

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

Volume 11 Issue 6



March 2010

Dear Parents,

As the Spring Term draws to an end and we approach the Easter Holidays, I wanted to share with you the wealth of activities and achievements that have taken place throughout the past three months.

International Activities

German Exchange Visit took place the week of 1 February with girls from Year 10 playing host to our visitors from Braunschweig. They enjoyed an action packed programme of educational and cultural activities and spent some time in school with their exchange partners. A group of our pupils will visit Germany during summer half term.

French Exchange Visit took place on 8 - 14 February when Students from Fénélon Ste Marie came to stay with our pupils on the first leg of the Paris/Upton Exchange. They enjoyed a rich programme of educational as well as cultural and leisure activities. The Upton party are currently in Paris together with a number of Year 12 students who are undertaking work experience.

Spanish Exchange - The second leg of the Spanish exchange took place during February half term with Upton pupils thoroughly enjoying meeting up with their Spanish friends who had visited Upton at the beginning of the year.

China Week took place the week commencing 22 February as Chinese New Year was celebrated with a week of Chinese themed activities.

Fairtrade/Africa Week – commenced on 1 March – An exciting programme was prepared to highlight African culture including a special day of activities for Year 7 when a variety of workshops were held involving African Drum and Dance, The Chocolate Trade Game, Singing, Art and Craft. During this week the role of Fair trade in the elimination of poverty was also explored and various events and activities took place. As part of this a group of Sixth Form students met a Fairtrade cashew nut farmer, Juan Louis, who spoke of the positive impact of Fairtrade on his business and the local community. Comedian Harry Hill has given his name, free of charge, to these cashew nuts grown in El Salvador.

Pupil Achievements

Gym & Dance Extravaganza was held on Tuesday 9 and Wednesday 10 March 2010. The PE Department arranged this event with the help and support of the 'Dance Company', a group of pupils who assist the younger girls with devising dance routines. All the participants should be congratulated on their commitment and enthusiasm.

Chapel Concert was held on Wednesday 17 March 2010 and as usual it provided a delightful evening of music. This event provides an opportunity for some of our most talented musicians to perform for a small but highly appreciative audience. Congratulations to all the performers.

Upton Cadets

On Thursday 11 March 2010, Upton Hall School Cadets joined Birkenhead School CCF to welcome HRH The Earl of Wessex who was visiting Birkenhead School to mark its 150th Anniversary. Upton girls formed a Guard of Honour and the Earl took the opportunity to speak to a number of them about life as a cadet. A number of guests commented on how smart the girls looked and the Earl of Wessex was impressed to see so many young people involved in CCF. When the girls returned to School some expressed both surprise and pleasure that the Earl had stopped to speak to them and had taken a keen interest in what they were doing in CCF.

Congratulations to Amy Crowe, Claudia Fryer, Sian Jehamneh and Clare Smith from Year 10 who have been selected to attend Salters' Chemistry Camps in June and July. This year there was a very large number of applicants and with only 50 places available for each university in the country, our girls have done very well. Only four places could be allocated to any one school so the following girls have done very well to be offered a place on the reserve list: **Katherine Sloss, Laura Hiscott, Katie Bracegirdle, Ella Hoey and Helena Keeley.**

Sporting Achievements

Well done to **Emily Kearney (9U)** who was the only girl from the Wirral schools to be selected to run for Merseyside in the National inter-county cross country championships.

Congratulations to **Jade Le Gall (8J)** who has been selected to train with the National Swimming Team.

Four Year 7 pupils took part in a Wirral Gifted and Talented Multi-Skills Camp during February Half Term. **Katie Fraine, Nicola Pilgrim, Bethan Wafer and Charlotte English** were selected to attend the Camp, after demonstrating a high level of skill and ability in a range of sporting disciplines. The four day Camp covered over 10 different sports, with the final event being an Indoor Athletics Pentathlon Challenge.

Year 7 and 8 Athletics Teams both won the Wirral Indoor Athletics competition and went on to represent Wirral in the next round.

Four Year 7 pupils represented the school at the Wirral Gymnastics competition held at Bebington High School.

Emma Rogers and Sinead Johnston performed extremely well. **Stephanie Burns** was placed 3rd overall and **Alice O'Loughlin** 6th out of 34 competitors.



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25 Year Reunion Plans

Were you a pupil at Upton from 1978 to 1983/1985? If so Clare McDonnell (now Dakin) is planning a 25 Year Reunion. You are warmly invited to Upton on Saturday 12 June 2010 between 2 pm and 4 pm. Tickets cost £5 per person and include drinks and canapés. To book your place please download and complete the booking form from the website. If any other former pupils would like to visit the school on this date, then you would be most welcome. Please complete the booking form and return to school with your payment.

Careers Fair – Tuesday 16 March

Very many thanks to the parents who participated at the recent Careers Fair and gave up your time so generously to offer both support and advice as well as sharing your expertise with our pupils. It was a hugely beneficial and successful event and the girls were extremely grateful for this opportunity. It is a biennial event, so if any other parents wish to take part and offer their services in the future please contact Mrs K Douglas our Work Placement Coordinator & Careers Advisor.

Dates for your Diary

April

Thurs 1 - Mon 4 DoE Gold Test

Monday 12 Pupils return

Friday 16 – HPV Immunisation – 3rd dose Years 8 & 11.

Fri 16 - Sun 18 DoE Silver Trial

Tuesday 20 Lower 6th Parents' Higher Education Evening – 7.00pm

Wednesday 21 – HPV Immunisation – 3rd dose, Year 10

Thursday 22 Year 7 Parent Teacher Meeting – 5.30 pm

Thurs 22 – Fri 23 DoE Bronze Trial

Monday 26 DoE Silver Route Check

Wednesday 28 Year 8 Parent Teacher Meeting - 5.30 pm

May

Monday 3 Bank Holiday

Tuesday 4 Whole School Photograph - 10.30 am
Upper 6th Going Down Mass - 7.00 pm

Fri 7 – Sat 8 DoE Bronze Test

Mon 10 – Fri 14 Year 10 Work Experience

Monday 17 GCSE & AS Examinations begin

Thursday 27 Year 7 Curriculum Music Concert- 2.30pm

Friday 28 *School Development Day – School Self Evaluation*

Wirral Way Walk

This year the Wirral Way Walk, for all members of the school, family members and former pupils will take place on 18 June. This is a sponsored event that raises money for charity.

Summer Uniform

Having listened to the 'pupil voice' expressed in School Council last year it was agreed that Years 9-11 wore the same style of uniform all year. By comparison, Years 7 and 8 continued to have the Winter and Summer Uniforms. After the Easter holidays all girls in Years 7 and 8 must be in Summer Uniform. Please check out the Uniform Section of the Website for photographs and full details

www.uptonhallschool.co.uk.

Blazers are compulsory but sweaters are not. Your daughter should return to school with the correct uniform and without make-up or dyed hair. Jewellery is not appropriate for school.

For many years members of the public have complimented Upton on the smart and attractive appearance of the pupils. Please insist that your daughter continues to maintain these high standards.

Lost Property

At the end of each Term our Housekeeper has more lost property than she can store. Expensive coats and trainers as well as a whole range of other items are abandoned. This term all un-named items of lost property will be available in Reception from 8.00am -2.00pm on Friday 26 March 2010. You are most welcome to call in to assist your daughter in finding any items that have gone astray. After 2.00pm all un-marked items will go to a Charity shop.

Holidays in Term Time

I know that the price of holidays escalates in school holiday periods and that it is very tempting to take that out of season holiday that is affordable during the Term. However good the holiday it is not worth the damage that can be done to your daughter's progress. At a time when competition for places in Higher Education has never been greater do not unwittingly disadvantage your daughter by taking her out of school. Examinations for all Year groups will take place at the beginning of June so help her to succeed by valuing her efforts and ensuring she is in school.

Many thanks for the support you have given to the school this term. I should like to wish you and your families a very happy holiday full of Easter blessings.

Yours sincerely