

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FROM THE HEADMISTRESS



Volume 11 Issue 3

November 2009

Dear Parents,

As the Christmas break approaches I thought I would take the opportunity to update you on some of the events and achievements at Upton which has made for a hectic but rewarding Autumn Term.

Grease Lightning!

From **Tuesday 20 October to Thursday 22 October**, pupils participated in our School Production of "Grease". This was hugely successful with so many of our Drama and Performing Arts students revealing their accomplishments as actors, musicians and stage crew. Congratulations to all those pupils who performed so well and to the staff for their endless support and dedication.

Annual School Mass

On **Saturday 7 November at 2.30 pm** we held our Annual School Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool. This year we celebrated the 160th Anniversary of the foundation of the school and gave thanks for all that makes Upton so special. The total number of people there was around 2000. The Music Department worked very hard, in what has been a busy term, to provide the music for this event. The pupils who took an active role in the Mass acquitted themselves very ably. The Cathedral staff were very gracious in their praise of the girls. We were delighted to see so many parents and families attending this event. It was particularly delightful to see so many former pupils and staff.

Remembrance Day Events

Our cadets turned out on parade for Remembrance Sunday with Birkenhead School and acquitted themselves with great dignity. At their request on Wednesday 11 November at 11 am there was a Remembrance Service followed by a minute's silence and the laying of poppy wreaths at the Peace Pole in the Peace Garden. The girls who participate in CCF attended in full cadet uniform and paraded in the school grounds. On behalf of the girls, I would like to say a special thank you to Miss Green who supports the Cadets and helped the girls to put together the service assisted by Miss Cavanagh.

20th Anniversary of the Fall of Berlin Wall – this was marked by various activities throughout the week. A Berlin Wall was erected and girls were invited to provide graffiti and prayers for each side. Following a prayer service at lunchtime on Thursday 12 November, the Berlin Wall was knocked down.

Birkenhead School Choral Society Gala Concert takes place on Saturday 5 December 2009. Upton are delighted to have been asked to be the guest choir at this year's Christmas Concert by the Birkenhead Choral Society at the Philharmonic Hall. This is a great Christmas event for the family. Please download an order form from the website and send it into School as soon as possible to reserve your tickets as the date is approaching fast!

Pupil Achievements

Business Studies Success!

Earlier this month, a team of eight Year 10 students from Upton took part in the prestigious 'Jaguar Land Rover Make it Enterprising Challenge', which was jointly sponsored by The Manufacturing Institute of the UK. The event was well represented by schools from across the UK with the winners being invited to attend a regional grand final in April 2010.

Students had to design and build and design a prototype vehicle and were judged on the quality of their finished product alongside a number of enterprising attitudes and skills including planning, adaptability, problem solving, enthusiasm and persistence. Upton girls scooped first prize which included two tickets for an off-roading experience driving the latest Land Rover over the firm's test track at Speke, Liverpool. In the spirit of Upton they collectively decided to donate these tickets as a raffle prize to a local Down's Syndrome Charity. Congratulations to all the girls!

Year 11

Members of Year 11 pupils have had a very busy few weeks. They are coping admirably with the GCSE Mocks and will use the results to highlight the strengths and weaknesses of their knowledge and understanding. For the first time parents will receive online reports which we hope will be convenient and eco friendly. Reports will be issued before the end of term and will provide invaluable advice on how the girls can prepare for success in their GCSE examinations.

On **Tuesday 1 December** parents and girls from 11C, 11H and the first half of 11J (B to Jon) are invited to an evening with a performance consultant, Mr Andrew Newton, who will offer valuable advice for parents as well as pupils on how to make the most of the precious weeks between the mocks and the actual examinations. This programme will be repeated on **Tuesday 8 December** for the parents and girls from 11J (Joy to W), 11S and 11U. In the event of parents being unable to attend on the allocated date, special arrangements can be made for you to attend on the other date. Parents in Year 11 will be receiving a letter

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about this event.

Sixth Form UCAS Applications - we have been delighted by the quality of these applications with girls applying all over the country for a wide range of courses. Good luck to the Oxford and Cambridge applicants. Three girls have so far been called for interview at Cambridge, we wish them well in their preparations and congratulate them on their achievement so far.

Sporting Achievements

- Upton PE Department with the assistance of the School Sports Partnership at Park High School have secured Big Lottery Funding which has enabled them to purchase a new trampoline, run tennis and climbing courses as well as part fund the extremely successful third Extended Services' Summer Camp in August. Thanks go to the team at Park High for their assistance.
- Congratulations to Year 7 & 8 Netball teams who have beaten South Wirral and Oldershaw this term in an excellent start to the league!
- Congratulations to Year 7 Hockey team on beating Pensby 4-0 in a great start to the season!
- 14 girls took part in Dance Leaders' Qualification and successfully led an action packed afternoon for primary pupils.
- Sixth Form took part in County Netball tournament finishing 3rd overall

Lost Property Day - from 12.50 pm on Wednesday 16 December to 12.50 pm on Thursday 17 December - lost property will be available from the Reception area. Parents are welcome to pop in to help pupils retrieve their misplaced goods. It is always shocking to see the amount of property, unnamed that goes unclaimed.

Christmas Carols

On Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 December you are invited to join staff and pupils at the Christmas Carols service at 7.00 pm. The venue for this is Sacred Heart, Moreton. The Music Department have been working hard in their preparations for this event so please come along and support our very talented musicians and singers.

Parents & Friends of Upton

Parents & Friends have held a number of successful events this term including the Estee Lauder Evening, Bag Packing at Sainsbury's and the Christmas Fair. We thank them for their continued hard work and vital fundraising efforts which go towards providing so many extra facilities and

equipment for the girls.

Library News

National Poetry Day 2009 was held on 8 October with this year's theme of "Heroes and Heroines" providing a very interesting display in the Library and poetry workshops led by the English Department.

The first meeting of the **Anime Club** was held in the Library on 15 October organised by Sixth Formers – Annie Sinclair, Eloisa Beccafichi and Anna Walsh. This is the place to be for all those with an interest in Japanese culture!

On Friday 11 December, the author **Alan Gibbons** will be in school all day to do creative workshops with Year 8. He will also be signing copies of his books.

Privacy Notice

Attached to this newsletter is a Privacy Notice. To meet the requirements of the Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998, schools need to tell pupils and parents about information held about pupils, why it is held and the third parties with whom it may be shared. I would request that you scrutinise this document carefully and if you wish to restrict access to/the sharing of this data, you inform Mrs D Taylor, Data Manager at the school in writing. A copy of this notice is also available on the School website.

Website

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

Yours sincerely

