

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

Volume 11 Issue 4



December 2009

Dear Parents,

The Christmas holidays have now arrived and I want to share some of the many activities in which the girls have participated recently.

English Faculty awarded Prince's Teaching Institute Mark - Following two years' work on a variety of projects by pupils and members of the English Faculty, we were delighted and honoured to receive the Prince's Teaching Institute Mark. On 23 November, I was invited to Clarence House where I met Prince Charles and accepted the mark on behalf of the school and in particular our colleagues in the English Faculty. Congratulations to all of the English staff especially Head of Faculty, Ms E Skyner, who spearheaded the activities leading to the presentation of this prestigious award.

Birkenhead School Choral Society Gala Concert took place on Saturday 5 December 2009. We were 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. The girls acquitted themselves magnificently in this awe inspiring setting. Particular thanks must go to Mrs Miller for her hard work and commitment in preparing the girls so well.

Feast Day Celebrations

On Tuesday 8 December at Upton Hall we celebrated our school Feast Day. We joined with the Church around the world to celebrate the great feast of the Immaculate Conception when we honour Mary, the mother of God. This date has a further resonance here at Upton as it was on that day in 1862 when the FCJ sisters completed the purchase of the site in Upton, the site that we still occupy today. Girls took part in a variety of activities including a special Assembly, looking at the work of the FCJ sisters in Manila as they help to rebuild the lives of communities devastated by the recent floods, and form based activities including a 21st century title for Mary, a session on the geography, history and politics of the Philippines, the writing of Amnesty Christmas

Cards, and a visit to the Advent Prayer Labyrinth in Chapel. In the afternoon of Feast Day the Sports Hall and the Assembly Hall were turned into concert venues.

Pupils enjoyed a lively afternoon that included performances by the Chamber Choir, the 6th Form Drama Group, the 6th Form ICT group and some community singing. The afternoon ended with a prayerful reflection drawing together the various strands of the day.

The Journey - An Exhibition of art work at the Vice Chancellor's Lodge, Liverpool

On Wednesday 2 December an exhibition of featuring the work of A Level and GCSE pupils and the artists in residence who have worked with them this year was held at the Vice Chancellor's Lodge in Liverpool. The exhibition had been professionally staged by the Exhibitions team of the Victoria Gallery and was the first school exhibition to be hosted at the newly refurbished gallery space at the official residence of Liverpool University's Vice Chancellor. Hosted by Sir Howard and Lady Sheila Newby, the exhibition showcased the range of pupils' work from complex mixed media collages of the Liverpool skyline, cutting edge wearable artefacts reflecting pupils' journeys and photographic collages inspired by the work of Michelle Molyneux RCA. Congratulations to all involved in this truly impressive exhibition.

Christmas Carols – Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 December. Congratulations to Mrs Miller, Mr Johnson and the very talented young musicians and singers who provided a beautiful programme of music at our Christmas Carol Concerts held this week at Sacred Heart Church, Moreton. Our thanks to the Parish Priest, Father John Feeney, for his kind support and hospitality.

Pupil Achievements

Congratulations to pupils studying art who took part in the Liverpool Community College Fashion Show on Saturday. **Sophie Connolly, L6C** won first prize in this competition and Upton also won the best collective school entry. Liverpool Community College has



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invited the girls to present their collection at their end of year Fashion Show.

Jessica Small, L6Hu has been selected as one of five finalists for the Athenaeum Writer in Residence Bursary. Jessica was chosen from 51 entries across 21 schools and colleges. This annual writing prize is awarded by the Athenaeum in partnership with Liverpool City Council, Liverpool Daily Post and Radio Merseyside. The overall winner will be announced on 11 February 2010. Good luck to Jessica and congratulations on her achievement so far.

Congratulations to four talented Year 10 linguists **Stephanie Addenbrooke, Emily Brown, Melissa Bolger, and Lucy Jarvis** who competed at the annual Wirral Languages & ICT Day competition held at Calday Grammar School on 16 December. Their ability to communicate effectively in French as well as their IT skills enabled them to win first prize.

Dates for your diary

Spring Term 2010

January

- Mon 4 **Pupils return**
- Fri 8 Year 11 Provisional Option Form submission
- Mon 11 AS/A2 Modules begin
- Sun 24 DoE Silver/Gold Training
- Wed 27 Year 11 Parent Teacher Meeting - 5.30 pm

February

- Mon 1 Year 11 Final Options Form submission deadline
- Sun 7 DoE Silver Training
- Mon 8 DoE Gold Route Check
- Tue 9 Year 9 Parent Teacher Meeting - 5.30 pm
- Fri 12 Year 9 GCSE Form submission deadline
- Mon 15 -
Fri 19 **Half Term**

Website

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

Reports

Girls in Years 11-13 have each received a detailed report which can be accessed by parents on-line. There is an opportunity for both girls and parents to make a response to each report. Staff have invested a huge amount of time and effort in preparing these and if used sensibly these reports could be amongst the best Christmas presents you receive, bringing long-term success. If you experience any difficulties accessing these reports please contact Miss Taylor at School.

Stay Safe

Sadly over the Christmas period many young people will compromise their safety and well-being by drinking alcohol. I appeal to the girls, and ask for the support of parents, to ensure that you stay safe by being confident enough to say no to alcohol. Long term, alcohol will paint your nose red and do even worse to your liver! Over indulgence so often leads to tears. Stay safe, happy and beautiful!

Upton Community

This Christmas will be difficult for many families associated with the school because they are coping with the illness of a family member or a recent bereavement. We have had a number of pupils and staff who have lost a close family member this term. I would ask you to remember these families in your prayers.

May I wish you a very happy Christmas full of blessings for you and your family and a peaceful and successful New Year.

Yours sincerely