



HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

Hello and welcome to our newsletter – the first of the new academic year.

First, let me welcome our new students and staff – you have all made an incredible start to the new year! It has certainly been an interesting 7 weeks and a lot has happened – some of which you can read about below.

The big message of this issue is: **Thank you, Congratulations and Well Done!** I have been impressed every single day by the fantastic attitude to learning and mature approach of all the students at UCC.

After a very positive start to the term we are continuing with our high expectations for behaviour and standards. Students are fully engaged during lessons and their conduct and behaviour outside the classroom is expected to meet the same high standards.

You may have seen our results in the newspapers over the summer. I would like to congratulate all our students who sat their exams this year.

The government has just published performance data from this summer's exams – the first time this information has been published since the start of the pandemic. We are delighted with our results, which are a measure of the ever-improving quality of teaching and standards around the school.

Our sixth form results place us among the best in Cumbria and our growing sixth form, with an ever-increasing array of qualifications on offer, has seen more students than ever securing their first-choice place at university or college, beginning their apprenticeship or starting their new job.

At Key Stage 4, our published Progress 8 figure of -0.03 is well above the Cumbrian average of -0.18 . Attainment at grade 4 and grade 5 has improved considerably and now provides a secure foundation to achieve a Good rating in our next Ofsted inspection and to move UCC onwards to even better outcomes for all our young people.

These fantastic results were achieved through the hard work and dedication of our students, parents and staff. Students were very well prepared for the summer exams and we are already working closely with the current year 11 and 13s and aiming for the best ever results for the school next summer.

I am immensely proud to be part of and to lead the Ullswater community – I am surrounded by well-rounded, considerate students and supported by 200 committed and experienced adults, all with the aspiration of seeing our students safe, happy and successful.

In these challenging times, the school will do everything it can to support our students, their families and the wider community. Please read on to find out more about this and the many other things that have been taking place over the last few weeks. It is only a snapshot and, I am sure you will agree, a fantastic start to the new academic year.

Issue 22-1 October 2022

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I wish you all the very best for the half term break and look forward to seeing students and staff – all rested and ready for the next half term – on 31 October 2022.

As always, we are here for you – get in touch if you need anything.

Mr Gilby

#ProudtobeUCC





CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Year 10 Child Development students loved meeting 9-week-old baby Luna as part of their studies into growth and development.

Babies experience well being and contentment when their emotional needs are met. We were super impressed with the caring and nurturing attitudes our students displayed.

Mrs McCormick, Child Development



CHRISTMAS CRAFT CLUB

Christmas Craft Club is now up and running every Wednesday lunchtime in the Art Department (room R23). All students are welcome to come along. We look forward to seeing you!

Mrs Campbell, Head of Art



macmillan cake sale

Thank you to the UCC Admin Team, who ran a highly successful Macmillan Coffee Morning for staff and sixth form students, raising an amazing £693 (+ gift aid).

Congratulations to Mrs McCormick, who won first prize in the draw (a cake!).



PERFORMING ARTS COUNCIL

The new UCC Performing Arts Council (pictured left) met for the first time just before half term to discuss the Performing Arts calendar, a potential Christmas Showcase and the 2023 U Dance Festival. They also finalised plans for their upcoming performance at the Winter Droving event.

There still spaces on the Council. Any interested students should speak to Miss Slattery for more information.

UNIFORMED PROTECTIVE SERVICES COURSE

During the first month of our first ever Uniformed Protective Services course, the Year 12 (Level 3) students had the chance to visit the Cumbria Fire Service and Cumbria Police Headquarters in Penrith.

At Penrith Fire Station, students (and staff) were put through their paces by the Fire Service's physical training instructors when they completed a Fire Service entry test. Students will take part in several fitness tests during the course, including Army, Fire Service and Police entry tests, before undergoing a 6-week training programme with the aim of improving their test scores.

Students also participated in Public Order Training with the Police Support Unit, including riot control with the use of shields and working alongside the Police Dog unit.

In addition to these visits and the usual classroom studies, students have been training for a Remembrance Parade, which will be followed by an 11-mile TAB (boot march) in aid of the Poppy Appeal! Please feel free to show your support for Mr Bellamy's 'Superheroes of the Future' <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ullswatercc-ups-remembers>

UPS Year 10 (Level 2) students have been learning the art of communication and drill (marching). The 27 students have also demonstrated their ability to communicate using a radio whilst carrying out an investigation and have learnt about various UPS technologies, including automatic number-plate recognition (ANPR). They will practice this skill in the school car park after half term! Students are also well on the way to being ready to represent the school in November's Remembrance Parade.

Mr Bellamy
Uniformed Protective Services



YEAR 7 UPDATE

The Year 7s have settled into UCC life brilliantly and with minimal fuss, and before we know it they have almost completed their first half term! Alongside their new lessons they have got stuck into the huge range of extracurricular activities available to them and really are making the most of what's on offer at UCC. Congratulations to all those students who have already represented the school!

Many have already surpassed 100 positive ATLs, meaning they have achieved their bronze award, and some are well on their way to silver! The inter-form "champions league" is well underway and is hotly contested; there have also been too many golden tickets and learners and tutees of the week to mention!

What a fantastic start to your time at UCC Year 7, well done! Remember, you will never truly reach your potential in life if you don't step outside your comfort zone ... so don't be afraid to get stuck in and give new things a try!

Mr Castle, Head of Year 7

YEAR 9

As always, the Year 9s have approached the autumn term full of enthusiasm and energy. So far, well over 100 students have been awarded 'learner of the week' across a range of subjects. Outside the classroom, the Year 9s have attended extracurricular clubs and represented the school with outstanding determination and commitment. This is the year they will choose their options for their GCSEs; assemblies and an 'Options Evening' will help them decide what they would like to study at Key Stage 4.

Mr Key, Head of Year 9

YEAR 11

The Year 11s have made a truly impressive start to this crucial year of their education; many have also attended a range of extra-curricular activities. Their remarkable engagement with Oxford University representatives and the wide variety of employers and apprenticeship talks they have attended through the Careers and Guidance programme are clear evidence of their commitment and focus.

The Year 11 student support evening on 13 October was designed to give parents strategies and techniques to support their children through the GCSE process. The GCSE mock exams will begin on 14 November, with a second set of mocks running from 27 February 2023. This is a very busy time for Year 11 students!

Mr Cooper, Head of Year 11

YEAR 8

What a beginning to Year 8! The students have approached this year with growing maturity, ambition and courage. From the brilliant uniform standards to simple politeness I can only commend their efforts so far. I would like to share the success of golden tickets across the year group with 347 awarded in the first few weeks.

Coming up for Year 8 are some in-class assessments, which will be done across December and early January, to monitor and action high-quality learning.

Outside the classroom, students have a range of club options, which have been well attended on a daily basis. I look forward to the future with Year 8 and will support you all throughout.

Mrs Furness, Head of Year 8

SIXTH FORM

As well as making a fantastic start to the new academic year, sixth form students are being trained to support Year 7 and 8 students with the Paired Reading scheme. They welcomed Oxford University and academics from the University of Cumbria and volunteered to become Wellbeing Champions and support for the Reset programme. They were excited by our new collaboration with Hello Future, a partnership of local universities, colleges and employers for a supported 2-year careers advice programme.

Mr Jackson, Head of Sixth Form

YEAR 10

It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know this fantastic year group over the past few weeks, and seeing their positive approach to the start of their GCSE years. We encourage communication, resilience and personal responsibility, as these vital skills are required to navigate through life and the response we have had from the students is a testament to their maturity and attitude to learning.

Good attendance is vital – each lesson is a stepping stone towards the summer of 2024 and the GCSE exams.

Whilst we encourage students to work hard, we also want them to enjoy their options and celebrate their progress and achievements. In addition to academic attainment, many Year 10 students take part in extracurricular activities, including the exciting opportunity to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh award. They have also attended talks from local employers, which have given a brilliant insight into the world of work.

Mrs Douglas, Head of Year 10

READING DOG

Our adorable reading dog, Freya, continued her weekly visits to the library this half-term. Freya (and her owner, Kerry) visits every Thursday afternoon to listen to students read. Reading dogs are a great way of building reading confidence and engagement, and that has certainly been the case at UCC. Demand to read with Freya is so high that she even came early one week, so she could meet students during lunchtime. The library has never been busier than it was that lunchtime.

Ms McKay
School Librarian



GOLDEN TICKET

The Golden Ticket reward scheme is an exciting new initiative this year at UCC. In every lesson, one student is awarded a 'golden ticket' for exceptional effort and attitude. This ticket will be entered into a termly prize draw where lots of exciting prizes can be won. So far this year, 3500 golden tickets have been awarded to students from across all year groups; the highest scoring student has received 17 golden tickets!

Our first 'Super Golden Ticket Day' will be Friday 21 October, when teachers will be able to award 5 golden tickets per lesson – a great opportunity for students!

We are delighted with the positive effects this new initiative is having on motivating our students to be the best they can be.

Mr Key, Head of Year 9

SOME IMPORTANT SCHOOL ADMIN.

Students who **need to leave school early** should bring a note from home saying where they are going, why and when. They should show this note to their Form Tutor, who will verify it. The student should then give the note to the teacher whose lesson they will need to leave; finally, they must sign out at reception before they go. Students will not be allowed to leave site early without parent/carers permission.

On a different note, please could parents/carers check that all **items of school uniform, PE kit and coats are labelled** with their child's name. It helps with returning misplaced items.

UCC – a Learning community

The UCC learning community extends beyond the teaching of students and, as a school, we believe that in order to achieve our stated ambition of becoming 'Best in County' we must all continue to develop and learn. As such, all teaching staff are embarking on an exciting 2-year project, supported by the Schools', Students' and Teachers' Network (SSAT). This independent organisation supports member schools by providing "a framework for exceptional education focused on teaching and learning, professional practice and leadership".

The project we have embarked on focuses on the different ways in which teachers provide feedback to students, both 'live' in the classroom and also via written assessments.

This year, we will focus on different techniques for feeding back to students and teaching staff will be able to develop the use of these strategies – such as strategic questioning, self and peer assessment, and sharing assessment criteria – with their classes. Students may notice a change of emphasis, for example questioning in class will become 'no hands up' to allow the teacher to check learning by selecting those who answer. Parents may notice changes in books, for example greater emphasis on sharing assessment criteria and teaching students to self-assess and peer assess their work.

All the techniques used are supported by scientific research and have demonstrated a very effective impact on students' learning, so we are excited to see how the project develops.

If you are interested in learning anything further about our project please keep an eye on our website and social media channels as we progress through the project!

Miss Pearson-Rolph
Teaching and Learning Lead

seasonal CREATIVITY

Sixth Form Early Years Educators have enjoyed planning seasonal activities for their placements and for our Stay-and-Play group.

Creativity in the early years is fundamental to children's development. Our students certainly have creativity embedded into everything they do!

Mrs McCormick, Child Development



GOVERNOR NEWS!!

The Governing Body continues to develop. A recent external review conducted by a National Governors Association assessor was very positive about the way in which the Governing Body is working. The assessor concluded:

"This is a strong board that is firmly sighted on the school, and the contribution that governors make. There have been many new governors in the last two years, which have been recruited using a skills audit. There is a good skill set and balance of experience with some governors having substantial governance experience."

Naturally, we are delighted with this conclusion and have picked up on a couple of the suggestions from the review, particularly splitting the work of the Curriculum and Attainment sub-committee by establishing a new sub-committee with the task of overseeing Safeguarding and Wellbeing, both crucial and well-developed aspects of Ullswater Community College.

Three new governors have joined us this term: Ann Stuart, Lisa Ivanson and Jo Adamson-Parker.

- Ann is a partnership governor and a member of the Rotary Club of Penrith. Before moving to Penrith she was on the board of Citizens Advice Northern Ireland and the Civilian Committee for the Air Training Corps.
- Lisa is a co-opted governor who is also a parent. She brings experience of governance in Beaconside Primary and is supporting Clifton School Governors.
- Jo, our newly elected parent governor, also comes with experience from Beaconside, this time as a member of the PTA where she worked on their 'Parent Link' project.

We look forward to them bringing their areas of experience and expertise to the work of the Ullswater Community College Governing Body.

David Carter
Chair of Governors

YOUTH climate summit

On 20 October, representatives of the UCC Eco Council attended a Youth Climate Summit at Carlisle United football club, which included presenting their ideas to others attending the summit.

The focus of the event was sustainable transport solutions in Cumbria. UCC students took part in workshops on "How to Plan a Campaign" and "Research" with Lancaster University on DeCarbon8, as well as gathering information and ideas on many other aspects of sustainable living.



Contacts were made with local organisations and schools and we have committed to working closely with Carlisle United FC in promoting sustainable lifestyles.

This was a fantastic opportunity to promote UCC and the actions we are taking to be more sustainable.

Mrs McCanny

CONTACT US

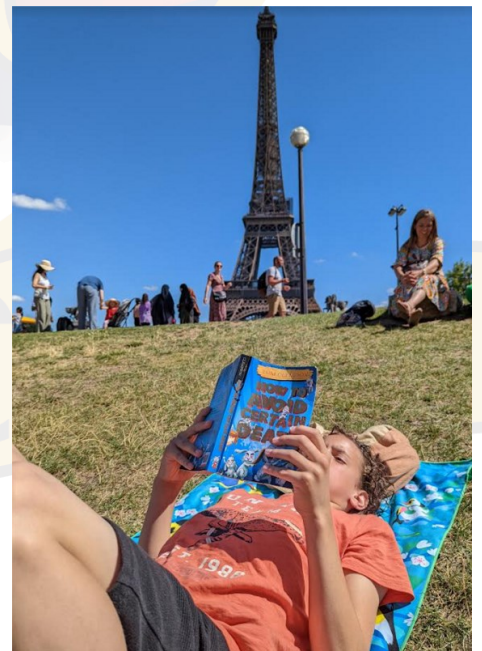
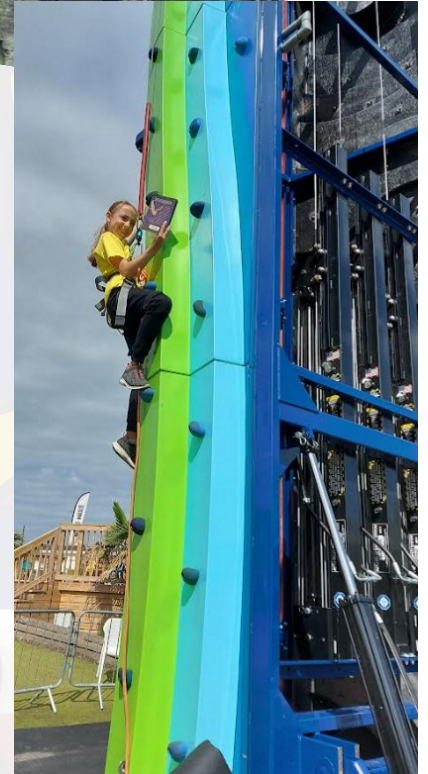
We are always pleased to hear from parents. Please get in touch with us if you have any concerns:

E-mail: admin@ullswatercc.co.uk or visit the school website: www.ullswatercc.co.uk

extreme READING

Over the summer, Year 7 were challenged to take photos of themselves reading in extreme locations for a display in the library. Here is a selection of the impressive photos we received.

Ms McKay
School Librarian



ACCELERATED READER

Accelerated Reader is an online reading programme that allows students to take quizzes on books they've read, and allows us to monitor and manage independent reading.

60 minutes reading at home is part of the weekly English homework for Year 7 and Year 8 students, and for some Year 9 students. Using this time, and the reading time they have in school, students are expected to pass quizzes regularly.

Students have all been given a book colour that reflects their optimum book level, books at their optimum level will be sufficiently challenging without being frustratingly hard. Books in the library have stickers on them showing what colour book level they are. Students should aim to read a book at their level and, when they have finished reading it, should take a quiz. Passing the quiz lets us know they have completed the book and have understood what they've read.

Students can also take quizzes on books they have read from home and other sources. The book level colours are only a guide to help students select books at the right ability level for them; if they wish to read and quiz on other books that is okay.

Quizzes can be taken from any location and device with internet access.

To take a quiz:

1. Go to <https://ukhosted121.renlearn.co.uk/6701382/>
A link to this site is also available by logging into RMUnify and on the Library page of the UCC website.
2. Select "I am a student".
3. Enter username and password. All students have been given a bookmark with their username and password.
4. Select "Accelerated Reader".
5. Enter the title or author of the book they have read.
6. Select whether they read the book independently, with someone or were read to.
7. Select "Start quiz".
8. Answer the questions.

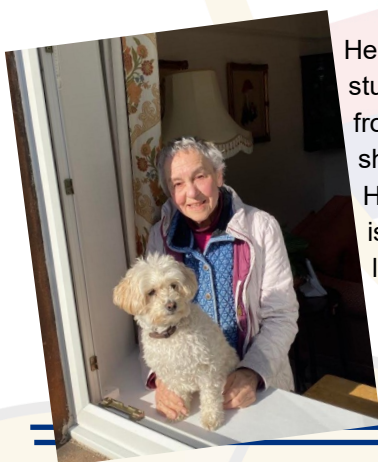
Students who need any help with Accelerated Reader can visit the library or email library@ullswatercc.co.uk

We have an exciting incentive scheme running alongside Accelerated Reader, meaning that the more books students read and pass quizzes on, the more rewards and prizes they can gain! Incentives include:

- Scratchcards for getting 100% correct on a quiz
- ATLs
- A half-termly class league table and trophy
- A differentiated Millionaires' Club. Last year members of the Millionaires' Club enjoyed a Library Pizza Party at the end of term.

Ms McKay, School Librarian

JUST KEEP WALKING!

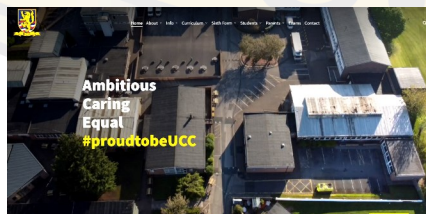


Health and social care students enjoyed a visit from an octogenarian who shared her life story so far. Her mantra for ageing well is to keep walking. We look forward to seeing her again.

Mrs Davidson
Health and Social Care

UCC WEBSITE

Our website www.ullswatercc.co.uk is full of useful information. Plus, if you click on the box in the bottom right corner, you can translate it into 17 different languages!



UCC Christmas Fair and Concert

Christmas Fair
Saturday 12 November, 1pm – 4pm, at UCC
If you would like a stall at the fair, please contact dstewart@ullswatercc.co.uk

Christmas Concert
Thursday 8 December, 7pm, at UCC
Tickets £5

UCC MUSIC Department

music&drama education awards 2022 WINNER

#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.



RETURN TO SCHOOL

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 31 October 2022.

Term dates can be found on our website: <https://ullswatercc.co.uk/info/term-dates/>

HELP FOR STUDENTS AT UCC

In light of the financial squeeze the country is experiencing at the moment, we would like to highlight some of the support available to UCC students :

- Free breakfast for every student – free toast, jam and water; tea, coffee, and juice are available in the Westmorland hall from 8:15am.
- Period products – are freely available in the girls' toilets and from the student hub.
- Stationery – every classroom has a box of pens, pencils, rulers, etc. for students to borrow during the lesson; for sixth form students, folders, dividers, plastic wallets and lined paper are available in the study room.
- The sixth form bursary is available for families who are finding it a challenge to provide their young people with books or equipment to support their studies, with the cost of transport to and from school or with the cost of lunches. Bursary guidance and forms can be collected from the sixth form office or downloaded from the school website.

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.

