



UCC

Best in County
Ambitious • Caring • Equal
UCC is an ambitious, caring community where everyone is equal



SCHOOL BULLETIN

Ullswater Community College

Website: www.ullswatercc.co.uk

Issue 3 – December 2021

MERRY CHRISTMAS everyone!

As we prepare for the festive period and close off another incredibly busy term here at UCC, I will once again pass on my customary thanks to everyone associated with the school.

After more years than I wish to recall, this first term always comes with its challenges and, given events over the last couple of years, this term has been no different – I know I say this often, but the students of Ullswater are an absolute credit to themselves, the school and their families. They have done an incredible job adjusting to the new way of working and adapting as things have changed over time. The classrooms and wider school feel purposeful and productive and, despite all the challenges, progress is being made.

It has been fantastic to see our enrichment programmes reappearing over the term and each week we have had 100s of students taking part in the most amazing things and once again making us all incredibly proud with their positive attitude and resilient approach.

A special mention must go to our new Year 7s, who have now completed their first term – well done, what a super addition to the school you are and what a privilege it is to have you as part of our community! You have all been so active around the school, building new friendships, finding your way around and – most importantly – working incredibly hard in the classroom. I very much look forward to getting to know you even better over the coming years.

I can't let the opportunity pass to congratulate our Year 11 and Year 13 students. For you, the last few years have been so disruptive and yet you remain positive and worked incredibly hard for your recent mock exams. For my part, I'm really pleased with how you have all performed, we're not where we need to be just yet but we are in line with previous years and I know that this summer will produce another set of fantastic results for you as individuals and for the school. Your efforts will secure you the grades you deserve and – most importantly – open the doors towards your first steps into the world. We are here to help – use us and, as always, we will do everything in our power to help you succeed!

Finally, the Christmas break is a happy occasion for the vast majority of us but not for everyone... so, over the holiday period make sure you are looking out for yourself, your friends, your family and the community around you. Keep everyone safe and well, share a smile and some festive cheer and make sure we can all return to school safe and sound for 2022.

My very best wishes for the coming holiday.

Mr Gilby, Headteacher

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#proudtobeUCC



BREAKFAST FROM UCC AND ROBBIE DEE!

UCC hosted Robbie Dee's CFM Breakfast show on Monday 29 November. Students and staff joined Robbie on the airwaves and had a great time!

Thanks Robbie!



Remembrance Day

At 11 am on Thursday 11 November, Mr Gilby led a moving Remembrance tribute involving cadets and musicians from UCC.

After the *Last Post* sounded around the school site, the 2-minutes silence was observed by staff and students at a specially constructed cenotaph in the school quad.

Thank you to Mr Bellamy and Mr Wealleans for making this such a memorable and moving experience.



FUNDRAISING FOR THE TEENAGE CANCER UNIT

Art Teacher Dan Forbes is raising funds for the Teenage Cancer Unit at the Royal Victoria Infirmary (RVI) in Newcastle. Dan says:

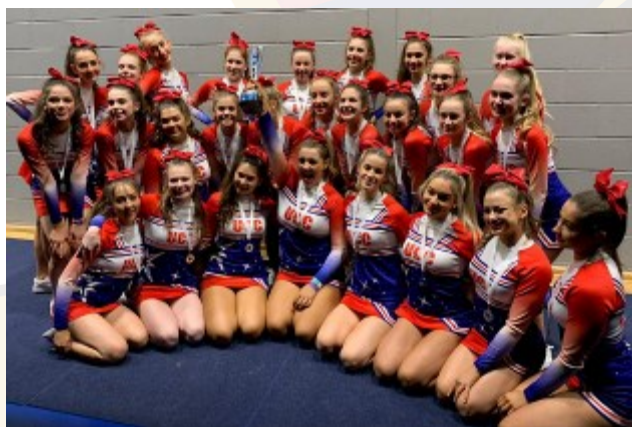
"So many families and teenagers face the same devastating news every day and for a young person to deal with and overcome this at such an important time in their life, requires support, guidance and love! Lots and lots of love!

Ward 4 at the Teenage Cancer Unit at Newcastle RVI provides this support, guidance and love, not only for the patients but crucially for the families too."



To raise awareness and funds, Dan will have run 100k by Christmas Day and hopes to raise £1000 for this amazing charity and the Teenage Cancer Unit.

UCC WOLVES WIN THE NATIONAL CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIPS!



Despite training for 2 years, the UCC Wolves senior squad had not been able to compete because of Covid. This did not deter the cheerleaders, who never missed a training session and finally – on 4th December – they were given their chance to shine at the UKCA Cheerleading Championships.

Wowing the judges on the day, the Wolves performed their routine with zero deductions. They hit every stunt with perfection, their tumble was flawless and they danced with so much energy, winning their category and becoming the National Champions at Level 2.

Mrs Castle

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

YEAR 8 UPDATE

It's been a fantastic autumn term for the Year 8 students, who between have achieved over 47,000 positive Attitude to Learning awards (ATLs); they should be extremely proud. Their energy and enthusiasm is recognised throughout the entirety of the school – whether it is on the School Council, in clubs or school events, the Year 8s are leading from the front, making their mark, and contributing to the wider life of the school.

The range and breadth of their achievements is exceptional, with record numbers of students attending clubs and representing UCC in sporting fixtures, continued positive results from the accelerated reading programme, our Eco Council representatives attending COP26 and not to forget our cheerleaders becoming national champions, to name just a few.

To say I am proud of their endeavours is an understatement. I am confident that in three and a half years time, when they sit their GCSE examinations, they will be receiving some of UCC's best ever results and moving on to a variety of exciting opportunities. Despite the continued disruption and challenges the Year 8 students have had to face since starting at UCC, each and every one of them continues to approach their education with a smile, showing true resilience and determination.

I sincerely hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas break with their families, and that the successes of the year group continue into 2022.

Mr Key
Head of Year 8



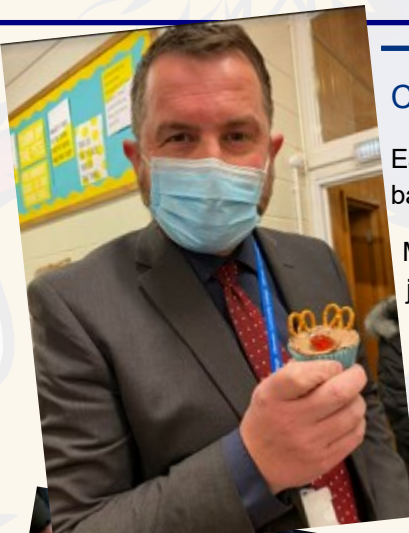
YEAR 11 UPDATE

The Year 11s have had a very busy term and have dealt with the pressures exceptionally well. Obviously, the 2-week mock exam series was a big focus and the results day will have revealed areas of strength but – more importantly – areas for the students to focus on as they set their sights on their next set of mock exams in the new year.

Away from exams, the Year 11s have continued to work exceptionally hard in the classrooms and have involved themselves in loads of extra-curricular activities alongside their busy work schedule. I would like to say special congratulations to Lille Irving, Tilly Bowman and Jenni Davidson who, along with their fellow Wolves Cheerleaders, became National Champions in their respective category in the UKCA National Cheerleading championships in Manchester; an amazing achievement!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mr Castle
Head of Year 11



CHRISTMAS BAKE OFF!!

Early Years students held a Christmas bake-off this week.

Mr Gilby had the difficult task of judging the baking on both taste and appearance; it was a tough job but someone had to do it!



ARTIST WORKSHOPS

This half-term we have been delighted to work with internationally acclaimed Bonnier Books publishing house on the marketing campaign for an exciting new book. The book, *Art of Protest* by New York based De

Nichols, is about how art is used in activist movements. De made an exclusive video for UCC students introducing the book and inviting them to become artists.

The Library, the Art Department and the Eco Council collaborated on a series of lunch-time Artist Workshops, using advance copies of the book as inspiration. Students created incredible works of art based on climate change and LGBTQ+ rights.

Also inspired by the book, the Social Sciences Department and Sixth Form students created a powerful classroom art installation that considers their collective hopes and concerns for the future.

Bonnier were delighted with how creatively UCC students rose to the artist challenge and have used them as examples of incredible, socially conscious young people in their marketing campaign.



Miss McKay
School Librarian



their professional conduct and engagement.

EARLY YEARS INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

Early Years students joined a virtual conference to celebrate the sector. They discussed the impact that they will have on the next generation, reflecting on case studies from Early Years professionals; discovered opportunities in higher education; and concluded with a live Q&A session. The hosts complimented the students on

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIRST-TEAM FOOTBALLERS!

The UCC first-team footballers have had a brilliant season so far, making it through to the semi-final stage of the County Cup following victories over QEGs, Kirby Stephen and Queen Katherine's. Their opponents in the semi-final were Netherhall School, Maryport.

Despite taking an early lead, with an excellent goal from Josh Padgett, UCC went into half-time trailing 2-1. The second half saw some fantastic all-round performances from Josh Fabi, Finn Harrison and Ellis Wood, but these were not enough and UCC was convincingly beaten 6-1.



UCC battled incredibly throughout and the score line is not a true reflection of the game; special mentions need to go to Henry Thompson, Luke Kemp and Harry Dodd. The team has played some outstanding football throughout the year, lead brilliantly by captain, Adam Prentice.

Well done to the whole squad for their hard work, we look forward to our next fixture in January.

Mr Key

CHILD HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE VISIT

It's been wonderful to enjoy visits again and to bring learning to life. Child, Health & Social Care students recently visited a Reggio Atelier. The Reggio Emilia approach sees children as curious individuals with the power and potential to develop and learn from their environment and the relationships they build with others. The image of the child as a subject of right is central to the philosophy. The students enjoyed a wide range of creative activities using recycled materials. They also prepared and cooked their own lunch using fresh ingredients.



2022 BOOK AWARDS

Starting next term, students are invited to get involved with two national book awards through Library book clubs.

The Tuesday Graphic Novel club will be reading the Stan Lee Excelsior Award shortlists, these are selections of books chosen as the best graphic novels published in the last year.

The Wednesday Book Club will be shadowing the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway book awards, the UK's oldest and most prestigious book awards for young people. They'll be reading and discussing the shortlisted books, hearing from some of the authors and taking part in book-inspired activities.

Anybody interested in participating should come to the Library at lunchtime on Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

Miss McKay, School Librarian

STUDENT LIBRARIANS

This half-term our team of enthusiastic new student librarians began working in the library.

The team of 33 students from Years 8 to 10 have all completed a training programme and will be integral to the future development of UCC Library. Between them they are busy helping with a variety of things, including issuing books, processing new books and creating displays.

Alexa Lewthwaite, Year 8, says:

"I'm really enjoying helping in the library, it's been great learning how everything works and I like having something to do at lunchtime. My favourite jobs are issuing books and putting them away."

SALVATION ARMY FOOD BANK – THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to everyone who made a donation to The Salvation Army gift appeal! By giving a gift, you have helped to make a real difference in someone's life this Christmas.



LIBRARY ADVENT COMPETITION AND CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!

The Library was abuzz with festive activity throughout December as students took part in the Library Advent Competition and Year 7 students received book-y Christmas presents.

The Advent Competition ran on every December school day. A new book question was revealed on the calendar and students had the day to find the answer. Daily and final prizes were awarded. By the end of term competition was fierce!



To continue the seasonal fun, all Year 7 students received Christmas presents from the Library this year. It'll come as no surprise that the presents were books! Students chose from a list of 16 books in September and then patiently waited for Santa to deliver them. The titles they chose included *Animal Antics*, a glossy non-fiction book full of funny stories and animals, and *The Middler*, a creepy thriller perfect for fans of *Stranger Things*. We can't hear what they thought of their books in January!

CONGRATULATIONS AMY!

School Librarian Amy McKay has been awarded an honorary 2021 Fellowship by CILIP (the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals), nominated at the same time are Chief Medical Officer Professor Chris Whitty and author Matt Haig.

Amy was given the fellowship for her services to readership and mental health. As well as working at UCC, Amy is the national co-ordinator and a judge for the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals (CKG), and has been an active member of CILIP's Youth Libraries Group for more than a decade. On giving Amy the fellowship, CILIP commented:



"Against the challenging backdrop that Covid-19 has presented, she has transformed the library into the heart of the school, securing new funding for stock and layout and encouraging use and integration of the setting by staff and students alike."

Amy said:

"I was overwhelmed and absolutely delighted to hear I had been awarded an honorary fellowship. School libraries have played a huge part in my life, and it has been a privilege to be involved in

MUSICAL STARS!

Congratulations to Mr Bryant and the UCC Music Department, who have once again been shortlisted for an Outstanding Music Department award.

Run annually by *Music Teacher* and *Drama & Theatre* magazines, the awards celebrate the work of schools, organisations, charities and individuals in both music and drama education.

Winners will be announced in March 2022 at the Music & Drama Education Awards. Good luck to everyone involved!

**SHORTLIST
ANNOUNCED**
CELEBRATE EXCELLENCE IN
MUSIC & DRAMA EDUCATION

MATHS WINNERS!



A BIG congratulations to the winners of the times-tables rock stars competition: Year 7 Megan Atkinson and William Yerbes Ballesteros. Year 8 Constanze Jackson and Riya Joshy. Year 9 Ashton White and Denny Cartwright.

The next competition will run from 16 December to 6 February 2022. The most coins earned over that period of time will win prizes!

Miss John, Head of Maths

the Youth Libraries Group, the delivery of the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals and being part of the team adapting the awards to a virtual event. The past couple of years have been extremely challenging and I would like to thank those colleagues who have put me forward for this honour."

PARENT GOVERNORS

Two of our new parent governors introduce themselves below. The Governing Body has a vacancy for one parent governor – watch out for information early in the new year.

PAUL HEAPE

As a parent of three children in school spread between Year 8 and Year 13, I jumped at the opportunity to get involved as a parent governor. It has given an opportunity to feed back on the good things that the school provides, as well as to contribute towards UCC's continual journey to get even better.

The Governing Body's effectiveness comes from the wide diversity of backgrounds and professions. My background of bank manager, then maths teacher, forms only a small part of the vast array of skills and experiences available to be drawn upon to help contribute towards the future strategy of the school.

I am a massive advocate of the wide-ranging curriculum opportunities offered by UCC and want to ensure that these continue to be embedded within the UCC DNA for the future.

The best part of being a governor is to get into school, speak to pupils and find out their views of how things are going. Sadly, Covid has meant that my first year has largely been Zoom based and there have been limited opportunities for face-to-face visits. However, my highlights to date have been to attend a passionate and knowledgeable presentation given by the Eco Council and a brilliant school tour given by Year 7s on open evening (memorable for both the number of times getting lost as well as the amazing first impression given by these pupils to prospective parents). I look forward to a return to normality and being able to visit school more often.

LAURA WATSON

I have been a parent governor at UCC for 12 months now. I am a member of the Curriculum and Standards committee and have links to the English department, literacy and safeguarding in school.

I have been a governor in various schools for the past 17 years and enjoy being part of the team that helps set the strategic direction for UCC, and working with the whole school community in some capacity.

I enjoy being able to use my skill-set in my governor role and seeing what other skills fellow governors bring to the team and learning from them.

At every governor meeting, I am always impressed at what opportunities there are at UCC, what a great team there is moving the school forward and what a wonderful community there is at our school.

During Covid, opportunities to come into school have been limited, but I was pleased to be part of the interview committee for the Director of English appointment that was made in the summer term, and I have met and talked to staff from the Media department and the Student Services team.

We have certainly made good use of Teams/Zoom over the past year!



SIXTH FORM SANTA DASH!

At the end of term, the sixth form Sports Leaders organised a Santa Dash to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Unit at the RVI. The whole sixth form either participated or cheered the Santas on, but special mention goes to Ellie Smith and Jed Richardson for the time they put in behind the scenes to make the Dash the success it was. Congratulations to the Sports Leaders for raising just over £300 for the RVI – what a wonderful way to end the year!



UCC'S 2021 CHRISTMAS CARDS!

This year's Christmas card competition for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 resulted in some impressive designs. The winning card was drawn by Sophie Maguinness-Horn in Year 9 and has been sent to everyone on the school's Christmas card list. We also produced a Christmas card from all the designs by students in the strategically resourced provision.

The two designs are shown below with the other short-listed designs by Natalia Kaputa, Olivia Martindale and Daniel Strike.

Thank you to everyone who made the competition so impressive!



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.

EUPHORIC CIRCUS –

WINTER ACTIVITIES

Meals and healthy activities for young people aged 6 to 16 are being arranged in Penrith and Appleby during the winter school holidays.

This government-funded programme is free to those students who are eligible for free school meals.

The places are prioritised for these families; however, if you are interested and are not eligible, places remain available at a cost of £5.00 per day, per child (this covers the cost of the meal).

This is a continuation of the sessions we delivered during the summer holidays

Dates and venues are as follows:

Appleby Sports Centre: 17th, 18th and 19th December 2021

Ullswater Community College, Penrith: 21st, 22nd and 23rd December 2021

Euphoric Circus, Children's CIO

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email: tonieuphoriccircus@gmail.com

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

<https://www.instagram.com/euphoriccircus/>

CHRISTMAS CARDS OF KINDNESS!

Year 12 students got into the Christmas spirit in their tutor period today making dozens of 'Christmas Cards of Kindness'. This is a nation wide initiative to make and write Christmas Cards to the residents of care homes who are unable to have visitors this festive period. We were so impressed with their enthusiasm for this project and know the cards will make a positive difference to many people in care homes over the coming weeks.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

UCC musicians accompanied the school Christmas dinner in the Cumberland Hall on 15 December.





Cumbria Holiday Activity Programme - Eden

Book sessions in your area now!

- Visit cumbria.gov.uk/holidays to search the range of activities available.
- Bookings will work on a first-come-first served basis – and places are limited.

Available in Eden

Oaklea Trust

Description: Make gifts for friends and family, play games, bake festive goodies to take home, learn about the benefits of healthy eating, help to prepare your own two course meals and learn about healthy lifestyles with the Oaklea Trust!

Age range: 4-17

Dates: 20 December - 23 December

Penrith Leisure Centre (GLL)

Description: Join us for fun-filled Winter days! Something for all children- Get crafting and creative with a range of arts & crafts at Penrith Leisure Centre.

Age range: 5-11

Dates: 21 December

Rocket Learn

Description: Online offer. Activities include a "maths mash up", physical education challenges, juggling, origami, beat boxing, daily well-being tasks and a creative writing competition- where you could win £100!

Age range: 7-13

Who is it for?

- The Holiday Activity Programme is aimed at all school-age children and young people (age 4 – 18).
- Places are FREE for young people who receive benefits-related Free School Meals and eligible children in particular circumstances. All children who attend will also be provided with a meal.
- Some places are exclusively for eligible young people, please contact the providing organisation for more information.
- Interested in any of the activities listed in this leaflet? Visit cumbria.gov.uk/holidays to book winter holiday activities now!



Department
for Education

Available in Eden

We are Team

Description: Creative Workshops, activity workshops and Performances for all!

Age range: 5-11

Dates: Visit cumbria.gov.uk/holidays for more information.

Sunbeams

Description: Suitable for children with additional needs. Music sessions! Days 1, 2 and 3 will include participating in the Sunbeams Music For Life® Programme with a festive theme including a visit from Santa and his elves!

Age range: 4-18

Dates: 14, 18, 21 December

Cumbria Family Support

Description: Festive crafts and party games! Party games, craft activities and dancing!

Age range: 5-10

Dates: 20 December - 21 December

Rheged

Description: Get a film ticket for one child and one adult at Rheged with a take home food parcel.

Age range: 5-16

Dates: 20, 22, 28 December & 4 January

Euphoric Circus

Description: Fun filled days consisting of activities such as circus skills, free running, crafty activities games, cooking and so much more!

Age range: 5-17

Dates: 21 December - 23 December



coming back in January

We will be lateral flow testing students with consent over the first 3 days of next term. Please can students return to school, at the usual time, on the following days:

- Years 9, 11 and 13: Wednesday 5 January 2022
- Years 8, 10 and 12: Thursday 6 January 2022
- Year 7: Friday 7 January 2022

We will be in touch over the Christmas break with more information.

