



UCC

SCHOOL BULLETIN



Ullswater Community College

Website: www.ullswatercc.co.uk

May 2023

HELLO AND WELCOME TO THE MAY NEWSLETTER!

First – an enormous well done and good luck to all our year 11s and 13s who are in the midst of their summer exam series. They've made a fantastic start – keep it up, keep working hard and in the summer you will receive the grades you deserve.

Once again, it's hard to believe how quickly we are approaching the end of another academic year. My thanks to all the staff for the huge amount of work that has gone into preparing everyone for the summer series of exams and another big thank you to all the parents and carers who have worked incredibly closely with us to help prepare the students.

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.

It has been another busy and productive term here at UCC. I'm sure you're aware that Ofsted has now published the report for our recent inspection –



it's wonderful to see the many strengths of the school being recognised ([click here](#) to go to the report on our website).

At the heart of UCC is an ambitious and academic curriculum that drives our teaching and the progress of students. Our real heart,

however, is carried by every single member of our community and it is because of the efforts of everyone that we are now able to build towards our future goals of becoming 'Best in County', securing an Outstanding grade and preparing for the significant development of the UCC site and buildings.

That Ofsted have noted *'the warm and welcoming environment'*, that *'pupils flourish, and they are supported to become confident and independent young people'* and that there is *'a strong culture of safeguarding at the school'* is all a reflection of the commitment and attitudes of the students, staff and wider community. Well done!

To all 282 of 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 6 July**.

I've also been visiting local primary schools and year 5 students, many of whom will be attending our **year 5 open evening on 29 June**, when we will once again see many hundreds of families visit the school. Pass the word

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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 2022–23 academic year.

Mr Gilby
Headteacher



EQUESTRIAN SUCCESSES!

Congratulations to the UCC Equestrian Team, which has been competing in and out of county recently and has achieved some excellent results:

- Aimee qualified for the NSEA National Championships, competing in show-jumping at 110 cm with her horse Twinshock Rosa. Aimee also qualified for Hurst College National Schools jumping championships at Hickstead, and for the Nation Members cup 115 m at the British National Championships.
- Zara qualified for the NSEA National eventing final in Dorset after taking 1st place in a group of 21 riders from schools across the North. She had been riding her horse Woody for just 1 month.
- Sophie qualified for the Grassroots Individual Show-jumping 70 cm final at the Grass Roots Festival.

Team leader Jane Crocker has been supporting the team throughout, attending the events to encourage students and horses!



ISLAMIC DISCOVERY DAY

International Islamic artist, poet and author Razwan Al-Haq led UCC's Islamic Discovery Day with Years 7 and 8 on May 10th.

This was Raz's 12th visit to UCC and the event was a fantastic British Values enrichment opportunity for our students, who learned about the

contributions of Islam to global cultures, world history, science, maths, medicine, DT, the arts and interfaith dialogue.

Students were also given the opportunity to create their own piece of artwork that reflected their learning from the day.



STORIES OF MIGRATION IN NORTH WEST england

Thirty-two Year 8 students and 6 pupils from St Catherine's Primary School are involved in an exciting project with the Cumbria Development Education Centre.

Called 'Migration Stories North West', the project explores how migration has shaped the social landscape of our region for centuries, with people moving in and out from other parts of the British Isles and other parts of the world as a result of conflict, colonialism or trade, or in search of work or educational opportunities and a better life.



The project aims to deepen understanding of what it means to belong, to have more than one place to call home, and how the knowledge, skills and experiences of people – whether they are migrants, expats, refugees or digital nomads – shape places they live in.

So far, the project has uncovered stories from the distant past up to 1945. The students are now gathering recent migration stories from people living today. The group has learned more about migration, looked at the stories researched so far, learned about and practised oral history as a research method and hosted an event called Human Library.

They will then move on to creating digital stories for an online interactive story map and take part in creative activism workshops with a visual artist from London, Alaa Alsaraji.

The students have truly valued the opportunity to work in a real-world situation uncovering and recording history that is shaping our local community.

We need to record three more 'Migration Stories'; if you have a story to tell we would love to hear it. Please get in touch with Nicola McCanny at: nmccanny@ullswatercc.co.uk

enthusing science

The science department at UCC is beginning an exciting journey to become the lead school in a STEM Learning ENTHUSE Partnership, which will connect the UCC science team with colleagues in local primary schools.

The aim of ENTHUSE is to enhance the science curriculum at primary schools, making the lessons more practical and engaging. We hope to offer practical science training for teachers and practical equipment for pupils to use.

At UCC we know that the best bits of science are the experiments and using practicals to really understand the world around us.

We look forward to giving lots of local primary school children the chance to get hands on, make a mess and fall in love with science.



Mrs Grace
Science

CORONATION VISITORS!

King Charles and Queen Camilla (Ali and Lindsay) dropped in to give the royal seal of approval to the UCC Catering Team's majestic meals, sovereign sausages and monarchical munchies!



SILVER MIRROR TEST

Year 12 chemists were fascinated by the silver mirror test. It's a cool pic but it's actually a qualitative test used in chemistry to test for the presence of an aldehyde group in an organic molecule.

CRAFT AND SIGN

Our Craft and Sign Group has been making the most of the lovely weather and the Spring leaves and flowers to make some art in nature by spending Wednesday lunch-times in the eco garden making pictures and decorating cards and bookmarks with pigment from the leaves and flowers that they found in the woodland.

The students have also learned the signs for trees, flowers, grass, different types of weather, insects and have also started to learn the finger signs for the alphabet.



YEAR 10 TABLES AND FOOTSTOOLS

Year 10 GCSE Design Technology, Resistant Materials students have been working on their footstool and table projects.



CULINARY EXPERIENCE AT CARLISLE COLLEGE

Year 10 GCSE Hospitality and Catering students had a great time at Carlisle College with Chef Scott Price (one of Gordon Ramsay's ex-head chefs).

Students learned new culinary skills and tried out some new recipes.



LEARNING ABOUT INFANCY

Year 10 Child, Health and Social Care students enjoy visits from guest speakers on a regular basis. Guest speakers help to inspire students about possible futures and what it might take to reach them, as well as broaden their horizons to see the world outside of their classroom and local community.

Year 10 Health and Social Care students loved meeting baby Louis!



They've been learning about life stages, and how infancy is defined as the period of most rapid growth.

UNIFORMED SERVICES

Year 10 Uniformed Services students completed their Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) unit by taking part in EXERCISE JUNIOR CSI.

Students demonstrated excellent teamwork, leadership and communication skills during the 2-hour practical exercise when they played the role of CSI teams and investigated 3 mock crime scenes. After an initial briefing, they accessed CCTV footage to gather initial evidence before deploying to the scenes of the crimes and setting up cordons. They then split into teams, some controlling access to the scene and others taking finger-prints, collecting fibres and even taking casts of footprints they found.



With the evidence secured, it was off to the lab to solve the crimes and identify those responsible. Again, students worked in small teams, comparing fingerprints, hairs and fibres with those collected from suspects. They even used chromatography methods to identify ink on a note left by criminals before linking results to a pen found on the suspect.

With CSI now complete, Y10 UPS now begin a Navigation Unit whilst continuing with Drill and Discipline, but not before some well-earned leave!

Year 12 Uniformed Services have had a productive half term, which saw them tackle Discipline, Leadership, Teamwork and Navigation.

As part of their Leadership unit, students had to plan an event, produce and deliver a brief and complete the event effectively. The event was the EXERCISE JUNIOR CSI described above, which gave the Year 10 UPS students such a realistic and enjoyable CSI experience.

The team of 15 6th formers, led by Katie and Daniel, created 3 realistic crime scenes, complete with mocked up evidence. They conducted a Round Robin experience, with each Y10 team working a crime scene before moving on to the next. Y12s showed great teamwork and coaching techniques as they worked together to guide the Y10 through the experience.

In addition to honing these Leadership and Teamwork skills, Y12 have been out navigation the local countryside using map and compass.



From an initial introduction to maps just a few weeks ago, student can now plan a route, deliver a safety brief and lead a low-level hike using pacing, bearings and other navigational aides. These skills will be honed further so that by September, they'll be ready to plan an over-night expedition in more challenging terrain. As if that weren't enough, they are almost at Army Recruit Drill (Marching) test standard!

Mr B is so proud of his Y10 and Y12 cohorts! He's also

cake and tomatoes!

UCC takes the wellbeing of staff seriously.

Good staff wellbeing is essential for developing a mentally healthy school for everyone. The CHAPS department (Child, Health and Public Services), spent some well-being time together, eating sprinkles cake and planting tomato seedlings!



GYMNASTICS FINALISTS

After qualifying to represent the North of England, the UCC Under-19 and Under-14 Gymnastics teams competed at the National Schools' finals in Stoke-on-Trent.

For the Under-19 team, Sophia Monico scored a huge 15.25 out of 16 in the vault – the third highest individual score of the day!

Rising to the occasion, the UCC teams performed their floor routines and vault confidently in a high-pressure situation. We are all extremely proud of their achievements.

excited for next half term, which he's keen to announce will see several more visits from Uniformed Services personnel, including a Leadership and Physical Training session by the Royal Marines early in June!

PARENT/CARER MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOPS

Lancashire and South Cumbria Foundation Trust is running on-line parent/carer workshops to support learning about mental health topics:

- 5 June – Stress and coping strategies
- 12 June – Anxiety
- 19 June – Depression
- 26 June – Eating disorders
- 10 July – Risk taking behaviours
- 17 July – Learning disabilities and autism

The sessions will begin at 7pm and will last one hour, via Zoom.

If you'd like to join a session, please contact lscft.nhs.uk/changetalks/workshops for more information, or scan the QR code on the poster.



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS 2023

Mental Health Awareness Week (15 to 21 May 2023) focused on the topic of 'anxiety'.

UCC has a range of resources to support the mental health of our students, including online support from Kooth every lunch time in room R30.

More information on strategies for coping with feelings of anxiety can be found [here](#).



Attendance Matters

At UCC we aim to fully develop the gifts and talents of each student. In doing so, we also prepare children for life after school and into the future. Attendance at school is a **legal requirement** and a crucial aspect in preparing for the future.

At UCC we work hard to promote good attendance for the students in our school and to raise awareness of the importance of this to support their development and academic achievement. As parents, we need your help and support to ensure your child reaches their full potential.

What does Good School Attendance look like?

We take school absence very seriously. We identify students whose attendance drops below 96% and offer support and intervention to help improve this. It is important for parents or carers to work together with school when a student is near the 10% persistent absence threshold.



vision: **BEST in County**

Ambitious

Caring

Equal

UCC is an ambitious, caring community where everyone is equal

#proudtobeUCC

Meet the UCC Attendance team



Mrs Broomhall
Attendance Officer



Mrs Higgins
Senior Attendance Lead



Mr Davies
Attendance Lead

Who to contact to report absence or discuss any barriers that may impact on your child's attendance.

- **Attendance Team**
01768 210206 option 3
- **Email**
attendance@ullswatercc.co.uk
- **Text**
07860 095537
- **Form Tutor/Head of Year**



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01768 210206 admissions@ullswatercc.co.uk www.ullswatercc.co.uk

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NETBALL SUCCESS!

The Year 7 to 11 netball teams travelled to Keswick School for the last netball fixtures of the season.

All 5 teams played at the same time in a huge netball fixture, with the sixth form team playing their last game for UCC against QEGS and winning 23-16 despite the rain.

Brilliant netball all round!



seasons' end

The U13 and U15 girls football teams played Appleby Grammar School at the end of last term, in their final football matches of the season.

The girls have shown dedication throughout the year and finished the season on a high!

Well done to all!



NORTHERN COUNTY CHAMPIONS!

The Year 7 hockey team recently became Northern County Champions in the U12 Northern Hockey Championships.



The team was absolutely brilliant – beating all the other schools. Huge congratulations to everyone involved!

We can't wait to see what they'll achieve next season!

YEAR 7 UPDATE

As we move towards the last half term of Year 7 it is pleasing to see the vast majority of the year group have made a smooth and complete transition into secondary life.

Students have developed their independence and are accessing their learning in a mature way, and I'd like to commend them for this.

Many Y7s have now achieved their diamond award, which is brilliant, and I'd like to give a special mention to those incredible students who are on track to achieve 1000 positive ATLs by the end of the year – a phenomenal achievement!

I'd also like to give a big push for all students in Year 7 to take advantage of the vast array of clubs available to them at lunch-times; there really is something for everyone and attending clubs is a really productive use of time and a great way to make new friends.

I wish you all a very restful half term break.

Mr M Castle, Head of Year 7

CONTACT US

We're always pleased to hear from parents.

Please get in touch with us if you have any concerns:

Click to [E-mail](#) or visit the [school website](#)



HELP WITH SCHOOL MEALS AND CLOTHING

The local authority can help with the cost of school meals and clothing. Your child might be eligible for free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if your household income is less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the compulsory age for starting school
- in full-time education

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2023.

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

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

HOW TO APPLY

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

- 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**



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](#).

RETURN TO SCHOOL

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 5 June 2023.

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

With the cost of living on the rise some people locally might be 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. Westmorland and Furness Council

provides information for local residents on a range of helpful topics:

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

Click [here](#) to access their web page.

