

Ullswater Community College Newsletter

July 2025



#proudtobeucc

Welcome to the final newsletter of the year...

As always - **Thank You!** - are my opening words to all the students, parents & staff for the enormous amount of effort put into the Ullswater Community over the past 12 months. Another incredibly busy & productive year passes & it is clear we have once again made a lot of positive progress.

Please spend a few moments taking a look at the newsletter. There is lots of useful information, alongside all the fantastic news stories from over the last term. As you are all aware, we're well underway with plans for September & if you want to find out more, then feel free to visit the website & follow us on our social media channels.

To all of our year 11 & 13 students - you have worked incredibly hard preparing & undertaking your exams & we are all incredibly proud of all you have achieved so far! I look forward to seeing you all on the results days in the summer (**August 14th for sixth form & August 21st for GCSE's**). It is such a wonderful occasion.

Closer to the time we'll share more information about the results days & the support available to help you get to where you want to be!

An enormous **HELLO** to all our new year 7 & year 12 students who we have met during the transition days - welcome to UCC! and I look forward to getting to know you all over the coming weeks, months & years.

As always, the students here at Ullswater remain our biggest asset - they've raised £1000's for charity, taken part in school & community activities, represented the school with pride at every fixture, visit & tour. For me, there is nothing more amazing than receiving a message from a member of the public thanking our students for the help they received, praising them for their contribution or even just sharing how well behaved & what great ambassadors they have been for the school & our community.

Very well done to you All! And I know that you are all equally proud of all they have achieved!

The Schools Rebuilding Programme is well underway & lots of work is taking place in the background. It's gathering pace & it is fantastic to think we will be able to provide **millions of £££'s of investment into Penrith** & our school community. It will be challenging but what real endeavour & success comes without a big investment of effort, energy & enthusiasm.

Never being complacent is one of our mantra's here at UCC & so we continue to invest in the school site & the wider support available to students and families, especially in relation to their pastoral support, mental health & academic progress.

My thanks to everyone for all the ongoing support - and the feedback we receive, without it how can we hope to get better - it is wonderful to know that we are all navigating our future together & all committed to making UCC the 'Best in County' in all we do.

I must take this opportunity to **thank all of the staff here at UCC** - as you all know, they go above & beyond every single day to do their very best for the young people in our charge.

And finally, to all our **parents & carers**, thank you for all you have done to support the school & our students inside & outside these walls. Remember - Stay safe, stay in touch & let us know if you need anything. I am very much looking forward to 2025-26 being another incredible year for UCC! My thanks to each and every one of you!

Kind regards, **Mr Gilby**

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**You're
Blooming
Marvellous!**

**Our June
Winner is...**

Dr B Leathers



**You're
Blooming
Marvellous!**

**Our July
Winner is...**

Miss A Hope



GOLDEN TICKET



LIVE DRAW

Huge Congratulations to all our Golden Ticket Prize Draw Winners!

Hard earned golden tickets throughout the term culminated in some prize winning today!

Grace, Milly, Oliver & Lucy won McDonald's vouchers. Molly, Lo, Lucy, Theo & Noah won Amazon vouchers.



Rebecca, Eimhear & Sophie won ASOS vouchers. Jude won a Wake & Surf voucher. Ailsa won a family Ullswater Steamers voucher. Dominic won a family Lowther Park pass. Leah won a family Center Parcs day pass and Henry won an iPad!!!!!!

Well Done Everyone!!



sUCCess

Huge congratulations to the nominees & winners of our Summer term sUCCess awards. These awards are based on our values; Ambitious, Caring & Equal and students are nominated by teachers in each category.

Well done; Oliver, Cole, Jude, Naniso, Tamsin, Adelaide, Olipher, Noah, Emma, Maddison, Emma, Keeley, Holly, Henry, Bobby, Tristan, Amelie, Drew, Elodie, Oliver, Hadia, Mia, Thomas, Chloe, Adie, Iris, Amelia, Theo, Ian & Charlie!

**Congratulations
to our
sUCCess
Award Winners!**

Ambitious - Caring - Equal

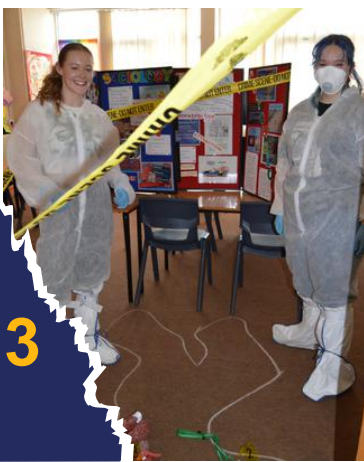
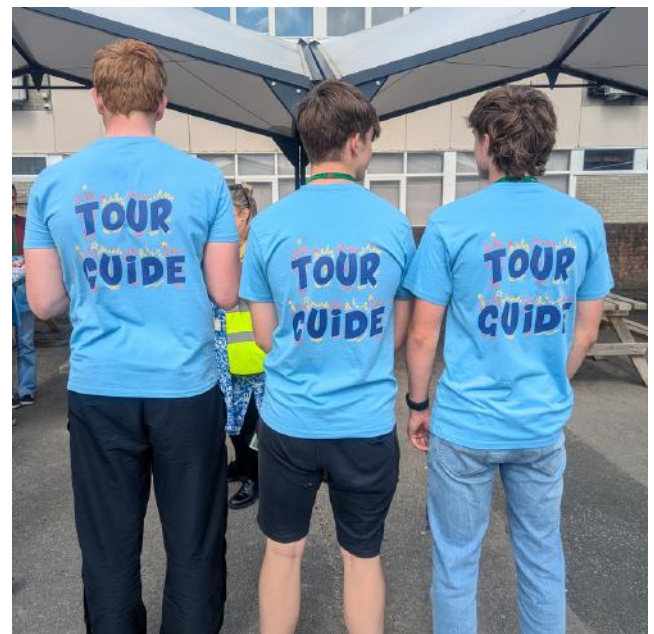
Year 5 Open Evening

On Thursday 26 June we held our annual Year 5 Open Evening here at UCC.

We welcomed hundreds of families and were helped by hundreds of our students who acted as department helpers and tour guides.

The rain stayed away and we had an amazing evening - lots of positive feedback and a great atmosphere - thank you everyone for coming!

If you have a child starting Secondary school in September 2026, Westmorland & Furness Council will open their applications in September 2025.





Year 13 Summer Ball



On Friday 13 June, our amazing Year 13 students gathered at the Roundthorn Country House for their Summer Ball. Marking the end of seven years for most students, they ate, danced & celebrated. We're so proud of you all, and wish you all the best for your future!

Year 11 Prom



The Year 11 Prom was held at Ghyll Barn this year, on Thursday 26 June. It was such a fantastic evening celebrating a truly special year group. Students arrived in style and looked absolutely incredible, making it a night to remember. A heartfelt thank you to all the parents & carers for their continued support and for joining us to witness the arrivals. Thank you to Mr Key for organising the event & providing the students with such a memorable experience. A huge thanks to Ghyll Barn - their incredible venue allowed us to celebrate in style!



Year 11 Leavers Poem

Oh Year 11 UCC,
How happy you have made me,
But here we are, now, at the end,
And I hope as you look back, you will see
That we were always looking forward,
Wishing for you every success.

From first day Covid jitters,
To last day leaving joy,
It has been a rollercoaster,
That I hope you (mostly) enjoyed.

A memory, a mantra or message,
Too much to say, but how about this:
Live each day as a gift,
Life is a journey,
Be ambitious, caring and equal as you go,
And enjoy the trip.

In life, every day will not be the best,
Some will be a real test,
So, remember what Mr McCanny said,
Enjoy and take pleasure in the little things in life,
For this is where you will find your gold.

Mr McCanny

On Friday 4 July we celebrated our UCC Awards Evening 2025.

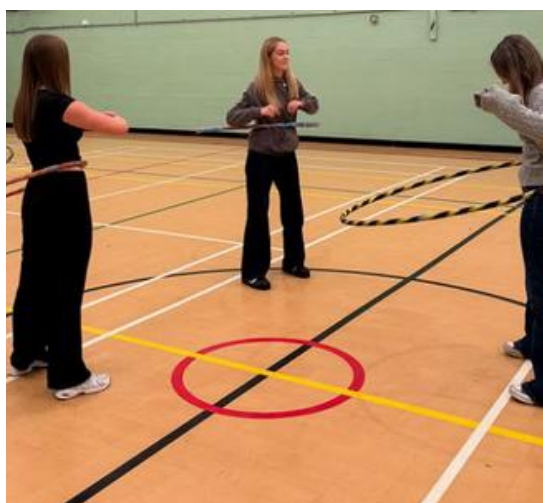
Doors opened with our very own "First Edition" band playing, and students celebrating last year's GCSE and A Level results were joined by Philip Callaghan of Bells of Lazonby and UCC Alumni Elliot Palmer, now a Program manager at Labcorp.

Well done everyone - a great night - very proud!!



Sixth Form Induction Day

We had a wonderful day on Wednesday 2 July with our Sixth Form Induction Day! Lots of new faces, new aspirations and new members of the UCC Community! Students met their tutors & peers, took part in taster lessons & private study...and ended the day with fun team building! Can't wait to see you all in September! Ahead of that obviously, you have your results. Mr Jackson and the Sixth Form Team will be available at UCC from 8am on Thursday 14 August 2025.



All the information new Year 12 students will need - including for your Summer Projects - can be found by scanning this QR code.

Going to be in Year 13 in September?
Don't forget that when we return in September you'll have the opportunity to become one of our new Head Students!
Any questions email Mrs O'Brien;
eobrien@ullswatercc.co.uk



WANTED



UCC Sixth Form needs two new Head Students

Hustings will be held on the first week back in September in assembly.
If you wish to apply, prepare a short statement to present to our Sixth Form students on:

- What you would bring to Sixth Form life as Head Student
- How would you use the Student Leadership Team?

Any questions, email Mrs O'Brien on eobrien@ullswatercc.co.uk

It's been an exciting time of new faces at UCC - especially when we held our amazing Year 7 Transition Day at the beginning of July!

We hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did! Meeting tutors & peers, taster lessons & finding your way around UCC - it very quickly becomes much smaller than it first seems! We loved meeting you all and look forward to seeing you again in September!!

Year 7 Transition Day



Year 7 Parent Survey

94%

**Would
recommend UCC**

96%

**Say their child is
happy at UCC**

97%

**Say their child
feels safe at UCC**

You said: The school can do a better job of informing us about what students are learning about.

What we are doing: Over the next term, we will be redesigning our school website. One of the key principles of this is how we can better keep you informed about what students are learning when.

Normandy Trip

A late Sunday evening in June saw a group of students and staff set off on an adventure across the Channel, spurred on by fair weather, high

spirits, and the promise of cheese! After a smooth crossing, the weary but excited travellers arrived at their hotel in Normandy on Monday evening and after a stroll around town, had an early night in preparation for the adventures to follow.

Tuesday hit like a whirlwind; our intrepid explorers kicked off with a visit to a local goat farm, where they enthusiastically sampled cheese & made friends with some particularly photogenic goats. They followed up the savoury course with a trip to the world-famous Normandy caramel factory. Fortified by fromage & energised with caramels, the group enjoyed a pique-nique lunch before time-travelling to 1066 with a visit to the Bayeux Tapestry. Students gazed in awe at the 70-metre medieval comic strip, featuring Harold, William & their somewhat over-excited horses. The final instalment of the day was a trip to the Arromanches Invasion Museum for a glimpse into D-Day history & the construction of Mulberry Harbour, a key feature of Operation Overlord in 1944.

You'd think that would be enough excitement for one day, but non! After tea, the students unleashed a surprise burst of energy for a game of "Crownders", a lively hybrid of cricket & rounders that sapped the remaining energy before another well-deserved night's sleep.

Wednesday brought the majestic Mont Saint-Michel, which stunned everyone into momentary silence. After exploring the unparalleled UNESCO site in small groups, and with the compulsory selfies snapped, it was time to return to base. Yet again, the long day did nothing to deplete the students' boundless reserves of energy. Post-tea, an impromptu netball match broke out, featuring such creative rule interpretations that French onlookers thought they were watching rugby!

Thursday saw an early-morning exodus, as the group slipped out of the hotel like well-trained ninjas at 5:30am. With suitcases, snacks & sleep deprivation in tow, they began the long journey home. A week of memories for staff and students alike: Vive la Normandie!





MADAGASCAR



It was a very excited & emotional send off for 30 of our students that headed off to Madagascar on 30 June 2025!

It's such an amazing opportunity through Operation Wallacea, including the majority of 18 days with no phones!

We have received & shared a few updates as they've had signal - and they are due back in the UK as this newsletter is distributed so we'll share any more photos as we get them!





On the first of July we took almost 200 students to Blackpool Pleasure Beach for their - what is fast becoming an annual - rewards trip! Well done everyone!



Blackpool Trip

Outward Bound Trip



In late June, 35 students spent a few days with The Outward Bound Trust UK which was a huge success!

Students pushed themselves out of their comfort zone, built resilience and made lifelong memories wild camping, cliff jumping and gorge walking.

Well done everyone!

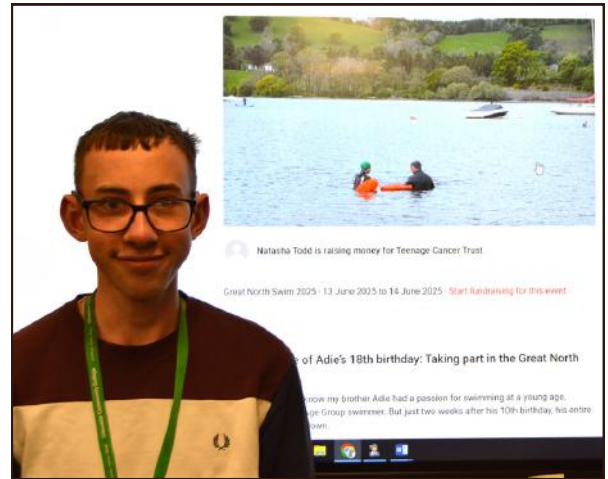


**THE
OUTWARD
BOUND TRUST**

Fundraising

Many of you will have read about Adie's story, and the challenge that he set himself for his 18th birthday. A huge congratulations for raising awareness and over £3,100 for the Teenage Cancer Trust!!

Proud
to be
UCC



Born Survivor



Some of our sixth form students are making this an annual event! Having worked as event crew in April, 25 of them have earned a place in September's Lancashire Born Survivor!

Taking part to raise money for a rare blood cancer charity - MPN Voice - they appreciate any support you can give them.

To donate you can scan the QR code. Good luck all!!



Geography Fieldwork

Year 10 Geography students visited Silloth last month to carry out their physical fieldwork. We worked out if longshore drift was happening and if the coastal defences are worth the money to protect Silloth from coastal erosion. Great day everyone!



In early June, Year 8 students welcomed a great guest to UCC, to give our first **sUCCess lecture**.

Dr Bober spent five years in Africa working for Médecins Sans Frontières - our students were inspired by his experiences and had lots of great questions!

On the 18th, we were visited by Nuclear Engineer, Mr John Reekie from Cavendish Nuclear. He spoke to students about energy & climate, as well as doing a practical session explaining energy sources, usage, technology & sustainability.

Earlier this month we held our third lecture with Matt Hood OBE. He is the co-founder of the Ambition Institute and the founder of Oak Academy, which was integral in education during the pandemic. Matt spoke to students about the differences between the UK Parliament & the Civil service, how they work together & the potential careers in both!

Student comments on this round of lectures;

"I think the best thing has been being able to ask our own questions. It's really inspired me to think about my future career path - and to think outside of the box."

"Dr Bober was my favourite, his trip to Africa sounded so interesting and it's made me think more about my future."

"I think these lectures can really help students learn about different people's background, their careers & how they got there."

"I now know where my electricity comes from!"

"The government & civil service lecture was so interesting, he explained options really well and inspired me to maybe go down that path for a job."

"Thank you to all of the visitors because I loved them all!"



University of Cumbria

Year 12 students had the opportunity to visit the University of Cumbria recently. The day was focussed on medical based degree courses; workshops, physiotherapy, nursing, occupational therapy, radiotherapy and paramedics. It was a brilliant - and inspiring - day!





If you follow our social media or read this newsletter you will be familiar with our very talented Year 12 student, Tamsin. I compose this newsletter 5 doors away from the music department & hear about things that she's accomplished or competitions that she's winning on an almost weekly basis, yet this humble 17 year old is always reluctant to share her achievements. Finally, in her own words;

In the last few weeks I was 1 of 10 people selected to take part in the Oxford University's UNIQ Programme for music, which is aimed at state school students from across the country to have a taste of life at Oxford Uni. The highlight for me was playing a trumpet made by Oliver Cromwell and Charles II's trumpet player, Simon Beale from 1667.

From there I travelled on to Sherborne, Devon to rehearse with & play with the National Youth Orchestra for their annual schools tour. We travelled & performed all across the South West in 5 different schools. The purpose of this was to inspire young people to take up an interest in orchestral music. This has been the highlight of my summer & so proud to be the only Cumbrian there representing our County.

In August, Tamsin and fellow UCC student Amelia, head to Cambridge for the Sutton Trust Summer School, for Veterinary Medicine and Music respectively. With almost 30,000 applicants to the programme as a whole, Amelia was given one of 15 places in her subject & Tamsin one of 10 in hers - just so impressive - have a great time both!!

Music Extraordinaire

GCSE and A Level Art Exhibition

It was wonderful to show off our GCSE and A level student work at our end of year Art Exhibition. Amazing pieces, great turnout, brilliant feedback! Well done everyone involved!



ART EXHIBITION





Swimming Champion

Year 10 student Sophia, has had some amazing swimming successes recently!

In May she achieved 3rd place in the North West Regional championships in 400m against a very strong field.

She then won two open water 1500m swims in Coniston & Ullswater & has qualified to compete in the English National Age group championship later this month. Amazing - well done Sophia, keep going!!

Lifting the Hearts of our Locals - Student Project



Some of the students & staff from our Health & Social Care Department, visited Penrith's Bandstand this week to positively interact with passersby. Students gave out uplifting creations made in our Arts & Crafts lunch club, including positive quotes, with the intention of uplifting others.

The project in return supported students to further their confidence & communication, interaction, creativity & citizenship skills.

A member of the public commented;

"I just wanted to come back and say your kindness has really made my day. I am really touched by it and think this is a wonderful idea!"



We had a great time during Pride month, with all at UCC celebrating the LGBT+ community! From rainbow buns & jelly in the canteens, to bake sales, badges & books - to a fitness competition led by the UPS department & our cadets!

We raised £134.33 for Macmillan Cancer Support & we had a lot of fun.

Staff wore icon badges & students had a great time finding who was who & learning more about the LGBT+ community as they went.

A massive thanks to all those students, parents & staff that got involved!

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UCC - Primary School Science Collaboration

UCC Science Stars Shine Bright!

This term, the Science Department at UCC invited local primary schools to take part in our first ever UCC Science Stars competition, as part of our ENTHUSE@UCC initiative. The challenge? To impress us with their scientific enquiry skills and plan an investigation to answer a science question of their choosing.

We provided participants with a set of thought-provoking science questions and guidance on how we approach scientific investigations and gather evidence. The response was fantastic. Each school brought a unique perspective to the challenge, submitting brilliant reports, photos, and experiment write-ups. The creativity, curiosity and scientific thinking on display truly impressed us.



All the incredible entries were proudly showcased during our Year 5 Open Evening and will remain on display in the UCC Science Department as a celebration of the amazing science taking place in our local primary schools.

This week we are thrilled to announce our well-deserved winners! They'll be receiving science-themed goody bags packed with prizes, hand-delivered by UCC staff.

As an extra reward, they'll also be joining us on an exciting trip to the Glasgow Science Museum in the autumn term.

A huge thank you to all the pupils & teachers who took part. Your enthusiasm, effort & imagination made this competition a wonderful success!



**To book a
Year 6 Tour of UCC
October 2025**

Scan the QR code

**Limited
Spaces!!**



Or visit; www.ullswatercc.co.uk

National Numeracy Day

Well done to the winners and runners up of this year's three national numeracy day competitions!

Between considering the maths needed in their dream jobs, going on a treasure hunt around the school and "beating the teacher" quiz, they're all amazing mathematicians!

Well done Erin, Lee, Rebecca, Abigail, Ned, Milly, Jamil, Ash, Thea, Charlotte, Holly & Stuart!



Oxford University Trip

Five of our Year 12 students visited the Universities of Cambridge & Oxford in early June.

They attended workshops on the application process, went on tours with students, were given mini tutorials in chosen subjects and even got to practice interview technique with current Oxford Uni undergraduates!

Thank you to Molly, Sophie & Katy from both Universities for hosting us and to all the students involved in welcoming us too. We had an excellent time!

Islamic Discovery Day

In late June our Year 7 students welcomed Razwan Ul-Haq for our Islamic Discovery Day.

This is Raz's 16th year at UCC!

Students got to learn all about the religion & create some inspiring art!





UCC LIBRARY

Patrice Lawrence Visit



We had the pleasure of welcoming the amazing author, Patrice Lawrence, to UCC mid-June. She spoke to Year 7 & 8 students about what it meant to be a writer, patiently answering all of their questions & signing all of their books - such a brilliant afternoon! Another thank you to the Hedgehog Bookshop who always come along to these events and provide the books for signing!

Spellbinding Awards

In June, our young librarians had a great day at the Spellbinding Awards! Spellbinding is a book award organised & delivered by librarians for young people across Cumbria. Students have been reading the 10 shortlisted books for the last few months, and those who had read the most were invited to the celebration day!

Held at the North Lakes Hotel, it was packed with book lovers from around the county, they enjoyed workshops & a panel session from 3 of the shortlisted authors - Clare Furniss, Lucy Strange & Max Boucherat. Cheers of joy rang out when Clare Furniss's book, *The Things We Leave Behind*, was announced as the winner!!



Spellbinding Cumbria Secondary School Book Award 2025

Joseph Coelho OBE Visit



Selected students from Years 7, 8 & 9 were excited to hear a talk from one of the heavy-weights of UK children's literature, Joseph Coelho, last week. Joseph, an author & performance poet, won the prestigious Carnegie Medal in 2024, was the 2022-24 Children's Laureate & is a regular on BBC TV. In his talk he described his journey from the largest council estate in Europe to tea with the Queen, he also gave a fascinating glimpse into the practicalities of working in the publishing industry. After the talk Joseph had a long queue of students eager to have their books signed. It was a wonderful afternoon & we are very grateful to Joseph & his publishers, Otter Barry Books, for choosing UCC as a stop on his book tour!



New member of the team!

Pixie, the newest member of the library team, has settled in very well. A giant African land snail, she's a keen (but slow!) reader! She lives in the library during term time & is very well looked after by Year 7 student librarians Rebecca & Holly. Students are able to visit Pixie at break & lunchtimes, and hold & read to her if they wish to. Her current favourite book is *Weird and Wonderful Nature* by Ben Hoare!

Warhammer Trip

Warhammer Club enjoyed an afternoon at Games Workshop Carlisle last week. They painted figures, learnt about different Warhammer games & enjoyed talking to an expert about their hobby. The club is run by Year 8 student Samuel & meets every Friday lunchtime in the library!



Student Librarian Day

Our library is lucky enough to have a large team of enthusiastic & dedicated student librarians, who help keep the library thriving. At the end of term, joined by student librarians from Cockermouth School, they enjoyed a Student Librarian Day full of bookish activities, including Booky Articulate & Library Olympics. A huge thanks to our wonderful team! Any student interested in joining the student librarian team should visit the library in September to find out more!



Reading Millionaires

Students in Years 7 & 8 have read an incredible 185 million words through the Accelerated Reader programme this year! The 35 students who had read the most words for their reading level were treated to a Pizza Party at the end of term!

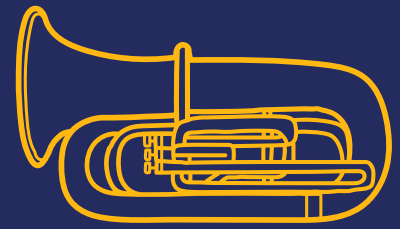


FAO New Year 7 Students!

**Look out for your
“Extreme Reading”
postcard over the Summer!**



UCC MUSIC



Our Music Summer Concert was a huge success on 2nd July, showcasing the talents of all our amazing student musicians. We saw performances from our choir, big band, concert band, training band, string group & brass & woodwind group, as well as solo performances on the piano and vocals!

We also said goodbye to the wonderful Miss Beecroft who is leaving us.

19

Thank you Miss Beecroft for all your amazing hard work, dedication & support to the music department over the past 2 years.

We were thrilled to join forces with Hunter Hall School & Pre-School this month, when they invited our musicians to join theirs for a Junior Orchestra day.

Our students had a wonderful day, mentoring the primary school students and performing two collaborative pieces.

We were also joined by 3 students from Skelton School - and really looking forward to doing it again soon, hopefully with additional primaries getting involved!



UCC
PRODUCTION



THE NEXT GENERATION

SCHOOL *of* ROCK

THE MUSICAL

Based on the Paramount movie written by MIKE WHITE

Music by
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

Script by
JULIAN FELLOWES

Lyrics by
GLENN SLATER

February 2026

Wednesday 11th / Thursday 12th / Friday 13th

Cumberland Hall

Earth Summit 2025

In June we took 25 students to the Earth Summit 2025 at Keele University. Over 300 students from across the country gathered to learn about sustainability & get a taster of university life.

We attended lectures, took part in a practical workshop where we learnt about water filtration & toured some of the 600 acres of resources at Keele - they even have an observatory!

That evening the students were able to see how the student union provides entertainment with a live DJ set - sleep in the halls of residence - and enjoy Alton Towers the next day!



Center Parcs Work Experience

Our students had a great time at the beginning of June, doing work experience at Center Parcs as part of their ASDAN Employability course.

They worked in a variety of departments including leisure, hospitality and retail.

All students worked really hard & gained skills that they can develop further in the future.

A huge thank you to Center Parcs UK for helping make the week a success!





It's been a busy time of year for the UCC Duke of Edinburgh Award team!
 They had 5 really successful evening training sessions earlier in the half term, around the Hallin Fell area for the Bronze DofE as well as our Silver Practice Expedition, which sadly had to be cancelled on the Saturday morning due to a thunder & lightning storm
 Year 10 students did enjoy a great day of walking on the Friday & an enjoyable camp Friday night!
 Then for the last two weeks 125 students have been out enjoying some very warm weather!



SHOUT offers free and confidential text support, its service is there for moments when you're dealing with self-harm & need support to move towards a calmer place. Talking to someone about your self-harming can help reduce the intensity of difficult feelings & reduce the urge to harm yourself. You can access support from SHOUT by texting SHOUT to 85258 to start an anonymous conversation with a trained volunteer who will listen and support you.

Kooth also provides anonymous & personalised mental health support for children & young people who may be experiencing thoughts of self-harming or who have self-harmed. To access free online support from Kooth's trained team of professionals go to www.kooth.com & click on 'sign up for free' to complete an online form to register with their service

The Mix offer mental health support to anyone under 25. They have discussion boards & support groups. Find them at; www.themix.org.uk/get-support/

Childline can help with many things, but particularly at this time of year they have an entire section of their website dedicated to exam stress, access by scanning the QR code.



UCC
Health
& wellbeing
HUB

As ever our Health Hub is working hard, supporting our students., referring students where needed to all of the available support services.

Every life matters			Between 2020 and 2024 Every Life Matters has
			Trained 20,582 People
			in suicide prevention skills
8,652	5,049	1,421	
Suicide Awareness	Suicide Alertness	Self-harm Alertness	
Bitesize Training for the whole Community	Half day Alertness and Intervention Skills Training	Half day Alertness and Support Skills Training	
1,027	1,013	3,420	
ASIST and Suicide First Aid	Mental Health First Aid	School Pupils Trained	



North Cumbria



A service run by:



Changing childhoods.
Changing lives.



Parent Governor Vacancy

At the beginning of the Autumn Term we will be inviting parents to volunteer to fill one vacancy for a Parent Governor on the Governing Body.

The Governing Body plays an important role in the life of UCC. It sets out & supports the strategic development of the school & holds the school leaders to account for the management & success of the school. We are fortunate that we have a Governing Body made up of individuals from a range of backgrounds who provide good support to the school. Parent Governors play a key role in that while they are not delegates representing parents, they use their experience as parents to help us to fulfil our functions.

There are four full Governing Board meetings in the year, on Wednesdays, and each governor also serves on one of three sub committees: Curriculum & Standards; Finance, Premises & Personnel; and Safeguarding & Wellbeing. Each of these has 3 meetings a year, on Tuesdays. Governors' meetings start at 4:30pm, for subcommittee, or 5:30pm for the Governing Body, and end by 7:30pm. There are other ad-hoc committees & meetings which involve governors who have the time to attend. In addition, each governor is linked to a department or key area of the school so that we build up our knowledge of how the school operates.

Governors are expected to participate in training. We have access to high-quality online training which comprises individual units lasting between 10 minutes & one and a half hours depending on the topic.

The process of appointment is for a letter to be sent to parents of all students at UCC early in September inviting individuals to put themselves forward. Those interested are asked to write a short statement saying why they would be good as a Parent Governor; this needs to be supported by the signatures of two other parents of students at UCC who are not relatives of the candidate or each other. If there is more than one self-nomination then an election is held, using the personal statement as information for parents to consider when voting. Each governor serves a four-year term of office, which can be renewed by re-election.

If you think you might be interested in joining the Governing Body but would like more information please contact **David Carter, Chair of Governors, d.carter@ullswatercc.co.uk**

The science department took over 230 students to the local Cumbria Wildlife Trust nature reserve at Cold Springs in Penrith this week.

The students helped with conservation work by removing an invasive plant species & sampling a wildflower meadow within the reserve. They had a great time exploring the site, identifying plants & insects & connecting with nature. The students were rewarded with s'mores over an open fire for their hard work on the nature reserve which was well received by all!

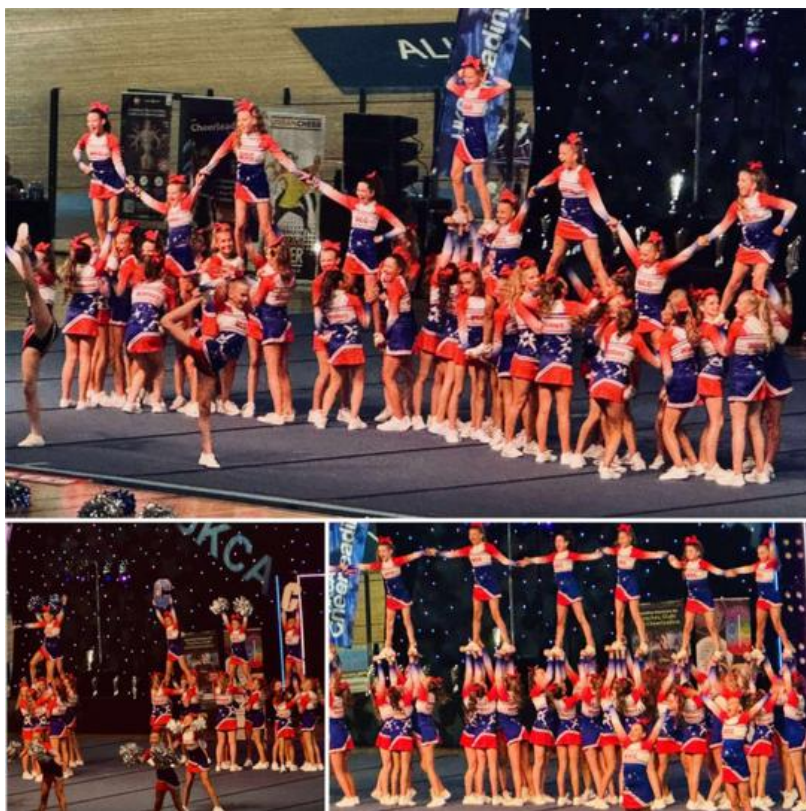
The students represented the school really positively & it was great for the staff at the nature reserve to get the chance to connect with lots of young people who use the area for cycling & to ensure they understand that the woodland is the appropriate place for jumping with their bikes whereas the garden area with benches is not.

We are thankful to the Cumbria Wildlife Trust team at Cold Springs for providing our students with real world experience of conservation & ecology to give their theory lessons in biology context & create lifelong memories!

Ecology Trips



UCC SPORTS



Huge congratulations to the 44 UCC Cheerleaders who took part in the National Schools Cheer Championships in the Manchester Velodrome mid-June.

Winning both 1st place in L2 KS5 Category AND 1st place in Urban Cheer KS5 - makes them **National Champions!!**

Well done everyone - outstanding performances - we are so proud of you!



Sports Day



The weather stayed on our side on the last day of June & we were able to hold our annual Sports Day!!

Great participation - Great fun - Great effort everyone!



This term, we said a fond farewell to our marvellous Year 11s, who were nothing short of exceptional during their exam season.

Their maturity, focus and conduct were so impressive that the external invigilation team took the time to write a personal letter, thanking them for their impeccable behaviour & attitude throughout the exam series, a truly rare and commendable gesture.

We marked their final day with an emotional leavers' assembly, which featured a nostalgic photo montage full of 'blasts from the past' & heartfelt farewell messages from UCC staff. It was a fitting send-off for a brilliant year group.

This year's Prom was a spectacular celebration, held for the first time at the stunning Ghyll Barn near Long Marton. Students arrived in serious style, enjoyed reminiscing with friends, and danced the night away to an unforgettable live performance from their very own 'Maybe Band'. A highlight of the evening was the UCC staff music video, a surprise hit that showed just what a creative bunch of teachers we have at UCC!

Prom Queens were crowned; Katie & Millie, following their victory in the ever-popular 'Who Knows UCC?' quiz.

To all of our Year 11s, good luck for the future. You've had a rollercoaster of a secondary school experience (covid!) & have come out the other side with flying colours. We can't wait to see you again on results day in August, and we wish you every success in whatever comes next. You really have been wonderful.

- Mr Key

Year 8

Year 8 students have worked incredibly hard this term, consistently showing the school the brilliant potential they have. They've earned thousands of ACE points & Golden Tickets, and continue to impress with their dedication, resilience & growing confidence.

Year 8 students have thrown themselves into the wide range of exciting extra-curricular activities on offer - from the ongoing 'School of Rock' musical auditions, to successful sports teams & stepping up as student leaders at open evenings. We're lucky to have such an enthusiastic & talented group of students who are clearly destined for great things.

A huge congratulations to RTH, who won the Inter-Form Champions League & were rewarded with an afternoon off timetable, featuring their very own pizza party - complete with ice cream for dessert!

This term we also say goodbye and thank you to Mr Collier, Miss Tingle, Miss Thompson & Ms McCracken for all their hard work & support of Year 8. We wish them the very best in their new adventures.

It's incredible how quickly time is flying - before long, conversations about GCSE option choices will begin. For now, we're proud of everything this year group has achieved & we can't wait to see what they'll go on to do next! Have a great summer!

- Mr Key

Basecamp Trip



Our Year 12 T Level Early Years Students visited Basecamp North Lakes this half term, to experience Forest School, linking to their work on different curriculum approaches.

They took part in a session to help them understand the principles of forest school. They tried whittling, sawing, making crowns, journey sticks, Nordic braiding & making fire.

They also had a meet and greet with the alpacas & sampled some of the delicious food from the farm shop café...

A great experience!

Cadets continued to receive introductions to various topics this half term, from Values & Standards and Drill, through to Camouflage & Concealment, they also took a session outside of school to conduct some community engagement with a mass litter pick around Penrith (below).



Their penultimate session saw around 50 cadets earn the British Heart Foundation Certificate for completion of CPR Training. Cadets enjoyed the interactive session & told staff that they felt more confident if they were to find themselves in an emergency situation.

Final session of the academic year, cadets enjoyed an outdoor team activity session where teamwork, drive & a robust approach were the order of the day. Teams of cadets were put to the test on various stands, some testing a skill previously taught & others assessing their problem solving & communication.

Cadets also said farewell to Cadet Adult Volunteer & Teacher of science, Miss Thompson as she leaves today for pastures new. They presented her with a huge homemade card to say thank you & wish her all the best!



The Great Big Green Week

Students from the UCC Cadets & Eco Club set out on a litter pick during the Great Big Green Week - in partnership with Penrith Library, Eden Womblers and some local primary schools.

Well done everyone!!



Uniformed Services

Uniformed Services students have continued to impress on all fronts as they power toward the halfway mark on this challenging course.

Students have taken it in turns each week to plan, prepare & lead the team across a route, using a map & compass. All students have proven competent in various outdoor skills including hiking, canoeing, climbing, ghyll scrambling & now adding navigation & leadership to the list!

On 23rd June, we represented UCC at the town hall for the parade & flag raising ceremony for Armed Forces week. They were then hosted by the Council & RFCA representatives for refreshments & conversation with local veterans. This was an excellent opportunity for community engagement & to apply volunteering skills whilst recognising the Armed Forces Community in our local area.

The final two weeks of the term has seen us work with & learn from Police at Cumbria Police HQ. Students received a double session named 'Up-stander' which encourages us to step up & act in situations where we would otherwise be a bystander. This concept extends beyond simply reporting misconduct, emphasising proactive steps to challenge sexism, racism, homophobia, or any form of disrespect or abuse of power. Well done everyone, keep up the good work!



Leeds University Residential



Sixty of our Year 12 students returned yesterday from their overnight Leeds Residential!

They enjoyed a presentation from Leeds University about courses and applications, and some students also visited Leeds Beckett University.

Students got a taste of university life including a night in Leeds Uni Halls of Residence.

We also went bowling, visited the Leeds Armouries Museum and explored the city centre!



COMING SOON

07 JUL 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Friday 18 July - 1pm - Last day of term

Thursday 14 August - A Level Results Day

- From 8am UCC Library

Thursday 21 August - GCSE Results Day

- From 10am UCC Cumberland Hall

Wednesday 3 September - Years 7, 11 & 12 return

Thursday 4 September - All students return

08 AUG 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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31						

09 SEP 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



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Free school meals and clothing vouchers

When your child or children can claim free school meals and school clothing vouchers, apply for free school meals, what happens in holidays, how to add another child, report a change of address or circumstances and if you're subject to immigration control.

Qualifying 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.

Free school meals are available to statutory school aged children attending full time education.

Full time education means full days from 9am to 3pm, private nurseries and further education colleges are not included.

Qualifying for free school meals and school clothing vouchers

When you can apply

To be eligible for free school meals, your family's annual household income must be no higher than:

- £22,700 for families outside of London with one child
- £26,300 for families outside of London with two or more children

This includes any wider income or support you may be getting and any earnings from employment.

You must also have less than £16,000 in savings, including any shares, investments and bank accounts - but not including your home.

Your child may be able to get 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 Also your annual gross income is 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)
- children who get these benefits paid to them, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also claim free school meals.