

Ullswater Community College Newsletter

October 2025



www.ullswatercc.co.uk

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Firstly, **welcome** to all of our new students and staff – everyone has made an incredible start to the new year, it has certainly been an interesting 8 weeks and so very much has happened. Please take a few minutes to find out some of the things that have been happening here at UCC.

I have been impressed every single day by the fantastic attitude to learning and mature approach of all the students at UCC. In the classrooms there has been another very positive start and a noticeable step up in terms of engagement in learning – congratulations! Here at UCC we are working really hard to ensure the conduct and behaviour of our students always meet our high expectations at all times. I make no apologies for the high standards we set here at the school, and the reason is simple: being in school, learning in classes, with students 100% engaged means more progress, better grades, better jobs and better lives – a worthy aspiration I am sure you all agree with.

Our 237 year 7's have made a fantastic start to their time here 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. They have made friends, found their way around the school, navigated the complex new choices at lunch, attended hundreds of clubs already and all with a smile and warm welcome on their faces – well done!

I also get to offer my congratulations to all our students and their families who achieved success in August. We are incredibly proud of you all and really pleased with our results; they are a measure of the ever-improving quality of teaching in the classroom and the standards around the school. But we are much more than a set of results – here at Ullswater, there is academic excellence and so much more...

With that said we are already looking forward to 2026! With over 100 tours for our year 6 families so far and with the application deadline rapidly approaching (31st Oct) we are once again expecting to maintain our status as the largest school in Westmorland and Furness.

Sixth form results are once again a strength and our growing sixth form, with an ever-increasing array of qualifications on offer, has seen our students securing places in best Universities in the country. Once again, our students have secured their next steps, with every single student getting to where they want to be.

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As our 6th form continues to grow, we will soon be holding our Open event on the 27th Nov, 4-6.30pm. Come along and find out more about one of the best and most popular sixth forms in the county.

Following their great start to the year, I am confident that our year 11's and 13's will once again achieve fantastic results next summer. Keep up the good work and remember to believe in yourselves.

We recently shared an update in relation to our progress within the Schools Rebuilding Programme and soon we'll have an idea about the bigger plans for what will be happening on the school site... with a potential timescale for completion in 2028, these are very exciting times for the school, Penrith, and Eden.

With over 14,000 lessons taught and approaching 50,000 positive ACE points issued, over 300 club sessions, dozens of sports fixtures, visiting speakers, employers and poets, settling-in evenings and countless other wonderful things that make our school so special - I am sure you will join me in congratulating everyone on their brilliant start.

Once again, 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 of us sharing the same aspiration of seeing our students Safe, Happy and Successful.

There continue to be many challenges beyond the borders of Ullswater, the county and the UK, and at the school we will continue to do everything we 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!

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, always very #ProudtobeUCC

Year 12 Arran Trip



Y12 Geographers have been enjoying a field trip to the Isle of Arran where they are learning all the skills they need to be successful in their coursework. Day 1 established basic fieldwork techniques, which the students then used during coastal field work on Day 2. We'll also be looking at how the human geography of Arran has changed over time and investigating the carbon cycle.



Uniformed Services



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An excellent start to the term for Team-UPS and in particular, our Year 12 cohort have hit the ground running... literally!

This half term has seen them learn and practice values and standards, teamwork and leadership, as well as health and fitness. Students conducted initial fitness tests, including an Army fitness assessment and a bleep test. Some amazing initial scores were produced and students now have their work cut out as they set themselves new targets to beat!

"Sir – this is the hardest thing you've ever made us do!"



Year 12 had fun during a 'kit maintenance' day, where they learned how to polish boots, press kit and sew on badges. When sewing on his badge, Harry B said, 'Sir - this is the hardest thing you've ever made us do!'

Students have had the opportunity to visit Cumbria Police HQ, where they sat in and learned alongside police recruits in training. This isn't something that teenagers, or anyone for that matter, typically get to do, and these UPS students did not waste the opportunity. "Our superheroes of the future did themselves proud when learning alongside the recruits," said Mr B. "They were fully engaged right from the start and often led the way and held their own against real life police trainees."

Next half term will see us visit the RAF and Army, either side of conducting our own UCC Remembrance parade. Our students will also conduct several volunteering activities, including Christmas cards around Penrith for the Lions Club and collecting much-needed goods on behalf of the Salvation Army - watch this space!

Introducing UCC Baby Club!

Join us with your little ones for singing, rhymes, and story sessions. Our skilled team of Early Years Education sixth form students will be leading sessions based on a different theme each week, supervised by a qualified Early Years teacher. These will take place in our new Early Years classroom.

The last currently planned session date will be the 5th November 10-11am, however, further dates will be announced after the half term. Watch this space!



Early Child Development

Yr 10 Child Development are learning about different types of play. Year 12 T level students in Education and Early years have been setting up and demonstrating activities in our nursery classroom environment for the year 10's to explore and apply their learning.



Welcoming a New Addition!

Baby Rory is visiting with the year 12 students studying the AAQ in Early Childhood Development monthly so students can observe his growth and development. This is a fantastic opportunity for the students to gain practical, real-life experience – and we welcome Rory into the UCC family (a little earlier than usual!).



Entrepreneurial Spirit Shines in Year 11

Year 11 student Amelia Walker has been exercising her entrepreneurial skills and creativity through her growing small business. Amelia regularly attends Teenage Markets across Cumbria, where she showcases and sells her beautiful handmade trinket boxes/tins and seasonal small gifts. Each piece reflects her attention to detail and artistic flair; her work has been attracting plenty of interest from customers.

We're proud to see Amelia turning her passion into a thriving venture — a fantastic example of initiative, dedication, and creativity in action! Well done, Amelia.



The Teenage Market is an inspiring idea and the events are wonderful to be a part of, giving young people from 8 - 18 the chance to make their own way and show off their talent.

If you are interested in attending or starting a small business contact: theteenagemarket.co.uk

Amelia's business name is **Toad Trinkets**, it started as a hobby with an old mint tin and broken pair of earrings over two years ago!

She has always had a love for miniature things, and stories so each tin has a 'Main Character'. She positions each piece with blue tack until she is happy, takes a picture, removes everything then chooses a background. Once that is in place she secures everything back in place with hot glue and moss.



Foyle's Young Poets of the Year

They'll Say We Knew

It didn't begin with bombs.
 No sirens, no screaming skies —
 just maps redrawn
 and voices gone quiet.

Auschwitz wasn't in Germany.
 But hate doesn't need a passport.
 It slipped across borders
 while the world blinked
 and kept scrolling.

They said,
 "We didn't know."
 Not until chimneys coughed silence
 and ash fell like snow.
 Not until names became numbers.

But look around —
 can't you feel it?
 That shrug of "it's complicated"
 before the page gets turned?

It starts with a speech.
 A law.
 A flag waved too hard
 until fists are all that's left.

They say history doesn't repeat.
 But it remixes:
 Ukraine.
 Gaza.
 Trump onstage,
 turning crowds into weapons.

He's not Hitler.
 But the cadence is familiar —
 divide, distract, dehumanise.

Camps won't come with warning signs.
 They'll wear new names,
 hide behind policies.
 Cold doors, same fear.

Huge congratulations to Year 10 student Milly. Here she is in London, where she was announced one of Foyle's Young Poets of the Year. It's a phenomenal achievement – her poem was one of only 100 selected from 28,334 international entries! As well as goodies, she will receive mentoring by creative writing experts for the next 12 months.



Camps won't come with warning signs.
 They'll wear new names,
 hide behind policies.
 Cold doors, same fear.

And one day
 someone will ask:
 "Didn't they know?"

And they'll find this.
 Tweets.
 Photos.
 Poems like mine.
 Proof that we did.

Milly Lawson, Year 10

Mike Garry Visit



We were delighted to welcome poetry mega-star Mike Garry to UCC this half-term. Mike travels all over the world with John Cooper Clarke, and it's easy to see why he is so popular. Mike delivered three workshops to selected Year 9 and Year 10 students, talking about the power of reading to improve their lives, and giving them tips on how to best approach reading and analysing poetry. At lunchtime, all staff and students had the opportunity to meet him and attend a short poetry performance. His poetry performance was even better than expected - with both staff and students left begging for more when the bell went!

Head Boy and Head Girl



Our new Head Students for this academic year are Livvie & Frankie. We had nine brilliant students who put themselves forward and shared their manifestos with their fellow Sixth Form students as well as staff who then had the opportunity to vote. It was a close call, but Frankie & Livvie were successful. However, all those who put themselves forward, alongside some other amazing students, have formed this year's new Sixth Form Leadership Team! We are so excited to begin working as mentors, Subject & Wellbeing Champions, and fundraising for our Charity of the Year, "Every Life Matters".

We are sure both Livvie and Frankie will continue to set a brilliant example of what students can achieve at UCC. Congratulations, both!

Cadet Promotion Announcement



Cadets has been going from strength to strength over the last few months as we prepare for a VIP inspection after half term and also get ourselves ready for Remembrance at UCC.

Detachment Commander, Miss Aurellia and SSI, Mr Bellamy, and all adult staff volunteers were pleased to present our first ever recipients of well-deserved cadet promotions with their new rank slides.

There were around fifteen or so potential candidates for promotion and decision-making was tough for the staff. Those who came close, and indeed all cadets shouldn't be disappointed and all should be proud of their efforts. The next promotion opportunity will be 4th Feb 2026.

After half term, these new JNCOs will attend a period of special leadership training.



Congratulations to:

Lance Corporal Connor Bryant
Lance Corporal Bella Carruthers-Boyd
Lance Corporal Ella Ingleby
Lance Corporal Naniso Chakunda



Swimming Superstar!

At Ullswater Community College, we love to celebrate achievements across all areas both inside and outside of school.

Isabella is regional champion in the 100m individual medley! Isabella obtained her Para swimming classification in June, and this was her first Para event. Well done!



#proudtobeUCC

Sporting Successes



Well done to everyone who's represented UCC this half term! Great teamwork from all!

Top: U14 girls' football, left: Y7 rugby, right: U16 girls' hockey



Cooking up a Storm in Year 7



Year 7 have been enjoying learning the skills to create delicious vegetable tarts. Don't they look scrumptious?! Well done, Year 7!



European Day of Languages

Well done to Millie in Y7 for making these delicious cakes for European Day of Languages!

The theme this year was "Language opens hearts and minds", and what better way to open hearts and minds than with a delicious selection of cakes?!



Lost Property

There are currently a number of lost items being stored at the Reception office. This includes: coats, shoes, PE kit, blazers, books, and many other items. Owners of named items will have been contacted via email.

Unfortunately, many items (such as coats and uniform) are unnamed. Please ensure your child's belongings are named so they can be reunited as swiftly as possible!

Useful Diary Dates

Friday 25th October – Winter Droving in Penrith

Friday 31st October – Deadline for 2026 Y7 applications

Monday 3rd November – Start of term

Thursday 27th November - Theatre by the Lake (Wizard of Oz)

Thursday 27th November – 6th Form Open Evening

Thursday 11th December – Year 13 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 16th December – Year 13 Mock Interviews

Weds 17th December – Christmas Concert

Friday 19th December – End of term



Free School Meals Information

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.

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.

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

- younger than the compulsory age for starting school
- in full-time education
- free school meals are available to statutory school aged children attending full time education. Full time education is defined as full days from 9am to 3pm, this excludes private nurseries and further education colleges.

E-School Nurse Clinic

(By appointment only)

Twice weekly health support and advice for parents, carers and professionals who are supporting children and young people aged 5-19 years old.



Tuesday and Thursday

Telephone for an appointment

0300 304 9039

You will be able to talk to a school nurse, the contact will be private, secure and confidential. In consultation with you, the nurse will assess the child or young person's health problem and provide you with the support and advice needed.



Westmorland
& Furness
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