



Dear Parent/Carer

The end of another half term here at Ullswater and we are well on our way into 2022.

It would be fair to say that this has been a tough few weeks for everyone associated with the school. The loss of our wonderful Lucy has affected a great many people and I wanted to take this opportunity to pass on my thanks for all the kind words and support the school and family have received from the Ullswater community, it is greatly appreciated.

As always, the life of a school is busy, being driven by the seasons and the many milestones we need to achieve with our students. With this in mind **Well Done!** to all of our students who have and continue to work incredibly hard in all their lessons.

A special mention for our Year 11 and 13 students who continue to work hard as we approach the final preparation for the GCSE and A-Level examinations. It has certainly been a difficult couple of years but I know that with their continued hard work and your support they will be successful and receive the grades they deserve in the summer – keep going, work hard and seek help when you need it, we are all here for you.

Covid has brought with it many challenges and I believe the students and staff have weathered this storm in incredible fashion, another indictment to the commitment of the students, staff, parents and wider school community.

And now to **Attendance**... Attendance is one of the keys to success and I know that you are all working hard to make sure the children in your charge are in the school ready to learn at every opportunity. Our ambition is to work towards 100%, so it is really important for everyone to try and improve their attendance further, whatever the starting point.

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A TRIBUTE TO LUCY

Last week UCC paid tribute to charismatic Lucy after she lost her battle with cancer.

A stalwart of Year 8, who worked with persistence and admirable dedication in a plethora of fields, Lucy flooded a room with positivity and joy. She had a wide friendship group – made even wider by her extensive extra-curricular activities, including cheerleading. The cheer squad has talked repeatedly of her “beaming smile and amazing giggle” and friends still perform the dance routines they practised (Lucy in the lead) endlessly.

In a little more than a year at UCC, Lucy's imprint has been phenomenal. She was a ray of positivity and lifted everyone's spirits. And so, as we go forward, we must now be the stalwarts and the ones who carry on shining, radiating positivity and talking about her – Lucy – to keep her somersaulting along on this journey of life with us.

Miss Hope, Lucy's Form Tutor



YEAR 11 UPDATE

The Year 11s are now on the final straight leading up to the summer exam series and the half-term holiday will see their last preparations for the mock exams the first week back. The majority of the year group are making the most of the intervention sessions being provided by staff at lunchtimes and after school and, with many Year 11s also set to attend revision sessions during the half-term holiday, they are giving themselves the best possible chance of success in the summer.

A reminder for any student still wanting a meeting with Mrs Morland, our pathways advisor, to come and see me as soon as possible to make an appointment.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the great many students still achieving brilliant things in their wider activities. A number of Year 11 students were superb at the county gymnastics, where the U19 teams won gold and bronze medals, and many of the Year 11 rugby players have represented the first XV with great success.

As always, if any student requires further support with anything in these last few weeks they only need to ask.

Mr Castle, Head of Year 11

...HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME – CONTINUED...

We will be in touch over the coming days and weeks with a focus on improving attendance across the school even further – this is not just about the strong link between attendance and attainment but more importantly about the relationship between being on time, in the right place and doing the right thing for life after school. I know we can rely on your support.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our recent very successful **Sixth Form open evening**. Applications are now open for September (click [here](#) for the online application form) and some have already been received. If you, or someone you know, would like to find out more about our Sixth Form and the courses/support on offer then please contact us (email: admin@ullswatercc.co.uk) to get in touch with Mr Jackson or the Sixth Form team.

We remain committed to our firm stance on standards and behaviour and the fact that every student deserves to be in a disruption-free classroom where they can be safe, happy and successful. The new year has brought with it a further step towards our ambition of being the 'Best in County' and your ongoing support and the attitudes of the students continues to be the key to our ongoing improvement.

UCC is back up and running and our huge number of clubs, activities and interventions continue to grow. We want every student to access and participate in as much as possible inside and outside the classroom, breakfast, lunch and afterschool clubs, trips and visits and take every opportunity to expand their horizons and cultural capital – so join in whenever you can!

Mr Gilby, Headteacher

ONLINE SAFETY

SHARING INFORMATION, IMAGES AND VIDEOS



Young people often share images or 'selfies' and there is potential for some of those to be nude or nearly nude images. Young people share 'nudes' for a number of different reasons, and some situations are more risky than others. For information about the contexts in which images are shared and how best to respond, take a look at [nude selfies: a parents guide](#).

If your child enjoys being online and uses social media apps, games and more, it's important you know how to protect their personal information and support them to make safe choices about what they share online. Read this [parents guide to personal information](#) and [how to protect it](#) for more information to support your child.

Some of the most popular apps, sites and games are designed to make it easy to share information online. But once information is

shared, you can never be sure who has seen it, saved it or shared it.

If your child has shared something online they wish they hadn't – don't panic. Read [my child has shared too much online](#) for advice on how to support your child.



Students in Years 7 and 8 enjoyed fantastic talks from acclaimed poet Matt Goodfellow this half-term.

A man with a beard, wearing a green and brown jacket, stands next to a large, colorful mural of a tree on a wall. The tree has a thick trunk and branches painted in various colors like blue, green, and red. The leaves are small circles. The man is smiling and has his hands in his pockets. The background shows a room with a blue door and some shelves.

"Matt was really relatable, he made it feel like you don't have to be amazing at poetry, you just have to enjoy it."

PUTTING THEORY INTO PRACTICE

"Being able to work alongside experienced practitioners has helped us apply the theories of children's development. It has been tiring but fun. Can't wait to go back!"

a message FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS, DAVID CARTER

We have a vacancy for a parent governor at UCC. Parent governors are an important part of the governing body, bringing the unique perspective of a parent at the school. Governors serve a 4-year term and in addition to attending an average of two meetings a term, are also linked to a department and would normally carry out a termly visit.

To start the appointment process, a letter will sent home immediately after half term to ask for expressions of interest in the role. If you are interested, you will need to write:

1. A brief letter nominating yourself; this will need to be endorsed and countersigned by two other parents at UCC
2. A short statement (no more than 250 words) explaining why you would like to be a governor and explaining what you will bring to the governing body in terms of experience, etc.

The statement will be circulated to all parents if more than one person nominates themselves and there is an election.

The timetable for the process will be:

- Week commencing 21 February: letter to all parents from the clerk to the governors, inviting expressions of interest, supporting signatures and a brief outline of experience
- Friday 4 March: closing date for expressions of interest
- Monday 7 to Friday 18 March: election if more than one candidate
- Friday 18 March: count of votes and declaration
- Wednesday 23 March: meeting of the Full Governing Body Meeting, including welcoming the new parent governor

I am happy to discuss this opportunity. Please email me at d.carter@ullswatercc.co.uk with a phone number and I will get in touch.

Vacancy for
a parent
governor at
UCC

Details to follow after the half-term break or contact David Carter, Chair of Governors to discuss

David Carter, Chair of Governors

YEAR 9 UPDATE

A new year marks the focus on the options process for GCSE and it has been reassuring to note how many of the Year 9 students have been engaging with the teaching staff about course content.

As we work towards the end of this academic year it will be vital that all of our Year 9s are striving to make up for lost time and learning brought about by lockdowns, in order to be fully prepared for the challenge of GCSE examinations. With such a range of subjects the choices have been tough and it is brilliant to hear how well students have approached looking at the new option choices to consider their suitability. We are looking forward to an exciting and challenging two years as of September.

Our sporting endeavours have seen strong support for the rugby team, which is growing in size and ability, engaging in fixtures with tenacity and vigour.

Our leading runner, Rose Gildale has also managed to secure a very impressive 5th place representing Cumbria in the Inter-county competition in Middlesbrough (11:11 for 3500m). Rose has now qualified for the English schools competition later this year.

In addition, our leading Badminton player, Daniel Kemp has continued to represent England this academic year and is looking forward to further fixtures as restrictions ease.

In terms of engagement, students in Year 9 are now securing their Gold ATL Badge awards for having earned in excess of 300 positive ATL points, which is an excellent achievement at this halfway point in the year! One Year 9 pupil, continues to hold his position as the highest ATL scorer in the school and has been the first to earn his Diamond Award – a massive congratulations to Salim Douma for this achievement!

I hope the Year 9 students will return from this half-term break ready to make sure that their final terms in Key Stage 3 are strong foundations for what is to come.

Mr Forrest
Head of Year 9

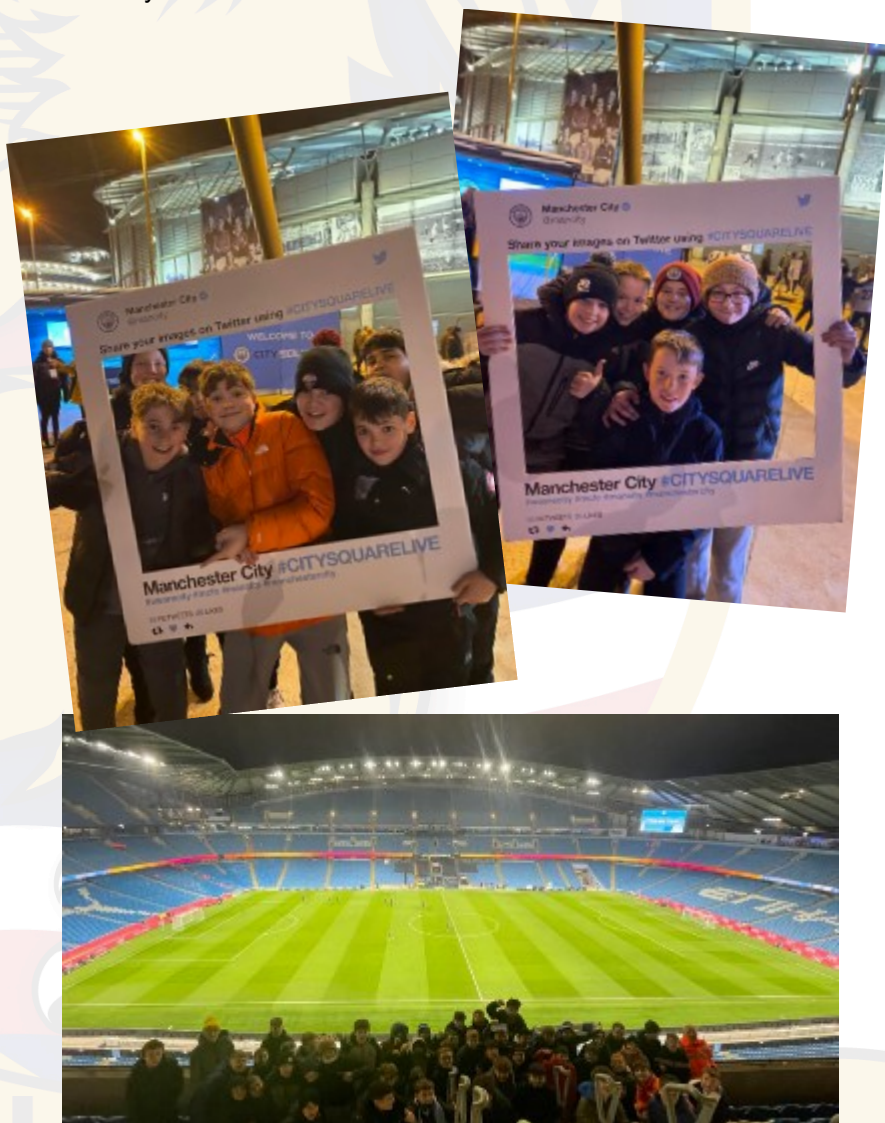
PREMIER LEAGUE MATCH

Fifty Year 7 and 8 footballers ventured down the M6 to the Etihad stadium on a Wednesday evening to watch Manchester City vs Brentford in the Premier League. After an entertaining game, the final score was Manchester City 2 Brentford 0.

It was a fantastic trip and at one point the students even started their own football chant to add some atmosphere to a somewhat quiet home crowd.

A big well done to all those involved, who have been training every week with their year-group football teams.

Mr Key



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

ucc attendance matters

Attendance is crucial for success at school. Our ambition is to work towards 100% attendance and it is really important for all students to try to improve their attendance, whatever the starting point.

To put this in context:

If your child misses...	that equals...	which is...	over 13 years of school that's...
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years of
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Over 8 years

DIABETES TALK

Sixth Form Health and Social Care students enjoyed hearing guest speaker (ex-UCC student) Rachael talk about her personal experience of living with Type 1 Diabetes.

The talk supported students with their understanding of physiological disorders. They learned how insulin is injected and how to manage glucose levels, as well as the importance of regular health care check-ups.



TEST FOR COVID BEFORE RETURNING TO SCHOOL

Just a reminder for all students to take a lateral flow test on Sunday 20 February before returning to school on Monday 21st.

VACCINATIONS FOR 12- TO 15-YEAR-OLDS

Students aged 12 to 15 years are encouraged to have their vaccination during half term. A list of the 15 nearest vaccination centres is given below.

Vaccination centre	Postcode
St Pauls Elim Pentecostal Church (Conran Late Night Pharmacy)	CA1 1BJ
Harraby Community Centre (Wellfield Pharmacy)	CA1 3SN
Newton Rigg Campus (iPharma-C)	CA11 0AH
Penrith Conference Centre, Winters Park (Wellfield Pharmacy)	CA11 8RQ
The Globe Hotel, Cockermouth (JWW Allison)	CA13 9LE
Seaton Pharmacy, Workington	CA14 1JE
Old Top Shop Retail Unit, Dunmail Park Centre (Pharmacy2u)	CA14 1NQ
Upper Eden Baptist Church, Kirkby Stephen (The Green Tree Pharmacy)	CA17 4QA
Seacliffe Pharmacy, Whitehaven	CA28 9PG
Cartmel Surgery	LA11 6PH
Gill Rise VC, Ulverston	LA12 7BT
Ingleton Community Centre (Ingleton Pharmacy)	LA6 3EH
Westmorland Shopping Centre, Kendal	LA9 4BD
The Sele Medical Practice, Hexham	NE46 1QJ
Bellingham Masonic Hall (Parkside Pharmacy)	NE48 2AS

UNIFORMED SERVICES AT UCC

Mal Bellamy, who serves as a Warrant Officer Class 1 with the Army Reserve, was made redundant along with around 200 other staff when the decision was made to close Newton Rigg College last year – sad times for all involved but this also meant that one of the most popular courses at the college – with around 60 full-time students – was lost from the local area.

The Uniformed Public Services course was aimed at young people with ambitions to become the future of the Police, Fire Service, Armed Forces, etc. Students used to travel from far and wide to attend this enjoyable, yet challenging course set in the Penrith countryside.

Mal joined UCC last summer as a cover teacher and he and Headteacher Stephen Gilby decided to see if they could regenerate the Uniformed Services course here in Penrith. Several months and meetings later, the seed has been planted and the flower that is Uniformed Protective Services is set to bloom this summer!

"This is great news!", says Mal, "Like a phoenix from the ashes, I expect this course to soar. We are working hard to make this new course as successful and even better than the one we ran at Newton Rigg and I am so glad that this ball is rolling, just a year after the closure".

The initial aim is to have two courses – a full-time BTEC Level 3 for Years 12 and 13 (sixth form) students and a part-time Level 2 course aimed at students in Years 10 and 11.

Both courses will be challenging and will include an exam, alongside assignments.



The picture shows Mal Bellamy, who will be leading the courses, with local cadets who attend Ullswater Community College and are looking forward to seeing the courses start after the summer.

Lucy (Police Cadet), who has ambitions of becoming a police officer, says: *"I'm really looking forward to the course and hope it will set me up for 6th form and University."*

Rose (Air Cadet) is excited for the course and is really looking forward to what September will bring. Danny (Army Cadet) is currently in Year 10 so misses out on the Level 2 but is considering the Level 3 course prior to joining the Army. Also pictured is Jack (Police Cadet), who is also a Year 10 student and a member of the local Police Cadets.

Mr Gilby says:

"This is an exciting opportunity for the young people of Penrith and Eden as well as UCC. This is a fantastic course and, alongside our ambitious plans for a Combined Cadet Force here at Ullswater, it will offer great progression into all the uniformed services."

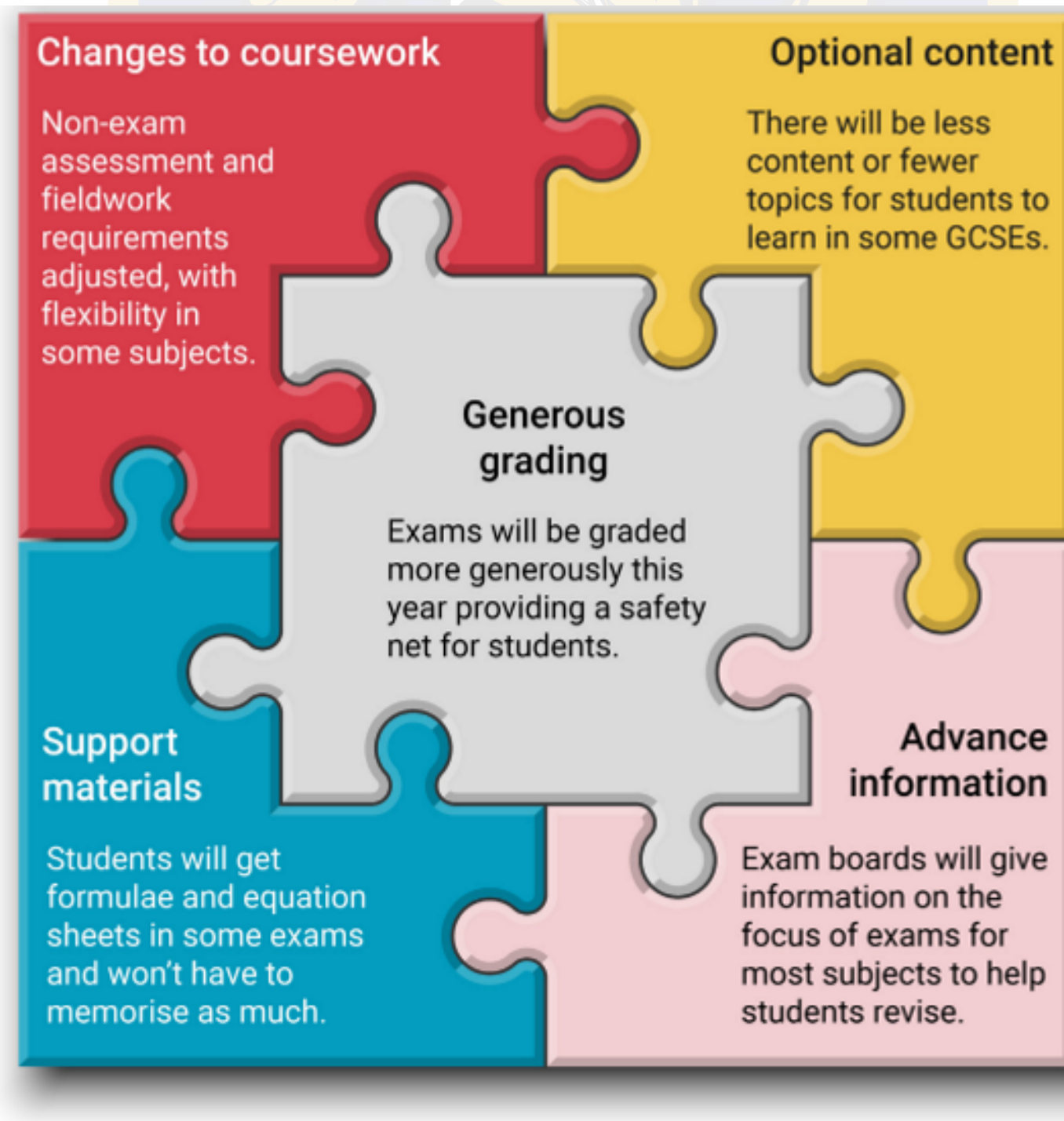
Mal Bellamy, course leader

RETURNING AFTER HALF TERM

We're looking forward to welcoming staff and students back to school after the half-term break on Monday 21 February 2022.

OFQUAL – ADDITIONAL HELP FOR STUDENTS TAKING exams in summer 2022

Click [here](#) to find details of the subject-by-subject support for GCSE and A levels from the Department of Education and Ofqual.



 bit.ly/examchanges2022

ofqual/22/689

An unprecedented package of support for students taking exams this year

Summer exams for GCSEs, AS and A levels will be taking place in 2022 for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Ofqual and the Department for Education recognise the difficulties students may have faced during the pandemic, and changes have been made to this year's arrangements to help students.

An unprecedented package of support has been put in place for students. Advance information will help them focus their revision. Exam boards have provided advance information for exams in most subjects. Students will have a choice of topics or content in some other GCSE subjects. Exam boards will also provide a formulae sheet and an updated equation sheet that students will have in their GCSE maths, physics and combined science exams.

This advance information will also help teachers manage revision time in the lead-up to exams. In addition, more generous grading will provide a safety net for students.

Find out more about these changes at the link below.

 bit.ly/examchanges2022

ofqual/22/6893