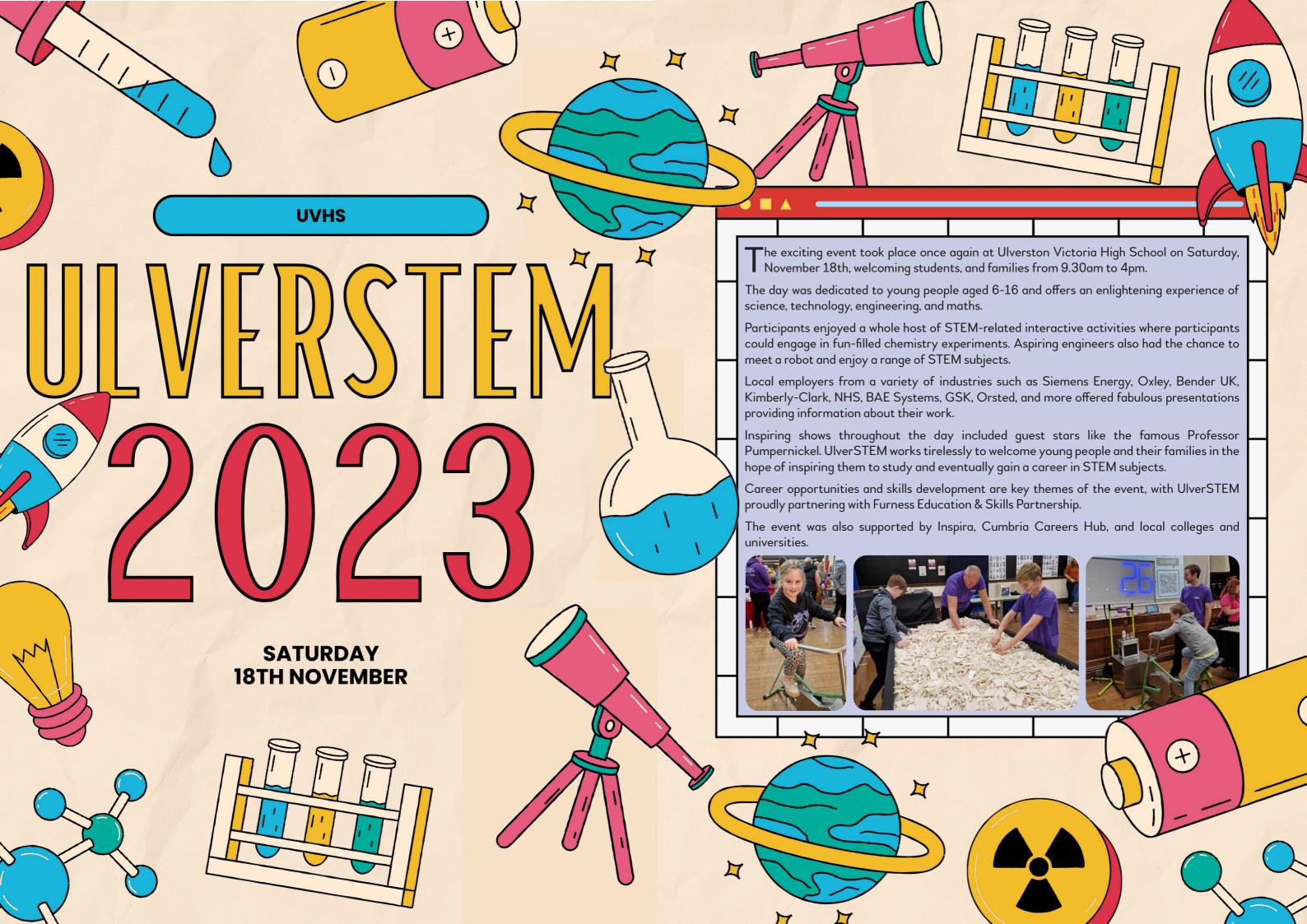
We are grateful for the support of expert gardeners from Ford Park Community Gardens, who joined us in school to share their knowledge on various native tree species. They guided our students through the sapling planting process and offered valuable insights into long-term tree care. The excitement and joy radiating from our students during the planting sessions were palpable. Their enthusiasm has extended beyond the initial planting, as they eagerly anticipate the opportunity to care for their saplings in the coming term.

But our involvement doesn't end with planting. Following this hands-on experience, each form is actively collecting data about their trees and conducting ecological surveys to monitor the impact on local wildlife.

As we celebrate the success of this project, we look forward to the continued growth of our trees and the flourishing of our rewilded areas. We believe that fostering a connection between our students and the environment contributes to a more sustainable and harmonious future.

We extend our gratitude to all involved in making this project a triumph, and we look forward to sharing further updates as our green spaces continue to thrive.







On Tuesday 7th November we hosted our Year 11 Mock Interview Day and Careers Fair.

With the fantastic support of our link business partners and education providers, the whole Year 11 cohort was engaged in individual Mock Interviews. Students had worked hard to prepare for their ten-minute interviews with a local employer/recruiter and given a five-minute personal de-brief thereafter to help them develop their essential interview skills.

Many of our guests were the recruiters/employers that the students will be meeting in the future, so it was imperative that they made the best impression. Students had been preparing their CVs, cover letters and interview questions leading up to the event. We should not underestimate the impact the students' performance would have and I am delighted to say that they all rose to this challenge. The feedback received from the employers and providers was amazing with all stating that they would have little hesitation in offering placements or roles in their organisations in the future. Although an anxious activity for many, it was an invaluable experience for all concerned. I am hugely proud of the comportment of all our students.

The annual Year 11 Careers Fair was held that evening and students had the chance to find out about future career options with an opportunity to meet employers and college tutors. Throughout the evening students and parents/carers were able to get in-depth information about specific courses, apprenticeships, careers and other Post-16 next steps.

Both events were a huge success and employers and providers have commented on the calibre of students UVHS has to offer and all would welcome our students as prospective employees of the future!

I would like to extend a huge thank you to all who supported us with these important events. - Mrs Adams

# 2023 Christmas Card Winner & XMAS DOOR COMPETITION [[[]]



Year 7 Sophia!

### XMAS DOORS

The inaugural "Decorate a Christmas Door" competition was hotly contested, with Dr O'Donovan acting as lead judge on a very wet and windy Christmas jumper day.

The judges toured the school site looking at the wide variety of approaches to decorated doors, and were impressed at the ingenuity and creativity shown – from advent calendars, through flashing lights, to handmade crochet. The winning forms were:

7.4 8.2 9.7 10.1

11.3 Form 45

The Judges' Special Commendation was jointly awarded to 8.1 and 10.4 for their imaginative collaboration.







# 6th Form Xmas Panto

efore Christmas **D**UVHS 6th form performed their annual Pantomime. This was written and directed by the 6th formers themselves - Oh no it wasn't, oh yes it was! The Pantomime itself was an amalgamation of different fairy stories and tales and included a whole lot of audience interaction. The 6th formers thoroughly enjoyed the experience as they all contributed to the performance in some way or another, working hard in order to bring the energy and volume of Panto to the Coronation Hall.

They did three fantastic performances, one to the primary feeder schools on Monday afternoon, a performance to family, friends and the general public on Monday evening, and then to the Year 7's on Tuesday afternoon. All the audience joined in with great gusto and it really kicked of the holidays with a sparkle!

- Miss Sweetman







On Monday the 18th December we welcomed back former students from last year's yr11 & yr13 to celebrate their achievements during their time at UVHS – a great opportunity to recognise all of their hard work and dedication, especially as we saw the best set of A Level results in the history of the school.

Well over 200 students came on to the stage of The Coro to receive their GCSE or A Level certificates as well as various awards and prizes and, in the case of yr11, full and half school colours (in the shape of a gold or silver medal) for their contribution to the life of the school outside the classroom in sport and the performing arts.

Notable prize-winners include former head-girl, Katherine, who received multiple awards including the Alford Cup for music, the GCSE Maths Prize, full coloursforPerformingArts, the UTCHeadteacher's Prize for Head Student, the Basil Weston prize for performance at GCSE (10 x grade 9s), and the Poole Townsend Prize for excellence in English; and Vinnie who received the yr13 Mathematics Prize

and the Herbert William Cousins Memorial Prize for highest academic success at A Level  $(4 \times A^*s)$ .

The packed audience saw three presentations from groups of sixth-formers about the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, the geography trip to Iceland last Spring and the Wind Band concert tour to France in July, as well as deputy headteacher (and former

student) Miss Desbottes expressing what UVHS means to her and the wider Ulverston community.

Our guest speaker for the night was former student Sam Tickle (MA MRes PhD) who is now employed in the City of London with Squarepoint Capital. As well as presenting all of the certificates and awards Sam delivered an informative and entertaining speech about his experiences leaving school and going out into the 'big, wide world' and gave several sage pieces of advice to the students present and their families.

Once again, well done yr11 & yr13. - Mr Butler





