

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

Volume 11 Issue 5



February 2010

Dear Parents,

Following a rather disrupted start to the new year with some rather unexpected 'snow days', I want to convey my thanks and appreciation for your support and cooperation during that difficult period. The decision to close the school for three days was taken after careful examination of the Met Office adverse weather reports, consideration of the advice offered by the Local Authority as well as information on the bus services and a first hand inspection of the nearby roads. I am pleased to say that school life quickly returned to normal in the second week of term and the modular examinations proceeded as expected.

We are entering a critical time of year for the girls taking public examinations in the summer. It is crucial that they remain focussed on working hard to enable them to achieve their potential and reap the rewards of excellent grades in August. Strategies to assist the girls are constantly being reviewed and the Leadership Team will be working closely with staff and girls to ensure their progress and success. All Year 11 girls will have been interviewed by the Leadership Team over the last two weeks regarding their future hopes and aspirations and how these can be achieved.

**Year 11 Parent Teacher Meeting** took place on **Wednesday 27 January**. Thank you to all Year 11 parents who attended as this was an opportunity to discuss your daughter's progress as well as identify any areas for improvement. Mrs Taylor, Head of Year 11 will be in touch with those parents who were unable to attend. Thanks also to **Year 9 Parents** who attended the Parent Teacher Meeting this week. It was a chance to discuss the GCSE subjects that your daughter has selected to study in the next two years.

**Year 11 pupils** received their individual Examination Timetable for the summer examinations and this should trigger the writing of a comprehensive revision timetable. There is a very strong correlation between those who get into a pattern of revision and those who do well. Staff tell me that the Year 11 pupils

are getting into their stride and I would like to congratulate them on their recent efforts and encourage them to keep going. This is an incredibly busy time for students in Years 12 and 13. We wish them continued success as they prepare for AS and A2 examinations.

### **Upton remembers....**

At the request of a group of former pupils, a symbolic tree planting ceremony and memorial service was held on Friday 22 January at 1.30 pm by the Peace Pole at Upton. This was in memory of Elizabeth Hughes who attended Upton from 1977 to 1984 and sadly lost her battle against cancer in April last year. Members of School Council gathered with Elizabeth's family and friends for a very poignant and dignified service. School Councillors had been consulted prior to the event and felt that planting a tree would be the most fitting tribute to this former pupil.

Congratulations to **Sarah Louise Sherlock in 8H**, who as a member of the fundraising group **The People of the Pipeline**, has been invited by the Mayor of Wirral to present to a meeting of Wirral Council on **Monday 15 February 2010 at 6.15 pm**. The Mayor has been following the progress of the Pipeline after he attended their Black and White Gala dinner, indeed, he cannot believe their commitment to the cause and approach to fundraising at such a young age as well as the large amount of money raised in such a short time. He wants to showcase to his fellow councillors the talented and caring young ladies from Upton Hall School whose commitment should be recognised. Well done, we are very proud of this outstanding fundraising effort.

Congratulations to **Celina Hackett (8J)** on her selection to the Cheshire Hockey County Squad. Celina has been training at the Wirral Hockey Academy, and as a result of high levels of commitment, motivation, dedication and skill, she was selected for the final Cheshire Squad. Well done!

..ctd

**Parents & Friends of Upton** will be holding a Car Boot Sale on Saturday 6 March 2010 from 10 am to 1 pm at Upton. The cost for this event is £6 per table and refreshments will be available. Please support them as they make a valuable contribution to school with their fundraising for the benefit of the girls.

**Committee Members** - any parents of girls in Years 7 to 9 are warmly invited to join the Parents & Friends of Upton Committee. Please contact Jenny MacDonald in the Admin Office if you are interested in finding out more.

Finally, the Parents & Friends are hoping to organise a **Cheese and Wine Evening** in the coming months and are looking for any parents who are involved in the wine trade to assist them in arranging this event. Please contact Jenny MacDonald if you are able to help in any way.

Here are some important dates for your diary:

**Friday 12 Feb** Year 9 Options Forms to be returned and Half term begins

**Thursday 25 Feb** Year 10 Parent/Teacher Meeting

**Friday 26 Feb** Progress Sheets available on-line for parents of students in the Sixth Form

**Monday 1 March** Allocation Day when the Local Authority informs Year 6 pupils (and their parents) of their secondary school for next academic year

**Saturday 6 March** Car Boot Sale

**Tuesday & Wednesday 9/10 March** Gym and Dance

**Thursday 11 March** Year 12 Parent/Teacher Meeting

**Tuesday 16 March** Careers Fair

**Wednesday 17 March** Chapel Concert

**Thursday 18 March** Year 13 Parent/Teacher Meeting

**Thursday 25 March** Prize Giving

Details of the events above will be posted on the web-site. However I would like to draw your attention to the Careers Fair that is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 16 March from 7.00-9.00pm. This event is open to all pupils from Year 9 upwards and will be held in the Sports Hall. Pupils and parents are invited to meet representatives from different professions who have volunteered to give up a few hours to talk to our pupils about their experience of the world of work and the career path, including qualifications they have taken. An event of this type is only as good as the number of careers represented. I would therefore make a plea to all parents who think they

might be able to help us by representing their own type of work or persuade a family member or friend to act as a representative to contact Mrs K Douglas, our Careers Co-ordinator, if you can support the girls in this way: telephone or e-mail.

**Ash Wednesday on 17 February** begins the season of Lent and is a day of fasting and abstinence. Lent gives us the opportunity for a spiritual 'make-over' when we take a good hard look at ourselves and see what we can do better. During Lent we will be raising funds for the Catholic Children's Society which serves the needs of children and families, of any religion or no religion, throughout Wirral.

The week beginning Monday 22 February sees the beginning of the new term and China Week when we celebrate Chinese New Year. Throughout the week various activities will take place aimed at helping the girls gain a greater insight into Chinese language and culture. The following week we turn our attention to Africa and Fair Trade. An exciting programme has been prepared to highlight African culture and the role of Fair trade in the elimination of poverty.

#### **Website**

Our website is constantly being updated, please keep yourselves informed of School achievements by visiting [www.uptonhallschool.co.uk](http://www.uptonhallschool.co.uk).

Finally, this is the first Newsletter to be sent electronically to parents and some parents tell me this is the only safe method of delivery! If we have accidentally bombarded you with more than one copy please let us know so we can make the necessary adjustments to our address book. A final hard copy version will be sent out after half term with a letter from the Local Authority regarding Contact Point. After this electronic copies will be sent to those parents for whom we have an e-mail address or else be sent by post.

All good wishes for the Half Term.

Yours sincerely

*Patricia Young*

