



Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly – A Very Merry Christmas to Everyone!

This has been a long term and as we approach the end of it and reflect on the past year, there is a lot of food for thought to nourish our minds. It has been a wonderful term, we have welcomed our biggest ever group of Year 7s and been developing our approaches to teaching and learning to support the progress of each and every one of our young people.

As the new headteacher I can only reiterate how proud I am to be here at UCC and of all the efforts of the students and staff during what is and will be a period of change. You should be proud of every single one of your sons or daughters for the way they have stepped up to the higher expectations of the staff here at the school. They are, without a doubt, our greatest asset and as I get to know more and more of them the potential they all possess is palpable.

It has been an exciting term and it has lived up to every one of my expectations, UCC is an incredible school and offers so much to its community – from trips and visits, music, clubs, dance, drama and art through to the co-ordinated extra work that is going into the academic subjects to ensure all of our students can progress and succeed. There truly are too many individual elements to mention but rest assured there really is something for everyone here in the school.

Prize day has once again been a fantastic event, and to be able to celebrate so much success with the support of our celebrity ex-students is another lasting memory of the term.

My thanks go to all the parents and carers who make everything here possible. It has been another action-packed and interesting year for the school and for all of the students. As always, we continue to value your support as we move into 2020 with renewed energy, some exciting new projects on the horizon and an ambition to improve even further.

My very best wishes for the festive season and I look forward to seeing everyone again in 2020.

Mr Gilby, Headteacher

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STAY SAFE

There have been two accidents outside school in the last few weeks, the most recent on the zebra crossing.

We'd like to encourage all our students to be visible and vigilant over the winter months.

Stay safe and we will see you bright and rested in the new year.

MUSIC – CONGRATULATIONS!

The Music Department has been short-listed for 'Outstanding Music Department' of the year as part of the Music and Drama Education Awards. Reaching the short-list is an incredible achievement and only a few departments nationally get this far.

Mr Gordon and I will go to the awards ceremony in London in early March, hopeful to win the category. Irrespective, we would like to thank all students, staff and parents who support the department in whatever way – it is only the sheer effort, dedication and time that students put into the department that make it what it is, one big family that celebrates diversity and inclusion at UCC!

Mr Bryant, Head of Music



HEGARTY MATHS AT UCC

The UCC Maths Department invested in the HegartyMaths programme this year and we are excited about the benefits for all of our students.

HegartyMaths is an online website created by UK Teacher of the Year, Colin Hegarty. The aim of this programme is to provide a top-quality home-learning platform to students so that, along with fantastic teacher-led maths lessons in school, they will be supported at home with their maths learning.

Students will receive homework each week from the HegartyMaths platform, often in the form of revision topics. They can complete as much extra work and revision as they would like to, all work completed is captured for their teachers to see.

The expectation is that students watch the video then complete the quiz that follows, showing full workings/method in their books. If for any reason your child might have difficulties accessing the online homework we can make provisions at school, so please let us know so that we can help.



Miss John, Head of Mathematics

PARENTAL CONSENT FOR PARACETAMOL

From January 2020 we can give paracetamol to students with parental consent. However, please note that students are not permitted to carry medication with them and that all medications, including paracetamol, should be given to Student Services for safe keeping.

YEAR 10 – a WORD FROM THE HOY

It has been a really productive and mature start to the year for the 10s, with the vast majority of the year group taking the big step up to GCSE courses in their stride. Numerous lesson visits, learning walks and a Student Voice have evidenced a great start to the examination courses and show a year group with the maturity and drive to do their very best.

In a wider school setting it is wonderful to see so many students excelling in a number of different areas. From the Y10 rugby team cup runs in both national and county cups to the large number of students applying to be involved in the new Leadership initiative; from students rehearsing hard for the upcoming *We Will Rock You* musical to the array of talent on show at this year's Prize Day performances; from the biggest cohort ever of DofE students to amazing work being completed on both the College and Eco Councils. The list is endless and is testament to the hard work and drive of this very special year group.

A reminder that the all-important Y10 parents' evening takes place on Thursday 30th January 2020 – I look forward to seeing you all there.

I wish you all a very happy and restful Christmas break.

Mr Castle, Head of Year 10

YEAR 7 GOLD AWARDS

Three gold badges have been awarded to Year 7 students for achieving the staggering number of 175 positive ATL points in their first term at UCC.

The three recipients – Ashleigh Clarke, Jessica Hodgson and Jacey Austwick – have accrued over 530 points between them with a staggering effort that shows no signs of slowing.

Another fifteen Year 7 pupils are hot on their heels in what promises to be a real year of celebration and achievement for UCC's newest members.

Mr Forrest, Head of Year 7



TODDLER GROUP

This autumn term we welcomed our new parents, babies and toddlers to our Parent/Carer and Toddler group 'Diddy Dots'.

This session takes place every Wednesday afternoon and is supervised by our NCFE Cache, Level 3 Technical Diploma, Childcare and Education (EYE) students from Years 12 and 13.

We have had the pleasure of many adorable, cuddly babies this term and the experience has been invaluable for our students as it has enabled them to observe children at different stages in their development, and to learn partnership working with parents and carers.

Parents/carers are very welcome to attend 'Diddy Dots' from 1.35pm every Wednesday.

Mrs Lynas, Childcare

LONDON TRIP

With a wonderfully jam-packed itinerary, Child, Health and Social Care students enjoyed a 3-day visit to London, which included:

- researching the role of play in social learning and exploring how children's play reflects, alters and adapts to the world around them.
- investigating how 'traditional' gender roles are produced and the ways that these have been resisted, challenged and changed.
- visiting Hackney College, where students showed us round their campus and invited us to share some lessons.

We visited several leading museums:

- the Science Museum, where we were reminded that medical interventions have not always been so effective or freely available as they are today.
- The V&A Museum of Childhood, which houses the UK's national collection of childhood objects from the 1600s to the present day.
- The Foundling Museum, where we explored the history of the UK's first children's charity and first public art gallery, established in 1739.

We also managed to squeeze in a visit to the theatre to see *Matilda* and *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*.

Mrs McCormick, Head of Department

LOOKING FORWARD...



January 23rd to 25th 2020 – the performing arts production is the smash hit musical *We Will Rock You!* With over 60 cast members and an orchestra of 25, this promises to be an amazing production with lights, smoke and futuristic set, not to forget the rock anthems of Queen!

The musical tells the story of a group of bohemians who struggle to restore the free exchange of thought, fashion and live music in a distant future where everyone dresses, thinks and acts the same. Musical instruments and composers are forbidden, and rock music is all but unknown.

Meet Galileo, Scaramouche, Meat, Brit, Killer Queen, Khashoggi, Pop and the Gaga Kids, Yuppies, Teen Queens and Bohemians in an unforgettable musical spectacular.

Tickets are going quickly—visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/ucc to buy yours.

The final week of January will see the Year 10 Child Studies students attend a short placement in a local early education setting or school. Here they will learn about the preparation, personal skills and attributes needed for working with children and families. These will include skills of communication, problem-solving and the ability to work with others. The aim is for students to develop a clearer understanding of some of the key features of children's learning and development and how they can contribute to supporting this.

30 January 2020 – Year 10 parents' evening

6 February 2020 – Year 11 parents' evening

13 February 2020 – Sixth form open evening

WELCOME BACK!

We look forward to welcoming students back into school on Tuesday 7th January 2020.

Staff return on Monday 6th January 2020 for a training day.



SPARKLING MUSICIANS!

The Streetband, Mark Stewart, Rae Reay and Georgina and Thomas Gale performed at the Penrith Christmas Sparkle event in the Cornmarket. The lights switch-on was well attended and the performers did the school proud!

CONTACT US

We are always pleased to hear from parents. Please get in touch with us if you have any concerns:

E-mail: admin@ullswatercc.co.uk

Or visit the school website: www.ullswatercc.co.uk