

Uffculme School **NEWS**



Spring 2025



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Celebrating Uffculme School Students

Battle of the Bands



Welcome to another beautiful edition of our newsletter. This edition again showcases our incredible students and all of the things that they achieve both inside and outside of the classroom. Uffculme School is such a special place and I am very privileged to get to experience the joy of this school every day.

This term our Local Governance Committee have been in for their Learning Walks and they had the pleasure of dropping in to a wide range of Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 lessons across all departments. They were delighted with what they saw and reported back common strengths in all lessons including: *«Engagement was clear for every child throughout. It felt like genuinely relaxed engagement between staff and students. We saw consistently high expectations around spoken answers and vocabulary. Students were polite and articulate and happy to engage with visitors. We saw confident learners who were full of pride. We saw no disruption for learning. Staff used care and kindness and real personality in all lessons.»* Our students were exemplary, as they always are.

Our participation rates are sensational and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and carers for their endless commitment to our wider curricular programme. We do not underestimate your support in ensuring your children can access all of these opportunities and we could not do it without you. Lots of our families will have seen this at the Momentum dance show with over 130 students performing and the technical side also being run by our students, supported by Marty. Please do continue to support your child to get involved in as much as possible and ensure that they are brimming with badges. We love to see the commitment of our students to such a wide range of activities.

Please do continue to keep an eye out for the events that we are running that we publicise on our social media and in our weekly bulletin. The European Outdoor Film Tour was a brilliant evening with genuinely incredible films on show. At the end of this term we will be running our annual community Easter Egg Hunt in aid of the Uffculme School Trust



and we would love to see you and your young children there - we will keep our fingers crossed for the sun this year!

Uffculme School is a very special place with incredible staff, students and families. Thank you for supporting us every single day - we will continue to work relentlessly as a staff to ensure that Uffculme School is full of ambition and joy.

L Jenkins

Laura Jenkins
Headteacher

#it'sallaboutUS



MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR STUDENTS OF UFFCULME SCHOOL

The Uffculme School Trust is a charitable trust operated by the School which aims to ensure that all students, whatever their background, have the same opportunity to participate in the wide range of curricular and extra-curricular activities that are available to them. For further information please go to our website: www.uffculmeschool.bep.ac/school-trust-fund

HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR 7

What an action-packed term it's been for our fantastic Year 7s! From thrilling competitions to creative pursuits, they've truly embraced school life with enthusiasm and determination.

This term saw Year 7s diving headfirst into activities like house competitions, cross country, golf and even caving! Whether racing through muddy trails or exploring new heights underground, their adventurous spirits have been unstoppable.

We have had an amazing turn out for their first Ex-moor Challenge training walk which bodes well for the upcoming Lynton walk in a few weeks time. They do indeed need to be ready for the steep hills. The house competitions have been embraced with the Big Exercise Challenge out pacing the other years in the half and full marathons.

“ Whether racing through muddy trails or exploring new heights underground, their adventurous spirits have been unstoppable. ”



Even the frost couldn't deter our budding green thumbs. The frozen ground couldn't halt gardening projects, where they have started to really transform the garden into a haven for the birds and already crops are coming through.

Our Year 7 bookworms have been busy too! Congratulations to Zach A who has earned his Gold 8B48 Reading badge (16 books - wow!). He needs to watch out as Aiden and Maksi-mas are fast on his heels having gained their Silver Badges – well done boys.

As the term wraps up, it's been incredible to see the passion, creativity and hard work these students bring to everything they do. Let's keep the momentum going into the next term - we can't wait to see even more Year 7s shining brightly at the presentation evening in July!

Miss Bartlett



YEAR 8

Another fantastic term for Year 8, who have continued to throw themselves into all things Uff-culme!

I have been delighted to see the strong work ethic, which is becoming a hallmark of the year group, on display throughout the lessons I have visited and in feedback from teachers. Staff have praised Year 8 for their effort in class, both with written and verbal answers, across the breadth of the curriculum and I know that there are a number of individuals who are really pushing themselves to progress at the moment. It takes strength, resilience and tenacity to maintain high levels of effort, particularly when the weather turns cold and dark, so to see the positive grades on the spring reports has been fantastic.

Additionally, lots of students have recently achieved their Silver Award for regular attendance at a club. To achieve their badge, students have had to commit to ten weeks of a club and then have their teacher sign to confirm their attendance. Nearly half of the year group are now proudly wearing their silver badge, with many more due to receive it in the coming weeks. The next step for students is to collect 250 house points to achieve their Gold Award!

I was delighted to be able to

invite seven of our bilingual students to speak in assembly this term. They practised an assembly explaining the benefits of multilingualism and presented this to the year group in their own languages; Hebrew, Sinhala, Arabic, German, Ukrainian, Portuguese and Chinese. It was a wonderful celebration of multiculturalism and first-hand representation of how learning languages benefits us.

This term has also included the planetarium visit, organised by Ms Legg in Science. This has been a brilliant opportunity for the year group to learn about space in a truly immersive environment. Students conducted themselves brilliantly and I know they got a lot out of it.

We are now heading towards the Summer Term, with all of the fun and (hopefully!) sun that comes with it. Fantastic opportunities like sports day and activities week are the headlines of the coming term, along with plenty more activities for students to throw themselves into. I would like to see even more students getting involved with clubs and activities as these are often the things that students remember the most long after they have left school. If your child has not yet found something that suits them, please do have a look at our extracurricular timetable on our website to see what might be of interest.

As always, thank you for support throughout the school year in maintaining high levels of atten-

dance, effort and participation. We are always grateful of the massive support we receive from families, which helps to make Uff-culme the school that it is.

Mr Hagan



YEAR 9

Year 9 students have shown incredible enthusiasm and commitment to a wide variety of extra-curricular activities this term. From sporting achievements to creative performances and leadership initiatives, this group of students has truly embraced the opportunities available to them. Students have excelled in a variety of sporting

activities, showcasing their skills, teamwork and dedication.

Throughout the term, students participated in both inter-school and in-house competitions, with several teams reaching notable milestones.

The football and netball teams have seen impressive improvements, with many students stepping up into leadership roles within their teams.

The sports clubs have seen an increase in participation and the students are not only improving their physical fitness but also developing valuable teamwork and leadership skills through sport. Several students took part in the school's highly anticipated dance production. After months of rehearsals, the students delivered an impressive performance. The creativity, dedication and collaboration shown by the dancers were exceptional, with many students taking on leadership roles within their respective groups. The event not only highlighted the students' talent but

also showcased their commitment to the arts. The success of the production has sparked interest in future dance performances and has encouraged more students to pursue dance as an extra-curricular activity.

Students were given the exciting opportunity to attend a live theatre performance this term. The trip to see Dear Evan Hansen at the Bristol Hippodrome was a

memorable experience for all involved. Students had the chance to engage with the play's themes, discuss its creative direction and reflect on the acting and staging.

The theatre trip was an invaluable cultural experience, providing students

with a greater appreciation for the arts. Many students

expressed their enthusiasm for the trip, with follow-up discussions and projects focusing on the performance's impact and lessons learned from the experience.

In an effort to promote kindness, inclusion and a positive school culture, the Year 9 students were introduced to the newly launched Anti-Bullying Ambassador program. This initiative empowers students to take a stand against bullying and support their peers in creating a safe and welcoming environment.

The launch event included training and workshops for the ambassadors, equipping them with the tools and knowledge to lead anti-bullying campaigns, provide peer support and raise awareness about the importance of mental

well-being.

Those students that were successful in applying to be part of the STEM team initiatives have been in full flow this term, with students actively participating in various STEM-related projects and competitions. From robotics challenges to coding workshops, students have been honing their problem-solving and analytical skills in a hands-on and engaging environment and are looking to support and engage students from local primary schools.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award has seen a massive surge in interest this term, with the launch to Year 9 students. This prestigious award, which focuses on personal development through volunteering, physical activities and outdoor challenges, has attracted a record number of sign-ups.

The level of enthusiasm is incredible, with students eager to embark on their journey toward earning the Bronze Award. Several students have already begun their volunteering projects, while others are preparing for their upcoming expeditions. The Duke of Edinburgh Award has not only given students the chance to develop important life skills but also fostered a sense of responsibility and commitment to their communities. The large sign-up numbers are a testament to the value students place on this award and their readiness to take on its challenges.

Mrs Lyne-Ley

“ Year 9 students have shown incredible enthusiasm and commitment to a wide variety of extracurricular activities this term. ”

YEAR 10

The Spring Term has proven very busy for Year 10; the students have had their first mock exams preparing them for their RE and English Literature exams which are happening in May. The students conducted themselves well and gained valuable knowledge of what the exam experience feels like. I often see the students working hard during their PD lessons using revision guides and resources prepared by both the English and RE departments and I know that preparation is going well.

Since the last edition there has been a flurry of activity on the work experience front and the students have been putting in the hard work in trying to find placements. At the time of writing, we are in a healthy position with the amount of students who have secured employment for the week; hopefully by the time this is printed we'll be close to having every pupil in Year 10 placed.

In an effort to provide Year 10 with useful, relevant information for their next academic steps, we have had the post-16 evening with external providers coming in to school to explain the various courses and careers available on leaving Uffculme School. Every pupil will have had a one-to-one careers meeting with our Careers advisor Mrs Trump. This meeting helps pupils to be signposted to particular courses and gives

“ The students conducted themselves well and gained valuable knowledge of what the exam experience feels like.

”

pupils an end goal following their school experience. We have had National Apprenticeship Week where pupils gained valuable information about how to apply for further education while earning a salary in the local area.

At this moment, the eagerly anticipated Dance Show is about to begin. A huge thank you to Miss Mitir and a large number of Year 10 dancers who have not only worked hard on their own pieces but also helped choreograph and teach the younger pupils some amazing routines and I know how much time, energy and effort has gone into preparing for the show and there is a large Year 10 contingent who have been so dedicated in giving their all in putting on a stunning showpiece event.

Recently we've had our first wave of students who have qualified as Peer Mentors, a truly fantastic programme which the students had to apply to take part in and gives them the option to support some of the school's younger students whilst being a positive

influence and role model.

This, along with the students who are already Peer Reading partners and Maths Mentors, House Captains and Eco councillors shows how keen the Year 10 cohort are in getting fully involved in school life.

Shortly applications for the Year 10s to become prefects will close and I will be awarding Prefect ties to those who have completed a successful trial period. I know that we have many students who will do themselves proud in giving something back to the school.

Mr Heard



Year 10 DofE Bronze Award Winners



Year 10 Sports Prefects

YEAR 11

As we approach the crucial part of the school year all focus and attention has turned towards the upcoming exam series. With revision and final exam preparations being put in place, strength of character and resolve will be needed to get over that finish line.

The new year brought us ever closer to coursework deadlines and I have to say that the

students have performed well against some tough deadlines. Particularly where students were taking qualifications where there was a convergence of multiple deadlines. Whether it was BTEC ICT,

Catering, Food or Media Studies students were working tirelessly to ensure that they gave their very best. On top of this I count myself incredibly lucky to have been able to witness some of the stunning practical work which has been produced by our students. I witnessed such high quality work from the students in a number of endeavours. The work produced in the Food and Nutrition and Catering exams was of an exceptional standard, the Drama performances which the students put together showcased the talents of the year group and the musical performances have been incredible also.

With such a busy period on the horizon you would be forgiven for thinking that the students were only focussed on exams, but in truth the extra-curricular aspect

of their education has continued and the students have continued to excel. I attended the Devon Music Education Hub's Regional heat of Battle of the Bands which we had a group participating in. They gave a rousing performance, but were narrowly edged out and unfortunate not to qualify for the next round. The girls badminton team overcame their regional heat in a home fixture before going on to win the County tournament shortly after. An impressive result and one which

“ I witnessed such high quality work from the students in a number of endeavours

”

Mr Lane was proud of. He mentioned that the team had battled fiercely to secure their victory and emerged as well-deserved winners. We also had a team take part in the National Cipher Challenge who used all of their wits and guile to finish third in the country; an exceptional achievement.

Much of the term so far has been spent informing Year 11 of how best to prepare for the upcoming exams with information about teacher led revision sessions and how to structure timetables being disseminated to students in assemblies and during tutor time. The Year 11 tutor team and Mr

Roberts have done their utmost to ensure that no stone is left unturned in having Year 11 primed and ready for the exams. In addition to this, focus has also been on informing students about their next steps on life after Uffculme with visits from Bridgwater and Taunton College as well as information about T-Levels and Apprenticeships from HepcoMotion. Many students attended their Richard Huish College interviews at Uffculme and have secured offers of placements as a result of this.

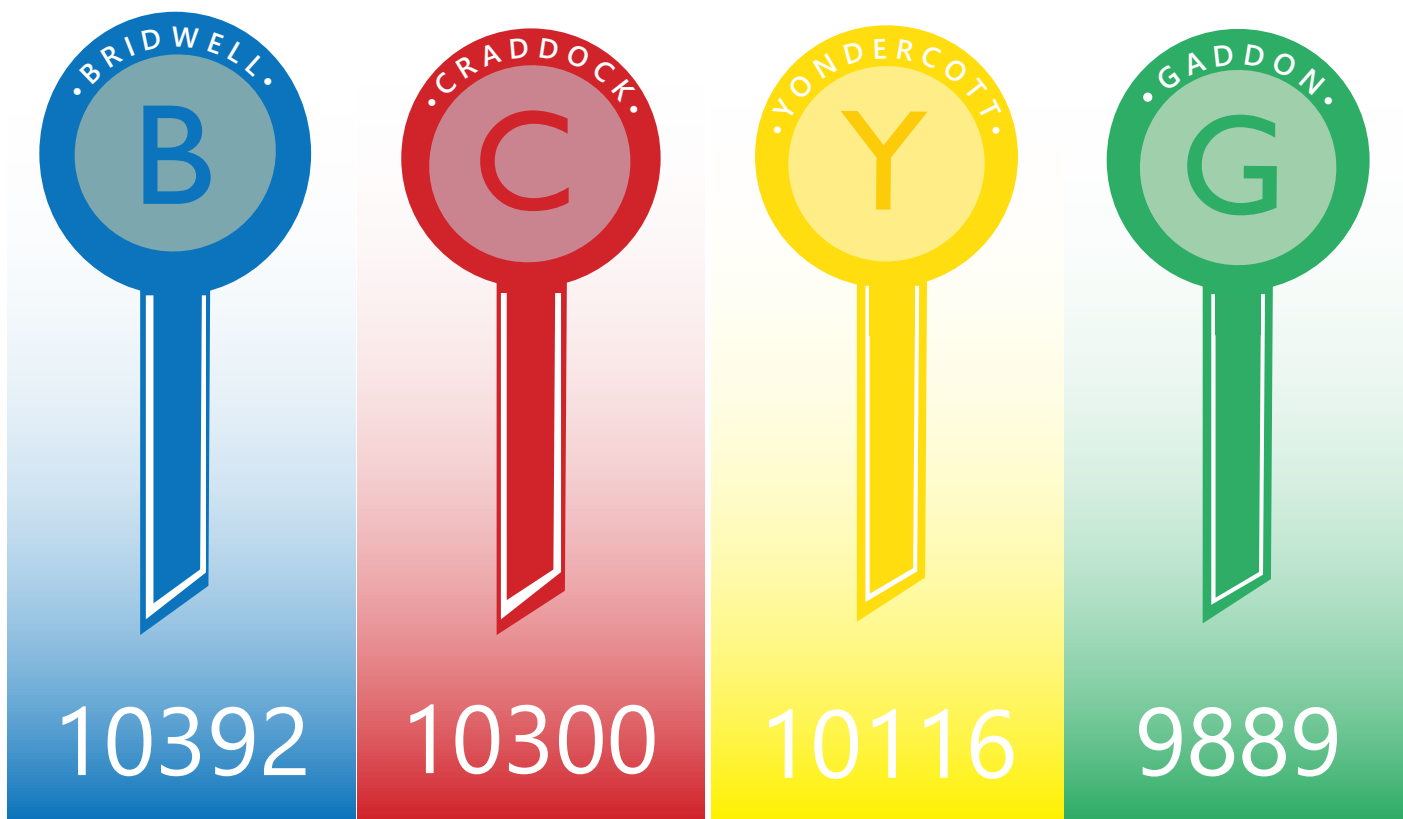
Whilst there is another newsletter which will be released in the Summer Term it is likely that this is the last newsletter many of you will receive. I just wanted to say what a pleasure it has been working with Year 11 over the last four years and indeed working with the students and their families to ensure the students were safe, happy and successful. I'm a firm believer that each of the students have been equipped with valuable skills which will last them a life time and that each member of Year 11 will leave Uffculme prepared for the next steps. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with you.

Mr Burt



HOUSE POINTS UPDATE

Current standings, correct at time of writing (Mar 2025):



A fantastic start to term two!

We are thrilled to report that participation in the House System has been outstanding this term. The enthusiasm and commitment from both staff and students have been truly inspiring. Here's a recap of the exciting events and achievements so far:

House Badminton Competition. Mr. Lane kicked off the term with an exhilarating House Badminton competition. Over 300 matches were played, showcasing incredible talent and sportsmanship. Congratulations to Yondercott for being crowned the House Badminton Champions this year!

The Big Exercise Promise saw hundreds of students from all year groups taking on impressive physical challenges. Students completed 10km runs, half marathons and even full marathons during their lunch breaks. Additionally, students logged distances outside of school, competing fiercely against other houses. This event highlighted the dedication and perseverance of our students.

Mr. Hodson organized a thrilling Maths Challenge, engaging students in a series of brain-teasing problems. The competition was intense and the

level of mathematical prowess displayed was remarkable.

For the first time ever, Mr. Williams hosted the Geography House Cup, a quiz show-style event that tested students' knowledge of Geography. The event was a great success, with students eagerly participating and demonstrating their geographical expertise.

Current standings at the halfway point of the term: Bridwell is leading the race for the House Cup. However, the competition remains tight, and it's still all to play for!

We are incredibly proud of the effort and enthusiasm shown by everyone involved. Let's keep up the fantastic work and continue to make this term a memorable one for the House System!

Mr Phillips



ECO COUNCIL

The focus of the Eco Council for this year is to earn the school its Green Flag award. This is through a group called Eco Schools. So far, the Eco Council has completed an environmental review of the school. This has helped us to understand which areas we need to work on, for us these are: Waste, Water and Biodiversity. We have created an action plan to ensure we take action to help improve our three highlighted areas of need.

To help with the Waste section we are collecting all the old pens from around the school, boxing them up and sending them off to be recycled. Over the years we have amassed quite a lot. They used to be sent off by weight but now can be boxed differently. With the help of the Science tech-

nician Mrs Hoole, we are sending the bulk off for recycling to clear the Science prep room and then will regularly check the old pen baskets and send these off when we have a full box. We have filled 11 boxes so far for recycling, a great effort by everyone at Uffculme School. We want to give a big THANK YOU to everyone who collects their old pens and puts them in the baskets to be recycled – PLEASE KEEP RECYCLING YOUR OLD PENS.

Since the last newsletter the Eco Council have run their Christmas jumper swap. This was an amazing success! Friday lunchtime saw the culmination of dozens of unwanted festive clothing items finding new homes with students and staff. The event wasn't to raise money but to promote the

opportunity to avoid fast fashion and instead reuse clothing. However, we did raise over £40 for the Uffculme Trust.

After the success of last years 'Clothes swap' we are hoping to run this event again. It is a great way to recycle and reuse unwanted clothing, as well as clearing out your wardrobes and picking up some bargains. Keep a look out for notices about the Clothes Swap and when to bring in your items.

Eco Council



VEX ROBOTICS CLUB

Our Robotics teams have continued to do extremely well in this season's "High Stakes" VEX V5 robotics challenge. After attending our first competition of the year in Oxford back in November, the teams went back to the drawing-board and the robots underwent a complete redesign! We realised we needed to be able to pick up the plastic rings far more quickly from the floor – so the forklift went and a much quicker intake conveyer belt was installed. We also refined our pneumatic clamps to hold the goal post in position more effectively and new code was written to enable the robots to put a ring onto a goal-post during the autonomous part of the match.

After lots of work throughout December, January saw us travel to Birmingham to another regional event at Colmers School and Sixth Form, where we were able to put the new and improved robots to the test in a competitive environment, as well as take part in individual skills challenges.

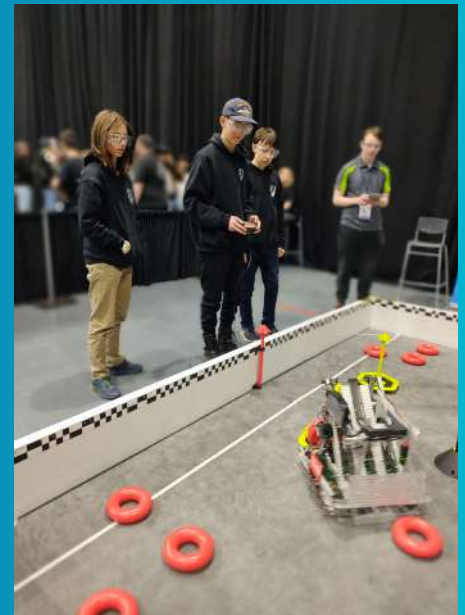
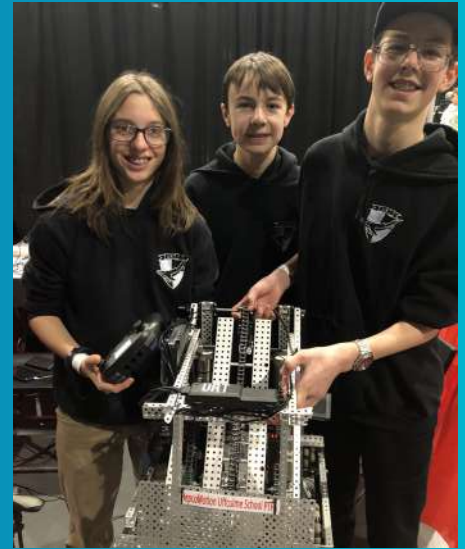
We were delighted to find out that our younger, 'middle school' team had earned themselves a place at the UK national final. This was held at Telford International Centre at the very end of February. Three members of the team travelled up for the 2-day event. They competed in 12 matches against some of the best teams from across the UK. The robot performed brilliantly as did the team. They showed excellent strategy when planning their gameplay with alliance partners,

and great resilience fixing minor problems in their pit lane when they occurred.

We are now busy taking the robots apart and are looking forward to finding out what next year's competition will involve!

We would like to say a huge thank you to our sponsors, Uffculme School PTFA and HepcoMotion in Tiverton, who have both supported the teams this year.

Mrs Vaughan



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ADVANCED LINEAR SOLUTIONS

ASPIRE

DEMOCRACY AND POLITICS TALK

The Democracy and Politics Aspire talk was an insightful and educational discussion led by the Political Sciences teacher Dr R. Baker from Exeter University. We were able to share and learn about the opinions and thoughts of others on these topics. It was interesting to learn the difference between what is perceived

about democracy and politics against what is actually true. During the talk, we learnt about the difference between political ideologies and where our parties of the UK sit on this spectrum. It was interesting to consider the social disdain towards politics and hearing about the statistics on where an age group, for example,

is more likely to vote or identify on a political spectrum. It was a very well led and descriptive talk that was an exciting opportunity to be able to take part in, as these topics are not often talked about. Dr Baker was very helpful and she answered many of our questions giving detailed and informative responses.



PETROC UNIVERSITY WORKSHOP

Year 8 Aspire students were invited to a workshop run by staff from Petroc on 'Introduction to University'. Students took part in quizzes and activities, all aimed at inspiring them to consider university in the future. Students had to complete a 'budgeting task' where they were given a small budget and asked to work out their weekly costs. They were very surprised at the cost of basic items. This caused a lot of lively discussion! Students really enjoyed the workshop and were left feeling motivated and inspired.



YEAR 7 MATHS CHALLENGE

Huge congratulations were in order for our Year 7 Maths Challenge students. Three teams went to Blundell's to take part in a Maths Challenge event with students from other schools. Students had to work through tricky Maths challenges under timed conditions.

Congratulations to Leon M and Dexter G who were placed first and third respectively in the individual competition.

Congratulations to Leon M, Bea B and Zoe G who were awarded First Place in the team competition. Further congratulations to Joe W, Ben M and Toby W who were awarded Second Place.

Mrs Ings



BARNFIELD THEATRE TRIP

I found the Barnfield Theatre trip an exciting and eye-opening experience. It was so interesting to learn about all the different careers within the theatre industry, as well as countless paths you

could follow once you finish your education journey. The whole team at the Barnfield were brilliant and, all in all, it was a wonderful and delightful opportunity.

Charlotte M - Year 9



PLANETARIUM VISIT

The planetarium was a wonderful experience. The knowledge of where everything in this entire universe came from is invaluable and I am grateful to have gained that knowledge.

Henry T, Year 9



Moving into the spring term, our students have continued to push their creative boundaries, experimenting with new techniques, materials and ideas. From still life painting to portraiture and competitions, there has been a real buzz of artistic energy in the department.



Since January, Year 7 have been building their knowledge and skills on how to paint and how to mix colour. They are now applying colour theory and painting skills to a still life project inspired by Paul Cézanne. As part of this, they have been introduced to watercolour techniques, learning how to handle a new medium with control and precision. They have also developed their understanding of ellipses - a key technique for drawing rounded still life objects such as bottles and pots in perspective.



Year 8 began the term by completing their Cubism-inspired cardboard relief sculptures, which were a fantastic success. Using metallic paints and dry brushing techniques, students created dynamic three-dimensional pieces featuring

ART



abstracted elements of musical instruments. More recently, they have been exploring the work of Emma Shipley, a textile and graphic designer inspired by Greek mythology. Through this project, students have been investigating the role of pat-

tern, symbolism, and mythical creatures in design. They will be developing their own imaginative responses in the upcoming weeks.



For Year 9, this term has been all about portraiture. Students have studied the proportions of the face and explored a range of different portraiture styles. They

have looked at the symbolic and personal storytelling of Frida Kahlo, the contemporary realism of Jonathan Yeo, and the bold, expressive colours of the Fauves. They have produced self-portraits

in pencil and are now scaling up their work, developing larger final piece portraits that demonstrate their growing confidence and skill.





Year 10 have been taking greater ownership of their artistic journeys, developing independent projects tailored to their personal interests and ideas surrounding Flora and Fauna. These projects will culminate in a two-day, off-timetable mock exam at the end of March, where students will produce a final piece based on their research and experimentation. We are very excited

to see what our Year 10s will produce in their first larger scale work.

Year 11 have been fully immersed in their GCSE exam project, which they started in January. Working independent-

ly, they have each developed a personal response to one of the themes set by the exam board, refining their ideas through research, sketchbook work and experimentation. With final deadlines approaching, the department has been a hive of activity, and we are incredibly impressed with their dedication and creativity.

Following on from the success of last year's Christmas card competition, we have had over 100 entries for the 2025 Christmas card designs. The winning 12 entries will feature on this year's official Uffculme School Christmas card, which will be sold nearer the time at the Craft Fair and on ParentPay to raise money for the Woodland Trust.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2024 Christmas Card competition: George M, Xinen, Imogen L, Adri vH, Molly P, Layla W, Gracie L, Faith E, Harriet F and Abi W





We have also had many fantastic entries for the Valentine's Day competition, showcasing the creativity and talent of our students. We are so impressed with their dedication and the time they have spent on their extra-curricular art projects.

Please see our Instagram Art stories on 'Uffculmeschoolart' to view some of the wonderful artwork our students have created this term!



@Uffculmeschoolart



The school ski trip to Austria was an exhilarating adventure that combined learning, fun and breathtaking scenery.

Upon arrival at Hotel Torrenerhof, the group was warmly welcomed by the hotel staff. Located in the charming town of Golling, the hotel boasts a cozy and inviting atmosphere, perfect for unwinding after days on the slopes. After a hearty breakfast,

students headed to the slopes, ready to hone their skiing skills.

Beginners started on gentle slopes, guided by patient instructors who taught them the basics of skiing. As confidence grew, they progressed to more challenging runs, experiencing the thrill of gliding down the mountain. Intermediate and advanced skiers tackled steeper slopes and even tried their hand

YEAR 11 AUS





at black runs, pushing their limits and showcasing their skills.

Beyond skiing, the students participated in group activities, including swimming at the local spa pool, bowling and a trip to the Christmas Market at Salzburg. The stunning Austrian landscape provided a picturesque backdrop for these moments, with its charming villages and majestic peaks.

The trip culminated in a farewell dinner and final awards ceremony, celebrating the achievements and progress made throughout the week. Students returned home, carrying with them a new found passion for skiing, cherished memories, and strengthened friendships. A truly unforgettable experience.

Mr Heard



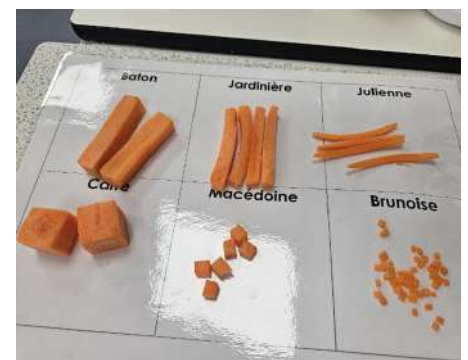
TRIA SKI TRIP



CATERING & HOSPITALITY

Year 10 Hospitality and Catering are continuing to expand their knowledge of complex skills within the kitchen. The complex skills they learn can be used in Year 11 for their Unit 2 coursework. Complex skills include the following: emulsifying (mayonnaise/hollandaise sauce), deep fat frying (chips), baking blind (French Apple Tart). They also practised their knife skills chopping more complex shapes including brunoise and julienne. We turned this into a competition and the winners could have their washing up done by the teacher. The students have also made Chelsea buns and focaccia, two different bread doughs. The Year 10s were given the opportunity to make a dish of their choosing suitable for a certain life stage (age). We will do this again in the future to practise thinking of dishes to suit different people with different nutritional needs e.g. elderly, vegetarians, lactose intolerant, etc.

Photos of a student's focaccia bread below and knife skills opposite.



Year 11 Hospitality and Catering have completed their Unit 2 coursework. This consisted of being off timetable for a day so they could prepare, cook and present 2 dishes, one suitable for an adult and one dish suitable for a 10-year-old child, both staying at a residential outdoor pursuits centre. The students did exceptionally well showing their breadth of knowledge and skills within the kitchen creating their chosen dishes. Well done, Year 11. We will now continue to prepare for their Unit 1 exam.

Mrs Statton



LANGUAGES

MFL SPEAKING COMPETITION

At the beginning of March, 6 students across KS3 and 4 were invited to participate in the annual MFL Speaking Competition held at Pilton Community College in Barnstaple. It was an early start as we had to leave school around 7.30am but the free snacks and food at the event helped! The students were split into two categories: non-native and near-native speakers and had to present about a topic given to them prior to the day in either French or German. The competition was fierce, going up against 11 other schools in

the area but the students did Uffculme proud and all presented confidently without notes and with beautiful accents. We were lucky enough to win a prize in the near-native category. Lunch was a highlight with the opportunity to take part in some quizzes for more prizes – we won the emoji countries round! We also enjoyed entertainment from other schools including singing in Hungarian and French, a Spanish choir and some traditional Indian dancing. Overall, a great day celebrating languages and the students

should be massively proud of their achievement. Not everyone can stand up in front of an audience and speak fluently in another language. They all received certificates, badges and some extra goodies from the day. I know there are some students who are already planning for next year as well! Watch this space!

Miss Stone





January and February saw over 80 students take part in a variety of running challenges as part of the Big Exercise Promise. Students could choose to take on the 10k challenge by running 2.5km for four days in a row, the half marathon challenge by running 2.6 miles for five days in a row, or the full marathon challenge by running the half marathon all over again!

All those who took part demonstrated amazing commitment, enthusiasm and determination to push themselves and support each other around the hilly course. Even the wind and the rain didn't stop students giving up their lunchtimes to reach their goal and push their sponsorship totals higher! Many caught the running bug and upgraded their 10k to a half marathon, or even a half marathon to a full one.

Students were supported by many

different members of staff who gave up their free time to keep students safe and motivated (or, in some cases, to try and keep up with the frontrunners!). Everyone was cheered home after the final gruelling dash up Chapel Hill.

The organiser, Mr Winsor, said, "It was a privilege to run with so many students and staff. It was a mental and physical challenge to get out in the cold and push yourself up the hills for ten days

straight, but the enthusiasm of everyone who took part was fantastic. Thank you to all staff and students who got involved! My knees and ankles need a good rest now..."

One of the marathon finishers, Max H in Year 10, commented, "I can whole heartedly say that this has been one of my favourite events hosted on the Uffculme School calendar. Everyone who ran looked as though they were having fun, determined to reach their goal. Some students even pushed further than they expected, by continuing through the following week. I can't wait to see everyone running again next year!"

Here are some amazing statistics from this year's challenges:

- 20 students ran 10k, totalling 200km
- 26 students ran a half marathon, totalling 551km
- 41 students ran a full marathon, totalling 1722km
- Overall, this comes to an astonishing 2473km! For context, Uffculme to Kyiv is approximately 2500km as the crow flies.



Full Marathon Runners

In addition to the running challenges, students, staff, and the wider community participated over the four weeks by logging the distances of all their physical activities for their house, in whichever sport they chose. This collective effort also aimed to raise funds for the Exeter Leukaemia Fund.

presented to a representative from Exeter Leukaemia Fund by our Head and Deputy Head Students at an assembly at Uffculme Primary.

Well done to everyone who took part over the 4 weeks. An amazing achievement and excellent start to 2025!



The final total was an incredible 19930km. The overall winning house was Craddock with a last minute surge, followed by Bridwell a close second:

- Craddock 5080km
- Bridwell 4981km
- Gaddon 2674km
- Yondercott 2257km

Big thanks to Tom Haines for running the Hiit session in the Sports Hall on the last day of half-term to both Secondary and Primary students together.

Thank you also for all your kind donations on the Justgiving page as well as on Non-uniform day, together with Uffculme Primary School we have raised a fantastic £2095.80 for the Exeter Leukaemia Fund. A cheque was



DANCE

We have had a wonderful term so far. Every single lunch time and after school dance session has been a rehearsal for the Dance Show, sometimes encompassing more than one rehearsal at once. What a fantastic show it was!

Below are the words from the programme as they encapsulate my thoughts and feelings for this term:

"A huge thank you to the Year 9 and 10 helpers; the dance show could not have gone ahead this year without them. They have choreographed, motivated and inspired so many students across the year groups giving up their free time in order to help

create this amazing event. They are Annabelle H, Chloe H, Darcy H, Izzy D, Liv P, Lola C, Lucia S, Mia B, Rochelle L and Tilly K.

To all of the dancers: Thank you. Your hard work, enthusiasm and willingness to be in as many dances as you can be, has been wonderful this year. I have thoroughly enjoyed spending time with you and watching you all progress and succeed in all of the dances. You are exceptional; I am extremely proud."

Miss Mitir





GEOGRAPHY HOUSE COMPETITION

During the last week of term, the highly anticipated Geography House Cup Competition was launched. Each house competed in house rounds to find a team who would then compete in the final. For each person who turned up to compete, 5 house points were awarded.

The week started off strong with Craddock being highly represented and producing well-deserved finalists from Year 9: Molly E-S, Abi C, Isca W and Bell A. The following day, Yondercott showed that Year 7 stood out on top with Joe T, Oscar S and Elliott S going through to represent them in the final. Bridwell turned up with the highest number of participants so far and produced a very fun and competitive house round. Ofek R, Max A, James F and Patrick M from Year 8 took the Bridwell finalist spots. The final house round day saw the mighty Gaddon turn

up in mass numbers, smashing the previous houses' participation. This very tight and tense battle for the finalist spot resulted in a tie between two teams scoring the highest, 12 out of 15. Year 9's Callum G, Harry L-M and Kaiden S would take turns with Year 11's Alfie A, Jesse A and Freia W.

With the finalists confirmed and ready to represent their house in the final on the most romantic day of the year, the audience (earning 3 house points for attendance) increased the intensity and provided potential distractions with singing, waving or humming. The teams competed in three 5-question rounds for the ultimate prize of lifting the Geography House Cup. After the first two rounds, it was a very close encounter with a potential tie-breaker on the cards. However, after the final round (Geography of Sport), the final standings were Gaddon in fourth



place, with Craddock and Yondercott tying for second place. This meant the overall champions, Bridwell, got to lift the Geography House Cup for 2025.

With the final scores added together including the house round points and audience points, Gaddon came out on top as winners by only 7 points. Well done to everyone who took part, whether as finalists, competitors in the house rounds

or supporters in the audience. Who will represent Bridwell, Craddock, Yondercott, and Gaddon in the 2026 final?

Mr Williams



The Importance of Touch Typing in KS3

Touch typing is an essential skill in today's digital world, and our KS3 students are making impressive strides in mastering it. Here are the current average typing speeds by year group:

Year 7: 22.3 words per minute (wpm)

Year 8: 27.8 wpm

Year 9: 33.7 wpm

These scores reflect the dedication and progress our students are making in developing their typing skills.

Touch typing not only enhances their ability to complete assignments more efficiently but also prepares them for future

academic and professional tasks that require proficient computer use.

Why Touch Typing Matters

Touch typing allows students to type quickly and accurately without looking at the keyboard. This skill is invaluable as it improves productivity, reduces errors, and allows for better focus on the content being typed rather than the act of typing itself. As students advance through their education, the ability to type efficiently becomes increasingly important.

Practice Makes Perfect

Students are encouraged to continue improving their typing

skills outside of lesson time. A great resource for practice is www.TypingClub.com, where they can track their progress.

Test Your Speed

Curious about your own typing speed? Try the typing test at <https://10fastfingers.com/typing-test/english> to find out your words per minute score. It's a fun way to challenge yourself and see how you stack up against others.

By consistently practising touch typing, our students are setting themselves up for success in an increasingly digital world. Keep up the great work everyone!

Mr Ledger



MATHS

During the Autumn term a number of pupils competed in the National Cipher Challenge. This is a cryptography competition run by the University of Southampton and aimed at secondary school and college students across the UK.

The challenge takes the form of a story, with one chapter being released in code each week. This year it was the 'The Mystery of the Silver Bullet' – a story that saw Charles Babbage and Ada Lovelace work to uncover a plot to smuggle weapons across the Atlantic.

Working as teams, students must crack a different code each week and then decipher the text in order to read each chapter of the story.

The first few chapters were encoded using pretty straight forward ciphers, such as a Caesar Shift or a Vigenère cipher; however, as the competition progressed the ciphers became much trickier to crack.

One team of Year 11s, The Plain-text Pursuers (Dan F, Alfie A, Aaron F and Jesse A) did especially well, managing to crack every single code and decipher the full story. They achieved an outstanding joint 3rd place overall!

Mrs Vaughan & Mr Wood.



University of Southampton
The School of Mathematical Sciences presents

23 YEARS NATIONAL CIPHER CHALLENGE
www.cipherchallenge.org

KATE KNEW GUNS BUT NOTHING ABOUT CIPHERS, SO THE INSCRIPTION ON THE BULLET WAS A MYSTERY. NEEDING HELP TO DECIPHER IT, SHE WROTE TO THE ONE WOMAN ON EARTH WHO MIGHT KNOW HOW.
JOIN ADA LOVELACE, KATE WARNE, AND CHARLES BABBAGE TO HELP THEM SOLVE ...

THE MYSTERY OF THE SILVER BULLET

A codebreaking competition for UK schools and colleges
Registration opens 12th September
Competition starts 10th October

£5,000 in prizes to be won

GCHQ ten netcraft TRINITY COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE EPSRC NORTHROP GRUMMAN BLUESPARK

P.E.

RUGBY

The Year 7 rugby team have started off excellently getting used to contact rugby. They have had seven games against local schools where they have now started to identify individual positions and gain confidence in a tackle area.

The Year 8 rugby team had an outstanding season only losing one game out of their seven fixtures. They had a great match against Blundells school, a really competitive game and lots of the boys following this are now playing club rugby which is great to see. We look forward to seeing them progress further over the next few years

The Year 9 team has been struggling with commitment of players to training which has led to a difficult term with regards results. Hopefully as the team moves into Key Stage 4 we will see a bigger

uptake of players wishing to get stuck in. A special mention to George H who has played up a year for the Year 10s and been a fantastic addition to the Year 10 squad.

The Year 10 team have had a fantastic Autumn term of rugby; unfortunately they narrowly lost to Queen Elizabeth School in the Exeter & East Devon cup. This led to them entering the plate competition. There were some brilliant performances beating Colyton Grammar School & Tiverton High School. They found themselves in the Devon plate final travelling away to Kingsley School in North Devon. The final was a brilliant contest with nothing separating the two sides other than a driving maul try in the last play of the game, which unfortunately saw Uffculme finish-

ing runners up in the County plate final. Special mention to Rocco B who captained the side brilliantly. The Year 10 team have definitely been the most improved team in the school this year.

The Year 11 team have a strong number of club rugby players and have proven a very physical side. Good wins over Kings Taunton and Blundells B team have been the highlights and the side are now focussing on rugby 7s as they have received successful entry into the National competition at Rosslyn Park on 25th March. We wish the boys the best of luck in the world's largest rugby competition.



Girls Rugby is now in full swing and the Under 16s have fixtures booked in against Clyst Vale and Colyton Grammar School. Several of the girls have been attending training sessions at Blundells School where they have joined with other girls from Mid Devon schools to gain some valuable experience in contact rugby. A huge thank you to Blundells School for hosting this and we are hopeful that girls rugby will continue to go from strength to strength.

Mr Heard



FOOTBALL

The school football teams have had a fantastic season and are still well represented in the East Devon and Exeter competitions. There have already been numerous fixtures this year including A and B sides and some excellent performances from all year groups. A big thank you should go out to all the staff that have supported the football teams by providing superb weekly training opportunities.

Year 7 have proved a strong year group, and we have had excellent numbers at training since September. The team had a difficult draw against Ivybridge in the County Cup in round one but managed to bounce back in the East Devon Cup and reached the semi-final of the competition. Highlight performances were the 5-0 win against Honiton and the hard fought 3-2 victory against Cullompton.

Year 8 have had tough draws in both the National and County Cup but still have the East Devon Cup to play for starting on the

12th March and hopefully will build on last year's results; I would like to thank in particular Mr Burt for the work he has done with Year 8. They will play against every side in East Devon over the next 3 weeks in a central venue style competition to decide the overall champions and we wish them good luck.

Year 9 have competed in the National Cup, Devon Cup and East Devon and Exeter cup this year and performed admirably against incredibly tough opposition against teams with numerous academy players. This was always going to be a challenge but one they have risen to, and we expect big things from this team next year and hopefully they will once again be able to make it all the

way to a cup final.

Year 10 have performed well in all competitions but were unable to back up last year's East Devon Cup win. They faced Exmouth in what has been the final for the past 2 years and sadly a reverse of last year's result meant the Year 10 side lost after a penalty shoot-out.

Year 11 have reached the quarter final stage of the county cup where they are due to play Okehampton and still have an opportunity to win the East Devon league. Particular highlights were a 5-0 victory against Axe Valley and a 2-1 win against Tiverton High.

Mr Lane



INCLUSIVE ACTIVITIES

This year, KS3 pupils have had many exciting opportunities to represent Uffculme School in various sporting events. This began with a mixed Year 7 Football tournament, held at the Football Association County Headquarters in Newton Abbot, where students showcased their teamwork and skills.

At Bicton College, Year 8 and 9 students proudly represented Uffculme School in the East Devon

Boccia competition. The team put in a strong effort and narrowly missed out on progressing to the next round. Notable performances were recognised, with Duncan (Year 9) and Amber (Year 9) receiving special commendations for their contributions.

Year 8 students also took part in the Ability Counts Festival at Kings Ottery, where they had a fantastic experience demonstrating their balance, muscular endurance,

and coordination. The event provided a great opportunity for students to develop their skills while enjoying a fun and supportive atmosphere.

Miss Roberts



BADMINTON

The Badminton teams have enjoyed great success this year. Each year have had plenty of badminton lunchtime clubs and we have had record numbers attending all year groups.

Within competition the U13 and U15 boys entered the East Devon championships and qualified from their pool in 2nd place; this meant that they were invited to the East Devon finals day and overall secured 3rd place in East Devon. The U13 and U15 girls also entered the East Devon Championships. Again both teams qualified from their respective pools and were invited to the East Devon finals day and finished strongly to achieve 4th place in East Devon.

The U16 boys team also secured excellent results and won their plate competition. The U16 girls team successfully won both the East Devon and County rounds and then went on to represent Devon as county champions at the Regional Finals. A whole day at Bath University saw the team compete against some England international players. The team performed incredibly and came away as the 4th best team in the South West, a fantastic achievement.

Mr Lane



HOCKEY

The hockey season is well underway, with numerous KS3 and KS4 tournaments and matches taking place. The U12 and U13 Girls Hockey teams have competed against Kings Ottery, Blundell's School and The Maynard School. A standout moment was the U12 team winning both of their matches against Kings, while the U13 team secured a victory against Blundell's B team.

The U14 Hockey team have been busy, with fixtures against Kings Ottery, Wellington School, Exeter School, and Colyton. A notable highlight was their victory against Wellington School's B team earlier in the season.

Our KS4 Hockey teams have played matches against Kings Ottery and Colyton, as well as participating in the East Devon U15 and U16 tournaments. We are looking forward to the upcoming East Devon tournaments, including the East Devon U16 Mixed tournament.

Miss Roberts



TABLE TENNIS

The U16 girls team achieved phenomenal success winning first the Devon Tournament followed up by the Southwest Tournament. They represented as Southwest Champions in the National Finals, ultimately finishing 4th place in the South of England.

Mr Phillips



NETBALL

We are delighted to report that our lunchtime clubs have seen fantastic participation this term through all age groups including a dedicated group of GCSE boys.

The Year 7 club has enjoyed great attendance, with both the A and B teams developing well and winning their first fixtures this term. We wish them the best of luck in their upcoming fixtures and in representing the school at the East Devon tournament later this term.

Year 10 has also had fantastic numbers at their clubs. They have won all their matches in the East Devon League so far, achieving an impressive goal difference that we hope will secure them the league title. Their versatile team members can interchange positions effortlessly, and they represented the school brilliantly at the East Devon tournament, winning all their matches except for a closely fought game against Colyton, resulting in a 2nd place finish.

Our talented Year 11 team has played together since Year 7, both in and out of school. They emerged as winners of the East Devon tournament, qualifying for the Devon round of the national

school's competition, where they placed 6th. They have also finished on a high note by winning the East Devon League.

We are incredibly proud of the achievements of all our students and wish them continued success

in their future endeavours.

Mrs Goldman



The Year 8 Netball team has had an incredibly successful season so far, with progress seen both on and off the court. We've seen a steady increase in the number of students attending lunch sessions, which has been fantastic for team building and skill development.

Not only have we seen more participation during these sessions, but there's also been a noticeable rise in the number of players joining the Titans Netball Club, showing the growing interest and commitment to the sport.

Our players continue to develop



their skill sets, and the overall improvement is evident as the season progresses. We're all excited for the upcoming tournament

in March and we're confident that the hard work will pay off on the court!

Mrs Lyne-Ley

INDOOR CRICKET

It's been a great start to the girls' cricket season with both the U13 and U15 girls being entered into the indoor competitions held at Exeter University. Both teams consisted of a mix of girls who regularly play for club and county, as well as those who have been attending the Tuesday night after-school indoor cricket sessions and are still developing their skills in the sport and increasing their confidence in the competitive game.

At U13 level in the East Devon and Exeter round, our team showcased their exceptional skills, finishing 3rd and earning a well-deserved spot in the county finals.

During the county round, the girls played some fantastic cricket, demonstrating remarkable batting and fielding prowess. Individual players grew in confidence, with some stunning reaction catches and impressive shots

in batting that led to many runs being scored. Their hard work and dedication paid off, as the team had secured 3rd place by the end of the day.

The U15s started with a narrow defeat in their first game against Cullompton. The girls then went on to win every other game comfortably and improved with every performance. Unfortunately, despite beating Colyton Grammar school the girls finished 2nd in their pool on countback so failed to qualify for the next round.

As I write this Lois H is in Sri Lanka on tour with the Under 15s Devon County side. We wish her all the best on tour and look forward to monitoring her progress in the future. Well done.

Pictured below; Isca W, Maisie B, Anna K, Lois H (Capt), Jess L, Maisie H, Amy C, Annabelle P, Issy D & Holly P

These outstanding performances sets a promising tone for the cricket season ahead. We look forward to seeing even more growth and success from our talented girls teams.



BASKETBALL

Exciting Times for Our Basketball Club!

Our basketball club has been thriving this year, with weekly sessions running for all year groups. The club is split into three groups: Year 7, Year 8 and 9, and Year 10 and 11. Each group has seen impressive attendance and enthusiasm at training sessions and all age groups have been actively participating in regular games.

A special shoutout goes to the Year 10 and 11 girls team for their outstanding performances. They have achieved remarkable victories against Blundells and Richard Huish College, showcasing their skills and teamwork.

The boys teams have also had a series of games and have enjoyed great success. Their achievements can be attributed to their positive attitude and consistent attendance at training sessions.

A huge thank you to Mr. Addy, who has been the driving force behind our basketball teams. His on-court experience and dedication have been instrumental in helping our students develop their skills and passion for the game.

Keep up the fantastic work, everyone!

Mr Phillips



PERFORMING ARTS

DRAMA

YEAR 9 AND 10 MERCHANT OF VENICE

Year 9 and 10 students have been learning the meaning of justice as they rehearse Uffculme School's production of William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*.



The play is set in a society where power is all that matters, where being the wrong religion or the wrong gender can cause a devastating imbalance and where revenge becomes a cruel currency. Shylock, the underdog, and Antonio, the rich merchant, battle for this power. When it seems like Shylock may finally get the 'pound of flesh' he so desperately craves for his mistreatment, a surprising saviour comes to Antonio's aid.

This is the fourth time teachers Mrs Croft, Mrs Duncan and Mrs Groves have adapted one of Shakespeare's plays for performance by the students. Mrs Groves said, "I love seeing the students immerse themselves in these worlds. There is so much that Shakespeare can still teach us about being human through the complexity of his characters. It's great working with the students to bring the Bard's words up-to-date with a modern interpretation. We can't wait to show all the students' hard work."

Uffculme School's production of *The Merchant of Venice* will be performed on Wednesday 14th May

at 6.30pm in The Venue. Tickets are available from www.eventbrite.co.uk.

YEAR 7 DRAMA CLUB: A Journey of Creativity and Preparation for "Macbeth"

The Year 7 Drama Club has been buzzing with energy and creativity this year! Our budding actors have been immersed in a series of engaging drama workshops, where they've explored various aspects of theatre, from improvisation and character development to stagecraft and storytelling.

These workshops have not only nurtured their love for drama but also helped build their confidence and teamwork skills.

Now, the excitement is reaching new heights as the club prepares for their upcoming performance of Shakespeare's "Macbeth". Rehearsals are in full swing, with each student eager to bring their character to life on stage.

We can't wait to share this work with you in the Summer Term. Stay tuned for more updates on our social media.

YEAR 8 DRAMA CLUB

My name is Aoife and I have been lucky enough to help Mrs Duncan run Year 8 Drama Club over the past few weeks. Drama club runs on a Wednesday at 2:00pm and is extremely popular, with nearly fifty students attending. In the run-up to Christmas, we were working on developing poems into drama pieces that were powerfully performed in Winterfest.

So far this term we have been exploring a range of skill-building Drama games and spontaneous improvisation activities, alongside the Year 8 students

devising their own pieces and writing scripts in preparation for Uff-Fest this coming Summer.

The Year 8s never cease to amaze me with their lively approach to their tasks, working almost independently. They are always very enthusiastic and I have learned so much myself from coaching them. They also have a wonderful approach to teamwork, and try to include everyone when deciding upon groups. I enjoy helping them, from explaining the details of the 'little match girl' story to offering advice regarding dramatical techniques. I seem to say, "Make sure you face the audience!" most of all. I am currently undertaking my 'devising drama' section in Drama GCSE, so coaching them helps me to recognise mistakes in my own work. They are a lovely group - I am excited to see what they will come up with for the future!

Aoife S, 10 Croft

YEAR 9 "DEAR EVAN HANSEN" THEATRE TRIP

On Wednesday February 12th our Year 9 students set off to Bristol to watch, Dear Evan Hansen at the Bristol Hippodrome. Dear Evan has won multiple Tony Awards, including Best Musical and tells the moving tale of a socially anxious high school student who finds himself caught in a web of unintended consequences following a well-meaning lie. With its powerful themes of mental health, identity and the search for connection, the musical strikes a chord with audiences, particularly young people navigating similar challenges.

Upon arriving at the theatre, the students were greeted by the grandeur of the venue and the bustling energy of theatregoers. The anticipation reached its peak as they took their seats and the lights dimmed, signalling the start of the show.

From the opening number to the final curtain call, the students were captivated by the powerful performances, emotive music and striking stage design. "The actors were incredible, and the songs were so moving," said Charlotte M. "It was an amazing experience that I'll never forget."

The story's exploration of social anxiety, loneliness, and the yearning for acceptance touched many

hearts. And developed their understanding of topics our students explore within the Personal Development curriculum. This trip was not only incredible to watch but also demonstrated the roll of the theatre to bring some powerful topics to a young audience in a meaningful and engaging way.

The musical inspires us to be more empathetic and understanding towards one another, it's essential for young people to see their struggles represented on stage, and Dear Evan Hansen did that beautifully.



YEAR 10 - DEVISING DRAMA EXAM PERFORMANCES

Before Christmas our Year 10 cohort began working on their Devising Drama unit, worth 30% of their GCSE grade. Students were given a booklet of stimuli, set by our OCR examining board, including images, poetry, music, news articles and historical events. They were tasked with choosing the one that inspired them the most and then to develop a piece of Drama communicating their story and message, whilst also documenting their journey from stimulus to performance in a written portfolio. All students performed their work to an audience of Year 9 students in mid-March and all performances were filmed to share and celebrate with friends and family.

To write, develop and then perform your own work is incredibly challenging and we, as Drama teachers, are always in awe of not only the students ability to rise creatively to the challenge, but also their capability to successfully collaborate, discuss and incorporate a range of views and ideas into their work – an essential and admirable life skill. Their work

was, as always, skilfully crafted, thought-provoking, original and inspiring. They should all be extremely proud of what they achieved – we are!

YEAR 11 SCRIPTED PERFORMANCE EXAM

Our Year 11 cohort performed their 'Presenting and Performing Texts' exam unit to an audience of family and friends in March, worth 30% of their overall GCSE grade. Students were given scripts in October and, alongside a piece of coursework exploring the artistic intention and preparation of their performance work, worked incredibly hard to bring their unique realisations of the scripts to the stage. The plays and themes included ranged from diversity, equality, inclusion, mental health and the impact of social media on teenage identity and relationships.

The amount of time and energy that students put into the development of their performances was just outstanding, and we would like to thank all parents and carers who supported with late pick-ups, line learning and encouragement and to all those who were able to attend our 'dress rehearsal' performance evening – your feedback was invaluable. Final tweaks were made before the exam day and all students should be extremely proud of what they achieved. Although we have no official indication of marks awarded, the examiner, accompanied by his Team Leader, emerged smiling from every performance.

Now we look to the written exam focusing on Blood Brothers and The Cursed Child. We couldn't be prouder of our incredible cohort of Year 11 drama



students. Their dedication, creativity, and passion have shone brightly in every performance and project. As you all approach your exams, we wish you the very best of luck. Your future is brimming with potential, and we can't wait to see the amazing things you will accomplish. Break a leg, and remember - always strive for your dreams!



YEAR 9 DRAMA

ASPIRE TRIP: Exploring the World Behind the Curtain

On Monday 20th January, some of our students had the opportunity to visit the Barnfield Theatre in Exeter. This visit was designed to provide students with a deeper understanding of the diverse career opportunities within the world of theatre, beyond the bright lights and performances on stage.

The students were introduced to the various job roles that keep a theatre running smoothly. From the artistic to the technical, the range of careers in theatre is vast and fascinating.

The first stop on the tour was the front of house area, where students learned about roles such as box office staff, ushers and house managers. These professionals ensure that audiences have a seamless and enjoyable experience from the moment they arrive.



Next, the students ventured backstage, where they discovered the magic behind the scenes. They met with stage managers, lighting and sound technicians and set designers, all of whom play crucial roles in bringing a production to life.

One of the highlights of the trip was a Q&A session with some of the theatre's resident actors and



directors. They shared their personal journeys and offered advice on pursuing careers in the performing arts.

YEAR 10 MONOLOGUE EVENING - OCTOBER

On the evening of the 17th October 2024 all Year 10 GCSE Drama students performed a range of monologues to an audience of friends and family. Students were given a range of topical news articles including the seven year anniversary of the Grenfell Tower disaster and Chappell Roan's struggle with the pressures of fame. Taking inspiration from these stories, our students were tasked with creating a character, writing a monologue in role and then delivering this in an engaging and thought provoking way.

"Our Monologue performance evening was a great event for us all. We were able to show off our hard work. Although it was daunting, performing in front of our parents, it was very rewarding to receive lots of compliments afterwards. We thank the teachers that helped to make it happen". (Amelia S, 10 Main)

"At first, I was worried about performing, but once I was on the stage, all my worries went away" (Oliver C, 10 Croft).

"It was really helpful because it developed my confidence for performing in the future" (Izzy L, 10 Main).

"It was a great experience to write and devise our own pieces and a very good gateway into our devising drama element of our GCSE" (Holly P, 10 Davies)

"It was a good evening and had a good display of talent from everyone that participated" (Hugo D, 10 Main).

MUSIC

BATTLE OF THE BANDS In School

We held the first ever Uffculme Battle of the Bands during lunch time on the 30th January! Seven bands competed to be able to represent our school at a regional heat and the competition was fierce. There were confident Year 7s, fab girl groups, rock violin, amazing saxophone solos and a whole load of talent. It was a fabulous lunch time supported by a huge audience of students clapping and cheering them on. The decision was tough, but one of the Year 11 bands, now called Chrome, came out on top.



BATTLE OF THE BANDS Regional Heats

Chrome then represented Uffculme in a regional Battle of the Bands heat held here at Uffculme on the 11th February. There was Max J on guitar, Matt R on drums, Dulcie C on bass, and Jesse and Poppy B on vocals. They performed an incredible rendition of 'Still in to You' and did us proud. Unfortunately, two other schools went through to the Devon final but Chrome should be really proud of themselves; we are certainly proud of them!



BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA GCSE MUSIC EVENT

Also on the 11th February, a reduced Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra came to Uffculme to perform their annual GCSE Music concert. We were joined by 13 other schools for the performance of a wide variety of repertoire linked to the GCSE specification. The orchestra were conducted by Patrick Bailey and he described the pieces in great detail, including the musical devices the composers had used. Patrick then did some live composition with an idea presented by a member of the audience. This part of the performance was fascinating and really helpful to our GCSE students currently composing.



PRIMARY MUSIC FESTIVAL

We were joined by 150 primary school students from 7 local primary schools on the 13th February for our first ever Primary Music Festival. Hemyock Primary got the chance to show us their dazzling moves and voices with a musical theatre workshop on 'Revolt-ing Children' from Matilda the Musical.



Sampford Peverell Primary got us all grooving with a Samba workshop and some excellent dance moves.

Kentisbeare Primary were really together with their amazing Djembe workshop skills.

Uffculme Primary got the chance



to use violins and did a wonderful rendition of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.

Culmstock and Webbers Primary schools joined forces for an epic ukulele workshop performing about 8 songs in an hour and a half!

Then all the students joined together as a super choir to perform 'What about Us' and 'Fight Song'. They made such an excellent sound and we were so impressed by them!

We hope the students had fun. We certainly did!

BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA – HEROES AND SUPERHEROES

On the 13th March we took a group of 45 KS3 students to Exeter Great Hall to see a full Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra perform pieces from films about Heroes and Superheroes. Heroes both historical and fictitious as well as the superheroes of the Marvel and DC comics remain a fertile mine of inspiration for Hollywood and some of the best big screen adventures ever. Scores include the classics including The Magnificent Seven by Elmer Bernstein as well as those by John Williams and James Horner from films depicting real-life heroics of wartime sacrifice and space exploration in Saving Private Ryan and Apollo 13. Superheroes are represented by Superman, Batman and the X-Men. A lovely time was had by all.



Robyn, a flautist, played 'Anita's Dance' and 'On a Summer evening'. Lizzie sang 'I'm Here' and 'On the Steps of the Palace'. They both did brilliantly but did not make the South West regional round. We are VERY proud of them for taking part in this prestigious event.

Miss Lihou

ROTARY YOUNG MUSICIAN COMPETITION

Two of our wonderful Year 11s competed in the Rotary Young Musician of the Year Competition on Sunday 2nd March. Lizzie M and Robyn L attended Churchill Academy to perform their two pieces to a panel of judges. They had to introduce each piece and perform to an audience of friends and family of the performers.





AMERICAN FLAG FOOTBALL

American Flag Football is coming to Uffculme School.

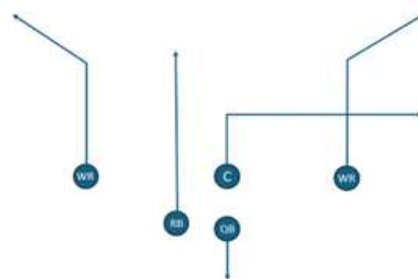
For the first time in Olympic history Flag Football will be played in 2028 in Los Angeles so now is the time to get involved with this exciting face paced and skilful sport.

American Flag Football uses agility, speed, strength, intelligence and tactics to create a sport that is different from any others. It gives all abilities a level playing field to show what they can do and is one of the most diverse

and accessible sports out there. With men and women and girls and boys able to compete against each other American Flag Football is the ultimate sports equaliser where your skills can come into play to show what you can do.

Being a highly tactical sport as well, sometimes being the smartest person on the pitch can work for you. So maybe if you feel other sports haven't suited you American Flag Football could be the sport that changes that.

At Uffculme School a new Flag Football club will be starting in the summer term to give students the opportunity to try this exciting face paced activity; whether you are big, small, quick or slow there is a position for everyone in this game. Details of the club will be available soon but if you have more questions then speak to Mr Jarman, a veteran American Football player and a Level one American Football coach.



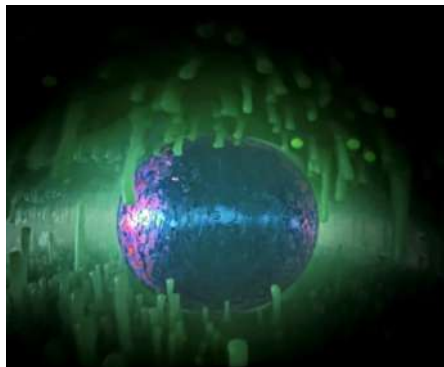
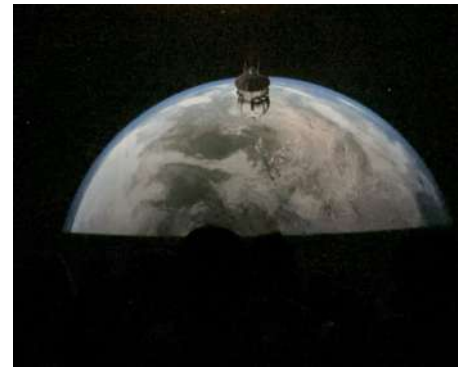
SCIENCE

We've had an incredibly busy term in Science this spring, with a shake-up in our awards offerings, the Physics Olympiad for some of our gifted and talented Year 11 students, and a range of Key Stage 3 enrichments.

We kicked off by launching National Science Week during which we spent lessons exploring Mars, our closest neighbour and imagining what it would be like to explore and live there. Additionally, we launched the National Science Week Poster Competition, with Mr. Baker collecting entries over the coming weeks. The winners will be entered into the national competition.

All pupils in Years 7 and 8 were invited to participate in sessions in the Planetarium dome, which we brought back to school for our annual space exploration sessions. This year, the students experienced a session linked to the National Science Week theme of 'Change and Adapt'. They explored ways to study our solar system, including a virtual journey through it, the most recent rocket launches and the astronauts who have most recently been in Space.

In other exciting news, we've revamped our Science badge system to encourage even more engagement in STEM and science. In addition to the blue and orange Science badges available in Years 7 and 8, we now offer a special gold Science badge for those who go the extra mile. You can find everything you need to know



about earning these badges on your year group's resources page on Teams, under Science. Get involved and earn more badges!

Finally, our amazing STEM leaders have hosted their first set of primary sessions for some of the Year 6 students who will be joining us in September. These sessions, also based on the National Science Week theme of 'Change and Adapt', covered various topics such as melting ice caps, signs of life, and the potential for living

on Mars. The sessions concluded with a large group activity: building rockets in the "Mission to Mars" workshop.

Ms Legg



INTERACT COMMITTEE

Our Interact Committee have been busy collecting coats and toiletries for the Care4Calais appeal. Thank you to everyone who donated. We were delighted to send off over forty coats to

provide warmth and protection for people claiming asylum both in the UK and in Calais.

Mrs Groves





HMS BEL

Our Unforgettable London Adventure.

Last term, our school embarked on an incredible journey to London, packed with exciting activities and unforgettable experiences. From historical landmarks to thrilling adventures, we made memories that will last a lifetime.

Our adventure began with an overnight stay on the historic HMS Belfast. Sleeping on this iconic

warship was a unique experience, giving us a glimpse into the lives of sailors during World War II. The next morning, we set off to explore the heart of London. Our first stop was the Houses of Parliament, where we marvelled at the grandeur of British politics. We then visited Westminster Abbey, a stunning Gothic church with a rich history. Walking through its hallowed halls, we felt the weight of centuries of

tradition and ceremony.

After soaking in the history, we headed to Oxford Street for some shopping. The bustling street was filled with shops and boutiques, offering everything from high fashion to quirky souvenirs. It was a shopper's paradise!

One of the highlights of our trip for some was riding bikes at the Olympic Mountain Bike Track. The thrill of navigating the challenging course was exhilarating and we



FAST 2024

all felt like true Olympians by the end of the day.

We also enjoyed a breathtaking view of London from the London Eye. The giant Ferris wheel gave us a panoramic view of the city's skyline and we could see all the landmarks we had visited from a new perspective. Following this, we took a relaxing river cruise along the Thames, soaking in the sights and sounds of the city from the water.

In the evening, we were treated to a spectacular performance of "Mamma Mia!" in the West End. The lively music and energetic performances had us all singing along and dancing in our seats. Our culinary adventure included a delightful meal at the Methodist Central Hall Café. The cozy atmosphere and delicious food provided the perfect end to our busy day. Our trip to London was an

incredible experience, filled with history, adventure and fun. We returned home with new friendships, amazing stories, and a deeper appreciation for the vibrant city of London. We can't wait for our next adventure!

Mr Eve



LIBRARY NEWS

This term we celebrate World Book Day by providing £1 book tokens to all our students. These can be used to purchase either specially published £1 books or redeemed against full price books in most major supermarkets, large book shops such as Waterstones and local book shops Liznojan in Tiverton and Bookshop by the Blackdowns in Wellington.

We look forward to holding our annual Readathon sponsored reading event in the library. Key Stage 3 students are invited to take part in a day of reading and then to continue to read and raise money for two weeks afterwards, to provide books for children who are seriously ill and in hospital. It is always a lovely day and one which I look forward to very much.

Our Year 7 students have embraced the 8B48 Reading Challenge, with Zachary A being the first student in the year group to achieve bronze, silver and gold badges. He has read and reviewed 16 books since the beginning of the academic year, an amazing achievement. Maksimas S has achieved his bronze and silver badges and Bea B, Jack V, Teddy R and Aiden S have achieved their bronze badges. Well done to all of them.

I am very much looking forward to receiving completed Reading Journals from students who have taken part in the Year 8 Reading Challenge. The Challenge closes on March 25th and the winner will be announced the following week.

This term the library is updating its reading lists highlighting particular book collections. This in-

cludes a comprehensive list of our Dyslexia Friendly stock as well as special collections relating to Mental Health and Wellbeing, books which Challenge Stereotypes and Prejudice, Multi-Cultural Fiction, the Building Empathy collection which is aimed at students in Year 9 and above and a curated collection of LGBTQ+ titles. Paper copies are available from the library and they will also be available on the school website as they are updated.

Mrs Davies

WORLD
BOOK
DAY[®]



SPRING TERM ASSEMBLY PERFORMERS



STUDENT AC



Harry W (10Foster) secured fourth place at the GB Schools Target Shooting Championships in Cannock, proudly representing Uffculme School. Competing in the 10m Sporter Air Rifle event in the standing position for the intermediate age group (Years 9-10), Harry earned his spot at the Championships by winning the South West regionals in Okehampton last November.

At Cannock, 30 athletes competed shoulder to shoulder, each taking twenty shots. The top eight scorers advanced to the elite final, with Harry qualifying in fifth place. The elite final began with 10 base shots, followed by successive rounds of two shots each. In each round, the athlete with the lowest aggregate score was eliminated until the Gold medalist was determined.

To appreciate the challenge, consider that athletes must hold a 3.5kg rifle while standing without support, aiming at a target 10m away, with the 10 scoring ring being just 5mm across. This sport demands exceptional skill, discipline and dedication.

Well done Harry!



Henry T was asked to be the percussionist for the Culm Valley Orchestra in their concert. He went to 2 rehearsals and then performed in the afternoon to an audience of about 100 people.

He played timps in a piece by Rossini (L'Italiana in Algeri), Ritual Fire Dance by De Falla and Cello Concerto No 1 by Saint Saens and then played a wide range of percussion in Coates' London Suite. All quite challenging stuff! He had lots of compliments from the players and audience. Well done Henry for your brilliant performance.



On Saturday 8th March Sam W, Ted W and Jess L represented Devon in the National Inter Counties Championships at a tough, hilly course in Nottingham, helping their Devon team to place 14th, 20th and 9th respectively. Each race consisted of 300 runners representing over 40 counties.

Well done Sam, Ted and Jess!

ACHIEVEMENTS



Eva M, 9 Pharaoh, competed in the final national race of the year at the PFI International Kart Circuit in Lincoln. She achieved her best finish in this class by qualifying 8th in her group out of 36 racers, and earned her first purple sector at PFI, awarded to the fastest driver in that sector of the track. This impressive performance

placed her 16th overall out of 66 competitors in extremely challenging weather conditions, making her the only female racer.

Unfortunately, Eva didn't secure a spot in the main final but demonstrated remarkable strength, tenacity, and resilience. Eva will now compete in both the

Ultimate Karting Championship and the British Championship, aiming to secure a World Final ticket this year. We wish Eva every success and look forward to hearing all about her future achievements.



In February Uffculme NSEA team competed in the county showjumping qualifiers. Uffculme not only dominated the entries they also dominated the results qualifying in all 5 classes:

70-75

Archie C, Ruby W, Kailia S and Eve N

80-85 Tom L, Archie C, Marianna F, Kamden G

90-95 Elsie P, Georgiana B, Marianne F, Louisa W

100-105m Phoebe C, Connor H, Jess C and Thomas H

110m A fabulous round with Jess C qualifying and Phoebe C finishing 5th



Bow B (8 Wood) recently competed in his first ever Clay Pigeon Shooting Association (CPSA) registered clay shooting competition alongside over 100 adults. Bow rose to the challenge and performed really well. Well done Bow!



Jacob D, 10 Kemp, has competed in the UKTA English Taekwondo Open in Guildford on Sunday 2nd March. He took the Gold for sparring in the male 14 - 70 category, and the Silver for his special technique.



Amazing achievement! Well done Jacob!



Sam W, Edward W, Archie B, Lucien F and Zoe G proudly represented Uffculme School at the South West Schools Cross Country Championships. The competition was fierce, running against schools from across 7 Counties, but our students demonstrated incredible grit and

perseverance. A special mention to Zoe G in Year 7 for being the only girl selected from Uffculme School.

A huge well done to all five runners!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 22nd April 2025	First Day of Summer Term
Wednesday 23rd April 2025	Year 10 Hinkley Point Trip
Saturday 26th - Sunday 27th April 2025	Ten Tors Camp 4
Monday 28th April - Friday 2nd May 2025	Year 10 Iceland Trip
Saturday 3rd May 2025	Exmoor Challenge
Wednesday 7th May 2025	Whole School Photo
Friday 9th May 2025	UST Non-Uniform Day
Friday 9th - Sunday 11th May 2025	Ten Tors
Monday 12th May 2025	Year 8 B Band Progress Meetings (Online)
Wednesday 14th May 2025	Merchant of Venice Performance
Saturday 17th May 2025	Year 9 Bronze DofE Navigation Groups 1&2
Sunday 18th May 2025	Year 9 Bronze DofE Navigation Groups 3&4
Monday 19th May 2025	Year 8 R Band Progress Meetings (Online)
Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May 2025	Half Term
Saturday 14th - Monday 16th June 2025	Year 10 Silver DofE Practice Expedition
Wednesday 18th June 2025	Year 10 Bicton Taster Day
Thursday 19th June 2025	Year 10 Aspire Oxford Uni Trip
Thursday 19th June 2025	Year 11 Prom
Monday 23rd June 2025	Year 7-10 Academic Mentoring Meetings
Thursday 26th June 2025	Peri-Music Concert
Friday 27th June 2025	Sports Day
Tuesday 1st July 2025	Year 10 Exeter College Taster Day
Friday 4th July 2025	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 7th July 2025	Presentation Evening Years 7 & 9
Tuesday 8th July 2025	Presentation Evening Years 8 & 10
Wednesday 9th July 2025	Uff-Fest 2025
Friday 11th - Thursday 17th July 2025	Year 7 French Cycling Trip
Monday 14th - Thursday 17th July 2025	Activities Week
Friday 18th July 2025	Last Day of Summer Term



YOUR
SCHOOL
LOTTERY

£1 per
week

Weekly
cash prizes

£25,000
jackpot

**SUPPORT
OUR LOTTERY
TODAY**



Splitting the £1.00

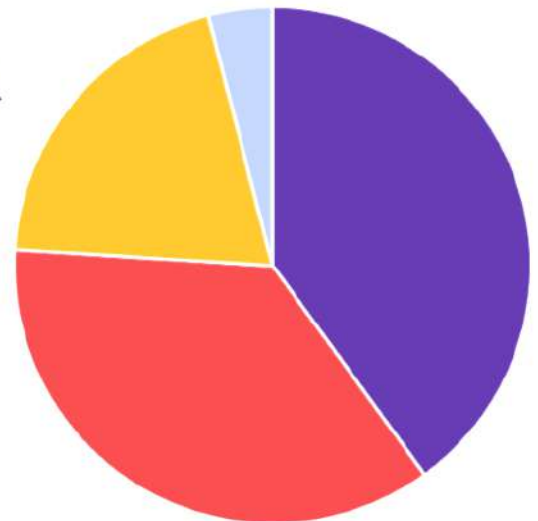
How it works...

It's simple—choose 6 numbers between 0-9 and if they match the weekly lottery draw, you win great prizes. One of our players will win a cash prize every week, maybe even the £25k jackpot! Tickets cost just £1 per week and the proceeds are donated to Uffculme School Trust

Every Saturday at 8pm the numbers are drawn and posted online. Winners are notified by email and winnings paid into the account of your choice.

The easiest way to join our lottery is online at YourSchoolLottery.co.uk by direct debit or debit card.

It's so easy to join and will make a real difference to Uffculme School Trust



- 40p goes to our school
- 36p goes to cash prizes
- 20p goes to admin costs
- 4p goes to VAT

The Maths... 100 tickets sold a week means

= £30 weekly cash prize

= £2,080 a year for our school



To start supporting, visit:

yourschoollottery.co.uk

and search for: Uffculme School

Junior Gym Membership at Uffculme Sport and Fitness

Open to all students from Year 7 upwards

Term Time

Monday to Friday
15.30 - 16.30

School Holidays

Monday to Friday 16.00 - 17.00
£9.99 per month (payable by Direct Debit)

To join visit our website:
www.uffculmesportandfitness.com



FITNESS CLASSES



DAY	TIME	CLASS	CLASS LENGTH
Monday	18:00	Pump & Spin	45 mins
Tuesday	18:00	Pump	45 mins
Wednesday	18:00	Spinning	45 mins
Thursday	18:00	Core Blast	30 mins
Friday	06:45	Boot Camp	30 mins
Friday	18:00	Spinning	45 mins
Sunday	09:30	Spinning	45 mins

Studio Available to Any Members When Free!

Every class is open to all – workout at your own intensity!

Booking essential.

Members can book via app or website; non-members can book by contacting us.



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