

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

Volume 10 Issue 1



September 2008

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer break despite the somewhat unseasonal weather! The new academic year is now well underway and I am delighted to see the new Year 7 girls with their enthusiasm and happy smiling faces around the school. They appear to have settled in very quickly and promise to be an excellent year group. Welcome also to our new Lower Six, fresh from their GCSE successes of which we are all very proud. We look forward to their continued success as they embark on their AS studies.

The Autumn Term is always very busy and this year promises to be no different.

International Activities

Shanghai - Just before the end of term, a group of 27 girls and staff set off for a trip to Shanghai to participate in the '2008 Shanghai International Youth Science and Technology Expo' in July. The theme of the expo was 'A better life with science and technology' and students from all over the world shared their ideas on how science and technology can be used to create a better world. We received the 'Outstanding Organisation Prize' so the conduct and enthusiasm of the girls was duly recognised.

The invitation was extended to us by our link school in China, 'Shanghai Caoyang No.2 High School'. Our girls felt a great warmth and comradeship with their Chinese counterparts and some firm friendships were made. It is hoped that we can build on this with future trips to China.

La Fosca – during the first week of the summer holidays, a group of girls and staff departed on an activity holiday to La Fosca in Spain. An action packed 9 days were spent in various outward-bound activities and great fun in the sun was had by all concerned!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff who give up their free time to facilitate trips such as these, ensuring that our girls benefit from and enjoy a wide range of exciting opportunities which only enhance their life experience outside of the classroom. Without the energy and commitment of staff, these trips would not be possible.

Extended Schools Summer Camp

For the second year running, Miss Millard coordinated a hugely successful Summer Camp. Assisted by a team of staff both from Upton and other schools in the cluster, around 150 children from the local community took part in over 20 sporting activities including

basketball, cricket, trampolining, netball, tennis, football and rounders. Alongside these activities, the children also undertook arts and crafts, parachute games, dance, drama and circus skills and a climbing wall was even brought in for the more daring of the participants!

The theme of the camp was the Beijing Olympics, with 'campers' making pottery pandas as well as greeting each other in Chinese. On the final day prizes were presented by two world medal holders.

Pupil Achievements

We are proud of all the achievements of our pupils however academic success is of crucial importance and our Results Days this Summer were days of particular success.

In August we celebrated some outstanding Examination Results in both A levels and GCSE. 52 % of the A level grades were Grades A and B and there was an overall pass rate of 99 %. Meanwhile GCSE candidates achieved 59% A* and A grades. 100% of pupils got A* or A grades in Art, Biology and Chemistry. These are fantastic results and are richly deserved by girls and staff alike.

Dates for Your Diary

Parents' Information Evenings

A series of Parents' Information Evenings have been scheduled during this term. Please check the Green Calendar for details of the date specific to your daughter's year group. A letter of invitation will be issued to parents in each year group as the dates approach. We very much value the opportunity to meet with parents and if your daughter is to get the best from her education, it is vital that we continue to work together for her success.

Mass of Thanksgiving – Celebration of 150th Anniversary of life of Marie Madeleine d'Houet.

Attached is a leaflet outlining the contribution of Marie Madeleine to the FCJ Society. In recognition of this, a Mass of Thanksgiving is being held on **Saturday 13 September 2008 at 12 noon** in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King in Liverpool. Everyone with a connection to this society, past and present is invited to attend.

Open Evening

On Thursday 18 September 2008 from 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm we will be holding our Open Evening for



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potential new pupils and their families. If you know of any prospective parents & girls please encourage them to come along and look around and see what is on offer at Upton and the outstanding facilities which we can provide.

On **Saturday 8 November at 2.30 pm** we are celebrating a School Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool. To mark the Capital of Culture year, the mass will have an international theme and be celebrated in a number of languages. Over the past two years this Mass has proved extremely popular and is an opportunity for the Upton Community to come together in an awe inspiring setting. Please bring all your family and friends and invite anyone you know who is a former pupil of Upton or Holt Hill.

Sporting Achievements

Thanks to everyone who participated in a very exciting Sports Day on the last Wednesday of term, even the weather behaved for once!

During the last week of the Summer Term, Year 7 won the Wirral Rounders Tournament as well as the Wirral Schools Athletics competition. Congratulations to all who participated on their excellent achievement.

Parents & Friends of Upton

The contribution of Parents & Friends of Upton is crucial. I would therefore urge you to support their fundraising activities. They are holding their **AGM on Monday 6 October at 7.30 pm**. Their first fundraiser is a Salsa Evening on **Friday 17 October from 7.30 pm** in the School Hall. Details will follow but if you fancy showing off some fancy footwork on the dance floor, then please come along and support them.

Parent Governors

At the end of the August one of our Parent Governors came to the end of her term of office. Mrs Christine Davies, mother of Louisa, has made an excellent contribution to the work of the Governors. On behalf of the School I would like to thank her for her service to Upton over the last four years. Please see attached letter regarding election of a replacement for Mrs Davies.

Website

Our website is constantly being updated, please keep yourselves informed of School achievements by visiting www.uptonhallschool.co.uk.

Diocese of Shrewsbury – ‘Parenting Teenagers’ Support Group – on Wednesday 17 September 2008 at St Agnes’ Parish Centre, West Kirby from 8.00 pm to 9.45 pm, a 6 week programme for parents of teenagers will be starting. The aim is to offer fresh thought provoking ideas on how parents can build on and add to their existing parenting skills. It is for all parents whether single, married, separated or divorced and will support and reaffirm the very important role of parents. If you are interested please go along.

Telephone Calls

More and more frequently girls are requesting to use the telephone in Reception to make calls to parents. Many of these calls are to mobiles which prove very costly even for a brief call. School is unable to finance these telephone calls and therefore in order to recoup the cost, any girl wishing to use the telephone will now be charged 50p per call.

Year 7 Welcome Mass

To welcome the newest members of our community, this event will be held on **Thursday 9 October 2008 at 7.00 pm in the Sports Hall**. All family and friends of our new cohort are invited to attend as our Year 7 pupils celebrate their Welcome Mass and make their Act of Dedication to be excellent Upton pupils. I am sure that these girls will distinguish themselves as confident and talented members of the School.

Yours sincerely