



UP!

Able, Gifted and Talented Pupil Newsletter



PASSING THE BATON

Earlier this term Year 7 AGT pupils welcomed back Vishal Chawala and ex-Head Girl Emily Llewelyn for a talk over lunch to discuss the past pupils' experiences during their five years at Up Holland School. Past members of Up Holland's Able, Gifted and Talented cohort, Emily was elected Head Girl and achieved an impressive eight A grades meanwhile Vishal's impressive 12 A*grades at GCSE made both of them well qualified to pass on their years spent having fun and working hard. *'It has changed how much effort I should put into my work'* to *'I now know the preparation you need to do well.'* A big thank you to Vishal and Emily for taking time away from their A Level studies to come back and see us!

End In Sight

On Thursday 20th October Year Eleven pupils were fortunate enough to attend the PIXL Higher Education Student Conference at Old Trafford to find out more about getting into the country's top universities. The conference was led by Peter Rawlings, a Russell Group University 'guru' who has a wealth of knowledge and experience of supporting students to get into the best universities. He began by speaking generally to all of the Year 11 about Russell Group Universities and how best to prepare an application. With 346 institutions offering 38,000 courses Year 11 were given excellent advice about the different types of degrees and the variety and complexity of the courses. Pupils came away enthusiastic as well as thoughtful about their futures. *'I viewed getting into uni as purely intelligence based, however I now know that it involves experience, independence and work ethic.'*



PGL Dance

On the 23rd-25th September, the Up Holland dance students went on a trip to PGL Boreatton Park. This trip included two sessions consisting of five hours of street dancing and various death-defying PGL activities!

Ages varied from 11-15 but despite these differences in age everybody united together as one. This trip was to advance our street dance abilities and to work as a team.

This trip was for sure a challenge as we were stepping out of our comfort zones. As the days were very long, we struggled to give 100% at all times but tried our hardest to maintain our focus and motivation. We worked hard to complete our tasks, the PGL activities as well as the dance. We then performed our dance to a small audience of PGL staff members.



Overall we thoroughly enjoyed this experience and would recommend it to any pupils who are keen to learn and improve their dancing abilities. Despite the short period of time, we accomplished many things and overcame fears. It was a fun filled weekend that everyone enjoyed.

Written by Alex Hamer and Eleanor Albin Clark

Oxford Bound

It was with bleary eyes and monosyllabic conversation that ten Year 11 students appeared from their parents' cars at 5.30am and got aboard the school minibus bound for Oxford University. The traffic was kind to us and before we knew it we had arrived at Merton College and were warmly welcomed into a lecture theatre.



Home once to T. S. Eliot and J. R. R. Tolkien, Merton was founded in the 13th century and has one of the oldest working libraries in Europe. The tour also included several impressive quads, gorgeous Halls of Residence and a dining hall straight out of Harry Potter!

Pupils and staff were blown away by the architecture, the setting and the three mini lectures on Anthropology, Neurology and Political Science. I was particularly proud that amongst six other school Up Holland students asked the most questions and showed a great deal of interest and enthusiasm.



Turning Learning on its Head!

Departments have been practising the approach of 'Flipped Learning' to help pupils tackle homework this term encouraging pupils to research and prepare for topics that have not yet been taught. Through research or resources supplied for them pupils equip themselves with the knowledge and skills necessary to get the most out of learning in the classroom.

In Mrs Mallon's English group, Able, Gifted and Talented pupil's Aneta Stovanova and Jack Mason researched 'The American Dream' and taught the rest of the class for a full ten minutes to prepare for them for reading John Steinbeck's 'Of Mice and Men.' Meanwhile, Year Ten pupils in Mrs William's class: Yasmin Ratcliffe, Rebecca Houghton, Sophie Dunnett, Samantha Fernavs, Matthew Lenahan, Luis Smith and Lewis Heaton taught the rest of the class poems from the GCSE syllabus covering a tremendous amount of detail and understanding.

In Spanish, Year Nine have been expertly exploring new vocabulary and the future tense, in particular Eleanor Albin-Clark, Rebecca Houghton, Alex Aspey and Lizzy Gaskell did a brilliant job with a tense they'd never heard of before.

In Maths, all manner of topics have been explored by pupils independently at home: Trigonometry and angles in Year Nine, Area formulae in year 10 and research into trigonometry formulae in Year 11. Credit goes to Stephen Groveham, Maisie Pulford, Ellie Willoughby, Antonia Kelly and Ella Gwinnett who have shown independence and tenacity in their approach.