



Upper Wharfedale School

Head of School: Miss S Sumner

Executive Headteacher: Mr A Taylor

Wharfeside Avenue
Threshfield
Skipton
North Yorkshire
BD23 5BS
Telephone: 01756 752215
Email: admin@uws.n-yorks.sch.uk
Website: uws.n-yorks.sch.uk

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Dear Parent/Carer

Over the last couple of weeks we have seen a tremendous number of activities, trips and visits taking place. The time and effort that the staff have put into creating these experiences for our students is to be applauded and I would like to thank the staff for their continuing hard work to ensure that students have an amazing array of opportunities during their time at UWS.

Year 8s enjoyed a trip to Bradford on Thursday where they visited a Gurdwara (Sikh place of worship), as well as a visit to a large Asian department store (Bombay Stores) and to an Indian restaurant for lunch. The visit to the Gurdwara allowed students to see members of the Sikh community working in the Langar; a kitchen run by volunteers providing free vegetarian food for anyone in the community (including the homeless and university students). Students also got a chance to sit in the prayer hall and listen to prayers being read from the Sikh holy book, the Guru Granth Sahib. The highlight of the visit for many students was being able to use the instruments used during Sikh worship, including the Harmonium and drums. Then next stop was at Bombay Stores, with students buying a variety of items. Finally a visit to the Indian restaurant (Anams) where students enjoyed samosas, seekh kebabs, korma and lamb masala...although the most popular dish seemed to be the chips! A big thank you to Friends of Upper Wharfedale for supporting the trip, by financing the cost of the coach; and ensuring our students were able to enjoy a brilliant day.

Yesterday we also held a refugee education day for year 5 students from our feeder primary schools. The event was led by our year 11 students who had previously undertaken a refugee education day. There were a number of thought-provoking workshops which encouraged real debate and discussion amongst the students and we welcomed Alan and Ghaith, Syrian refugee brothers who shared their experience with us.

Monday 3rd July saw 33 excited students and 4 members of staff heading off for a week full of adventure to Kingswood. The week unfolded with lots of challenging activities and our students working as a team with excellent communication skills being developed. The highlight of the week was the water activity. On Wednesday the students completed the Nightline challenge where they were blindfolded and had to use their communication skills to guide their groups around the site avoiding the challenging obstacles. At the end of the week we celebrated our new found skills around the camp fire eating chocolate brownies and toasted marshmallows. We ended our adventure with abseiling and archery before returning to school. Our Kingswood blog has had over 1,300 views this week and can still be accessed at <https://uwskingswood2017.wordpress.com/>.

Year 9 and 10 students had an action packed week at Beverley Park, enjoying the great outdoors; from canoeing and kayaking to gorge walking and rock scrambling. A real highlight was day 2, groups 1 and 2 worked in pairs to go canoeing; using their communication skills to navigate their way through 8kms on the River Ouse. Group 3 followed a similar path on the river, however kayaked their way towards their camping destination. On arrival at the camp site in Bishop Monkton, students were shown how to set up their 'beds for the night', by erecting their tarps and sleeping bags. Once beds were sorted, students were split into teams, with each team in charge of a different job – from chopping vegetables, to washing dishes and helping sustain the fire. A great team effort contributed to a tasty stew for dinner (overseen by Head Chef Mrs Willetts) and cake with custard for pudding. After hot chocolate by the camp fire, students retired to their beds under the stars. A brilliant week with many new skills and friendships developed.

Excellence for all

Activities week in school was action packed. A real highlight of the week was our visit to Craven College. Students had the chance to meet the lizards and snakes and learn more about equine studies. In carpentry all students made a bird box that they were able to take home. In photography there were a series of challenges with prizes awarded for the best images and in fitness students had the opportunity to use the gym facilities and learn more about healthy lifestyles. During the week students also participated in a treasure hunt which had been created by Mrs Hayton and Mrs Barugh. Great fun! Students also joined in with local walks and history, visited Grassington cricket club, participated in craft activities, baking, team building games and much more.

On Wednesday this week a number of our Student Leadership team attended an Eco-school's conference at SGHS. The team came back with enthusiasm and showing a real desire for us to work together towards our first Eco-schools award.

Next week is a normal school week (week A) we shall be working right up until period 5 on Friday 21st. We shall have a short assembly at the end of the day which will be a celebration of the school year and a chance to say goodbye to those colleagues and students who will not be returning in September. We shall also be presenting rewards to students who achieved their gold award last year. With the end of term fast approaching, a quick reminder that the Friends of UWS have their annual Coffee Morning on 16th September. They will be holding a "Bottles and Boxes" Tombola on the day. Can you please send your child to school with a bottle or box of something suitable (and in date!) by Friday 21st July? This will give us enough time to tag them before the big day.

I know a number of you will be making uniform purchases for September. I would like to thank parents and carers for your support this year. Students have looked very smart and the standard of uniform has been much higher. In order to maintain this for 2017-8 please ensure that all purchases match our requirements. Trainers, sports shoes and pumps (even those made from leather) are not shoes and cannot be worn for school. Shoes should be plain, black, formal leather or leather-look with no obvious logos. Trainer style shoes should be avoided. A reminder that when students are in school jewellery is limited to **ear studs** and that hair colour should not be an unnatural colour e.g. blue or pink or dyed in different shades.

Not wanting to wish the summer holiday away, but if you have a child who has just left year 11 GCSE results day is **Thursday 24th August** and students may collect their results from 9.00 a.m. to 12 noon from school. Students should collect their results in person or make alternative arrangements with the Examinations Officer. A stamped addressed envelope is required if results are to be sent by post. Please note: exam results cannot be given out over the telephone or given to anyone other than the student without prior arrangement.

And finally a reminder that we have an Information Evening on Thursday 21st September 2017 6pm. You are warmly invited to this evening which will provide information about the following:

- Our school assessment system (the 0-9 scale and progress towards targets)
- The curriculum your child follows
- The Positive Attitude to Learning System
- Class Charts – how it is used and how you can access it
- Accelerated Reader

Although there have not been any significant changes to any of these systems it may be helpful as we start the new term to revisit these key areas.

Thank you for your continuing support,

Miss S Sumner
Head of School

