



UCC

SCHOOL BULLETIN



Ullswater Community College

Website: www.ullswatercc.co.uk



Hello – and welcome to the first newsletter since we were recognised as the 'Best Secondary School in Cumbria' in the Golden Apple Awards!

First, **WELCOME** to all our new students and staff – everyone has made an incredible start to the new year. It has certainly been an interesting 7 weeks, with so very much happening – please take a few minutes to find out more from this newsletter.

The big message: well done! I am impressed every single day by the fantastic attitude to learning and mature approach shown every day by the students at UCC. In the classrooms there has been a very positive start and a noticeable step up in terms of engagement. Given the ongoing changing landscape and challenges facing education at the moment, we are working hard to ensure that the conduct and behaviour of our students inside and outside the classroom, during social times and on their way to and from school always meet our high expectations.

Our 275 Year 7 students have made a fantastic start to their time at Ullswater and I am confident that, together, we will continue on the positive trajectory the school and students have been on in recent years.

You may have seen the positive press we have been receiving recently and our results in the newspapers over the summer. I offer my congratulations to all our students who achieved success in August, we are incredibly pleased with our results, which are a measure of the ever-improving quality of teaching in the classroom and the standards around the school.

Our attainment remains strong and, alongside the Ofsted Good rating we received last summer term, provides a firm footing upon which we can build further to even better outcomes for all the young people of UCC.

Sixth form results were once again a strength and our growing sixth form, with an ever-increasing array of qualifications on offer, has seen UCC students securing places in universities across the country, with virtually all securing their first-choice place and every single student getting in to study at a university of their choice. We'll be holding our **6th Form open event on Thursday 7th December** – come along and find out more about one of the best and most popular sixth forms in the county.

It is through the hard work and dedication of the students, parents and staff that these fantastic results have been achieved. The students were very well prepared for the summer series of exams and we are already underway with the current Years 11 and 13 as we work towards the best ever set of results for the school next summer.

Looking forward: we have now been formally announced in group 2 of the Schools Rebuilding Programme. The project is set to commence in 2025, so

...continued...

October 2023

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will soon be upon us and is a very exciting opportunity for the whole of Penrith and Eden.

Some figures: In the 7 weeks of this half term we have taught in the region of 14,000 lessons, issued close to 125,000 positive Attitude to Learning awards (ATLs) – nearly 1200 students have already received over 50 and nearly 500 over 100! There have been over 300 clubs, dozens of sports fixtures, visiting dignitaries, settling-in evenings and countless other wonderful things that make our school so special.

In the past few weeks we've shown in the region of 150 Year 6 families around the school and early indications are that we will once again be oversubscribed for the next academic year. Being so popular is largely down to **all of you** and the fantastic way you continue to represent the school in every way possible.

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

These remain challenging times beyond the borders of Ullswater, the county and the UK and the school will do everything it can to support our students, their families and the wider community. Please read on and 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!

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

I wish you all the very best for the half term break and look forward to seeing you all again rested and ready for the next half term.

Mr Gilby, Headteacher

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Group would like to say a massive thank you to all the students, parents and staff who have been supportive of the newly founded Gay Club at UCC. Gay Club has been started to support the inclusion of the LGBT+ community at school.

The club has been a real success, with students from each year group taking part and agreeing unanimously that the club is a space where LGBT+ young people can have fun and feel empowered to be themselves.

National 'Coming Out Day' was celebrated with party food and young people sharing their 'coming out' stories and experiences growing up in Cumbria as an LGBT+ person, these were heartfelt and emotional for all involved.

Over the next half term there will be an opportunity for UCC to welcome the families and carers of our young people who have questions about LGBT+ and how UCC can best support them. More news on this to follow.

Many thanks, and have a super half term!



EVENTS NEXT HALF TERM

Year 7 disco	6 November
Year 13 parents' evening	30 November
Sixth form open evening	7 December
Year 7 winter celebration music	12 December
School music concert	13 December
Carol services	15 December
Last day of term	15 December

**Myerscough College**
INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

Penrith Campus
Ullswater Community College

Course Advice Morning
10.00am-12 noon

SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER

Animal Studies, Agriculture and Arboriculture / Forestry courses
Apply now for courses starting in September 2024

Myerscough College, Penrith Campus, Ullswater Community College, Wetheriggs Lane, Penrith, CA11 8NG
www.myerscough.ac.uk/cumbria Additional subjects and residential accommodation available at our Preston campus



ASDAN – BIODIVERSITY WITH EDEN RIVERS TRUST

The sixth form ASDAN group has been busy improving biodiversity as part of their environmental awareness module. They have teamed up with Eden Rivers Trust planting seeds at their tree nursery, also making bird feeders and bug hotels which they have placed around the school site.

The team will soon be working with Cumbria Wildlife at the Cold Springs site, and exploring recycling opportunities in school and the immediate area.



YEAR 8 UPDATE

The Year 8s have made a good start to the school year, taking the step up from Year 7 in terms of workload and expectation in their stride. The overriding atmosphere in classrooms and around the school site is one of maturity and hard work. The year group has adapted well to the new timings of the school day and the 2-week timetable and a special mention must go to all of those who have attended clubs and represented the school in this first half term. I trust the year group will use the half-term holiday to re-charge and come back fresh and ready to face the challenges of the next half term leading up to Christmas. Well done Year 8, keep smashing it!

YEAR 9 UPDATE

The start of Year 9 is always a period of time that requires the students to realise that they are fast approaching the business end of their education. It is pleasing to see the vast majority of students have adapted to this and are approaching their lessons and wider school life in a mature and focused fashion. Those who are finding the start of Year 9 more challenging are being offered support through a wide range of pastoral care. The year group has already received their introduction assembly to the options process where they will shortly select the subjects they wish to study at GCSE / L2 level. Making sure all students have opted for the correct courses that will enable them the best outcomes is taken very seriously at UCC and there will be lots of dedicated work that goes into this in the next half term. Well done Year 9, keep up the hard work.

Mr M Castle

Leader of Achievement and Success - Key Stage 3

BENCHES FOR BRUNSWICK

Back in July we were proud to deliver 4 large picnic benches to Brunswick School. On seeing a shout-out from Brunswick on social media asking for donations of wood to make an outdoor eco space, UCC was quick to respond.

DT technician Mark Hooper, grandad of Thomas who attends Brunswick School, was given the go-ahead to make and donate these benches.

The benches are beautiful—everyone at Brunswick is delighted!



UNIFORMED PUBLIC SERVICES (UPS)

Both Year 11 and Year 13 Uniformed Services groups have had a busy half term with fitness, values and standards at the forefront.

Year 11 have been learning about the fitness requirements for entry into each of the Uniformed Services, and what it takes to become fit enough to apply. They have designed their own fitness programme, which started with some basic fitness tests including press-ups, sit-ups and a 2km run. They also conducted a bleep test, similar to that required to enter the Fire Service and the Police.

After the half term break, student will conduct fitness tests again, in order to analyse their performance, having followed their own fitness plan over the half-term break.

Year 13 took part in an attainment parade attended by VIPs from across the Uniformed Services, including the Police, Fire Service and The Army. Parents and families came along to show their support and to witness the parade, which included a full inspection by the VIPs and a physical training demo by the students.

The parade signified the end of Year 12 and completion of nine units. Awards presented to students included:

- Best at Physical Training Kai Akrigg
- Discipline Billy Jefferey
- Selfless Commitment Henlee Thompson
- Courage Mollie Rylands
- Respect for Others Tegan Parkin
- The Values and Standards award Katie White
- Classmates' commendation Katie White

Year 13 also squeezed in a visit to RAF Leeming where they learned about the various roles the RAF have to offer whilst getting close up to the Hawk T2 (the updated version of the Red Arrows aircraft). Students were also able to take part in a simulated battle, calling in mortar fire onto simulated enemy positions and 'fast air' to destroy simulated enemy tanks.

Mr Bellamy said: "I continue to be proud of each of my UPS 'superheroes of the future' and if they produce the same effort, determination and dedication in the next half term, we will hit the New Year in an awesome position!"

#UPSBeYourBest



FIRST AID UPDATE

I went on a Trauma First Aid course where I learned how to stabilise an individual with traumatic injuries (e.g. partial/complete amputations and haemorrhaging). I also learned how to manage incident planning, how to evacuate a patient and where emergency services could access us and how to manage serious injuries. It was really good and has helped to increase my confidence regarding first aid and emergencies.

Dylan Jackson
Year 13 Health and Social Care student



HARVEST DECORATIONS

Sixth Form Early Years students enjoyed creating Harvest decorations. Mr Jackson had the challenging task of judging them!

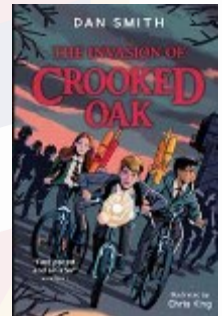


SPOOKY READS

Looking for a Halloween read? You can't go wrong with these chilling tales:

The Invasion of Crooked Oak by Dan Smith

Nancy's parents are acting weird. Their eyes are blank, they won't eat - it's like they're no longer themselves. Pete and Krish are obsessed with unexplained phenomena and when they offer to help Nancy investigate, they're sure they can crack the case. But the deeper the trio dig, the darker the mystery gets... Crooked Oak is under attack from a dangerous foe, and they're the only ones who can stop it. Perfect for Key Stage 3 readers looking for a spooky quick read.



Say Her Name by Juno Dawson

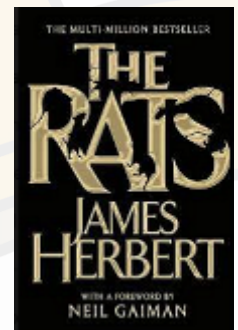
Roberta 'Bobbie' Rowe is not the kind of person who believes in ghosts. A Halloween dare at her ridiculously spooky boarding school is no big deal, especially when her best friend Naya and cute local boy Caine agree to join in too. They are ordered to summon the legendary ghost of Bloody Mary: say her name five times in front of a candlelit mirror, and she shall appear. But, surprise surprise, nothing happens. Or does it?

YA horror at its finest for older Key Stage 3 and 4 readers.

The Rats by James Herbert

For millions of years man and rats have been natural enemies. But now for the first time - suddenly, shockingly, horribly - the balance of power has shifted ...

Truly gruesome, a nightmare-inducing read for the bravest Key Stage 5 and adult readers.



ACCELERATED READER

The Library has been buzzing with activity this half-term, as Year 7 and Year 8 busily started taking Accelerated Reader quizzes. Between them they have passed quizzes on 1634 books and read a staggering 38,866,13 words.

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. Using this time, and the reading time they have in school, students are expected to pass quizzes regularly.

All students have been given a book colour that reflects their optimum book level; books at their optimum level will be sufficiently challenging without being frustratingly hard. In the Library, books have stickers on them showing what colour book level they are. Students should aim to read a book at their level and, when they've finished reading it, should take a quiz - passing the quiz is an indication that they have completed the book and have understood what they've read.

Students can also take quizzes on books they've 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://global-zone61.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/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 usernames and passwords.
4. Select "Accelerated Reader".
5. Enter the title or author of the book they have read.
6. Select "Reading Practice Quiz".
7. Select "Start quiz".
8. Answer the questions.

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

We're very proud of Miss McKay – our Librarian – who took part in the Reading Teachers = Reading Pupils conference at the recent Cheltenham Literature Festival!

CODING COMPETITION

Two teams of six coders each – from Year 11 and the Sixth Form – travelled to Energus to compete against schools from across Cumbria in a CyberSecurity competition funded and hosted by the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency.

Day 1 comprised a series of training workshops on network security, how hackers exploit network weaknesses and why. The second day involved a series of 'capture the flag' coding competitions organised by world leading cybersecurity firm, "Hack the Box".

The UCC teams came second and third overall, winning certificates and Amazon vouchers.

Sixth form team: Robbie Farthing, Jamie Lancaster, Ben Morley, Faye Popple, Robert Prince, Mateusz Stasiak.

Year 11 team: Thomas Bambury, Alex Brunetti, Philippa Giles, Aimee Hack, Blessing Mandeya, Finley Stephenson.

Mr Jackson



STUDENT LIBRARIANS

UCC Library wouldn't run half as well or be able to offer students so many opportunities without the support of our fantastic Student Librarian Team. Between them they run the desk at break and lunchtime, create scratchcards to support Accelerated Reader, keep the bookshelves tidy, and process new books. They also help other students and ensure the library is a friendly place for everybody to visit.

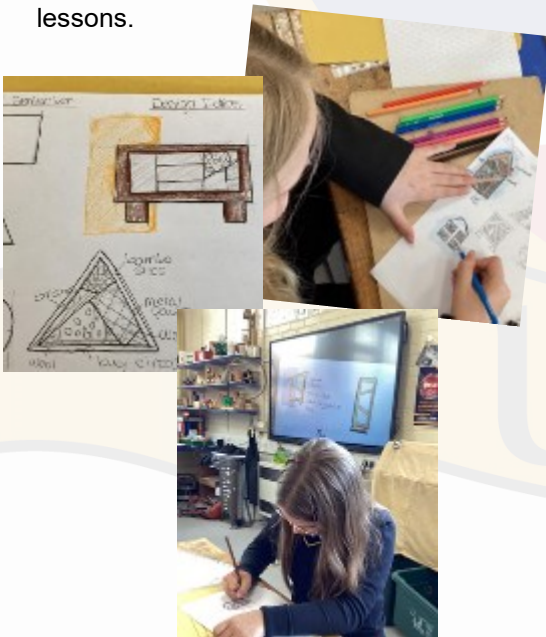
The current team of 26 student librarians is ably led by Senior Student Librarians Olipher Grey, William Tancred-Brown and Aimee Hack. Team numbers will soon be even higher though, as this term over 40 other students applied for a place on the team. Interviews were conducted at the end of this half-term and the successful new team member will start in November.

We can't wait to welcome them to the team!

Miss McKay
School Librarian

YEAR 7 DT DESIGNS

Year 7 students have been working designs for a bug house in their Design Technology lessons.



SIXTH FORM BURSARIES – available now

Reminder for all our Sixth Form Students, if you need financial help you can apply for a Sixth Form Bursary. Check out the details [here](#).

AGRICULTURE TRIP TO TEBAY

Year 11 Agriculture students had a great trip to the Tebay Services and farm. They completed a range of workshops including pie making, had a butchery demonstration, looked at soil quality and discussed careers in agriculture.



BORN SURVIVORS!

Year 13 UPS students absolutely smashed Born Survivor in September, raising over £500 for the Great North Air Ambulance. They were truly impressive and I'm incredibly proud of the whole group!

Mr Bellamy,
UPS



WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE GOVERNING BODY? PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCIES

Governors are appointed to oversee the running of the school, to set a strategic direction and to hold the leaders of the school to account. UCC has a total of 20 governors. Six of these governors are parents, elected by the parent body to bring their personal skills and experience of the school to the Governing Board.

We currently have three vacancies for parent governors and a letter has been sent home asking for any parents who are interested to nominate themselves to join.

To give an idea of the commitment, in each academic year there are:

- up to 5 meetings of the full Governing Board
- 3 meetings of each of the three sub-committees

Governors are expected to serve on a sub-committee, so the commitment for a parent governor is 8 meetings during the course of the school year.

Full Board meetings are held on Wednesdays and the sub-committees meet on Tuesday – all commencing 5.00pm (or 5.30pm) and ending by 7.30pm.

Governors are also linked to a subject department or aspect of the school so that we build up our understanding of how the school works. The expectation is that, if possible, each governor will make one half-day

visit each term. Governors are provided with a framework for each visit so we are all looking at similar things and our notes can be summarised together.

Although it can be a difficult line to tread, parent governors do not speak on behalf of parents but rather use their perspective to help the Governing Board understand the parental viewpoint.

Our induction programme helps new governors understand the role and begin to learn how the school functions. All new governors are linked to an experienced mentor and online training is available through the National Governors Association. All governors are required to undergo a DBS check.

Please consider joining the Governors. If you want to find out more about what it involves, email d.carter@ullswatercc.co.uk and I'll arrange to meet or phone you.

Being a Governor is a real opportunity to help with the development of UCC during what looks to be an exciting part of its history.

Elections will be arranged if more than three parents put their names forward.

David Carter, Chair of Governors



WINTER DROWING
28TH OCTOBER 2023

THE WINTER DROWING 2023 WILL BE TAKING PLACE ON SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER IN PENRITH TOWN CENTRE. WE ARE ANTICIPATING HIGH LEVELS OF ENERGY, LOUD MUSIC, PEOPLE WEARING MASKS, MARKET STALLS, FUNFAIR RIDES, STREET PERFORMANCES AND (MOST IMPORTANTLY) THE TORCHLIGHT PARADE!

If you are interested in being involved with the parade, SIGN UP FOR A TORCH, WEAR A MASK!



DISCO NIGHT
YEAR 7
5 - 7PM ON MONDAY 6TH NOVEMBER
UCC CUMBERLAND HALL **TICKETS ARE £5 AND ON IPAYIMPACT**

ALL FUNDS RAISED FOR THE SOUTH AFRICA TOUR 2024

UCC  **South Africa**
SPORTS TOUR 2024

BRING SOME SPENDING MONEY FOR THE TUCK SHOP AND HOT DOGS

CONTACT US

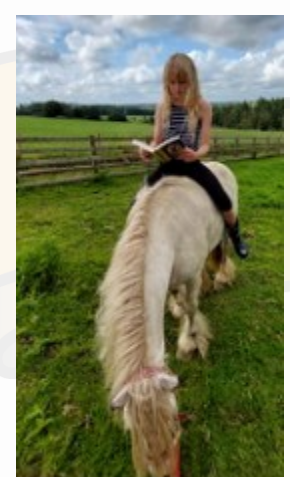
We're always pleased to hear from parents. E-mail us on: admin@ullswatercc.co.uk

Or visit the school website: www.ullswatercc.co.uk to send a message

EXTREME READERS!

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:

Congratulations to Corin Harvey, who Mr Gilby selected as the most extreme reader.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

In the region of 50 clubs operate at UCC either at lunch-time or after school. [Click here](#) to see the list.

We'd love to see every student at UCC attend at least one club each week.

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 also entitled to Working Tax Credit. Also your annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on paid 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Universal Credit – if your household income is less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

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're looking forward to welcoming everyone back at the start of the next half term on Monday 30 October.

Term dates can be found on the school [website](#).

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 Cumberland 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 Westmorland & Furness Council web page.