

Ullswater Community College Newsletter

CHRISTMAS
EDITION



December 2023

#proudtobeucc



Merry Christmas everyone!

As we rapidly approach the end of another year, I wanted to pass on my sincere thanks to **everyone** associated with Ullswater for everything you have contributed to the school over the last 12 months. Please take a few moments to go through the newsletter & join me in celebrating all the achievements of the last term.

Hard as it may be to believe, the year 7's have now completed the first of their many terms in secondary school! Each year, our new students deserve a special mention – well done, you are a super addition to UCC & what a privilege it is to have you as part of our community. You have all been so active around the school, building new friendships, finding your way around, & most importantly working incredibly hard in the classrooms. I very much look forward to getting to know you even better over the coming years.

The recent mock exams for the year 11's & 13's have shown us that the students are working extremely hard, staff from across the school have commented how well they have begun the year & how mature their approach has been.

Students, please remember that these exams are about finding out what you **don't know**, so that we can fill those gaps ready for next summer. Our mocks results are in line with where we expect them, (and as a result you...) to be. Given the experience of previous years, I am confident you will go one step further in securing a fantastic set of results this year. Your hard work & effort will secure you the grades you deserve & will open the doors towards your first steps into the world – we are here to help, use us and, as always, we will do everything in our power to help you succeed!

Once again the UCC students have done an amazing job raising £1000's for charity & bringing together supplies for the Salvation Army to support members of our community through what can be a very challenging time of year – Very well done!

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Having shown nearly 200 potential new families around the school as part of our Year 6 tours in October, without fail our new students are always able to share their experiences with the families, to offer pointers & advice to the year 5 & year 6 students & parents that come around & you always make us all feel very welcome & proud. As you are all very well aware - the students of UCC remain our greatest asset.

Once again, we have 250+ first choice applicants to Ullswater for September 2024 & anticipate around 270 students joining us again next year. We remain incredibly popular & oversubscribed & now hold the title of the largest school in Westmorland & Furness.

We're now approaching nearly £1million invested on the school site, infrastructure, equipment, staff, students & training in the last 4 years. We're in good financial health & our surplus carry forward allows us to continue to invest in the young people of Penrith. It also means that we can begin to think about additional investment ready for the significant investment in UCC & potential new build due to get underway in 2025-26.

There is much to be proud of being a part of UCC, securing our Ofsted Good, continuing to maintain our high standards & expectations around behaviour, a community that is supportive of our approach & doing all we can to prepare all our students for life in the real world, to name but a few... It has also been a very challenging year with the cost of living crisis, interest rates & inflation alongside all the usual elements that happen in life – it continues to amaze me how the students & wider community of UCC stay positive throughout the most challenging times. We really are a community who care for one another, look out for each other & support one another in every way possible. This is an incredibly important sentiment for this time of year. Whilst many of us look forward to the festive period, time with family & the chance to catch up with friends, this is not the case for everyone & so I ask you to be a good neighbour, stay in touch & be mindful of those around us who are perhaps a little less fortunate.

Everyone keep safe & well, share a smile & some festive cheer & make sure we can all return to school safe & sound for 2024.

My very best wishes for the coming festive season,

Mr Gilby

Fundraising

We're so appreciative of the UCC community that helped us make a huge donation to the Salvation Army Food Bank this year. We delivered **81** boxes in total (10 more than last year!), to support struggling families at Christmas - **thank you!!**

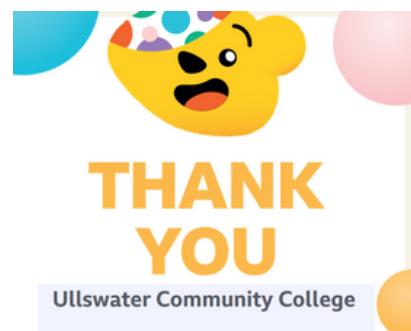


As well as this, the non-uniform day in November raised an amazing **£1801.55** for BBC Children in Need!



In the run up to Christmas, Year 9 student, Tom, is embarking on a 24-hour marathon with a canoe(!) to raise funds for the Beep Doctors fund, amazing Tom! You can sponsor him here;

www.justgiving.com/page/tomtaylor-kayak-portage-marathon



As most of you will be aware one of our Year 10 students, Jack, was recently diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, which for Jack and his family means 6 months of treatment back and forth to Newcastle.

The strength and positivity of Jack has been matched by his friendship group coming together and fundraising in his name. There have been spinathons, head shaves and 13 students walked the 22 mile Ullswater Way last month raising over **£5400.00**. Well done everyone - and we wish Jack and all his family a happy and healthy New Year.



Christmas is a time for music!

This is always an incredibly busy half term for the UCC music department! The students started by singing to the entire town at the Penrith Christmas Light Switch On.

Then performing for two consecutive nights at St. Andrews Church for the Penrith schools' music association.

Quickly followed by our first ever Year 7 Winter Celebration Concert, where all classes sang songs that they've been working on this half term.

The following evening the UCC Christmas Concert took place, an amazing collaboration of all the extra curricular music groups, including a solo vocal performance by Sophie Z.

Last but not least, all students celebrated today at our Carol Concert(s) in St Andrews Church - Merry Christmas!



Year 10 & 11 Message

Another term flies by & a big well done to all the students in Key Stage 4, the Year 10s for making an impressive start to their GCSE courses & the Year 11s for their continued perseverance & hard work.

The Year 11s have already completed one set of mock exams & have another on the horizon in early February. The majority of students are in a strong position as they start to work independently, developing their revision techniques & resources. The summer series starts in May & that date will soon be upon us so their time in the Christmas holidays & February half term will be invaluable.

We have recently launched the Year 11 Student Leaders application process, encouraging students to demonstrate their leadership skills & give them the acknowledgement they deserve for being superb role models.

The Year 10s have not only been working hard settling into their GCSE/BTEC courses, they have been organising their work experience placements ready for March. They have also been attending careers talks from a variety of local companies to give them some inspiration & ideas for the future.

Big congratulations go to Giorgio & Ashton who were the first recipients of the sUCCess Headteacher Award after their incredible work leading "Mission Musgrave" along with their football team, raising over £5400.00.

I hope all the students have a brilliant winter break, & enjoy some quality time with family & friends. Merry Christmas!

Mr Key, Leader of Achievement & Success - Key Stage 4

Huge round of applause for Amelie C & Annabelle C who were selected to be part of the Razzmatazz West End Performance Team! They travelled down in early December & took to the stage in the Shaftesbury Theatre, London in front of nearly 1400 people - well done girls!!

First Aid

Being a responsible adult for children involves a combination of skills, some of which require on-the-job training because they don't always come naturally. First aid is one of the must-haves for anyone who has to take care of babies and young children. First Aid training saves lives.

The First Aid course provided our HSC & Early Years students with relevant information about how to respond to various situations. They all successfully passed & are now certified first aiders!

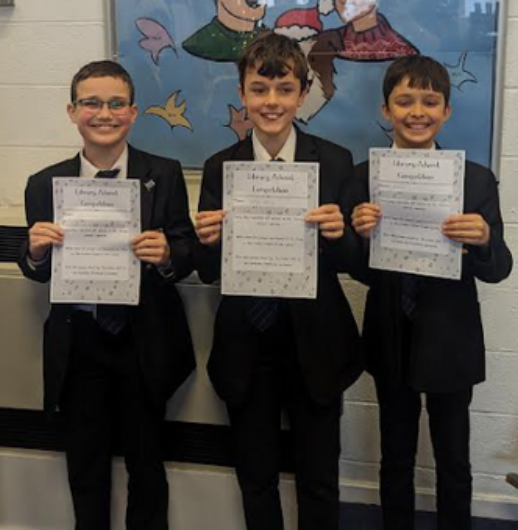


Lucy's Memorial Bench



In mid-November we celebrated Lucy's birthday by unveiling her memorial bench. Mr Key said; The whole process has been a truly enriching experience for Lucy's friends; they have had the opportunity to create a beautiful space in school, fitting for the memory of a

wonderful young lady, who we all dearly miss. From the digging up of roots to the varnishing of the bench the students have been there every step of the way - including Lucy's younger brother Sam. I am so proud of all the students involved who demonstrated what a special community we have here at UCC.



Library Advent

The library was a hive of activity in the run up to Christmas, as students battled to find the daily answers to our booky advent calendar. A new question appeared every day and students had until the end of lunchtime to find the answer hidden around the library, a winner for the day was then picked at random. Students who found all the answers were entered into a draw for even bigger prizes at the end of term.

Jólabókaflóðið

The Accelerated Reader Millionaires' Club is quickly growing, as more & more students reach their word targets. To reward those who have already joined the club, we hosted our own version of a Jólabókaflóðið (Icelandic Book Flood) this half term.

The Jólabókaflóðið is a popular Icelandic tradition, where books are given as gifts to be read on Christmas Eve whilst eating chocolate & surrounded by cosy fairy lights.

The library version involved delicious hot chocolate & warm chocolate muffins, a Christmas booky quiz, an indoor S-know-ball fight &, finally, a relaxing 30mins of reading.

We thoroughly recommend holding your own Jólabókaflóðið on Christmas Eve!



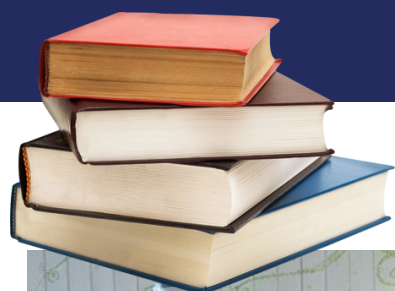
Freya - our reading dog!

Freya, our incredibly cuddly reading dog, was back in the library for weekly visits this half term.

Freya visits on a Thursday afternoon, and works with a number of students every week.

She is a trained reading & therapy dog, & we're very grateful to her & her owner, Kerry, for their support!

#proudtoread



Student Librarians



The already large team of student librarians grew to mammoth proportions this term, after a very successful recruitment drive in October. Over 20 new helpers joined the team, bringing the total to 41 UCC student librarians. Applicants had to complete application forms and have interviews with Senior Student Librarians, Olipher, Will, Aimee, Josh and Marlee. Student librarians complete a number of tasks around the library, depending on their individual interests & skills. Tasks including, issuing books, shelving, processing new books & painting scratch cards. A number of student librarians have also volunteered to be UCC's first Reading Ambassadors. They will start next term, & will be promoting reading & great books to their peers. We are lucky to have so many enthusiastic & dedicated student librarians.

Thanks team!

Frantic Assembly

This internationally renowned theatre company visited UCC in early November to run one of their amazing physical theatre workshops to Year 9, 10 & 11 students. This was so valuable to the GCSE Drama & Dance students & we all learnt so much. This was the first time Frantic have ever visited UCC so it really was a brilliant experience that we will remember!



This half term has seen the UCC Equality, Diversity & Inclusion group & "Gay Club" go from strength to strength. Students & staff, who are either part of the LGBTQ+ community or allies, have been coming together to share stories & offer support & friendship.

Students & staff enjoyed celebrating "National Coming Out day" with a rainbow themed party & got involved in the LGBTQ+ questionnaire to do with all things LGBTQ+ in school.

As part of UCC's Equality & Inclusivity policy we now have LGBTQ+ staff ambassadors across school, working towards creating an environment that "usualises" & celebrates the LGBTQ+ community in school & throughout the wider community. As part of this move towards greater inclusivity for all, the EDI would like to invite parents & carers to an informal gathering on Thursday 11 January 2024, where you can meet members of the LGBTQ+ community & their allies & have the opportunity to chat about LGBTQ+, ask questions & share ideas. The meeting will be in the library & will run from 4–5pm. Any queries email sbardy@ullswatercc.co.uk

Current Vacancies

Exam Invigilators
Parent Governor

+ more opportunities coming in 2024!

Visit our website

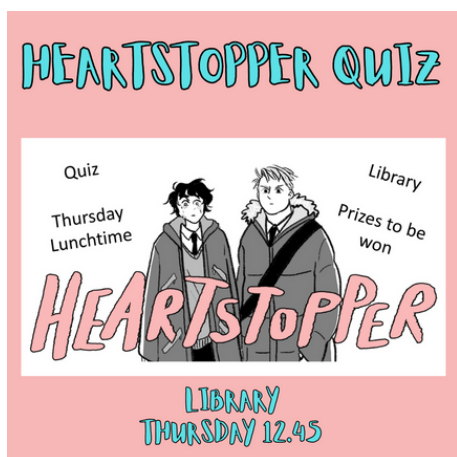
<https://ullswatercc.co.uk/vacancies>

Library - Heartstopper Quiz

To celebrate the release of Volume 5 of the popular Heartstopper graphic novel series, we held a special lunchtime Heartstopper quiz in the library in December.

Fans of the series gathered to show off their Heartstopper knowledge and try to win first dibs on the 4 library copies of book 5.

Well done to the winning team; Jamie L, Macy B, Harry B, Isabella H & Lucas P!



Find a list of all Extra-Curricular Clubs on the homepage pop up box on our website!

Huge thank you to Heatons, Penrith, who very kindly donated 200 pairs of goggles to the UCC Science department a few weeks ago - very much appreciated,!!



We are looking forward to welcoming ALL students back on Wednesday 3 January 2024

A huge thank you to some local companies that have recently sponsored UCC.
More photos to follow as we get some exciting new sport kits!



RETAIL
PROJECT
ASSOCIATES

ATKINSON
HOMES LTD

SD SISSONS
DECORATORS
EST 1984

Leo Group Ltd

Arragon's

Datacabling Installations Ltd
ELECTRICAL & DATACOMMS SOLUTIONS

Cumberland Electrical
WHOLESALE LIMITED

ATKINSON
BUILDING CONTRACTORS

A reminder that term dates can be found on
our website; www.uллswatercc.co.uk

Young Equestrian Club

The Young Equestrian club is held at Rookin House on Thursday evenings from 6.00-8.00pm. We have two groups; "New to riding" & "More experienced". They have been learning to groom, tack up & rug up the ponies & horses. There's a group lesson learning to walk, trot & canter, & the more experienced riders have started pole work.

I have the pleasure of accompanying them & I'm so impressed with the behaviour & the progress all students have made. We do have spaces if anyone would like to join the club.

jcrocker@uллswatercc.co.uk



Sixth Form Open Evening

Sixth Form Open Evening

It was great to welcome so many families, both existing and new, to our Sixth Form Open Evening earlier this month.

Hopefully everyone found all the information useful but don't forget there is a lot more on our website; <https://uллswatercc.co.uk/sixth-form/> and if you have any questions that you can't find the answer to please contact us on admin@uллswatercc.co.uk. The deadline for sixth form applications is Thursday 28 March 2024 & you can access the application form on our website, or by scanning this QR code. The sixth form team will contact students once the deadline has passed.



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Good
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vision: **BEST in County**

Ambitious • Caring • Equal

t: 01768 210206 e: admin@uллswatercc.co.uk w: www.uллswatercc.co.uk

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sUCCess

This term has seen the introduction of the sUCCess awards! We're so proud of our students on a daily basis we wanted to find another way (outside of our existing Attitude To Learning system) to reward them. Staff have nominated students that actively represent our values; Ambitious, Caring, Equal and from those nominees, winners have been chosen.

The winners were invited to a lunch & presentation in the UCC library last week, where Mr Gilby presented certificates & celebrated the students going above & beyond. Well done to all the nominees and winners, we will run the next round of awards at Easter!

**Congratulations
to our first
sUCCess Award
Winners!**

Ambitious - Caring - Equal



sUCCess

Ambitious - Caring - Equal

Trip to Bendrigg



In late October, 16 of our KS4/5 students took part in a residential trip to Bendrigg Lodge.

It was a very full programme; climbing, zip wires, abseiling, canoeing, archery, biking, caving, orienteering, a night walk and much more! The group were praised for their team spirit and their willingness to take part in all activities.

The students also took turns to help with the domestic duties; laying the table, serving food and washing up.

The last day was spent at Windermere Jetty museum, where they explored the museum and took part in a crafts workshop creating mythical creatures of Windermere.



CEIAG

217 year 10 students have confirmed their work experience placements for the week beginning Monday 4 March 2024. Those who have not managed to sort a placement will be in school working on a timetable created by Mr Key & will be developing key skills of revision & exam technique.

The year 12's are currently in the application process for their work experience, the week commencing Monday 1 July.2024.

These week placements are a great tool for developing skills in the workplace but will also allow the students to add information to their CV's for future use.

We have run mock interviews for UPS & the Cache groups, with Jo Tate of Cumbria LEP & Claire Urquhart from the Westmorland Family. Thank you to both for your time & support. All students received both written & verbal feedback on both their CV's & interview techniques.

This week saw mock interviews for the whole of year 11 with UCC staff.

Mrs Jones continues to run the 1:1 career interviews & encourages all to book an appointment with her. Guidance & assistance with application forms can be given.

We have also just confirmed the date for our annual careers fair;

Thursday 21 March 2024

All students will attend & invites have gone out to over 50 businesses.

If you are a business or individual interested in attending our career fair, please email Mrs Jones on

cjones@ullswatercc.co.uk.



Some of our wonderful KS4/5 students put on an amazing performance of **The Wizard of Oz** last week in the Cumberland Hall - amazing, well done to everyone involved!



Fundraising has already started in the Geography department, ahead of their exciting **Opwall Expedition to Madagascar in 2025!**

GOLDEN TICKET December Prizes



amazon

7 x £100 Amazon Vouchers



2 x Kendal Calling Tickets

MAIN PRIZE



Meta Quest 3

Year Group Prizes



Live draw will take place on the last day of term, Friday 15th December

Huge congratulations to the winners of the Autumn Golden Ticket prizes that were drawn earlier today!

Joey W, Poppy W, Whitney A, Finlay S, Emma H, Oliver L, Kira M, Annabelle H, Nathaniel M and Mohamad K.

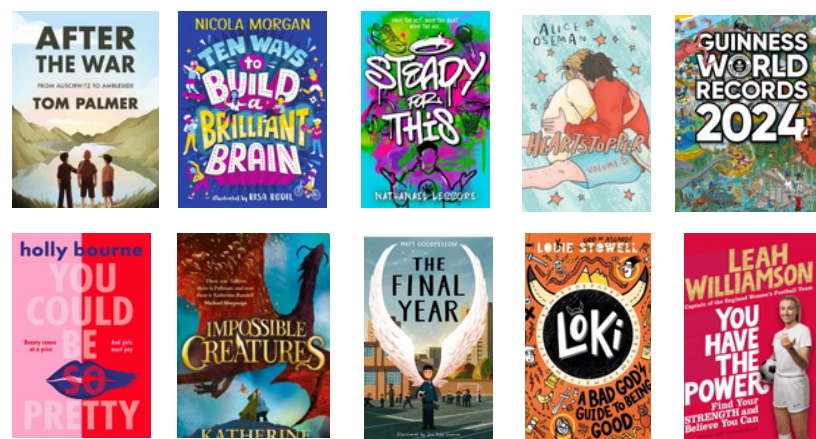
Merry Christmas!



Stocking Fillers

There's never been a better time to add some books to Christmas stockings! Earlier this term the National Literacy Trust released a research report about young people in the UK & book ownership. In it they report that young people with books of their own at home read more often & enjoy reading more, than those without books at home. Yet, sadly 8.6% of young people do not own any books of their own. You can read more of the report here; <https://literacytrust.org.uk/research-services/research-reports/book-ownership-in-2023/> We're working hard to ensure all UCC students have the opportunity to enjoy read. And, through the Bookbuzz scheme, that all UCC students own their own books, as well as having access to 1000s in the school library. Here are some suggestions of popular books you might add to Christmas stockings this year;

- Guinness World Records 2024
- Heartstopper: Volumes 1-5 by Alice Oseman
- You Could Be So Pretty by Holly Bourne
- The Final Year by Matt Goodfellow
- Steady for This by Nathaniel Lessore
- Ten Ways to Build a Brilliant Brain by Nicola Morgan
- After the War by Tom Palmer
- Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell
- Loki: A Bad God's Guide to Being Good by Louie Stowell
- You Have the Power by Leah Williamson



Congratulations to Mischa in Year 12 who won the school Christmas card design competition!

Year 7 message

We were so excited to welcome our new Year 7's in September & what a fantastic first term we have had.

Year 7 have received over 2,500 golden tickets & over 58,000 positive ATL's from their teachers. Special shout out to Jake L, Maddison H & Dominic A for achieving their gold award & receiving over 350 positive ATL's each already!

Our Year 7's quickly got used to finding their way around the large school site, they've enjoyed new subjects, made new friends, taken part in extra curricular activities, raised money for charity & represented UCC in both sporting and music events. Within lessons Year 7 have hit the ground running, teachers have given out a learner of the week over 470 times this term. The winter music celebration was the perfect way to end an extremely successful first term. Overall, I am very proud, keep up the good work!

Miss E Matthews, Transition Lead [Year 7]



Don't forget we provide free toast for ALL students every morning in the Cumberland Hall 8.15 - 8.45am

IF STUDENT DETAILS HAVE CHANGED PLEASE NOTIFY US ASAP



E.G. ADDRESS OR CONTACT DETAILS

Early Years Sixth Form Students

Loris Malaguzzi was an early childhood educator who founded the educational philosophy known as the Reggio Emilia approach, in Italy, after World War II.

It is an innovative and inspiring approach to early childhood education, which values children as strong, capable & resilient; rich with wonder & curiosity. Early Years students thoroughly enjoyed a visit to an Atelier to experience the Reggio philosophy for themselves.



Child Development & Health and Social Care Students

Yr 10 & 12 Child Development and Health & Social Care students have been learning about the role of an unpaid carer.

There are an estimated 16,000 unpaid carers in Carlisle & Eden providing unpaid care to friends, family & neighbours, aged from five years old upwards.

Our students created "bags of love" to show support & care over this festive period.

Year 8 & 9 Message

It has been an extremely busy & exciting term & I hope the Christmas break gives everyone the opportunity to have a well deserved break & recharge their batteries. It has been wonderful to see the Year 8s & 9s involved in so many different opportunities at school. Further to the outstanding work completed in the classrooms, students have excelled themselves in many other facets of school, making full use of their time at UCC.

Many have represented the school in sports teams; others performed in dance productions and pantomimes; some enjoyed trips to the theatre; there have been students involved in public presentations; fundraising for various charities & the list goes on. In short, I am incredibly proud of these students & all they have achieved & they should be very proud of themselves. Looking into the New Year the year 9s have an important term in which they choose their GCSE options, a process they will be guided through but ultimately decisions they will need to make with a mature mindset to ensure they are on the appropriate courses next year. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Mr Castle, Leader of Achievement & Success - Key Stage 3

Year 12 & 13 Health & Social care students enjoyed a visit to Manchester to take part in the popular Tutor2U exam grade boosters!



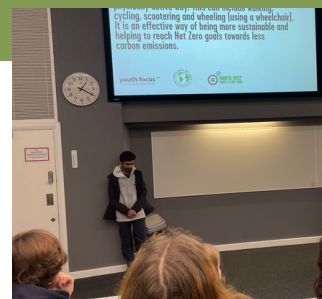
- Trip to a Sale Sharks game
- Year 11 Parents' Evening
- Performing Arts Showcase
- Geography Field Trip

COMING SOON



schoolcloud
Parents Evening

On Saturday, Erin and I went to the Net Zero Eco Conference at Salford University & we learnt about how to be greener for our world & planet. We debated if we could actually get to 100% net zero. We made our own collages to create our very own eco garden. We learned about green transport & how to prevent fossil fuels being emitted into our Earth's atmosphere, ruining our ozone layer. What can you do to make yourself green? Maybe turn off a tap, or a couple of lights? Reuse a plastic bottle? It's up to you, maybe with your help we can get to 100% net zero! Thank you for reading, **Lilli Year 9 & Erin Year 11**



Massive well done to two UCC students who were recently shortlisted for the OxBright Essay Competition Awards!

Amelia & Erin, both Year 11, submitted their essays to the competitive field of over 1000 entries & whilst they didn't win, being shortlisted is a huge achievement! OxBright run summer schools & internships for teenagers, & the essay competition is an annual event.

Attendance Matters

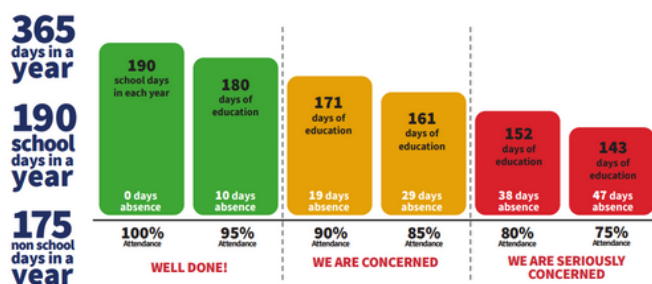
At UCC we aim to fully develop the gifts & talents of each student. In doing so, we also prepare children for life after school & into the future.

Attendance at school is a **legal requirement** & a crucial aspect in preparing for the future.

What does Good School Attendance look like?

We take school absence very seriously. We identify students whose attendance drops below 96% & offer support & intervention to improve this.

It is important for parent/carers to work together with school when a student is near the 10% persistent absence threshold.



Congratulations to UCC Year 13 student Robert, who recently travelled to Thailand to compete in the World Shotgun Championships. Winning gold he is now the Standard Junior World Champion.

There were 600 people competing and Robert also won the President's medal for competing against 5 or more people in his category!





Westmorland
& Furness
Council

Free school meals and clothing vouchers

Apply online to see if your child or children can get free school meals and clothing vouchers. In certain circumstances free school meals are available to families with no recourse to public funds.

Qualifying for free school meals and school clothing vouchers

Benefits you receive

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get 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. Also your 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).

Apply for free school meals and school clothing vouchers

If you already get free school meals and clothing grants you do not need to apply for each school year.

➔ [Apply for free school meals and school clothing vouchers](https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals-and-clothing-vouchers)

- Where possible all parents and guardians should apply online. You will need to register on the Citizen Portal to do this. If you apply online you will receive an immediate response telling you if you are eligible for the vouchers.
- If you are unable to apply online please contact the free school meals team - telephone: **0300 373 3300**.

<https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals-and-clothing-vouchers>

Holiday activities & food
(HAF) programme



Westmorland & Furness Warm Spots

A welcoming space for people to visit this winter if they need it.

To find places in your area visit; www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/warmspots



North Cumbria Talking Therapies



Department
for Education