

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

Volume 11 Issue 7



May 2010

Dear Parents,

We are now approaching Summer Half Term and the examination season has started. Both our Year 11 and Lower Six students are currently sitting examinations. I would like to record my pride in the manner in which the Year 11 conducted themselves in school as they reached the end of compulsory school days. So many schools experience thoughtless and inappropriate behaviour at this point by Year 11 pupils and it is a testament to the whole Upton community, staff, parents and the girls themselves that the final day was marked by good humour and generosity of spirit.

This week sees the Upper Six begin Study Leave at 3.45 pm on Thursday 27 May. Their departure was marked by the Going Down Mass which was held on Tuesday 4 May 2010 at Sacred Heart in Moreton and proved a memorable event for staff, girls and parents. Special thanks to Father John Feeney for his guidance and inspiration expressed as he celebrated Mass. We wish our Upper Six students success and happiness and look forward to celebrating with them at the Leavers' Ball.

I know this is an anxious time of year for parents and girls but with the right amount of hard work and determination all our girls should be confident of success when the results are published in August. Staff have offered excellent teaching as well as support and motivation. I should like to take this opportunity to wish all candidates every success in their examinations. They will be in our thoughts and prayers in the coming week as their preparations continue in earnest.

The dates for the publication of results are as follows:

Thursday 19 August 2010 – A2 & AS Results Day

Tuesday 24 August 2010 – GCSE Results Day

Pupil Achievements

Congratulations to **Maninee Purohit** in Upper Sixth who was nominated for a Roscoe Foundation Good Citizen of the Year Award. This prize is awarded to the student who is caring, compassionate and tolerant, with a real sense of civic responsibility. Maninee received the award at the School Prize Giving on 25 March but the organisers were so impressed by the submission that they requested the opportunity to present this to her personally.

She was recognised as a superb role model for younger students and pupils both in her studies and in the way she purposefully devotes her time constantly to altruistic activities. She regularly mentors Year 6 pupils, gives assistance at a club for adults with learning difficulties and established a paper-recycling scheme at school as well as working at a pharmacy.

Maninee joined family and friends as well as members of Upton staff at a ceremony held at the Philharmonic Hall on Monday 20 April where she was presented with the award by Baroness Susan Greenfield, CBE (scientist, writer, broadcaster and member of the House of Lords) prior to the Baroness delivering a fascinating Roscoe Lecture entitled 'TV Brains v Cyberbrains: Which Generation Thinks Best Outside the Box?'

Jessica Baker, L6B has been successful in gaining a place on the Nuffield Bursary Scheme at the school of Natural Sciences and Psychology at Liverpool John Moores University for 4 weeks in July. Competition for places was fierce so Jessica has done particularly well.

Sporting Achievements

- The Year 7 and 8 athletics teams both won the Wirral Indoor Athletics Competition, and will go on to represent Wirral in the next round.
- The Under 14 Hockey team beat West Kirby 2-0, and drew 1-1 with Birkenhead.
- The Under 18 Hockey team beat Wirral Grammar School for Girls 2-1.
- Four Year 7 pupils represented the school at the Wirral Gymnastics competition held at Bebington High School. In year 7 Emma Rogers, Sinead Johnston performed extremely well. Stephanie Burns was placed 3rd overall, and Alice O'Loughlin 6th out of 34 competitors
- The annual Gym and Dance presentation took place on 9 and 10 March 2010, with over 200 pupils performing.
- The 7a, 7b, 8a, 8b netball teams completed in the Wirral netball tournament, with both A teams coming 3rd in their age group.
- The Sports Ambassadors have undertaken several training events organised by the School Sports Partnership and are participating in the Step into Sport Volunteer Passport Scheme. They are working towards the bronze, silver and gold awards. The pupils involved are Laura Clark (U6), Katie Tobin and Hannah Twist (L6).
- Nicola Haviland (L6) qualified as a Level One athletics coach over the Easter holidays. The course was funded by the school sports partnership.
- We staged the Wirral Primary Schools Netball Tournament on Tuesday 16 March 2010 which was extremely successful.
- GCSE and A Level moderations were both successful, with pupils performing to a very high standard.
- The Year 8 trip to Glan Llyn was a success. 131 pupils participated in a range of outdoor and adventurous activities.

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- The Junior and Intermediate Girls Athletics teams both came 4th in their respective age groups in the English Schools Track and Field Cup.
- The U16 Athletics Squad won the Wirral AC Trophy Meeting in April 2010.

Summer Camp 2010

After the great success of this event over the last two years, Summer Camp 2010 will be held the week of Monday 16 August. Last year almost 200 young people had great fun with a week of sporting activities, dance and drama, art and crafts. See the school web-site for a view of last year's camp and full details of how to apply for this year.

Dates for your Diary

June

- Monday 7** School Examinations Begin Years 7-10/A2 Examinations begin
- Monday 14** A2 lessons begin for Lower 6
- Friday 18** Wirral Way Walk
- Tuesday 29** Year 11 Sixth Form Pre-Induction

July

- Friday 2** Leavers' Ball (Chester Racecourse)
- Tuesday 6** Induction Meeting – New Parents and Pupils - 7.00 pm
- Wednesday 7** Induction Day – New Year 7
- Friday 9** Lower 6th UCAS Day
Years 9 and 10 Reports to Parents
- Mon 12** DoE Silver Test
- Tuesday 13** Summer Concert - 7.00pm
- Wednesday 14** Arts Festival/ Concert
- Thursday 15** Sports Day
- Friday 16** **Term ends 1.00 pm (Pupils only)**

Holiday Safety

I have been asked by Merseyside Police to communicate an important message to parents regarding their children's safety over the holiday period.

'Whilst the holidays are an ideal opportunity for young people to be outdoors having fun with their friends it is also a time where there is an increase in anti-social behaviour and Road Traffic Collisions.

Anti-social behaviour includes abusing or vandalising other people's property, shouting, spitting, swearing or abusing and annoying people, drinking alcohol, writing graffiti, throwing stones, bottles or anything else at people, windows, cars, buses and taxis and carrying out intimidating, inconsiderate or criminal behaviour. This clearly causes a great deal of distress and anxiety within the community.

Merseyside Police will not tolerate anti-social behaviour and will be significantly increasing police activity over the holiday period targeting locations where this type of behaviour is occurring.

Please therefore ensure that you and your children are aware of these issues and their consequences. Please be aware of where your children are and what they are doing. This will help to enable them to have an enjoyable break and not become injured, victims of crime or indeed get involved in criminal or anti-social behaviour. I know that the majority of young people act responsibly and respectfully and it is only the actions of a small minority that cause upset within the rest of the community.'

I know from speaking to parents that sometimes girls can find themselves caught up in anti social behaviour if they are out on the streets in the evening. It is often the most innocent girls who find themselves compromised as a result of being persuaded to sample alcohol. Please ensure that your daughter is aware of the risks and is alert to potential dangers.

Sun Safety

We have all felt the benefits of the sunshine recently but can I ask you to ensure that your daughter carries with her sunscreen next term and applies it before spending PE lessons and lunchtimes out of doors. Upton is so fortunate to have beautiful grounds and excellent sports facilities that we want the girls to enjoy. However UV rays can cause skin cancer and we want the girls to be well protected.

Year 10 Work Placements

Recently Year 10 pupils returned from their work placements and it was very pleasing to receive a number of very kind letters complimenting the girls on their conduct and attitude during the placement. These placements provide an opportunity for the girls to sample the world of work and we are grateful to the employers who offer this opportunity to us. Thanks to Mrs Douglas and the team of staff for going out to visit the girls on site.

Finally, I have just received two excellent pieces of news. Upton has been designated a **Beacon School for the Global Student Forum**, an organisation which supports students to develop their role as global citizens. This designation is the consequence of the international work that takes place across the curriculum. Secondly we have been awarded a **Confucius Classroom** in recognition of the work we are doing in the teaching of Chinese.

I hope you all enjoy the long weekend and that the girls return ready to face the challenge of their examinations and what remains of this academic year.

Patricia Young