



*Head of School: Miss S Sumner*

*Executive Headteacher: Mr A Taylor*

*Tuesday, 05 September 2017*

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the end of each year we say a fond farewell to colleagues and students who will not be returning in September. I would like to thank the staff who are leaving for their commitment and dedication to the school we will miss them very much. We also have a small number of students who are moving to other parts of the UK (and internationally) we wish them the best and hope they will always remain friends of the school.

Mr Richardson wanted to share a little about the recent French trip:

“What a success Upper Wharfedale’s first trip to the Ardeche was! 18 months planning and a 23 hour bus journey, twice, was well worth it. Having had 2-3 hours sleep during the 23 hour drive, we arrived at Mimosa at 7.30am. We had a warm welcome, tour of the site, shown to our village and tents and a French breakfast greeted us, then we were straight to the beach and doing our first activity by 9.30am. Friendly and enthusiastic staff, amazing weather and activities such as splash, catamarans, picos, windsurfing, body boarding and banana boating and just having fun on the beach and in the sea kept us entertained for 3 days. An evening activity and Disco provided the fun entertainment, with dragons den being a firm favourite. Making new friends with other schools and dancing the night away in the disco meant that everybody was ready for bed by 11pm each night. And so on to the Ardeche. To break the journey up we spent 4 hours at Aqualand. This was great fun. Water slides for thrill seekers, lazy river for those wanting to relax, and sunbathing by the palm trees. Everybody loved it, including the staff! Once we made it to Domaine des Segries, our home for the next 3 days, we were shown to our rooms. Lovely, big and cool rooms greeted us at the farmhouse we were staying in. A good night’s sleep was needed ready for our excursion on the river the next day. Well, all I can say about the next 3 days is stunning, absolutely stunning! We will never forget our experience of canoeing down the Ardeche. Incredibly picturesque scenery, warm water to jump in, and once again staff that allowed everyone to have fun as well as being safe on the river. Rock jumps, rapids, trying to capsize everyone, and capsizing without any help was all part of the fun as we made our way down through the gorge. I don’t think anyone wanted to leave! We would once again like to thank the students for being incredible and a pleasure to be with, and the staff for making the trip possible in the first place. I can safely say this was one of the best school trips I have ever been on.”

I am delighted that our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students successfully completed their expedition at the start of the week. They were fortunate that the weather was excellent. They trekked around Nidderdale, camping out overnight at Thornthwaite Scout Camp and then returned to Pateley Bridge on Tuesday afternoon. The Duke of Edinburgh scheme is a fantastic opportunity for students and I am delighted that we continue to be able to offer this as an extra-curricular activity. I hope that many of the new year 10 students will consider signing up in the Autumn term.

We celebrated this week with reward breakfasts and vouchers for those students who achieved their ‘gold award’ last year. This was only possible because of the generous donations of Weatherhead butchers in Grassington, Keelham Farm Shop, Tesco, B and M, and the Friends of UWS. Students enjoyed a breakfast cooked by myself, Mrs Mukherjee, Mrs Hindle, Miss Zaman and Miss Metcalfe. We then presented vouchers which we hope the students will enjoy.

*Excellence for all*

By the time that the students return in September we will have upgraded the security of all of the school entrances. Parents, students and visitors will notice these changes and students will need their lanyard to be able to access the doors into school. External doors, which currently operate on a timing system will be upgraded and students will need to use their lanyards to access the doors and this will ensure that only UWS staff, students and approved visitors are able to access the school buildings. To improve safety and security we are installing a gate on the bus turning circle entrance. Additionally we shall be installing fencing and gates to help segregate pedestrians and traffic.

Some dates for your diary:

Date	Event
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> September 6pm	Information evening
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> September 6pm	Year 6 open evening
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October 5pm	Year 11 Parents' evening
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> October morning	Year 6 open morning * please ring school to book a time
Week beginning 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Trial exams for year 11.
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November 5pm	Year 7 Parents' evening
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm	Year 10 Performing Arts showcase
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 5pm	Year 9 Parents' and options evening
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 5pm	Year 8 Parents' evening
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 5pm	Year 10 Parents' evening

A reminder that we return on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 9am prompt for all year groups.

Wishing you a safe and happy summer break

Miss Sumner