



HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

Hello and welcome to our May newsletter. It is difficult to believe that we are rapidly approaching the end of another academic year. A big well done and good luck to all of our year 11s and 13s who are in the midst of their summer exam series! All of the students have made a fantastic start with their exams – keep it up, keep working hard and in the summer you will all receive the grades you deserve.

My thanks also to all the staff and the huge amount of work that has gone into preparing everyone for the exams. It has been a complex year with many changes and adaptations for different qualifications from lots of awarding bodies, so very well done on navigating everything. And, of course my thanks to all the parents and carers who have worked so closely with us to help prepare the students for the exams. The response from the students has been remarkable given the circumstances of recent times and as always it is a great privilege to be able to witness their growth and development at UCC.

This newsletter contains some fantastic news about the school and information that may be of use to many of our community so please take a few minutes to read through and get a sense of recent activities across the school.

It has been another great term here at Ullswater and it is wonderful to see clubs and activities growing again. My congratulations to all the students on their academic, sporting and many other successes in recent weeks and months.

To all our new year 7s for September – Welcome to UCC! It has been a pleasure to welcome some of you on early visits and I very much look forward to getting to know you all a little better during our upcoming **transition day on Thursday 7 July 2022**.

This will follow on from our **Year 5 open evening on Thursday 30 June**, when we will once again see many hundreds of families visit the school – pass the word on, all are welcome to come and find out more about our *Ambitious* and *Caring* Ullswater Community College where everyone is *Equal*.

As always stay safe, stay in touch, let us know if there is anything you need or we can help with and we look forward to a very productive final half term of the 2021–22 academic year.

Mr Gilby, Headteacher

For information on how parents/carers can support young people through their exams, click [here](#).

Issue 6 – May 2022

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UCC STUDENTS at national send conference

Year 12 Early Years and Health & Social Care students attended a virtual national student conference on the theme of "Working with Children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)".

UCC's very own Kofi and Halima hosted a live session to over a 100 colleges around the UK and presented their own learning on SEND. They did an amazing job and were praised for their professional approach during the conference, they even participated in a live Q&A! They started their presentation by reading a poem they had written:



Do you truly know me?
Do you hear me?
Can I trust you?
Is this place fair and equal for me?
Do you allow me to fly and to be the
best that I can be?

Mrs McCormick
Head of Child Health and Social Studies



READING GROUP FOR EDUCATORS

The UCC School Library enjoyed hosting the first meeting of the Penrith Educators Reading Group this half-term. The group will meet five times a year from now on, with the intention of helping attendees grow their knowledge of contemporary children's books. With over 10,000 books published for children and young people every year, keeping up-to-date can be a challenge!

During our first meeting we tested our current knowledge, discussed books that are popular with students, looked at a selection of high-quality contemporary books and decided on our first group read.

We'll next meet after the summer holidays, in preparation we will all read *The House With Chicken Legs* by Sophie Anderson.

Anyone interested in joining the group is invited to email library@ullswatercc.co.uk.

Ms McKay
School Librarian

YEAR 11 UPDATE

The year 11s have now started their exams and are determined to capitalise on all of their effort over the last 2 years. They have worked exceptionally hard and deserve every success that comes their way.

During the exam season the year 11 students will have access to:

- free breakfast at school
- dedicated revision and exam warm up sessions before exams.

Teaching continues in subjects where exams are still to be sat.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all students taking exams this year the very best of luck and every success.

It is also a good time to remind students that we expect the very highest of standards in terms of behaviour, attitude and uniform over these final few weeks.

Good luck Year 11, I know you'll smash it!

Mr Castle
Head of Year 11

FUTURE OPEN EVENING FOR ALL PARENTS

Thank you to all those parents who returned the survey about open evenings.

In response to your comments we will arrange an open evening in September/ October to enable all parents to visit the school site.

CONTACT US

We're 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

escape to safety

Escape to Safety is an experience designed to raise awareness of the plight of asylum seekers. Students were put – you can put yourself in their shoes and listen to real refugee stories as you move through the exhibition.

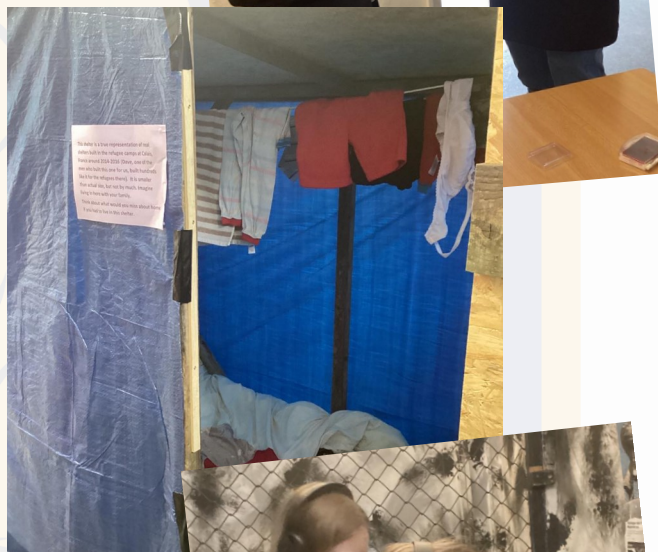
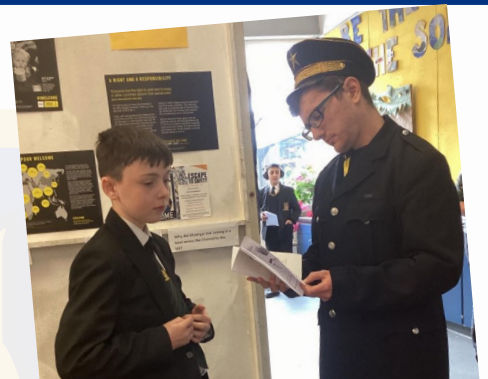
All students and staff will have the opportunity to visit the exhibition. We have also created two evening events to enable the wider community to attend. These will be held on Thursday 28 April and Wednesday 4 May, both from 4-8pm. Everyone is welcome, so please come along!

Refugee

So I have a new name, refugee.
Strange that a name should take away from me
My past, my personality and hope.
Strange refuge this.
So many seem to share this name, refugee,
Yet we share so many differences

I find no comfort in my new name,
I long to share my past, restore my pride,
To show I too in time will offer more
Than I have borrowed.
For now the comfort that I seek
Resides in the old, yet new name I would choose
Friend.

By 14 year old Ruvimbo Bungwe, a student at Villiers High School, London.



NATIONAL READING CHAMPIONS!

A group of elite readers from Key Stage 3 visited London this half-term to compete in the National Reading Quiz Grand Final. Since winning the regional heat in March they have been reading voraciously in preparation. Approximately 550 schools entered the competition and 22 made it through to the Final. The UCC team came 8th overall – we're very proud of them for making the national top ten!



As well as answering 80 fiendishly tough questions about contemporary and classic books, the team enjoyed video messages from Michael Morpurgo, Frank Cottrell Boyce, Sarah Crossan and Jasbinder Bilan. Award-winning Young Adult author, Patrice Lawrence, attended in person and gave a fabulously inspiring talk about reading and her writing career.

Making the most of their time in London, we also enjoyed time at the British Museum and a visit to Foyles flagship bookshop. And, of course, we spent the train journey home reading in preparation for next year's competition!

Amy McKay, School Librarian

MEET THE GOVERNORS – RICHARD SMITH

I was appointed a Governor of UCC in the summer of 2020 – right in the middle of the Covid measures. This made it a bit of a surreal experience, being a governor but not even able to enter the school. If it was odd for me it was even worse for students and staff having to learn and be taught remotely. Hopefully those days are now receding.

I previously had no connections with UCC. A number of people ask me why I became a governor. The reason was quite simple really. I am a regular (if slow) swimmer at the Penrith Leisure Centre and was continually seeing students coming through the car park on their way into school as I left the Centre. I just thought, with my background in teaching and managing in Higher Education, that I could perhaps add some value to UCC in a governance capacity.

In the period since I became a governor I have seen UCC develop under strong but benevolent leadership provided by true professionals in teaching and learning and non-teaching capacities.

The staff and students I meet are welcoming and polite and a pleasure to be around. UCC truly is ACE – Ambitious, Caring and Equal. Good luck to all at UCC.

Richard Smith
Governor



THE GOLDEN WOLF

Click [here](#) to read the exciting second edition of our school Newspaper “The Golden Wolf”.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL CHAMPION!

Matthew (Year 11) plays wheelchair basketball for the Mohawks division 3. Unbeaten all season, the team was crowned Champions of the North earlier in May. This fantastic achievement led to them to play in the National Championships in London against other division 3 league winners from across the UK. In the semi finals Mohawks beat Kings 51-28 and in the final they beat Steelers 50-44 to become the British National Champions!

Congratulations Matthew!



MUSIC LESSONS AT UCC

Find out about music lessons at UCC [here](#). We have visiting tutors for piano, guitar, brass, woodwind, strings, drums, voice. Players can take part in a wide range of extra-curricular clubs – wind band, big band, saxophone group, the string and UCC singers to name just a few.

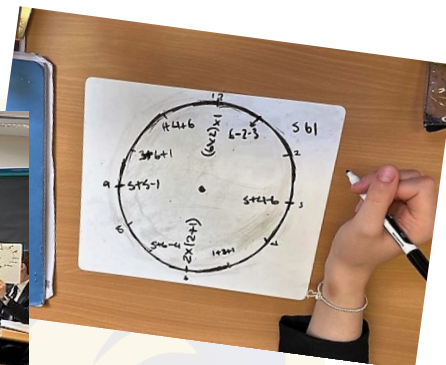


NATIONAL NUMERACY DAY – 18 MAY 2022

Numeracy day at UCC... three dice were rolled 12 times. On each roll the three numbers were noted.

Students used all three numbers and the four rules of number and indices to give the answer to each number on an analogue clock...

Miss John
Head of Maths



CERAMIC MASKS

Year 8 artists have been creating amazing ceramic masks! After researching the use of masks in rituals around the world – including Penrith's own Winter Droving – they designed masks based on the natural environment.

The masks were made from clay, which was then fired in the school kilns ready for the students to paint. We think they're fantastic!

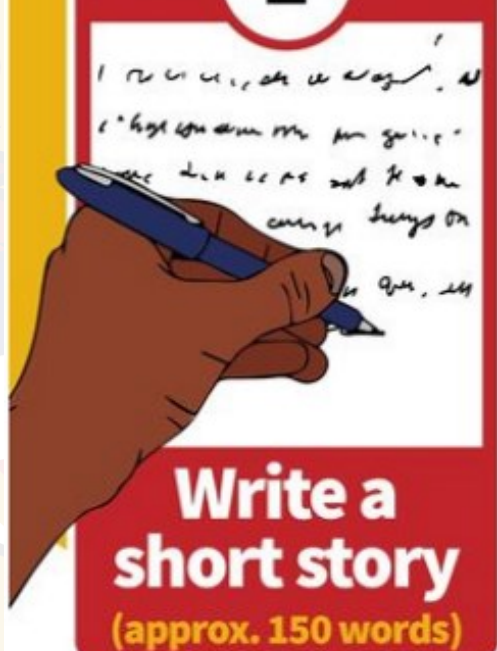


Governors' Creative Writing Prize



Open to all students
2 prize categories to enter:

1



Write a
short story
(approx. 150 words)

2



Write and
illustrate a short
graphic story
(approx. 150 words)

Winning prizes of £50 for each category
Deadline Monday 6th June. Entries should be handed in
to the library or emailed to library@ullswatercc.co.uk

vision: **BEST in County**

Ambitious

Caring

Equal

UCC is an ambitious, caring community where everyone is equal

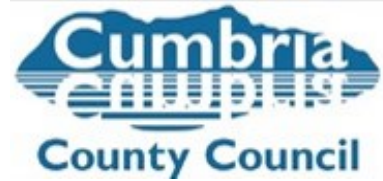
#proudtobeUCC



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.

RETURNING AFTER THE HOLIDAY

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Monday 6 June**.

FREE BREAKFAST

Free toast – with butter, jam, Marmite, etc. – is available to all students each morning from 8 am to 8.50 am in Westmorland Hall.

LOOKING FORWARD

There's a lot to look forward to next term, including:

- GCSE and A-level exams will continue
- Year 11 and Year 13 proms
- Duke of Edinburgh expeditions
- Athletics and other sporting events
- Year 5 open evening: 30 June
- Summer music concert: 1 July
- Year 6 transition day: 7 July
- Art exhibition: 12 July
- Year 12 induction days
- Sports day
- Sixth form residential to Leeds



COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

With the cost of living on the rise, there will be people in Cumbria who are struggling, whether that's emotionally, financially or just because they need practical help to get in touch and seek support.

It can be daunting to search through what is on offer and to find what you need. Cumbria County Council provides information for Cumbrian residents on a range of helpful topics:

- Food support
- Financial support
- Domestic abuse support
- Energy-saving advice
- Mental health support

Click [here](#) to access the Cumbria County Council web page.