



HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

Hello and welcome to our April 2012 Newsletter. With Easter upon us and hopefully a restful fortnight ahead, it is always good to be able to share recent events at UCC, to recognise the efforts of everyone connected to the school and to say thank you once more for all your support.

It has been another exciting term at Ullswater and our students have achieved a great deal, so please take a few moments to take a good look at all the news items over the next few pages.

These last 4 weeks back at school with all our wonderful young people and staff have been an absolute pleasure. Attendance has been high and attitudes have been excellent, teachers and school staff have all been working hard to support everyone back in and with the lock down starting to ease we might be starting to see some light at the end of the tunnel.

My thanks go out to all those involved in the testing of students and the wider community – with **close to 5000 tests undertaken in the first two weeks** of school everyone has done a tremendous job of getting us back up and running in the safest possible way.

My thoughts are with our year 11 and 13 students and their families, who have faced an overwhelming challenge over the last 18 months and have responded in the best possible way – by working hard, supporting one another and doing their best every day. We have recently communicated with you following the latest government and JCO guidance and I am going to ask you one more time, to **keep going** and **do your very best** for the final few weeks and months. Let me once again assure you that we will do everything within our power to ensure you get the grades you deserve in the summer.

This time last year I reassured everyone that **'at some point in the future our school Proms will happen!'**, little did we know it would be more than a year later – the venues have been booked provisionally and we hope to have more information out with people over the coming weeks.

It has been incredible to see the way students, parents and staff have approached these challenging times and I'm grateful to you all.

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As always – thank you, stay safe and stay in touch.

Mr Gilby, Headteacher

COVID TESTING AT UCC – THANK YOU!

Over the first 2 weeks back at school, a group of 40 volunteers and staff carried out over 4500

asymptomatic Covid tests using lateral flow testing devices. This mammoth task relied on everyone's support to ensure it ran smoothly. Our thanks goes out to everyone who helped. **#proud2bucc**



Photography by Luiza Oliver

CONGRATULATIONS LUKE COULSTON!

SELECTED FOR THE ENGLAND RUGBY ACADEMY!

Luke left UCC in September to pursue his dream of becoming a professional rugby player. He has now gained selection to England Academy Squad training, where he will be looking to impress the selectors with a chance of representing England.

Luke said he hopes to play rugby at the highest level he can:

"I am working as hard as I can, enjoying the coaching and will see where it takes me but know from the coaches that I may be age 20/21 before I reach my potential."



Luke is attached to Newcastle falcons and studies and plays in the North-east. James Ponton, Head Coach of Newcastle Falcons Academy, commented:

"Luke was first noticed by Falcons on the rugby pathway in the DPP. He literally stood out, ticking the physical potential criteria of GASP straight away. Height is something that you can't coach. Once you get to know Luke you realise that he has the attitude and willingness to try to become as he could be."



Luke was a key member of the UCC team that won the county cup and made the 1/4 finals of the national cup. He also was winner of the prestigious UCC Sports Personality of the Year award, which was recognition for his all-round excellence as a sportsman.

All of us at UCC wish Luke every success in the future.

WELCOME YEAR 6 PUPILS!

A special welcome to year 6 pupils and their families, who are receiving this newsletter for the first time.

You've had a tough time of it recently but we're looking forward to welcoming you to UCC at the start of an amazing journey together!

We hope you'll be able to come to our planned **transition day and parents' evening on Thursday 1st July**.

We will keep in touch about this, as the format will need to be determined closer to the time and will depend on the easing of lockdown restrictions.



NEW PLANNER OR TIE?

Also, if students need to buy new planners or school ties, instructions can be found on our [website](#)

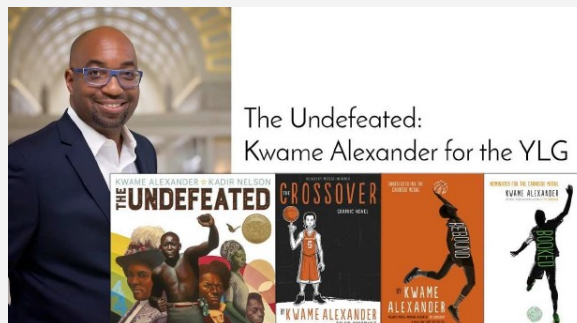
Need to buy a new school tie?
Student planner? PE socks?
Please visit our website for instructions on how to order through your iPayimpact account.
#proudtobeUCC

VIRTUAL CHAT WITH BESTSELLING POET AND AUTHOR

To celebrate World Poetry Day, Year 7 enjoyed a virtual visit from award-winning author and poet Kwame Alexander, who is a New York Times bestseller and has won and been shortlisted for many literary awards, including the Carnegie Medal and the Newbery Award.

The event was organised to celebrate the announcement of this year's Carnegie Medal shortlist and Kwame was in conversation with UCC Librarian and Carnegie Coordinator, Amy McKay. Kwame and Amy talked about the inspiration for his work, his writing careers and his collaborations with other famous authors and artists.

Since the event Kwame's books have flown off the library shelves, with many students describing him as their new favourite author. The event was full of fun, fast-paced and an antidote for anybody who thinks poetry has to be serious. It is available to view online [here](#).



WORLD BOOK DAY TOILET ROLL COMPETITION

As part of our lockdown World Book Day celebrations, students were set the challenge of decorating a toilet roll in the style of their favourite book or book character. The imaginative and creative results were incredible! Highlights included:

- The Enormous Crocodile by Bradley Haughan
- A Minion by Chris Armstrong
- The Gruffalo by Joe Capstick
- Clifford the Big Red Dog by Max Harrison
- Winnie the Pooh by Grace Hall



YEAR 11 UPDATE

The Year 11s have been working incredibly hard over this first half term back to school since lockdown. Teachers across all subjects have been overwhelmed by the students' determination and drive to ensure they gain the very best grades possible despite the exceptionally hard circumstances they have had to endure in the past year.

It is great to see the spirit of the year so high and the students so keen to get back involved with other school activities such as sports clubs, school and eco councils and Duke of Edinburgh events, which are now able to run.

There are more applications to join the UCC 6th form than ever before, and students have also secured places at colleges both locally and further afield; we even have some students signed on to Newcastle Falcons Rugby training academy in pursuit of a professional rugby career. As ever, I couldn't be prouder of this amazing group of young men and women and wish them all a very Happy Easter.



Mr Castle
Head of Year 11

D OF E CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations go to Lily Gildaley, Emma Smithies, Sarah Richardson and Sarah Hale for successfully completing their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Despite the restrictions of a national lockdown, these four Year 13 students managed to complete the sport, skill, expedition and volunteering elements of the award.

Lily taught the younger Penrith Cadets first aid skills and their first class components. Emma volunteered at Penrith's gymnastics club coaching primary aged children in rhythmic gymnastics, Sarah Richardson volunteered with our local Scouts group and led the Scouts on an overnight hike whilst Sarah Hale volunteered as a judge at a series of Eventing competitions. They are all delighted to have completed the award.



new address?

If you have recently moved house or changed any contact details please let us know immediately by completing [this form](#).



FROM THE GOVERNORS

Welcome to the first of a series of regular contributions from the Governing Body to the end-of-term newsletter.

Parents have asked to know more about us and what we do and I'm very pleased to explain. My name is David Carter and for the past two years I have been proud to serve as Chair of Governors for UCC. As Governors, our role is to set the strategic direction of the school and ensure that the needs of the whole school community are being met.

There are 5 different types of governor: staff, parent, co-opted, partnership and local authority; the headteacher is also a governor – 18 people in all. We serve for 4 years but can be reappointed or re-elected for a second term. We meet 5 times a year as a full Governing Body and are also members of either the Finance or Curriculum subcommittee. Each of us is linked to one of the departments or main aspects of the school. More details are on the school website.

Until the lockdown governors were very regular visitors to the school. Recently this has not been possible but we look forward to resuming our normal pattern of contact with staff, students and parents soon.

One important role we have is to check how well the school is serving its community. A governor is linked to the School Council and another to the Staff Wellbeing Group. We attend school events so we have a clear understanding of what's taking place in the school and can be confident about the direction of travel.

We receive the results of satisfaction surveys carried out by the school and use these in our decision making.

If you would like to know more about us, our role and perhaps how to become a governor, look on the school website or contact the Clerk by emailing: clerk@ullswatercc.co.uk.



David Carter, Chair of Governors

Cards for the NHS
#CardsForTheNHCampaign

STEP 1: Design and create your own card to say a big THANK-YOU to all the hardworking NHS staff.

STEP 2: Write a message inside...

STEP 3: Drop them at the collection boxes in Starfruits or The Yorkshire Trading Co. by Saturday 10th April

Design a card for the NHS

BARNARDO'S CHILD AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE

The Barnardo's Eden 0–19 Child and Family Support Service (CFSS) has been awarded an additional opportunity to support children in Eden who are entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) by providing Holiday Activities with Food (HAF).

These activities are available only to children on free school meals as part of Cumbria County Council's Holiday Activities with Food (HAF Offer) and will be delivered on virtual platforms due to the current Covid restrictions. Resources will be delivered to families or can be collected, where appropriate, ahead of the activities.

The Easter delivery will be a series of pre-recorded Facebook activities and Zoom sessions offering enriching activities that provide children with opportunities to develop new skills or knowledge, to consolidate existing skills and knowledge, or to try out new experiences. Check the [Barnardo's Eden 0–19 Facebook page](#) for full details.

A wider range of activities is being planned for the summer and the Christmas holidays.

iPayIMPACT IS IMPROVING!

From 1st April, iPayimpact will look different. The new more modern design will be automatically updated so you won't need to do anything.

The new look will be more responsive on mobiles, tablets and PCs. Navigating the site will also be easier. If you have any issues with using the site please email:

finance@ullswatercc.co.uk



YEAR 8 UPDATE

The last three weeks have seen a strong return to school by this exceptional year group and it has been a delight to welcome them back to UCC for the remainder of the term.

The pupils have conducted themselves superbly, getting to grips with the testing and new protocols, and demonstrating a really commendable level of responsibility and peer support.

The term has seen a return more recently of weather reminiscent of the first lockdown, and with it the opportunity to make the most of the new benches and outdoor seating areas that continue to be created. A really positive air is now the norm at lunch-time and the positivity of Spring is certainly making itself known!

This final stage of term has seen the awarding of badges, hard earned over lockdown, with a significant haul being distributed in the first week back. We have distributed 235 gold badges, 170 platinum badges and 85 diamond!

What a staggering achievement, when considered against those deliveries of last year!

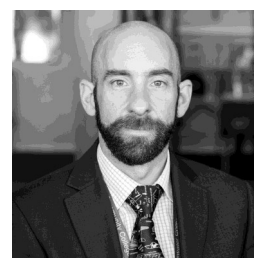
In addition, we have seen the really positive introduction of classroom monitors this term, with our first students making a strong impact as a helpful force in the classroom. Nominated students take on additional

responsibilities within their forms and lessons and the Year Team has been suitably impressed by the maturity with which our first nominees have taken to the role, each wearing their orange lanyard with pride.

With just one term remaining on the students' return after the holiday I wish you all a Happy Easter and a restful couple of weeks before the final push

through to the end of the school year.

Mr Forrest
Head of Year 8



Badge Delivery - 234 So Far!

A staggering 234 Badges have been earned and delivered in Lockdown! Well done, guys!

I've now been able to visit 170 different homes making sure your badges come through.

It's been great to catch up, have a chat and in some cases, stop for a selfie!



Instrumental & Vocal Tutors are back!

Mr Evans - Drums and Bass
Mr Sidney - Guitar and Bass Guitar
Mrs Bowness - Violin and Viola
Ms Stewart - Clarinet and Brass
Mr Butterworth - Brass

All other tutors are remaining online until after Easter.

Year 7 and 9 meet at the small steps near the lamp post next to Cumberland Block

Year 8 meet at gateway between Eamont block and Sports Hall

Years 10-13 make your way to the teaching room but please wait outside until prompted to enter

Any questions or if you would like to start instrumental or vocal lessons please email sbryant@ullswatercc.co.uk



THE GREAT BIG ART EXHIBITION



The UCC Art Department has been taking part in The Great Big Art Exhibition: a nationwide project designed to unleash creativity and get the whole country making and exhibiting art.

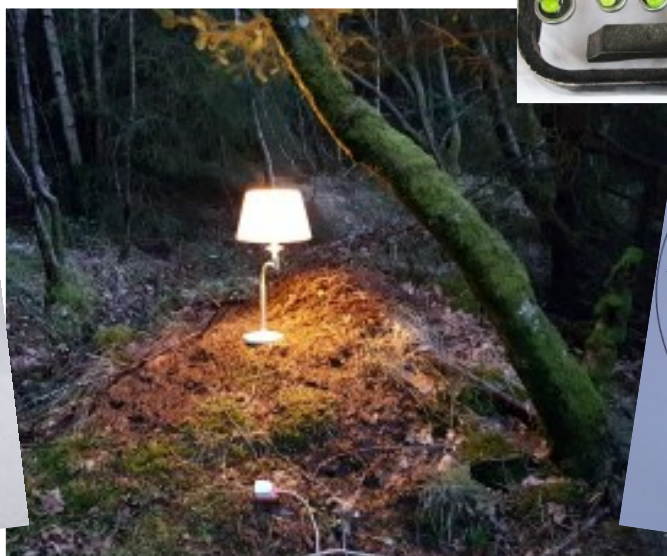
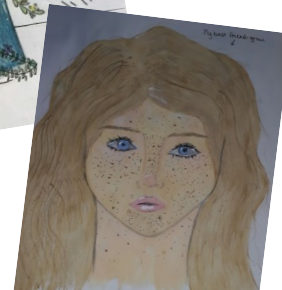
Eminent artists such as Antony Gormley, David Shrigley, Sonya Boyce, Ryan Gander and Burhan Dogancay, along with curators from some of the leading museums in the country – including the Tate, the British Museum and the V&A – have set challenges to inspire us to make our own works of art and to display them in our windows, gardens and online. The aim is to create the biggest art exhibition ever!

When we heard about this project we thought it would be brilliant for our Key Stage 3 students and we selected a number of challenges we thought the students could do at home during lockdown; we have since brought the projects into the classroom.

The students have enjoyed the challenges and have created some absolutely amazing works of art!

Responding to the prompts of such renowned artists and having their work shared on social media and in The Great Big Art Exhibition online gallery has been a fantastic experience!

You can see more at: [@uccartdept](https://twitter.com/uccartdept) [#greatbigartexhibition2021](https://twitter.com/greatbigartexhibition2021)



YEAR 11 HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Year 11 Health and Social Care students made some amazing Easter cards and wrote personal letters to the residents of Housing 21, which is supported living accommodation in Penrith. Some of the written messages actually brought 'a tear to the eye', they were so thoughtfully expressed. As ever, we are extremely proud of our wonderful students.

Kyle, Jenna and Jodie are pictured.



EARLY EDUCATORS

Early Educator students are back in placement! From the student perspective, high-quality placements can bring a range of benefits and positive impacts. There is strong evidence to suggest that placements and work experiences are extremely valuable to students, both in terms of academic performance and their employability skills. Whilst on placement, the student role typically involves:

- Encouraging learning and development through a combination of playing and teaching
- Creating a secure environment where children feel comfortable learning new skills
- Working with parents to support their children
- Monitoring progress, helping those who are struggling and undertaking educational activities
- Aiding children with becoming more independent
- Putting new activities together that encourage teamwork and learning, to ensure the children are occupied throughout the day

Hear from the students themselves about their own experiences of placements:

Annabel Murphy: "Being back in placement has been great. I've enjoyed seeing the theory I've learned in the classroom being put into practice and then observing the children learning. I can't wait to start planning activities and delivering them to the children. I'm also enjoying being part of a team in supporting children in their learning and development".



Samantha Burton: "Returning to placement has been wonderful.



I've enjoyed being able to use my knowledge and seeing the professional aspects of practice. The setting has had to change elements of practice due to the pandemic. I'm currently working in the baby room where we have been planning Easter crafts. The children have been fascinated by the range of

sensory activities. We went on a walk to explore nature, which fitted in with the Spring theme. It was lovely to see the children having fun in an outdoor space where they can have freedom. It's been such an amazing experience getting to interact with the children and getting to know them as individuals. It's been lots of fun!"

Megan Thomson: "I have really enjoyed being in placement, I really missed the staff and the children. I am working in the pre-school rooms and have got to know the children really well. I am involved in all aspects of nursery life, including planning activities to support learning across the Early Years Foundation Stage. I find the experience of placement is amazing – I gain so much from being able to apply what I've learned in class, and it's great fun!"



EARLY YEARS EASTER ACTIVITIES

Sadly, the Covid restrictions have meant we've been unable to carry out many of our usual practical activities, but this hasn't stopped us from taking every opportunity to be creative and experience the fun learning opportunities that play offers!

Here are the Easter activities planned by Year 12 students for the last day of term. As you can see, they have fully embraced the opportunity for some messy play and chocolate consumption!



HELP WITH SCHOOL MEALS AND CLOTHING

The current situation is proving difficult for many people; free school meals and clothing vouchers are available if you receive one of the following qualifying benefits:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- An income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) that as of April 2012 does not exceed £16,190. *Note:* From 1st May 2009 where you are entitled to Working Tax Credit during the four week period immediately after your employment ceases, or after you start to work less than 16 hours per week, your children are entitled to Free School Meals, this may be extended
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Universal Credit



Please note that you may not be eligible for free school meals or clothing grants if you receive working tax credits.

Children who receive Income Support or Income Based Jobseekers Allowance in their own right are also entitled to receive free school meals.

HOW TO APPLY

Where possible, all parents and guardians should **apply online** – you will receive an immediate response advising you whether you are eligible or not.

If you are unable to apply online, please contact the free school meals team – telephone: **01228 606060**

Please note: Children who currently receive free school meals and clothing grants do not need to apply each year.

WELCOME BACK! DATES FOR THE SUMMER TERM 2021

We look forward to welcoming all staff and students back to school on Monday 19 April 2021.

The May half term is the week Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June.

The academic year ends on Friday 16 July 2021.

CUMBRIA LIBRARIES easter ACTIVITIES

Use the Cumbria Libraries Facebook page for a range of activities for the Easter break:

<https://www.facebook.com/CumbriaLibraryService/>



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

**Need to buy a new school tie?
Student planner? PE socks?**

Please visit our website for instructions on how to order through your iPayimpact account.

Click here!

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