Ullswater Community College Newsletter

October 2026



www.ullswatercc.co.uk 01768 210206

Firstly, welcome, welcome, 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 eight weeks, and so very much has happened – please take a few minutes to find out some of the things that have been taking place here at UCC since September.

I have been impressed every single day by the fantastic attitude to learning and mature approach of all the students. In the classrooms there has been a very positive start and a noticeable step up in terms of engagement in learning – well done! Here at UCC we continue to work really hard to ensure that the conduct and behaviour of our students inside and outside the classroom always meet our high expectations.

As I shared with the 100+ families that have toured the school recently, I make no apologies for the high standards we set here at the school. 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 180 Year 7s 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, participated in the new enrichment programme on a Wednesday afternoon already and all with a smile and warm welcome on their faces – really 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 quality of teaching in the classroom and the standards around the school. But we are much more than a set of results, as you know here at Ullswater there is academic excellence and so much more...

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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Ofsted Good Provider











As our sixth form continues to grow, we will soon be holding our Open Evening on the 26th November, 4.30-6.30pm. 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 11s and 13s 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 the main buildings being completed in 2029, these are very exciting times for the school, and for Penrith and Eden.

I am sure you will join me in congratulating everyone on their wonderful start – so far this term has included 14,000 lessons taught, with over 50,000 positive ACE points issued, more than 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 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*.

We recently shared details of our consultation on Academisation and joining the CET Multi Academy Trust; feel free to share your thoughts and views and these will be considered by governors in their December meeting. You can find more information about this on our website, including details of the Parent Information Evening on 4th November at 6.00pm, in school.

There continues 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





New Term Updates and Information

This new school year has brought a number of changes; here are the most important ones to be aware of:

- Health Hub has moved and is now the First Aid Room, run by Beth Dickinson. This is open from 9am-2:45pm and is for students who are injured or feel unwell.
- Mobile phone legislation – thank you to everyone who has supported the approach taken by UCC and for feedback; this is helping to ensure all of our students are safe whilst still following government guidelines.

To keep the school day running smoothly, please support your child with the following:

- Labelling their uniform and PE kit / bag. Many queries are regarding lost property which has not been named.
- Ensure their timetable is written in their UCC planner for each day, and they have their planner with them. New planners are available from the school shop (iPay).
- Check what items may be needed for the day (e.g. food tech ingredients, PE kits, after school club items)
- Have a clear plan for your child's journey home (e.g. bus or walking)
- Know when after school events are taking place (e.g. sporting clubs or rehearsals)
- Discuss iPay account balances if needed – there have been updates to iPay over the summer, so please check any automatic payments are still active. These can also be set up to ensure accounts are regularly topped-up. If a daily spending limit is necessary, please contact school as we are able to set this up for individual accounts.

UCC understands that occasionally **emergency** messages will need to be passed from parents to students or students to parents, and staff will do their best to ensure these are communicated where possible.

If a student has any issues accessing online learning, homework, or Arbor, please can they contact their form tutor in the first instance.

We know changes bring challenges, and we're proud of how our UCC families are approaching the new school year with positivity and a willingness to adapt. Thank you for all of your continued support to help us keep UCC the best we can be!



Did you know?
CEIAG stands for Careers Education, Information, Advice, and Guidance.

Careers at UCC

It has been a busy half term for KS4!

Year 10 received their introduction to work experience to allow students to find places early. Well done to those who have already confirmed placements.

- Year 11 revision afternoon got them thinking about where they are now and what they need to do to step onto their chosen pathway Post 16.
- Over 80 students have attended their 1:1 Post 16 Destinations meeting – these will continue after half term.
- Information about open evenings and early apprenticeship opportunities have been posted on Google Classroom for all students to access.

Career of the month was introduced for all year groups and provided information on entry requirements, skills required and Labour Market Information.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Sept	Baker	Sustainability Analyst	Social Media Manager	Radiographer	Environmental Engineer	Medicine	Dev Ops Engineer
Oct/ Nov	Sustainability Officer	Retail Manager	Beauty Therapist	Forestry Worker	Health Play Specialist	Policy Adviser	Social Researcher

Our sixth form students have also been considering their future options over the last eight weeks:

- 50 students visited the UK University & Apprenticeship Fair at St James' Park
- Alumni Lennox Rylands spoke to students about his role in cybersecurity
- Michelle Jackson spoke to year 12 students about the Dream Placement
- Local businesswoman Lisa Jackson spoke about her career pathway in setting up her own marketing business Acorn Marketing

FUTURE SKILLS QUESTIONNAIRE – ALL students have been sent the link to their email account to complete. This data will help us identify areas that students would like to know more about. Thank you to the 641 students who have completed it, if you haven't, please set as a target over half term!

"My work experience helped me decide on my degree course. It made me feel ready for what comes next."



Year 11 Mock Launch



One revision goodie bag for each Y11 student – thank you to all the team who pulled this together!



UCC is always finding new ways to best support our students, and this term we were immensely proud of the attitude of our year 11 students and their families when we introduced the Year 11 Mock Launch.

Students were given personalised bags tailored to their options, along with revision guides, advice, and resources to give them the best start to their GCSE year.

Alongside a fantastically well-attended Q&A and information talk, year 11 students also spent an afternoon in a revision carousel with industry professionals from PET-Xi, giving them a brilliant boost before November's mock exams.





And it hasn't stopped there, either! Year 11 students now use 'Period 0' for structured revision sessions in maths and English. Thank you to all of our staff and our students for showing great dedication and effort to help achieve the best they can next summer.

Enrichment & School Parliament

It has been a busy and inspiring half-term across school, filled with exciting opportunities for our students to grow, lead, and be celebrated.

We proudly launched our Year 7 Enrichment Programme, where students have been engaging in a wide variety of sessions—from bike maintenance, pottery, and gardening to dance and chess, to name just a few. These sessions have provided a fantastic platform for students to try something new and build valuable personal skills.

In addition, we hosted our inaugural School Parliament, bringing together 60 students from across all year groups for an impactful morning session. Students shared thoughtful feedback on school life at UCC, with older and younger pupils collaborating brilliantly to help shape and improve the student experience. They also got a sneak peek at upcoming initiatives on the horizon, shared their views, and honed their public speaking skills under the expert guidance of Mr Rowe during a dedicated debating seminar. Look out for updates next half-term on how their ideas are coming to fruition!

Beyond these programmes, hundreds of clubs and fixtures have taken place across all departments over the past few weeks. A massive thank you goes to the dedicated staff who volunteer countless hours to make these extra-curricular opportunities possible.

Finally, this week's Achievement Assemblies celebrated the launch of our prestigious new **Subject Scholar** awards. Selected across every department, these awards recognise students who have consistently gone above and beyond in their learning. A huge well done to every student recognised—you should be immensely proud of your endeavours!

Thank you all for a brilliant half-term. Have a well-deserved break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for even more exciting opportunities and initiatives around the corner.

Mr Key

Enrichment Wednesdays

We've been absolutely delighted with the success of our new enrichment afternoons for year 7. These are giving students the chance to try new activities, learn different skills, and make new friends. Thank you to all of the staff who have made this first half term such a brilliant start to our new enrichment programme!









Some of our great enrichment options: bake off, gardening club, pottery, chess, and bicycle maintenance!



SUCCESS Curriculum

You asked:

“What will the children learn during the year?”

What we’re doing:

We developed and implemented a new website, which makes clear links between subjects, the curriculum, and helps students and parents know what will be coming up during each academic year.



At Ullswater Community College, our mission is simple: we are Ambitious, Caring, and Equal. These three pillars form the foundation of our Success Curriculum, a learning journey designed to ensure every student is challenged academically, supported pastorally, and prepared for a bright future.

Our curriculum is designed to be accessible to all. Teachers skilfully adapt their delivery, materials, and classroom strategies to ensure that students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) or those facing disadvantage can fully participate, learn alongside their peers, and thrive.

You can find out more about our Success Curriculum on the school website here:

https://ullswatercc.co.uk/curriculum/our-curriculum/

Year 7 Music Concert



The year 7 singing concert was in the last week of term, and it was a huge success!

All the students involved sounded amazing, and they did all their parents and carers very proud! It was great to see so many parents and carers fill the hall and come and support the Y7s. It was a very wholesome evening and celebrated how the Y7s have settled into life at UCC.

News From The Library

Did you know?
You can request a favourite book from the library – simply pop a short form in the request box!

UCC Book Club

We have a wonderful book club at UCC – drop into the library to find out more. This month, students have been looking at a great selection of books for Black History Month, including some which have been studied as class novels. Can you spot a favourite in this picture?





Mollie Shannon at Penrith Library

UCC loves supporting authors, and this half term a group of our students enjoyed a writing workshop with local author Mollie Shannon, centred on her latest novel, *Ripple*, at Penrith Library. It was a lovely session, and everyone had a great time honing their writing skills.

Madagascar Fundraising

We're collecting donations of unwanted books, video games, and DVDs to help raise funds for our upcoming school trip to Madagascar!

If you have any items you no longer need and would be happy to donate, we'd be very grateful. Your unwanted treasures could help make a big difference to our fundraising efforts!

Any donations can be handed in to Mr Bambury in W86.

Thank you so much for your support!



Sporting Successes!



The 6th Form First Team launched their season in sensational style, running out victorious in a mesmerizing 10-goal spectacle against a spirited, youthful Queen Elizabeth Grammar School (QEGS) side on the prestigious, lush expanse of the iconic 'Dip'.

Final Score: UCC 6th Form 1st XI 6 – 4 QEGS



A massive congratulations to our 6th form students who represented the Penrith Barbarians in an outstanding 55–0 victory away against a tough Sedbergh Development Squad!

Final Score:
Penrith Barbarians 55 – 0 Sedbergh

It was an unstoppable, high-tempo performance from start to finish, built on a physical, dominant defence and brilliant counter-attacking play. A huge shoutout to all our UCC lads involved alongside the QEGS players for a fantastic combined effort and exemplary teamwork.



We always love to see our UCC students carrying the school values out into the wider world, and nobody has embodied this more this term than Y10 cadet Cally. In September, she ran 100 miles to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society in honour of her Nana.

Cally has raised over £1600 so far and has certainly demonstrated the values of Caring and Achieving – we are all very proud of her effort and determination. Well done, Cally! You can read more of her story by scanning the QR code here:



UCC Health & Wellbeing

PLEASE REMEMBER:

If students are feeling unwell, their **first** port of call should be the first aid room on the pastoral corridor. This is open between the hours of 9am – 2:45pm. If they are unwell when the first aid room is closed, they must speak with a member of staff and can come to reception if needed.

This means that the staff in the first aid room or reception can then contact parents to pass on any relevant information, illnesses are correctly recorded on school systems, and students can stay in the first aid room with staff to support them until they are collected.

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 lessen the intensity of difficult feelings and 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 and personalised mental health support for children and 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 and 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 and support groups. Find them at: www.themix.org.uk/get-support/

Childline can help with many things, and can be easily accessed by calling 0800 1111 or scanning the QR code:

North Cumbria Mental Health Support Team

A service run by: BARNARDO'S

Changing childhoods. Changing lives.

Instagram

North Cumbria Mental Health Support Teams @mhstNorthCumbria

Lost Property

Lost items are stored at the reception office for a minimum of **half a term** before being donated. Owners of named items will be contacted via email, through form tutors first. If your child has lost something, please send us a message describing the item, and we will check lost property.

Unfortunately, many items (such as coats, uniform, and PE kits) are unnamed. **Please ensure your child's belongings are named** so they can be reunited as swiftly as possible! This is especially important with PE kits, as they are often misplaced.

Useful Diary Dates

Monday 2nd November – term starts

Wednesday 11th November – Cadets Remembrance Parade

Wednesday 11th November – Sports Personality of the Year

Thursday 12th November – Legally Blonde theatre trip

Friday 13th November – Penrith Remembrance Parade

Wednesday 18th November – Year 10 Mock Launch

Monday 23rd to Thursday 26th November – CERN trip

Thursday 26th November – Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 10th December – Y13 Parents' Evening

Monday 14th December – GCSE & A Level Success Celebration

Wednesday 16th December – UCC Christmas Concert

Friday 18th December – end of term



Free School Meals Information

Westmorland & Furness Council

westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

Good news for families!

Free School Meals are changing
Universal Credit recipients can apply now

From September 2026, all children whose families receive Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals, regardless of income.

If you receive Universal Credit and your child is not currently registered for free school meals, please apply using the QR code.

Why is it important to apply?

Families receiving Universal Credit can save up to £495 per year per child on school lunches. Registering for the universal credit expanded free school meal also helps your child's school receive the right government funding to provide your child with their meal.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at government-funded schools already receive a free school meal through the universal infant free school meals scheme.
However, if you receive Universal Credit or other qualifying benefits, you should still apply for free school meals. This ensures your child's school receives the funding it is entitled to.

Scan the QR code to apply.



Sandgate & Fell Lane Improvements

Westmorland & Furness Council

Have your say

Sandgate and Fell Lane, Penrith
Safety and Accessibility Improvements

Safer and more accessible for walking, wheeling and cycling

What is it?

We're improving accessibility in the Sandgate and Fell Lane area of Penrith to make it easier and safer for people to walk, wheel and cycle. We're also improving road safety for everyone in this area.

We want to create better walking, wheeling and cycling provision on existing roads between the Scaws area and Sandgate in the town centre. We want to make junction improvements at the two mini-roundabouts to make it easier to cross the road and improve safety and accessibility for everybody.

Have your say

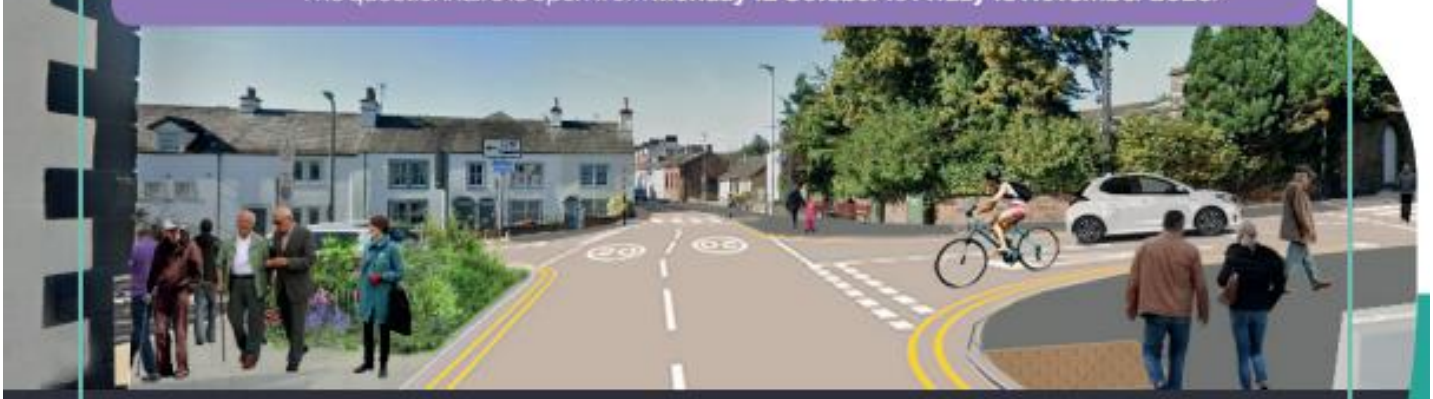
Simply scan the QR code below, or visit the website: **consult.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/westmorland-and-furness-council/sandgate/** to:

- Find out more about the proposed improvements, the timescales involved and the funding secured from Government to implement the improvements.
- Have your say by completing the online questionnaire.

You can also:

- Meet the project team at Penrith Library on **Wednesday 14 October 2026 between 1pm and 5pm**.
- Call the Highways Hotline on **0300 373 3306** to obtain a printed questionnaire, or collect one from Penrith Library.

The questionnaire is open from **Monday 12 October** to **Friday 13 November 2026**.



SCAN ME to complete the quick and easy questionnaire
Or visit: **consult.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/westmorland-and-furness-council/sandgate/**

SCAN ME for the Cumbria Travel Actively website
Or visit: **travelactively.co.uk/helping-hand/safer-roads-travelling-actively/**

HM Government

Pell Frischmann