

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FROM THE HEADMISTRESS



Volume 11 Issue 1

September 2009

Dear Parents,

The sunny weather of the last week is a sure indication that we have all returned to school. I hope you found time during the summer holidays to rest, relax, and enjoy some sunshine.

August was rather wet but some events brought their own sunshine to Upton. The week of 17 August was Summer Camp for 177 young people from Wirral and further afield. This is an Extended Services event hosted by Upton and organised by our staff. The theme of 'I'm a Camper Get Me Out of Here' proved hugely enjoyable with arts, crafts, drama and games filling up each day. The Thursday of the same week was A level results day and a great day for so many of our students.

The school website contains the highlights of our results but just in case you have missed them here they are:

Headlines

- 109 students entered 368 examinations
- The pass rate was 100%
- 41.2% of the grades were grade A
- 66.9% were grade A+B

Individual Successes

- 24 students achieved A grades in 3 or more subjects
- 13 students achieved A grades in 4 or 5 subjects
- 10 students achieved a merit or distinction in Advanced Extension Awards with 4 students achieving 2 each!

Subject Highlights

The following subjects achieved 60% or more A+B grades

- Art (100%)
- Biology (76%)
- Business Studies (71.4%)
- Classical Civilisation (100%)
- Chemistry (76.5%)
- Drama (60%)
- Textiles (60%)
- English Literature (77.8%)
- French (100%)
- Government & Politics (66.7%)
- History (100%)
- Mathematics (83.3%)
- Music (100%)
- Physical Education (81.8%)
- Physics (83.3%)

We hope that these outstanding results will act as both a spur and an inspiration to the 132 students in our new Upper 6. With hard work and determination we have every confidence that the results in 2010 could be even better.

The following week brought GCSE results day. When the first group of students opened their results there was silence. Those of us nearby wondered what the problem could be. One of the girls then exclaimed, 'I'm speechless, I cannot believe that these are my results!' For those of you who have not seen the website here are the GCSE highlights:

Headlines

- 126 students entered 1225 examinations
- 23% of grades were A*
- 57% of grades were A*+A
- 98% of grades were A*-C
- 60% of candidates achieved 5 or more A*+A
- 100% of candidates achieved 5 or more A*-C

Individual Successes

- 29 candidates achieved 10 or more A*+A grades
- 12 candidates achieved 8 or more A* grades
- 1 candidate achieved 11 A* grades and an A grade in A Level Mathematics!

Subject Highlights

The following subjects achieved 60% or more A*+A grades

- Art (75%)
- Biology (93.9%)
- Chemistry (97%)
- Textiles (76%)
- Geography (65.6%)
- Physical Education (76.9%)
- Physics (72.7%)
- Religious Studies (68.3%)
- Spanish (61.8%)

All of these excellent results were the product of girls working with commitment with support from parents and excellent teaching from the dedicated Upton staff. We know that this year's examination candidates can enjoy similar success if they take advantage of the many opportunities that this year will offer.

A booklet containing a full report on all results will be available on the website when all re-marks have been completed.

Welcome to our new Year 7 pupils who are settling in very well indeed. It is a huge step moving from Primary to Secondary school and although this transition takes place each year we are aware that for each individual it is a huge challenge. There are plenty of people at Upton willing to help so I would encourage parents to contact the school if you have any worries or concerns no matter how trivial they may seem.

Open Evening

On Thursday evening from 6.00-8.30pm we are holding our annual Open Evening. We invite as many current pupils as possible to come along to help make this an interesting and enjoyable evening for our visitors.

School will finish at 2.10pm following afternoon registration. This allows us to make the necessary preparations for the evening and it is also to allow pupils to have a break before they assist in the many displays and activities that take place throughout the evening.

This year we have a problem with our buses. Contrary to the information in a letter distributed last Friday, **the buses will not be available early.** The buses for Upton are being operated by 'First' and they do not have the flexibility to alter the bus schedules. Girls can leave school early if they have transport but for those who need the school bus service they will need to remain in school until the usual time.

Forthcoming Events

September

Thurs 17 OPEN EVENING 6.00 pm - 8.30 pm

Tues 22 Year 8 Parents' Information Evening - 7.00 pm

Tues 29 Lower 6th Parents' Information Evening - 7.00 pm

October

Fri 2 OPEN MORNING 9 am – 11 am

Mon 5 *Parents' and Friends' of Upton AGM – 7.00 pm*

Thurs 8 Year 7 Welcome Mass – 7.00 pm

Tues 13 Year 10 Parents' Information Evening – 7.00 pm

Tues 20 School Production - 7.00 pm

Wed 21 Sixth Form Progress Sheets to Parents
School Production - 7.00 pm

Thurs 22 School Production - 7.00 pm

Holiday Dates

For details of holiday dates please see the school website. Please note that school will be closed to pupils on **Friday 23 October 2009** for a School Development Day. **October Half Term Dates -** Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October 2009.

Already I have received a number of requests for holidays in term time. As a teacher I am acutely aware of just how financially beneficial it is to take a holiday during term time. On many occasions I have looked wistfully at advertisements for holidays and cheap flights that take place during school term. The endless possibilities of sunny days on empty beaches for incredibly low prices are there to tempt us all. However, the hidden cost is to your daughter's education. A lesson missed can never be made up effectively and gaps in knowledge can cost a grade. Please think very hard indeed before making arrangements that could be harmful to your daughter's progress.

Website

We are working hard to use our website effectively. If you have any ideas for its improvement please contact the school.

I wish you and your families a happy new academic year and look forward to seeing you at the various activities and meetings that will take place.

Kind regards

