

**FUWS - PTA**

Friends have contributed £700 towards our upcoming production of 'Frozen'

Food

For upcoming practical cookery lessons w/c 1 December

Year 7

Christmas Practical, Caramel Crispies (or rasp buns)

Year 8

Christmas Practical, Several choices.

Please see MCAS or Teams, Files - "Ingredients needed for practical lessons".

In an emergency you can email Mrs Doidge: jdoidge@uws.n-yorks.sch.uk

N.B ingredient lists are posted on Wednesday and Thursday the week before.

DRAMA

Rehearsals for this year's school production 'Frozen'

Rehearsal Dates:

**16/12/25 ONLY
UNTIL 5PM**

**ALL CAST REQUIRED TO
ATTEND**

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**Yr 7 Panto Trip Full School
uniform must be worn.
Return to UWS at 5.30pm**

Dates for the diary

16 December – DT trip to Nissan Sunderland

Yr 7 Boys Rugby @ WRUFC

YR 10 Work Experience Parental Meeting – 6pm

17 December – Yr 7 Pantomime Trip – Full School Uniform

18 December – Whole School Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day

19 December – Whole School Celebration Assembly

School Breaks up – Returns Tuesday 6 January

Reminder that all events can be found on the school calendar

[School Events - Calendar](#)

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the festive season, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support throughout the year.

This term has been filled with creativity and celebration. We have enjoyed some fantastic art challenges that showcased the incredible talent of our students, and our recent Presentation Evening was a wonderful occasion to recognise and celebrate their achievements.

A special mention goes to Iris for designing a truly outstanding Christmas card, complemented beautifully by a festive verse written by Sylvie. Their creativity has brought a special touch to our seasonal celebrations.

Just another reminder that we are currently looking for a Parent Governor to join our Governing Body. Please see page 2 for more information. **Deadline for expression of interest by Friday 19 December.**

On behalf of everyone at Upper Wharfedale School, I wish you and your families a joyful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. We look forward to welcoming students back on **Tuesday 6th January** for another exciting term.

Warm regards,

Mr I Chapman
Headteacher

**WHOLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS DINNER**

The Christmas dinner will take place on **Thursday 18th December.**

There will be 2 sittings - **year 7, 8 & 9 - 11.45-12.30** and **year 10 & 11 - 13.00-13.45**. There will be NO food at break time that day so it may be a good idea to bring a snack especially year 10 & 11. There is NO charge for the meal.

Students are invited to wear one item of festive clothing on the day such as a Christmas jumper or Santa hat and should bring a donation of £1 if they wish to do so.

We currently have a chocolate hamper raffle ongoing - 50p a ticket. This will be drawn on the last day of term.

Discover Engineering Development Trust for Parents/Guardians

Discover EDT and how we can help your son/daughter with their exciting journey into the world of STEM

You can book your place here:-

Topic: FREE - Discover EDT: Parent/Guardian webinar

When: Thursday 29th January at 4-5pm

Registration Link : [Click here](#)

Big Schools Bird Watch

Miss Roberts would like to take part in the Big Schools Birdwatch for the RSPB with students between 6 January and 3 February 2026.

Would anyone be willing to lend school some binoculars (named so they can be returned)? Or your child could bring in their own binoculars. She would also like bird feeders and bird food to put up outside around school to monitor bird species.



LOST PROPERTY

We have a large selection of lost property at school. Please may you ensure that all items are named to make it easier to return them to their rightful owners. Please could you also remind your child to check if they have lost anything this term. There will be a table displaying items in the hall from 15 December. **Any items not claimed before we break up for Christmas will be donated to charity.**

PARENT GOVERNOR

We are currently seeking a parent to join our Governing Body as a Parent Governor. This voluntary role is a fantastic opportunity to play an active role in shaping the strategic direction of our school and ensuring the best outcomes for our students.

What does the role involve?

Attending **six meetings per year**, each lasting approximately **two hours** (one meeting per half term).

- Working alongside other governors and the leadership team to support and challenge the school in key areas such as curriculum, finance, and safeguarding.
- Bringing a parental perspective to discussions and decisions.

No prior experience is necessary, just a commitment to the school and a willingness to contribute.

If you are interested and would like to arrange a short phone call to find out more, please contact us at **admin@uks.n-yorks.sch.uk**.

Thank you for considering this important role in our school community.

WET DAY MOVIES

As the weather is becoming colder and wetter, Ms Zaman will be using one of the classrooms to show a movie when it is raining outside.

If you have any age-appropriate DVDs that we could have, please could you send them into school? - this will be very much appreciated. Thank you

LAST CHANCE REMINDER – EVERYONE'S INVITED

Online Parent Session – Supporting Young People in a Digital World

We are pleased to invite you to an **online parent session** being run by the charity **Everyone's Invited**. The aim is to offer a supportive and informative space for parents and carers of students aged 11–16.

This session will explore some of the key challenges and pressures that young people face in today's digital world, including:

- Social media platforms such as TikTok and Snapchat
- Gendered pressures and consent
- Pornography and the rise of AI
- Image-based abuse and sextortion
- Online misogyny

The talk aims to help parents better understand these issues and feel more confident in supporting their children as they navigate the complexities of online life. Practical strategies and guidance will be shared throughout the session.

Monday 2nd February 2026 @ 6 - 7pm
Via Teams call online
(link to be shared nearer the time)

We encourage all parents and carers to attend this important discussion. It's a valuable opportunity to learn and ask questions. **If you would like to attend, please complete the link below by Friday 19 December 2025:**

[Parents talk run by Everyone's Invited – Fill in form](#)

ABSENCES

All absences must be reported **before 9am** every morning of absence. Please leave a brief description of illness not just unwell.

Telephone: 01756 752215
(press 1 - line open 24 hrs)

Email – absence@uws.n-yorks.sch.uk

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CARD HOUSE COMPETITION

This term has been very exciting as once again, the skill and creativity of our UWS students has been outstanding!

Students have demonstrated an exceptional response to their Art lessons, extra-curricular art clubs and house competitions. We have launched 4 house competitions this term. Year 7 have taken part in the annual Christmas card House competition which has seen Iris O'Clee from house Elbolton as the winning designer. Sylvie Delphino wrote a lovely festive verse which has been placed inside the card. We are delighted to post this to both families as a token of thanks and both girls will receive 4 house points and a festive surprise!

Year 8 have been busy this term designing and making Australian boomerangs. There were all sorts of ideas which included cushions, cakes and biscuits all in the shape of a boomerang. Olivia Mason from House Kail won the competition with a stunning and most decorative hand painted wooden boomerang.

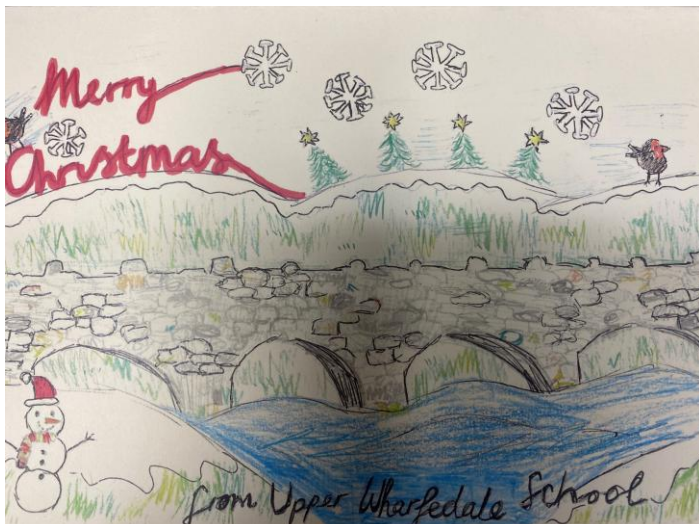
Year 9 took part in a fish and sea life Art competition where they could create and design their own surreal or realistic underwater scene. There were some fabulous ideas and entries which included canvas paintings, tapestries, knitted fish and a giant papier mache octopus! Congratulations goes to House Stebden and Emily Cuthbert for her winning canvas painting.

Year 10 undertook quite a challenge when they were given the creative task of making a 3-dimensional insect. Entries from all our GCSE students were extremely impressive but congratulations go to Athelstan Kelsey from House Elbolton with his winning dragonfly which was constructed from recycled and found objects from the seashore.

Next term the whole of Key stage 3 and 4 will participate in Skipton's annual rotary competition. There will be both an Art and photography contest. This year's theme will be 'happiness in nature'. We have successfully participated over the past 4 years gaining the top positions in both contests and so are very excited to see the entries we receive from our students after Christmas.

Thank you to all students and families for supporting the Arts in school and for a very successful term. I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!

Thank you
Mrs Newall



*The stars are shining, calm and bright;
Soft snowflakes whisper through the night.
A candle glows; the hearth is warm;
Peace and love in every form.
Merry Christmas.*