

# Uffculme School **NEWS**



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Autumn 2024

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*In This  
Issue*

- *Year Group Highlights*
- *House Competitions Update*
- *Department News*
- *Canoe & Camp*
- *French Cycling Clubs*
- *Student Achievements*
- *70th Anniversary*

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF UFFCULME SCHOOL

# WELCOME



## 4

**WELCOME FROM HEADTEACHER**



## 18

**DofE**  
An update on our Bronze and Silver DofE students



## 33

**PE**  
Find out the latest results from our sports teams



## 6

**YEAR GROUP HIGHLIGHTS**  
Find out what each year group has been getting up to this term.



## 20

**D&T**  
Find out what the students have been creating.



## 37

**PERFORMING ARTS**  
Theatre trips, workshops, violins, House Music & more.



## 12

**HOUSE POINTS UPDATE**  
Get the latest house points tally and competition details.



## 24

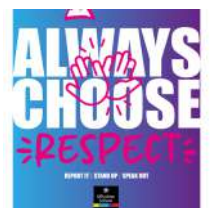
**OUTDOOR PURSUITS**  
See some of the activities students have been enjoying.



## 48

**ROBOTICS CLUB**

An update on the VEX competition.



## 14

**ANTI-BULLYING**  
Find out about our Anti-bullying ambassadors.



## 28

**ENGINEERING**  
Take a look at the Supacat visit and engineering talk.



## 52

**FRENCH CYCLING 2024**  
A snap shot of the amazing end of year 7 trip.



## 15

**ART**  
A glimpse at what the year groups have been creating.



## 32

**HISTORY**  
See some of the wonderful castles created by Year 7.



## 63

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**  
Spring term dates to make a note of.



# Celebrating Uffculme School Students

## Year 7 Team Building



I am delighted to be able to introduce the first beautiful newsletter of this academic year. We have started this year with high energy and it has been a term of celebration and success. This academic year marks an important milestone in the school's rich history as the school was founded in 1954, opened as 'Uffculme County Secondary School' on the 19th November 1954 under the care of Headmaster Peter Rainey. Despite the passing of 7 decades there is so much that has stood the test of time and become woven into an enduring legacy. We are profoundly grateful for all of the contributions of the students and staff, past and present, who have shaped Uffculme School into the incredible place it is today. We took the opportunity to celebrate this on Friday 15th November where the Venue was packed with alumni, staff past and present and friends and family of the school for the exhibition, musical performances and video screenings. We were delighted that everyone was able to join us and celebrate the school's legacy.

We also had a beautiful

Remembrance gathering on 11th November where the entire school gathered to listen to the words and poetry of the Head and Deputy Head students before Alfie L, 10 Davies, performed The Last Post and Reveille. The whole school showed the utmost respect during the silence and I was incredibly proud of everyone who participated.

On Saturday 23rd November, despite the impacts of storm Bert, the community flooded us with their support at our annual Christmas Fair. It was a packed-out event, with the new addition of Santa's Grotto. We are incredibly grateful to all staff, students and stallholders who supported the event but most of all to our incredible PTFA. The work they do to prepare this event and to support Uffculme School throughout the year is very special.

This week we have moved into the finales of House Music. House Music is an incredible event in the calendar. Every year we see top quality solos, groups and choirs going head-to-head in



a jam-packed Venue theatre to gain the title of champion. The demand for tickets was the highest ever this year. One member of staff likened it to Glastonbury tickets going on sale! I am always left speechless by the confidence, dedication and talent of all performers and this year was no exception. As I am writing this it is the final day and so it is all still to play for after Grace Maynard took the win for Bridwell on Wednesday in the solos and the Gaddon Band stormed through to the win on Thursday.

In amongst these big events our participation data is through the roof with the highest ever numbers attending clubs, fixtures, trips and visits and displaying all of their badges with pride. Lessons have also been calm

and purposeful with excellent behaviour and attitudes from students and a strong desire to excel academically. This is not an aside. I truly believe students at Uffculme School achieve so well because they throw themselves into every aspect of school life including their academic curriculum.

I'd like to thank all of our parents and carers for their ongoing support of the school. We could not continue to grow and develop without your support.



Laura Jenkins

We are delighted to introduce our Year 11 Senior council for 2024/25.

Willow Shaw, Daniel Foord, Jesse Aldridge, Grace Maynard, Cara Leslie, Daisy Newton, Chloe Robinson, Hazel Philips, Jasmine Coles, Amelie Huddleson, Bethany Pike, Lizzie Merrick, Marnie Johnson, Daisy Walker, Verity Clements, Oscar McArt, Luke Whitefield, Tom Bailey, Leo Vincent, Alfie Aldridge

These pupils faced a tough challenge to achieve their places. The tough selection process, started with a letter of application to Mrs Jenkins; creating 'campaign' videos for the whole school to view; and culminating in

a pupil and staff vote.

The final shortlisted pupils attended a formal interview panel with the Headteacher and Head of Year. It took great courage and commitment to put themselves forward, so well done to everyone who bravely did so.

Congratulations to Willow Shaw and Daniel Foord, elected as Head Girl and Head Boy, with Grace Maynard and Jesse Aldridge securing the roles of deputies. Pupils who didn't quite make the final Senior Council, have taken up equally valued student leadership and peer mentoring roles across the school.



# HIGHLIGHTS

## YEAR 7

The 2024 cohort have started with enthusiasm and gusto. They have gained over 13000 credits – well over an average of 62 per student in 8 weeks. They have an average of over 97% attendance, meaning that they are giving themselves every opportunity to gain new knowledge and experience new opportunities at school. The highest of any year group so far.

“ We asked them to attend clubs - 94%  
..they are giving themselves every opportunity to gain new knowledge and experience new opportunities.. ”

have taken up this opportunity with at least one club, many doing more than 5 a week. We cannot have asked for a better start to their secondary education.

Some of the tutor groups wished to put their thoughts to you:

### 7 Goldman

Our first term at Uffculme has got off to a fantastic start.

We've thoroughly enjoyed the welcoming atmosphere and the sense of freedom that comes with being at secondary school. The teachers here have been incredibly friendly and supportive, making it easy to settle in and feel at home. We are particularly looking forward to taking part in the upcoming house competitions and are eager to start earning more badges to wear with pride. The tutor's favourite comment of the first half term ...

'The start of term has been ok as I have a decent idea of where my classes are and I am looking forward to kicking a football in PE.'

### 7 Roberts

Our Year 7s have fully embraced their first half-term and have been excitedly sharing their thoughts on the available opportunities. "We've already had so many fixtures!" one student commented, with many proud

to represent Uffculme School in their first cup matches. Students have also embraced the variety of activities, from private music lessons and a history castle-building competition to an impressive range of sports clubs, including football, dance, hockey, basketball, netball, table tennis, rugby, badminton and personal fitness. It's been fantastic to see pupils earning credits, house points, and achieving their first badges of the year.

### 7 Wigmore

Uffculme has been great, and I haven't got lost yet! In my first few weeks I have already done two practicals in Food Technology, and I am making a wooden pencil case in Design & Technology.

Jacob Purkess

Uffculme School is outstanding! All the teachers are helpful and friendly, and there are a vast array of clubs from sports to table top



games, so there is something for everyone.

Zachary A

I have found Year 7 great so far, there is such a great variety of clubs and sports to join. All of the teachers are very supportive and kind.

Phoebe Edwards

I have enjoyed the gym sessions at lunchtime, and my Science and ICT lessons, and the food in the canteen is great!

Rylan Blake

I love Uffculme School! I have already included myself in many extra-curricular activities like drama, dance and netball. I feel like I understand things in all my lessons, and even subjects I didn't think I would enjoy, I love! I have particularly enjoyed all the fun experiments in Science.

Rosie Plumley

## 7 Hodson

Joining Uffculme school was challenging at first, but we eventually got used to it. The school is a big place, but it seems small once you have settled in. These past eight weeks have been fun yet demanding at times. The headteacher is called Miss Jenkins and she is good at making people feel welcome at Uffculme school. We have really enjoyed our first half term at Uffculme school. Thank you for a lovely place to learn. :)

## 7 Roberts



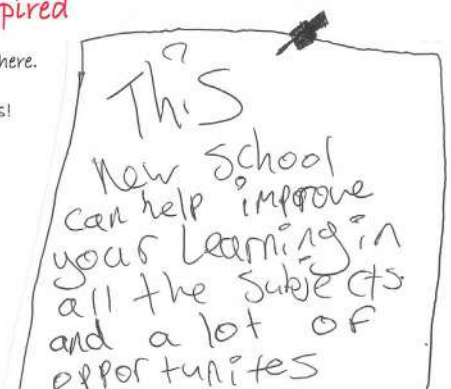
### TO Yr 6,

Although your transition may be scary, the teachers are here to **support** you the entire way through your **journey!** Have **fun** and try your **best** in lessons. You will have great **opportunities** because the **clubs** on offer are insane! We hope that you are **inspired**

and will find **home** here.

**Positive** changes!

Everyone is so nice and all the teachers/students are really friendly.



# YEAR 8

Year 8 have had a superb term. It has been brilliant to see so many students getting stuck in with so many of the opportunities available to them at Uffculme. We are so fortunate to have so many things that students can take part in; from trips and visits to fixtures and clubs, and from performances and events to student leadership roles and representatives.

I have been delighted to see so many students staying active through use of the gym, involvement in sports clubs and team games. Additionally, we have a thriving group of students attending the performing arts groups from choir and soul band to the drama club. There are groups of students who regularly attend our Japanese club as well as others that take part in the tabletop games group. Students access the homework support groups, both on a subject level and the whole school group, which is brilliant to see.

“ It has also been wonderful to see how much students are enjoying their lessons. ”

Having visited a number of lessons this term, it is good to see the year group focused and working on the tasks set. Every lesson and every piece of homework adds another piece to the puzzle, which will ultimately lead students to success in their GCSE years to come. It has also been wonderful to see how much students are enjoying their lessons.

Next term brings the start of longer days and brighter mornings, which is always welcome. Alongside this, a new term brings a fresh raft of opportunities for students to take part in. Please do continue to encourage your children to throw themselves into as many activities as possible. Speaking to ex-students always reminds me of how the things they remember the most are the extra opportunities afforded to them at this school.

Finally, a thank you for

your continued support of the school and for all the time taken to ensure our students bring the right equipment, uniform and kit, as well as the parent-taxi journeys to and from school throughout the year.

I hope you have a wonderful and merry Christmas.

Mr Hagan



# YEAR 9

As we move through the term, Year 9 students have continued to shine, both in and out of the classroom. It's been an exciting term with increased participation in a range of enrichment activities and some fantastic achievements across various disciplines.

This term has seen a remarkable rise in Year 9 students taking part in enrichment activities, showing a growing enthusiasm for exploring new interests and talents. From after-school clubs to weekend excursions, students have been actively engaged in everything from music to sport, and we're thrilled to see so many taking full advantage of the opportunities on offer.

A special mention goes to our Year 9 sports leaders, who have stepped up as role models, helping to organise and run sporting events for the local primary schools. They are continuing to develop their leadership and teamwork skills, and it's been inspiring to see them supporting both younger students and their peers in a variety of sporting activities.

Several Year 9 students have also participated in the challenging Three Moors Walk this term, testing their endurance and teamwork skills. This event, which

involves navigating a 15-mile route through rugged moorland over the three highest peaks on the three Moors is no easy feat, but our students rose to the occasion, showing resilience and a true sense of adventure.

For those interested in practical skills, a group of Year 9 students enrolled in a bike maintenance course this term. They are

learning essential techniques for keeping their bikes in top condition, covering everything from tyre repairs to brake adjustments. It's fantastic to see students developing hands-on skills that will serve them well beyond school.

The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) initiatives continue to thrive, with Year 9 students about to embark upon new exciting projects and challenges. From robotics to coding, students will explore how these subjects can shape the future. It's inspiring to see so many students tapping into their potential and developing a passion for problem-solving and innovation.

A huge congratulations to our Year 9 runners who excelled at the East Devon Cross Country Championships! Our students demonstrated exceptional determination and sportsmanship, with several achieving personal bests and placing highly in their categories. This success is a testament to their hard work

and commitment to training. Well done to all involved!

We look forward to seeing what our Year 9 students will achieve in the coming terms. With so many exciting opportunities on the horizon, it's clear that Year 9 is shaping up to be an incredibly successful and enriching year!

Mrs Lyne-Ley

“...we're thrilled to see so many taking full advantage of the opportunities on offer.”



# YEAR 10

The year started with pupils engaging brilliantly with their new GCSE subject choices.

Following on from the Key Stage 4 Information Evening pupils and parents had the opportunity to attend the 'Revision Made Easy' seminar. This offered practical tips for pupils on revision strategies and gave parents advice on how they can best support their child during the examination period.

Year 10 have once again fully engaged in the amazing extra-curricular programme at Uffculme School. 40 pupils have begun the Silver Duke of Edinburgh award. Ten Tors training is well underway with expeditions taking place on Dartmoor. Vast numbers have signed up for the Geography trip to Iceland and shortly the Year 11 ski trip will be launched to the year group.

“ the  
I have been really impressed with how mature the pupils have been with their work experience applications...”



Year 10 & 11 Drama Trip

Year 10 students have been supporting pupils lower down the school with peer mentoring and peer reading. We have also had a strong engagement with the year group supporting with the Eco council and school council.

” House points have been hotly contested with events such as Cross country, House Music competition and the Maths challenge.

On the sports fields we have had some amazing performances from Jess Lang, Sam Williams,

Charlie Biggs and Max Jackson in Cross country at County level. The Year 10 rugby team are still involved in the County Vase Semi Final and have celebrated some excellent victories led by Captain Rocco Benefield. Lois Hutching has gained

County Cricket representative honours and is lucky enough to be going on tour to Sri Lanka with the Under 15s Devon team in the new year. For the boys, Connor Trott & Zac Salter are also hoping to be selected for the Boys County Cricket tour to South Africa.

Pupils will soon be applying to departments and staff for Prefect roles which is a privileged position among many departments. This responsibility is excellent for college applications along with work experience placements which are now in the final stages of application. I have been really impressed with how mature the pupils have been with their work experience applications and some have secured some very exciting placements for July.

With the mock RE and English exams just around the corner I would like to take this opportunity to wish all pupils the best of luck and I trust they will apply themselves sensibly to their studies and work with their teachers to achieve their personal best.

Mr Heard



# YEAR 11

I had the privilege of visiting a number of the Year 11s whilst they were on work experience placements; to see the students in such a variety of locations and fulfilling such an eclectic collection of roles was interesting. To see our students outside of the classroom and thriving in arenas which were unfamiliar was a fabulous experience. The businesses and organisations whom I met and spoke with were all glowing in their admiration for the students who worked with them and I know of some instances where our students were offered part-time jobs on the back of how they conducted themselves.

“ To see our students outside of the classroom and thriving in arenas which were unfamiliar was a fabulous experience.



Year 11 English Trip

Following that, we were incredibly proud of the GCSE results which the students received in August. To see reactions, which were mostly a mixture of joy and relief, was unforgettable. It's easy to see results like that and just recall the snapshot of results day, this can mean that all of the hard graft which is put in behind the scenes can be overlooked. So many students stayed after school on Fridays to ensure they could put their best foot forward in the exams and this clearly paid dividends in the results that we saw.

Linked to this, the year group have returned with a renewed vigour and have started the year

focussed on the challenges ahead. The extra study sessions have been welcomed by the students and have been utilised, on the whole, to great effect whether for homework completion, for the creation of revision materials or indeed for revision itself. All students were lucky enough to attend a talk by the company MADE this term where they were given advice on how to revise, and they were shown a variety of strategies to use. At the time of writing the mock exams are on the horizon, so there is an opportunity to put these skills into practice immediately.

Myself, Mr. Roberts and the Year 11 Tutor Team have been pushing the year group to continue to think about where they are heading after Uffculme and to make sure they have their college applications in order sooner rather than later. It is always much better to enrol on

a course and then have to switch or change than to apply after courses become oversubscribed. We've had so many providers come in to talk to the year group during assemblies and at the post 16 evening that I am sure that everybody will be able to find a direction that suits them.

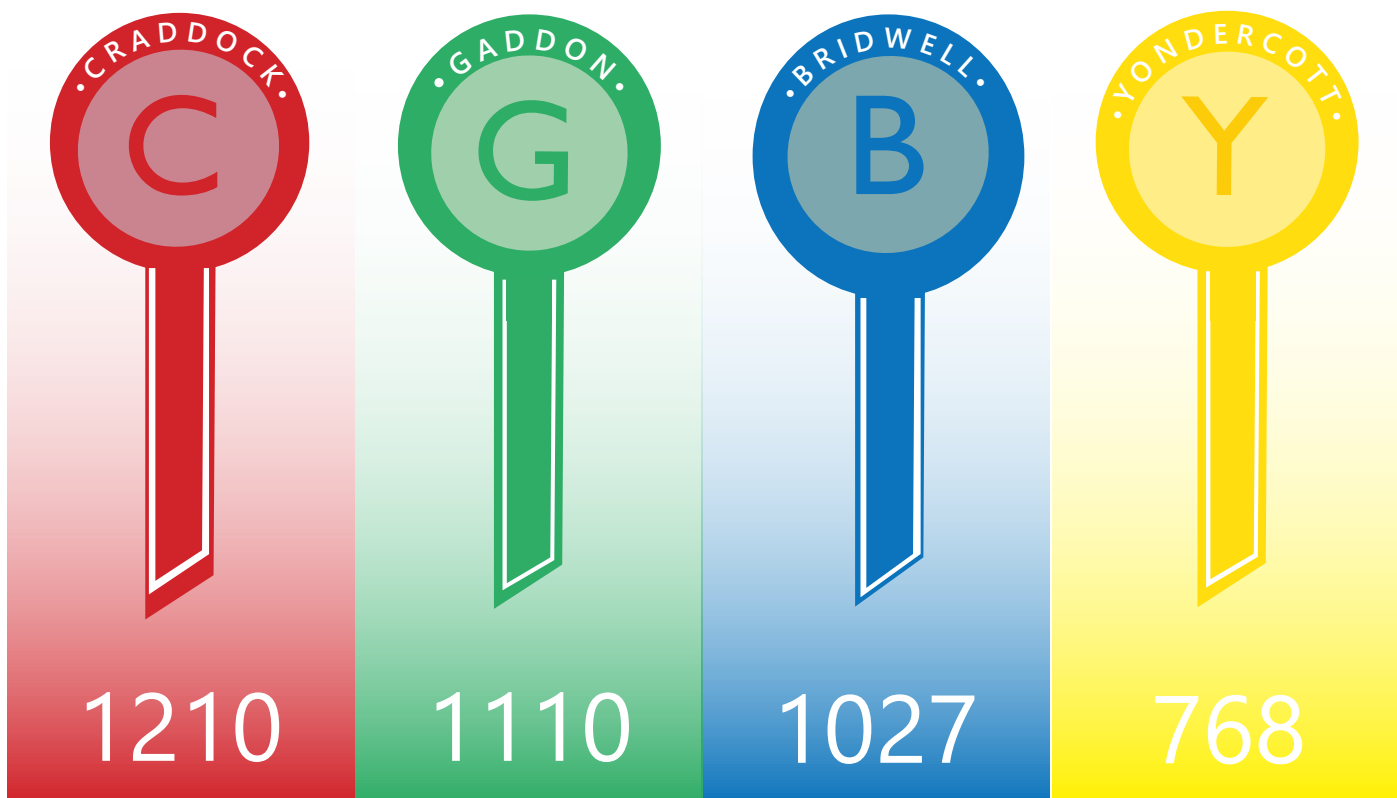
Of course, by the time this is published, many of the year group will be embarking on the annual ski trip to Austria. It really does take some organising to get over 120 students to a foreign country on three different flights. It is a huge commitment and takes a lot of organisational effort so our thanks must go to Mr Heard and Mr Roberts who have dedicated so much of their time to allow such a mammoth trip to take place.

We've had an excellent 2024 with the year group. I can only hope that 2025 brings even greater levels of success and that all of our students can leave Uffculme with excellent results and life skills.

Mr Burt

# HOUSE POINTS UPDATE

Current standings, correct at time of writing (Nov 2024):



The House Competition is well under way for this year. We've had the annual House Cross-Country run in PE lessons in addition to the Year 11 Punctuation Competition and Senior Maths Challenges that happen each year. What's very exciting about this year is the moving of House Music to the autumn term instead of the Summer. We really wanted a big whole school event early in the school year to bring the House Competition to life with all guns blazing. We welcome our new Year 7s into the fun and competitive spirit of belonging to their house. We have a huge variety of other subject competitions happening over the Autumn from History to Art; from Textiles to RE; English to Food and Sports the staff here create these amazing opportunities for all students to get stuck in and be part of the "Uffculme Culture".

Newly appointed Year 10 House Captains are as follows:

Bridwell: Jess Lang, Billy Groves

Craddock: Annabelle Horsey, Benjamin Heydon

Gaddon: Rochelle Lyes, Gilbert Herniman

Yondercott: Holly Palmer, Callum Yardley, Samuel Williams

Last year saw Yondercott win the House Cup. The

current scores are very close from positions 1 to 3 with Yondercott trailing at this early stage. There are plenty more competitions to come. We will see several huge swings just in the coming weeks. Don't forget you can keep track of up-to-date scores on the TEAMS page.

Mr Phillips





# ECO COUNCIL

At the start of the new term we welcomed some new members to the Eco Council from Year 8 and 9. They are all enthusiastic and committed to pushing the school forward in ways to be more environmentally friendly.

Due to the efforts of the Eco Council there are two more water stations on the school site and reusable water bottles, in house colours, for sale. This will help reduce the use of throw away plastic bottles and increase reusable plastics.

The focus of the Eco Council for this year is to earn the school it's 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 will help us to understand which areas we need to work on and formulate an action plan to improve these areas.

During the next term the Eco Council will start to implement their action plan and promote their objectives to the school so

everyone can help and do their part to gain the school it's Green Flag.

In December there will be a Christmas jumper swap. This will be an opportunity to bring in any old Christmas jumpers and swap/ buy a different Christmas jumper. By doing this we are reducing our impact on the fashion industry as fast fashion has a very negative environmental impact – plastic in materials, carbon dioxide emissions in production, microfibres into the ocean.

Do come along to support the Christmas jumper swap – Friday 13th December, Lower Drama Studio 1.45 – 2.15pm.

Mrs Statton and all the Eco Council



**Green Flag  
Award**



**Eco-Schools  
Green Flag Award**

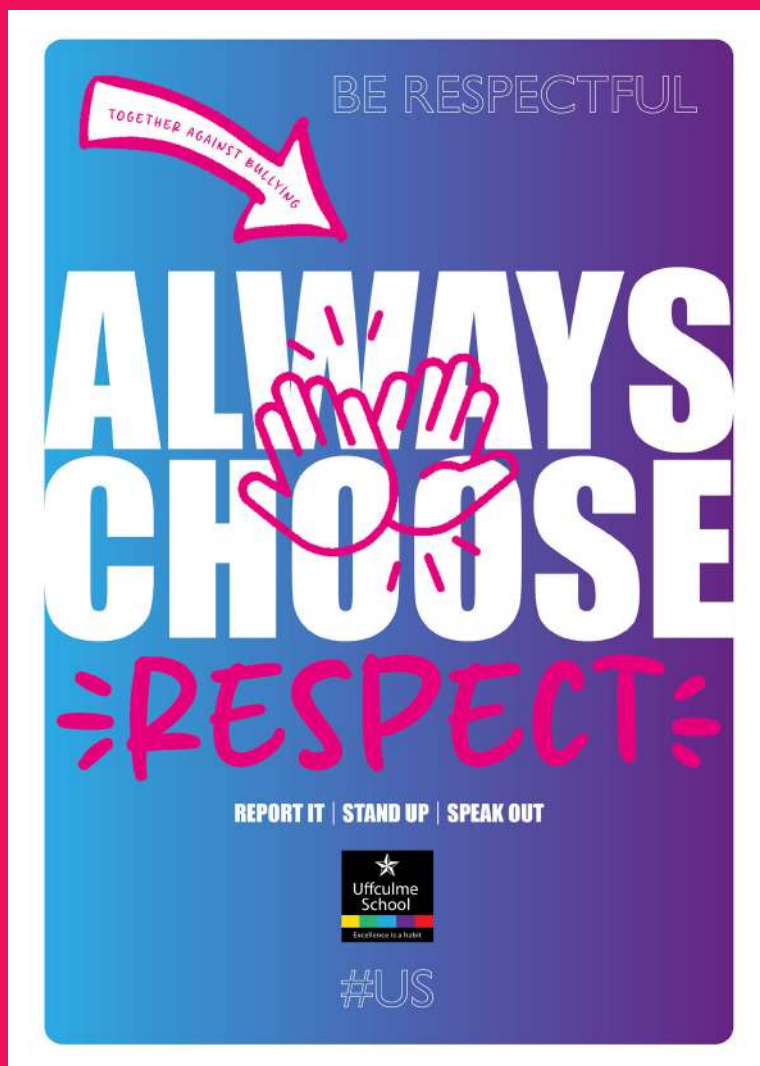
# ANTI-BULLYING

This month it was Anti-bullying week with the focus this year of 'choosing respect'. This aligns so well for us as a school as it's already part of our core values here at Uffculme; respect, tolerance and courtesy and are embedded in the school and in our ethos.

Providing a safe and happy environment for our pupils to thrive is always a priority but this was a great opportunity for us to launch our new anti-bullying ambassadors scheme. This was introduced with the help of some current Year 11 anti-bullying ambassadors who delivered a thoughtful and empowering assembly.

We also had the most incredible 'Odd Socks Day' with over 200 students participating in showing their support and putting their best foot forward to stamp out bullying! Our first Anti-bullying drop-in takes place at the beginning of December.

Mrs Legg



# ART

With the autumn term now well underway, Year 7 have been exploring some of the formal fundamentals of creating works of art, such as line, tone, texture, and form. Having begun earlier in the term with drawing, they have more recently come to explore sculpture, moulding terracotta clay into small seedpods and shells.



All our Year 7s are required to produce an art-historical timeline as part of their first year at Uffculme. Last year's cohort, now in Year 8, have been refining that knowledge in focussing on one specific artistic movement from the past. This year, they are exploring Cubism, delving into the radical and challenging artworks of Georges Braque and Pablo Picasso. This focus has not only helped our current Year 8s to develop their copying skills, but also to develop their understanding of the histories which shaped different movements and styles.

For Year 9, the first half of the autumn term revolved around the development of mathematical perspective in their artworks, to provide illusions of depth. To practise this skill, they were tasked with producing different scenes depicting local streets and buildings, inspired by the work of the mixed-media artist John Piper. We were so proud of the work that Year 9 produced this term that we decided to commission our extra-curricular art club to produce drawings of Uffculme School for the recent exhibition the school held to celebrate its seventieth year.



My special thanks for this go to Mackenzie, Riham, Pru, Adri, and Harriet for all their lovely work.



Year 10, now GCSE-level artists, also saw an inspiring start to the new academic year. The new term kicked off with one of the mainstays of our GCSE curriculum, a two-day trip to Cornwall to visit Tate St Ives, the Barbara Hepworth Museum, and the Eden Project. Students explored various works of modern art on





this trip, sketching and making studies from what they saw. Upon returning to Uffculme, we built upon this inspiring trip by further encouraging Year 10 to explore natural forms such as flowers, plants, and trees.

As they built up their sketch-books with new ideas, we in turn offered them new perspectives and possibilities, introducing a range of different lesser-used media such as cyanotype photography, printmaking, and sketching with charcoal in mini, workshop-style lessons. Having more recently introduced the flower and tree studies of the Dutch Modernist Piet Mondrian, Year 10 have gone on to further develop their natural forms by abstracting and then painting them in the style of Mondrian.



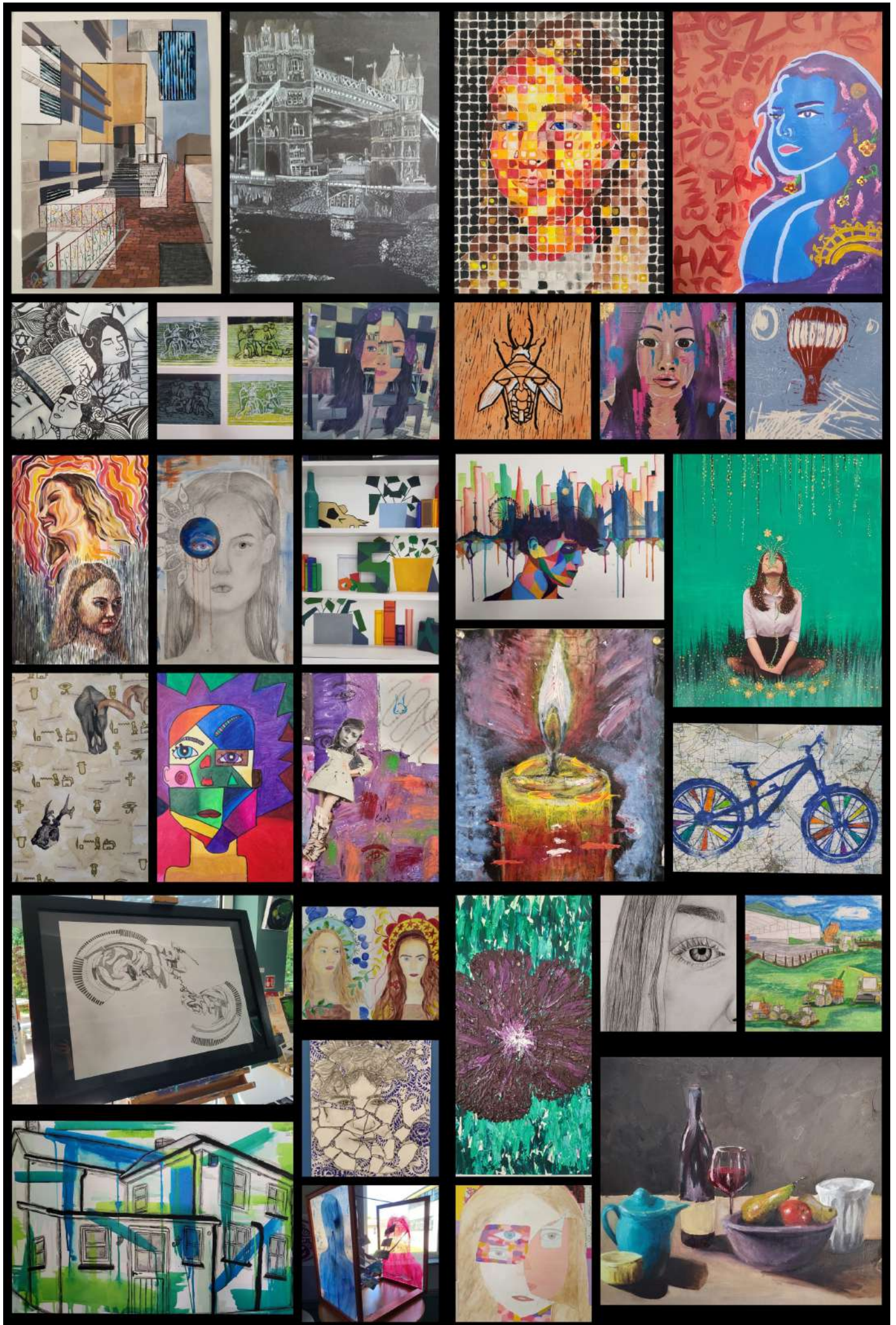
Currently, Year 11 are finalising their coursework for this term, which comprises two independent projects which each finish



with a final piece of work. They will begin their exams after the Christmas break. Due to the rules of the exam board, we cannot showcase any of the work of our current cohort of Year 11 until their final grades have been awarded. We are, however, proud to showcase some of the

exciting final pieces which last year's Year 11 produced.

Miss Lang





September and October mark the busy expedition season for the DofE team here at Uffculme School. Embracing the spirit of adventure and determination, 102 students from our school successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions. With 80 students tackling the Bronze Award and 22 conquering the Silver Award, another great achievement for all involved. The Bronze expedition saw our Year 10 students navigating through hills and fields of the Culm Valley heading south to Forest Glade camp or north to Kingsmead camp. Along the way

the teams learn essential camping and teamwork skills, while dealing with the rigours of carrying all they need, in order to be self-sufficient for 3 days.

The Year 11 Silver expedition took things to another level, taking on a three day journey. Silver expeditions are based on the Quantock Hills and the teams spend 2 days navigating the open access hills, fire trails and old oak woods and streams before heading south on day three for Wiveliscombe. A new campsite on night 2 this year, we found ourselves camping

in the grounds of Triscombe House, very nice I'm sure, if you are inside, but some fairly heavy rain overnight for our campers! Some excellent teamwork from all Silver participants, they all showed first-rate leadership and determination, supporting each other through rough patches and celebrating successes as a tight-knit team.

Mrs Purrington and I (Mr Harbour) love working with our students outside the classroom, from setting up camps to cooking meals in the wild, our students learn valuable life skills and



create memories that will last for years. The determination and grit displayed by both Bronze and Silver participants is truly inspiring.

Congratulations to all the students and a big thank you to the staff and volunteers who make these expeditions possible. Your support and dedication are instrumental in the success of the DofE expeditions.

Mr Harbour and Mrs Purrington



# DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

This term there has seen lots of changes in the Design and Technology department at Uffculme School. With the departure of Mrs Sotomayor, there was an opportunity to recruit a full time member of staff. We welcome Mr Preece into the Uffculme DT family and he has really hit the ground running. He has become a Year 9 Tutor and has started helping out with rugby training. Mr Preece has also started a DT club for girls which is proving popular and has taken on some of the GCSE Design and Technology groups in Year 11 and Year 10, as well as teaching a lot of the groups in KS3. He has settled into Uffculme life quickly and has some amazing plans for the future.

The year has started with a very long term and this has meant that there has been a lot of activity in the workshops of Design and Technology. Some Year 7s have been working hard on their Pencil cases and are getting close to having them finished before Christmas.



Other groups have been honing their design skills and learning to present work and communicate their ideas as well using CAD (computer aided design) skills that will be incredibly useful further up the school.

In Year 8, the pupils have been learning about Sustainable use of materials by recycling wood pallets and found materials into attractive and fun Bug Hotels (to be known in future as Bee B&B's!). Other groups in Year 8 have been learning about the designs of the Memphis group in order to design clocks based on that style, as well as designing and building bridges in group work.

Year 9 have been using all their previously learned skills to build angle poise lamps that will then require them to design and build



lampshades that will be creative and innovative and based around the use of Biomimicry (using natural shapes as a starting point for the Design Process) to come up with some surprising ideas.



Other groups have been working on considering the needs of people who have found themselves in a disaster zone and designing an emergency shelter that would fulfil their requirements.



# TEXTILES

The start of autumn term means Halloween is just around the corner and to celebrate this, the textiles department ran an annual Day of the Dead Halloween house competition where students had to design and make a mask. Well-done to 7 Hayes and 7 Wigmore who took part as a whole tutor.

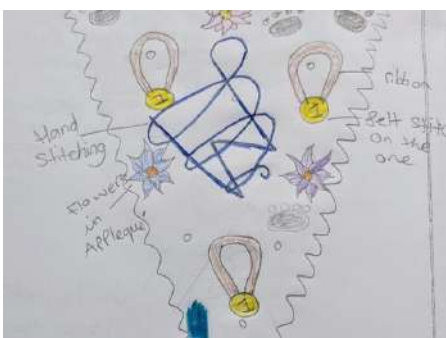
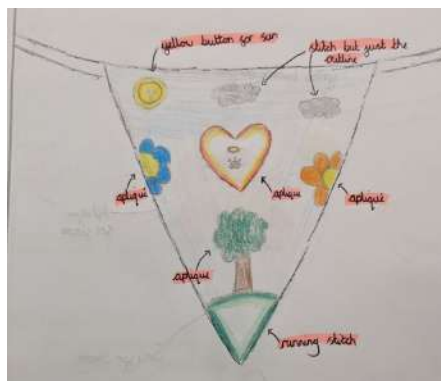
As always, we had many individual entries and the top 3 are as follows:

3rd place - Imogen Ledger, 9 Maddocks, Gaddon - 20 house points  
 2nd Place Harry Westwood, 7 Osmond, Bridwell - 25 house points

1st place Phoebe Knight, 7 Roberts, Craddock - 30 house points!!!



Year 7 are mid-way through their 'All about me' project where they are learning a range of textile skills including hand techniques, batik and the sewing machine. They are in the process of applying these skills to make their own bunting flag which will soon be hung around the school – watch this space!







This summer, we successfully organized our annual canoe and camp trips, providing unforgettable experiences for our Year 7, 8 and 9 students.

Our Year 7 students kicked off their adventure by camping at the picturesque Forest Glade Campsite near Blackborough. Nestled in the heart of the

sense of accomplishment as they navigated their canoes together.

Our Year 8 students embarked on a more adventurous journey, travelling to the beautiful Salcombe Estuary. They set up camp on Friday night, enjoying preparing their meals. On Saturday, they canoed from Kingsbridge to North Sands near

camping equipment and stopped at 'Point Field' en route to set up camp. A camp fire was lit and meals cooked. The trip was filled with adventure and camaraderie, as the students navigated the estuary and enjoyed the beautiful landscapes.

We hope to repeat these successful trips in the summer of

# CANOE & CAMP

Blackdown Hills, this campsite offered a location for our camp. The students enjoyed various outdoor activities and swimming in the pool. The following day, the excitement continued as they canoed down the scenic Tiverton Canal. Paddling through the still waters. It was a day filled with fun, laughter and a

Salcombe. The group showed great strength and teamwork, making the trip a memorable experience for everyone involved.

The final canoe and camp trip took place on the Dartmouth Estuary, where our Year 9 students canoed from Totnes to Dartmouth. They loaded all their

2025, continuing to create more memorable experiences for our students.

Mr Eve





A test of endurance and adventure.

The Three Moors Challenge is a unique and demanding walking event that takes participants across three of the most stunning moorlands in the UK: Dartmoor, Exmoor and Bodmin Moor. This

challenge is not just a test of physical endurance but also an opportunity to experience the breathtaking beauty and diverse landscapes of these iconic moors. It is open to our Year 9 students of which a group of 62 have taken up the challenge.

The route and its highlights:

Dartmoor: Known for its rugged terrain and granite tors, Dartmoor offers walkers a chance to navigate through ancient woodlands, open moorlands, and picturesque valleys. The challenge

# THREE MOORS CHALLENGE

here includes reaching the highest point, High Willhays, which stands at 621 metres.

Exmoor: This moor is characterized by its rolling hills, deep valleys and coastal cliffs. The route through Exmoor often includes the ascent of

Dunkery Beacon, the highest point on Exmoor at 519 metres, providing panoramic views of the surrounding countryside and the Bristol Channel.

Bodmin Moor: The final leg of the challenge takes participants to Bodmin Moor, known for its wild

and remote beauty. Brown Willy, the highest point in Cornwall at 420 metres, is the main highlight here. The moor is dotted with ancient stone circles and historical sites, adding a touch of mystery to the journey.

Mr Eve



# ENGLISH

## THE DAVID CAMERON CUP FOR WRITING 2024

The English department chose the motto of the Paris Olympics - Faster, Higher, Stronger, Together - to inspire this year's house writing competition.

We hold this competition each year to remember our friend and colleague, David Cameron, who sadly passed away in May 2020. A talented long distance runner, he particularly loved the Olympics, so we thought this would be a good way to honour his passion for sport and beautifully crafted writing. The quality of writing this year was as wonderful as ever, and as always, it was very difficult to judge.

We awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in Year 7, 8 and 9, (listed below) with the House Cup 2024 being awarded to our overall winner: Evan Pyke, now in 10Croft, with this dazzling descriptive entry. We felt Evan really captured the spirit and spectacle of this year's Paris Olympics...

Prizes and House points were also awarded to our year group winners and runners up:

### Year 9

Gold - Evan Pyke  
Silver - Jacob Dawe  
Bronze - Sam Middleton

**In Paris, 2024 athletes worldwide gathered for the ultimate sporting event. The city sparked with energy as champions rose and new starts emerged. Cheers echoed through the streets as records fell and dreams soared; fierce competition forged bonds beyond borders. The Eiffel towers stood tall above it all – a beacon of hope and inspiration. As the flame burned brightly, Paris showcased its magic, leaving a legacy of triumph and camaraderie. The world watched in awe as history unfolded, celebrating the power of sport and the spirit of unity in this glorious city of light.**



### Year 8

Gold - Mackenzie Manser  
Silver - Amelie Marshall  
Bronze - Charlotte Merrick

### Year 7

Gold - Seth Dixon  
Silver - Charlotte Bruton-Young  
Bronze - Isaac Ellis

## Runners Up

### Year 9

Rowan Burrow, Sam Williams, Harry Walster, Holly Toothill, Jaime Lamb, Bill Groves, Jasmine King, Mabel Harrison, Darcy Palmer, Aoife Smith, Florence Peters, Maisy Wood, Seb Yeo, Flora Benett, Keira Smith.

### Year 8

Mackenzie Wood, Charlie Bussell, Jayden Lambert, Felix Britton, Lauren Bailey, Noah Fisher, Frederick Clark, Sonya Bird, Oscar Huddleston, Grace Barnes, Archie Fairclough, Harry Middleton, Charlie King, Bella Cullerne, Barnaby Priest, Fleur Newton, Flora Copland, Bea McArt, Ivy Wreford.

### Year 7

Theo Issac-Hawkins, Lucy Ledger, Bethan Rushforth, Isla Van Hensbergen, Jayden Lambert, Rafe Bennett-Jones, Toby W, Arthur Middleton, Jaydan Hawkins, Kara Kneale, Matilda King, Harry Grieve, Raul Quiulo, Joseph Purcell, Jacob Knight, Liberty Jones, Xinen He, Lizzie Gosling, Jasper Patterson, Matilda Yeo.

## 8R3 Gothic Inspired Writing

As part of their English lessons 8R3 have been learning about Gothic writing. Here they have written a gothic-inspired re-imagining of their classroom, P12:



*Rotten and mouldy, the door swung slowly and fell off its hinges as you entered the dark and damp classroom. Tables rusting with stale gum and years of graffiti were overturned and scattered around the room. The chairs were broken and looked as if a giant rat had chewed the legs over many years. Flickering, the shattered lights dangled from the ceiling; the wires sparked and singed the decrepit curtains. Scratched and cracked windows penetrated by spiky, poisonous, lethal vines swung gently in the damp air. Beside the sink, a bottle of lime green fluorescent liquid oozed its contents all over the floor burning a jagged hole in the carpet. This dangerously toxic substance crept threateningly towards the mysterious antechamber, there lay a pile of aging, decomposing bodies.*

*Decomposition was caused by that aggressive, acidic, radioactive goo burning through the bone marrow of long, forgotten, punished students.*



# ENGINEERING

## Supacat Visit

In September twenty lucky Year 10 Engineering pupils were given the opportunity to attend the Supacat College Experience Day near Dunkeswell.



The pupils listened to a variety of talks and were able to discuss the work of the company with the engineers, including some hands on exploration of the testing equipment. They were given the opportunity to view and ride on some of the vehicles developed by Supacat and also heard from engineering lecturers from Exeter College and Yeovil College.

Pupils wishing to pursue careers in engineering were shown the wide variety of opportunities available at a company such as Supacat and able to discuss different engineering pathways they could follow.



## Engineering Talk

The Year 10 and Year 11 Design and Technology and Engineering pupils were invited to hear a careers talk by Jack Walker from Kier Construction. The talk highlighted the huge variety of jobs available to civil engineers in the South West alone, along with some personal case studies to illustrate possible career paths.

A number of additional students from Year 9-11 with an interest in Engineering careers also joined the talk to hear about the skills and opportunities that a career in the industry develops. Further information on engineering careers can be found at [tomorrowsengineers.org.uk](http://tomorrowsengineers.org.uk)

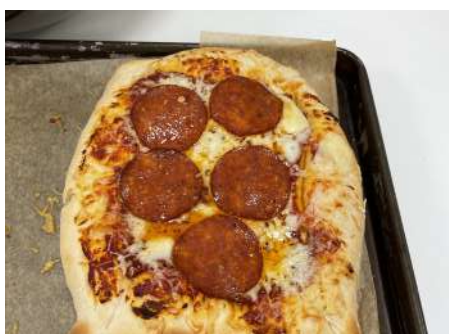
Mr Kemp



# FOOD DEPARTMENT

Food has started brilliantly this term. There have been many practical lessons covering all sorts of skills and recipes as well as theory lessons to embed and learn new knowledge.

Year 7 have already made their pizza toast, crumbles, scones and oat biscuits. Many students have loved trying to use the ovens as well as learning how to ensure their food is cooked properly. In their theory lessons they have learnt about Health and Safety and some are currently learning about the Eatwell Guide.



Year 8 have made soup, curry, bread rolls, pizza (a firm favourite!) and are gaining new knowledge around critical temperatures as well as learning about food miles. Their enthusiasm in the food room is infectious as they are working very hard.



Year 9 have started off wonderfully. Enthusiasm has been shown when making their roux sauces and having the macaroni cheese meal. They have made a ragu sauce as well as swiss rolls (which they thoroughly enjoyed!). Sausage rolls were a huge hit, and some were extremely tasty! Recently they have been gaining knowledge about the functions in cakes and pastry and are looking forward to researching about a number of different cuisines soon.



Year 10 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition have hit the ground running. They are focusing so hard on their theory work which is enabling them to practically implement their knowledge. We have had some wonderful dishes such as chicken pies, scotch eggs, vegetable curry, lasagne, puff pastry tarts and they are subsequently making mini lemon meringue pies from scratch next week. Well done Year 10 an excellent start.



Year 11 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition have started with fantastic maturity. They have just finished their first piece of coursework and are about to embark on their second. They have worked so hard and have been a credit to themselves and their year group.

A brilliant start everyone, well done.

Miss Mitir

# CATERING & HOSPITALITY

Year 10 Hospitality and Catering have made a brilliant start to their course. They are all super keen to cook and so far, have made pasta, arancini, gnocchi, quiche and profiteroles (images not student's work). They are using their knowledge from previous years as well as learning new skills to implement into their practical lessons and make some delicious products. Well done Year 10.

Year 11 Hospitality and Catering are consolidating the information they have learned in Year 10 and implemented this into various theory and practical tasks. They are preparing for their Unit 2 coursework and have practised various high-level dishes to enhance their skills. They continue to work on their theory knowledge in preparation for their Unit 1 mock exam. The

students are all keen to do well and perform to the best of their abilities. Keep up the good work Year 11.

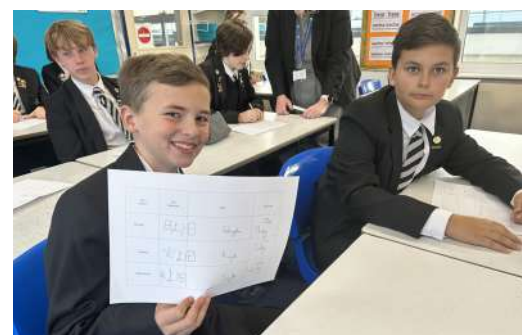
Mrs Statton



Students from Years 7, 8 and 9 have been enjoying the challenge of learning Japanese this term. An incredibly complex language, the club have been getting to grips with some basic vocabulary around numbers, days, months and hobbies as well as beginning

to write in their three (yes, three!) writing systems: hiragana, katakana and kanji.

Miss Hammond



# GEOGRAPHY BRISTOL TRIP 2024

As part of the requirements for Paper 3 of the Geography exam, Year 11 students embarked on the annual human field trip to Bristol Harbourside to investigate the success of its regeneration. The trip provided a hands-on learning experience, allowing students to gather valuable data to answer the enquiry question.

The day began with a guided boat tour around the harbourside, offering a unique perspective on the area's transformation over the years. Students observed the mix of historic and modern architecture, noting the changes that have taken place over the years. Many of the old warehouses have now been converted into a mix of flats, shops, offices and cafes (the students seem to think I navigate using the later!). The boat trip is a great way to get an overview of the whole development and



get some good insights from our knowledgeable guide. Did you know the original plan was for the M32 to run right over the Harbourside?

Following the boat tour, students visited various sites to collect data, including Millennium Square, Wapping Wharf and the old gas works. At each location, they recorded observations on the environmental quality, land use, and the presence of amenities and services. These recordings will be crucial for their analysis and conclusions in the upcoming exam.



The highlight of the trip, however, was the visit to Za Za Bazaar, where students enjoyed a well-deserved meal. The vibrant atmosphere and diverse cuisine provided a perfect end to a day of exploration and learning.

Overall, the field trip was a success, offering students a deeper understanding of urban regeneration and its impacts. The data collected will be instrumental in their investigation and the experience has undoubtedly enriched their geographical knowledge and skills.

Mr Harbour



# HISTORY

The history department have been blown away by the castle entries this year. We have received a record 28 entries with contributions from 41 students. These creative models were built from Lego, wood, cardboard, cake and even 3D printed.

This year's winners are as follows :

1st prize goes to Clementine Hopson and Lila Gordon they will

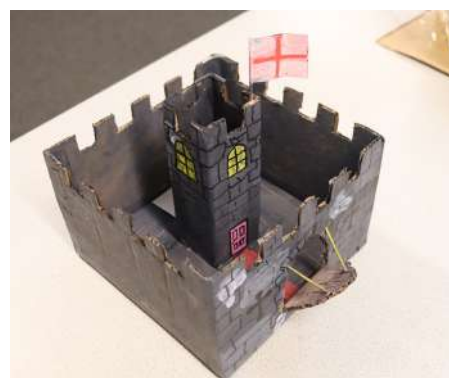
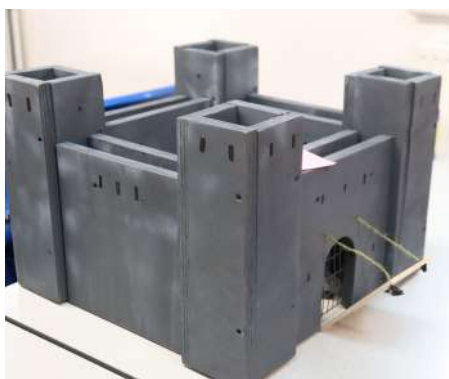
receive a £10 Amazon voucher and house points.

2nd prize (joint winners) is Sienna Hutchins, Harry Westwood, William Luker and Harry D. They will receive a Horrible History Book and house points.

3rd prize goes to Grace Hutchinson, Zach A and Rafe Sykes who will receive a box of chocolates and house points

Highly commendable goes to Jack Ward and Jake Boorman who will receive a box of chocolates and house points. Below are just a few of the fantastic entries we received.

Mrs Mcguigan



# P.E.

I am very pleased to say that extracurricular sport has been back with a bang since September with huge numbers of students attending the numerous opportunities available. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PE department and countless other staff for their commitment to delivering these wonderful opportunities which really help build the culture of the school.

## FOOTBALL

The football season is well under way and we are very pleased to say that we have entered more boys' and girls' teams in the National Cup than ever before. There has been some lengthy travelling coupled with some superb performances. These performances do not happen by accident and are testament to the excellent attendance we have at training for each year group.

Highlight performances so far this year include the Year 11 boys' stoic display in the National Cup win against Tiverton and the Year 10 boys' team with superb victories against both Tiverton and Honiton. The Year 7, 8 and 9 boys have been training weekly and have been unlucky in the National cup run losing on penalties and against a last-minute goal against Tiverton. We eagerly await their season in both the East Devon and County cup competitions.

The girls' football teams have been showcasing talent and teamwork across all year groups this season! The U12 girls started with a round-robin tournament, where they impressed with their skills and determination. They followed this up with a strong 4-1 win over Clyst Vale. In their National Cup match against Millfield Prep, the team gave an outstand-

ing performance, battling through extra time before narrowly losing 2-1.

The U13 girls have had an exciting start to the term, beginning with a tough match against Torquay, where they fought hard and earned great individual performances. In the National Cup, they triumphed 5-0 over Court Fields. Most recently, they delivered a dominant 6-0 win against Coombeshead, advancing to the next round.

The U16 girls kicked off their term with a challenging 6-2 loss to Honiton, but they played with exceptional determination and grit. The team bounced back with a fantastic 6-3 victory over Isca, showing their resilience and teamwork. A huge well done to all the players for their fantastic teamwork and spirit!



# RUGBY

The Year 7s have been gaining confidence with full contact rugby. They have attended the East Devon School Central venue tournament and won all of their games against Axe Valley, Kings & Sidmouth. Year 7 have also had friendly matches against Blundells, Holyrood and Honiton. All the games have been very competitive and over 45 boys have attended training regularly. Huge thanks to Mr Hodson who has been supporting Mr Heard with the team this year.

The Year 8 team have played friendly fixtures this year against Blundells, Holyrood, Honiton and Exeter School.

The boys have played some excellent rugby with over 30 attending training regularly,

The Year 9 team are still involved in the Exeter & East Devon Cup competition and are due to play Exeter School in the semi-final. They have had tough matches against Exmouth and St. Peters. The Year 9 team will also have a rugby 7s competitions after Christmas.

Mr Preece has been working hard with the Year 10 rugby team who lost to a well organised QECC side in the National cup. The team are due to play Tiverton High

School in the semi-final of the County Vase competition.

Mr Phillips has supported the Year 11 team who have had comfortable wins against St. Peters, Honiton and Blundells B Team. The side have also been entered into the National Schools Rugby 7s competition at Rosslyn Park in March.



*Year 11 Rugby Team*

# CROSS COUNTRY

This term we have seen students demonstrate superb mental capacity through completing cross country in curriculum lessons. The resilience and determination they have shown and support for each other has been a joy to observe. Following on from this we have seen a fantastic uptake in cross country extra-curricular with students from all years attending reps training after school and Friday's lunch-time off-site run. Students take part for a variety of reasons; to develop their race pace, to develop

their fitness and because of their love for running. Friday lunch runs sees a fast group head out, as well a couch to 5k group - everyone is welcome!

The race season started with the first round of the national cross-country cup competing against schools from Devon and Cornwall. Uffculme were strongly represented in all the teams, with every student showing grit and determination in some very strong races. The teams just missed out

on qualification to the next round but a particular well done to Archie Bennett who finished 3rd in his race.

Mr Lane



# DANCE

Dance has been phenomenal this half term!

Gifted and Talented has undertaken a quick start with a whole dance piece choreographed already. They are currently working on the choreography for the Christmas dances.

We have over 58 Year 7 and 8s every Tuesday evening in where they have learnt their Sports dance which they showed, very proudly to Mrs Jenkins and Miss Roberts last week. During their lunch time clubs, Year 7 are focusing on the Army dance and Year 8 are practising their choreography skills.

Year 9 have had a wonderful and committed start to the year. They have been challenged to create their own theme leading to their own choreography. So far, we have some fantastically creative and complex pieces.

Year 10 students continue to astound me with their enthusiasm and drive to do well. They have been working with a chair as a prop to see how imaginative they can be. Furthermore, a number of Year 10 students offer their help weekly, with the younger years. It is very much appreciated, and they do a wonderful job.

Thank you for all the effort you put in every single week.

Miss Mitir



I love how GCSE dance is so inclusive. There is variety in the coursework which is rewarding. It takes on attributes that use a delicate skill set to portray a mixture of art and sport. Wednesday involves a range of people that can work co-dependently. It is taught by Miss Mitir who helps us to express our emotions through enjoyable yet challenging choreography. Additionally, choreographing and teaching younger years has been a superb opportunity to learn from an amazing and dedicated teacher.

Liv P – Year 10

We like GCSE dance because it is challenging but rewarding at the same time it's also inclusive to all people and a way to express yourself creatively. Dance after-school on a Wednesday (Year 10) is entertaining because everyone can be themselves and not get judged. Miss Mitir is the most kind and welcoming person to everyone and someone everyone can come to for help.

Darcy H and Lola C – Year 10

best dancers possible. Miss Mitir is an amazing teacher; we are very grateful to have her! Year 7 and 8 dance gives us the opportunity to inspire and teach younger students fun dances. We enjoy that we have lots of keen dancers meaning we can do much larger dances.

Lily V, Matilda H, Bells S, Gracie L, and Isla VH – Year 8

We like Gifted and Talented because it lets us express ourselves and we can really pour our emotions into our movements. We can also get creative with our group choreography. It also lets us fix our technique by watching dancers from older year groups. At Year 9 dance we like choreographing because we can work with our friends to make our own dances. It makes us more creative and allows us to open our minds and makes us feel the music, focussing on every move.

Jagoda K and Jess P – Year 9



We love Gifted and Talented dance because it gives us a chance to express ourselves through our own choreography. We're inspired and influenced by our older peers to help us be the



# PERFORMING ARTS

## DRAMA

### Year 9 & 10 Play – ‘The Merchant of Venice’

This year, with a small, talented cast of Year 9 and 10 students, we are working towards a performance of Shakespeare’s ‘The Merchant of Venice’. Mrs Groves has courageously whittled down the script into a condensed version, still communicating the key, poignantly and painfully, relevant themes of the play.

Oliver Chesterton writes: ‘This term, we have started work on our production of Shakespeare’s ‘Merchant of Venice’, which will be performed in March next year. The cast is so supportive and it’s been so fun working with all of them. I cannot wait to perform it next year’.

### Year 7 Drama Club

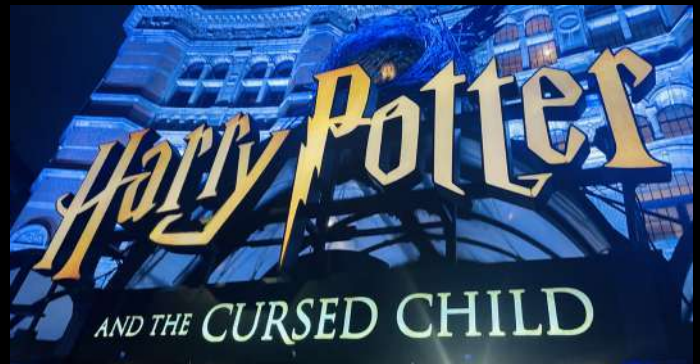
This year we have been blown away by the vast numbers of students attending Year 7 Drama club. With an average of 67 students turning up each week, Year 7 have been working hard to devise their very own pieces of drama in preparation for Winterfest where families and friends can watch these performances. Sophie Deacock and Bethany Donaldson said “We really enjoy Drama. It is fun and we get to be creative and express ourselves. In primary school we didn’t get the opportunity to learn Drama, so Drama club gives us the opportunity to develop what we learn in our Drama lessons. We have loved creating our very own Christmas themed performance and can’t believe we are already being given the opportunity to perform in the school’s theatre ‘The Venue’. We can’t wait to show everyone our work at Winterfest.

### Blood Brother Theatre Trip

On Thursday 19th September, our GCSE Drama cohort travelled to The Playhouse Theatre in Weston-Super-Mare to watch the touring West End production of ‘Blood Brothers’. All GCSE Drama

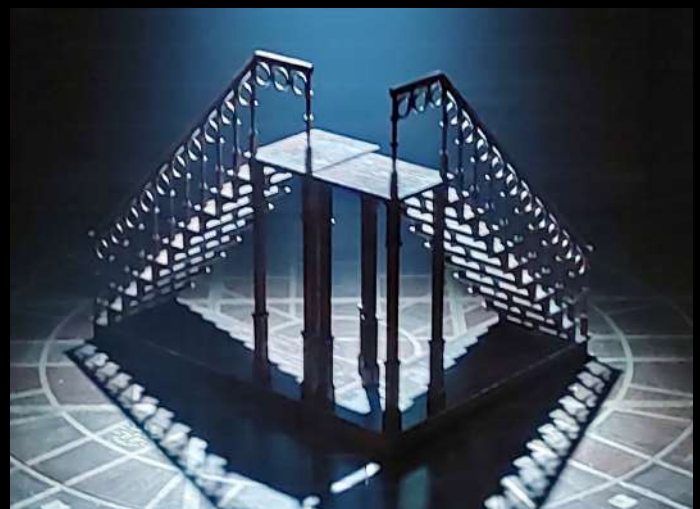
students study ‘Blood Brothers’ for their final GCSE exam, so this gave them a fantastic opportunity to watch the musical live, performed by a cast of highly acclaimed professional actors - an invaluable experience to support their exploration of the play.

### GCSE Drama London Trip: Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Part 1 and 2



On Friday 22nd November the trip to London was nothing short of magical! The highlight of our journey was undoubtedly watching “Harry Potter and the Cursed Child” at the Palace Theatre. Here’s a recap of our enchanting experience:

We arrived in London on a crisp morning filled with excitement. After being dropped off at Buckingham Palace, we were greeted by the royal band playing Wicked’s ‘Defying Gravity’. We then embarked on a walk past some iconic landmarks and ended in the bustling Covent Garden. The students were thrilled



to see the vibrant cityscape and soak in the rich history, which was made extra special dressed in Christmas decorations.

The anticipation was palpable as we made our way to the Palace Theatre. The students, many of whom are avid Harry Potter fans, could hardly contain their excitement. The theatre itself was a sight to behold, with its grand architecture and enchanting atmosphere.



As the curtains rose, we were transported into the wizarding world. The play, split into two parts, was a rollercoaster of emotions, filled with stunning special effects, captivating performances, and a storyline that kept us on the edge of our seats. The students were particularly impressed by the seamless transitions and the magical elements that brought the story to life.



Our trip to London to watch "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" was an unforgettable experience. It was not only entertaining but also educational, providing the students with an engaging performance to write about in their final GCSE written exam.

Mrs Croft



# MUSIC

## WEST AFRICAN DRUMMING WORKSHOPS

25-26th September.

James from Drum Devon ran two days of West African Drumming workshops for each Year 8 class and for the GCSE Music classes. These were fantastic and gave us an insight into how to play them authentically and with the proper technique.

Oscar from the Year 11 GCSE Music class said, "It helped me to visualise my studies and understand them more. It gave me more context and I got to play the Dun Duns."

"I really enjoyed hearing all the instruments together and playing groovy rhythms that came from West Africa. And James got us singing the songs to go with them too." Isla, Year 8.

We look forward to welcoming James from Drum Devon back next year.



## YEAR 11 GCSE MUSIC SOLO RECITAL

23rd October

Our current Year 11 GCSE Musicians blew us away with their talent during their recital evening. They had worked so hard to ensure that their pieces were musically detailed and note perfect. We are so proud of you all, but special mentions go to Robyn's beautiful flute solo and Max's rockstar guitar solo. Thank you also to Nigel A for accompanying our wonderful cellists and trombonist.

## YEAR 7 & 8 VIOLINS

Last year, we conquered the saxophone. This year, it's the turn of the violins. Our Year 7 and 8 students will all get a chance to learn to play the violin during this academic year. This is part of our Music curriculum and aims to develop students' musical skills using a new instrument and also to show them what learning an



instrument can look and feel like.

If any of the students wish to continue their studies, our violin teacher has a few spaces left and can accommodate group or individual lessons. Information can be found on our website [Instrumental Lessons — Uffculme School](#)

## YEAR 11 COMPOSITION WORKSHOP

28th November

We had the delight of Elfyn Jones and Patrick Saturley from Sonopera working with our Year 11 GCSE Musicians to kickstart their second composition coursework pieces. There were lots of laughs thanks to Elfyn and Pat's infectious energy and fun but the students worked incredibly hard finding and developing ideas to start their compositions. There were some stunning soundscapes used to fit the 'Film Music' brief about aeroplanes, beautiful medieval inspired instrumental pieces for the 'Concerto through time' brief, and some excellent melodic hook writing for the 'Conventions of popular music' brief.

We are so proud of the students' focus and creativity during the workshop. We cannot wait to see what their compositions turn out like.

Thank you Sonopera and thank you Year 11 GCSE Musicians.



Dawn breaks on the Venue, a site that has seen both triumphs and tragedies. Where magic is real and where hearts have been broken. The stage that has held an orphan who dared ask for more, star-crossed lovers whose love cost the ultimate price and a cruel master cursed to live as a monster for his unkindness.

Anticipation stirs at break time as students flood to the dining hall to collect their tickets ready for the first day of the House Music Competition. In a record breaking six minutes, over 300 tickets are gone and some are left with only a hope and a prayer to get them through the doors at lunch time to see the show from one of the 'unticketed seats'.

At precisely 13:45 the doors fling open and the eagerly waiting students are met by Mrs Jenkins



with a kind smile and a firm grasp of what is and what isn't a

counterfeit ticket. The audience quickly take their seats and the show begins with Bridwell soloist, Grace, who belts out a terrific cover of Listen. Harry, representing Craddock, takes to the stage next singing a big band version of Want You Gone. Rochelle then takes her turn with a phenomenal Olly Murs cover for Gaddon, sung with expression and panache. Finally, representing the yellow of Yondercott, Neve steps up to perform a beautiful piano solo full of dynamics and heart.

It's a tough decision for the judges but, under the leadership of Head Judge Miss Guy, they settle on 300 points for Bridwell, 200 for Craddock, and 100 each for Gaddon and Yondercott,

bringing the day to a close.

Day two arrives and the buzz of yesterday has leapt through the student body like electricity. Everyone has heard how amazing the soloists were and they are desperate to see what each house has cooked up for the group stage.

The clock hits 11:09 and students are enthusiastically but politely (this is Uffculme!) asking teachers to let them out of lesson just one minute early so that they can get to the dining hall and secure a ticket that makes the Oasis gigs look like karaoke night at the Dog and Duck.

# HOUSE M



Technical rehearsals take place during the day and Marty, the



with a beautifully harmonised rendition of Read All About it, Craddock with the crowd-pleasing singalong Give It Up, Gaddon perform the 80s classic I'm Still Standing (each wearing a pair of Elton John specs!) and Yondercott, a house that has recently become synonymous with rock music, smash out a cover of Buck Rogers.

Again, a hard call for the judges to make but, with Mrs Poortman leading the team today, it is Gaddon who come out with 300 points for their energy, enthusiasm and formidable dance moves. Yondercott come a close second, with Bridwell and Craddock picking up 100 points each to finish off the round.



# MUSIC 2024

sound engineer that every other school wishes they had, puts the finishing touches on the mix for each band. Vocal harmonies are polished, choreography is rehearsed, and final adjustments are made.

At lunch time, the capacity crowd witness some of the finest group performances of any House Music Competition: Bridwell



After two days of stiff competition and unbridled joy, the final round of House Music looms: the choirs. Famously the grand finale of the competition, this is the round that draws together all of the delight and drama of the previous two days.

Each choir is permitted one final hour of rehearsal to make sure every harmony, every step and clap, every lyric and every note is perfect. They go at full tilt to eke out every last point they can in a bid to bring home the gold in one of the most action-packed competitions that Uffculme School hosts.



It's break time once again, and the Music Department switches the ticket distribution to a full



box office-style setup to cater for the extraordinary demand seen this year. Students wait in line desperate not to hear the dreaded words, 'sold out', as they approach the desk. In a heartbeat, the tickets are gone and there are cheers and tears as some celebrate their success and others curse their luck.

At lunch time the show starts early to allow for the final announcements at the end. Bridwell choir open the show with the ever-relevant Call Me

Maybe also featuring Eowyn on electric violin! Craddock are next up, proudly displaying their red glowsticks, to sing a heartfelt cover of Celestial, featuring renowned Craddock drummer Archie on kit. As the stage lights shift to green, Gaddon take their places and belt out a fantastic version of Keep On Moving (yes, the 1999 classic Five song!) chosen by Isla in Year 8, replete with Five's original dance moves! Then finally, bringing the whole competition to a close, Yondercott move confidently to their spots

to sing Party In The USA, the absolute banger from Miley Cyrus as chosen by Amy in Year 10.

The judges, today led by Head Judge Mrs Jenkins and supported by Head Students Dan and Willow, have to make their toughest call of the whole competition. After robust debate and a thorough interrogation of the grading criteria it is Bridwell who come out with 300 points, Yondercott with 200 points, and Gaddon and Craddock taking home 100 points each.





In the final moments of the show, the total points are tallied up and verified by our independent adjudicators. After all the proper checks, Mr Hagan takes the microphone and announces:

In fourth place this year, with 1611 points: Yondercott.  
In third place, with 1712 points: Craddock. In second place, with 1755 points: Gaddon  
And in first place, with a whopping 2531 points – many of which were secured early in the audition stages: BRIDWELL!

In all, there were 506 auditions for House Music, over 800 ticketed audience members, 144 in the choirs and a grand total of 7607 points scored. A truly magnificent competition this year, that captures the essence of what Uffculme School is about: commitment, dedication, support of one another, and visible, tangible passion towards shared experiences.

And, as the sun sets on another House Music Competition, we are left wondering...How will they top this next year?

The Music Department



# PAL

It has been a busy but fantastic term for our students and their PAL curriculum. In Year 7, students have been focusing on what it means to be part of a team. They have participated in outdoor team-building games with Mr. Eve and their tutors. In the autumn term, Year 7 students are exploring values and how these connect to our school, each other and how this can be reflected in our words and behaviour.

In Years 8 and 9, students experience a carousel of activities covering a variety of content. They rotate through all subjects over these two years, building and gaining knowledge to make sensible choices that keep them safe, both at school and later in life. In September, we sent letters to all parents and carers outlining the content for their students. The content follows three main areas: Staying Healthy (physically and mentally), Living in the Wider World, and Relationships. It is a spiral

curriculum, age-appropriate, and can be seen in more detail on our school website.

In our Year 8 Democracy carousel, students were fortunate to have our local magistrates attend to participate in a mock trial. All Year 8 students will have the opportunity to attend these talks as part of the carousels, including talks from the police that link to our drug and alcohol awareness carousel.

Our Preparation for Adult Life curriculum continues in KS4. Both Year 10 and 11 students have had sessions with external companies about relationships and consent. For Year 11, we extended this content in an age-appropriate way to focus on relationships and intimacy. Many students found these sessions useful, albeit with some natural awkwardness!

During the USA election, we provided Year 10 and 11 students with a session on the importance of democracy and voting. This

linked well with our in-house Liberty vs. Radical mock election and reminded our students that they will be old enough to vote in the next General Election! Now that's a thought for us all!

The PAL curriculum provides a safe space for students to start a dialogue with each other and gain a greater understanding of topics that matter to their well-being and happiness, both now and in the future.

We acknowledge that for some sensitive topics, such as online behaviour and bullying, there is no quick fix. We continue to reinforce these messages throughout their time here at Uffculme School, supported by school-wide campaigns and assemblies. This term, we paused our carousel to deliver focused lessons on choices, their impact and linked these important messages to our anti-bullying campaign.

Mrs Reed



# MOCK ELECTION



As part of the Citizenship curriculum, the Senior Council brought the American Presidential Election to Uffculme School. Students had an assembly on the importance of democracy and exercising their democratic right to vote before hearing from Uffculme's very own political parties. The Radical Party, represented by Jesse Aldridge



and Hazel Phillips, and the Liberty Party, fronted by Grace Maynard and Cara Leslie, delivered their manifestos and spent two weeks campaigning for votes. Election fever was high by Tuesday 5th November and, as America went to the polls, so did we. The Lower Drama Studio became a polling station and nearly 500 students turned up



to cast their ballot in their lunch hour. The final count was close with the Radical Party gaining 58% of the vote. It was a hard-fought campaign and students loved the opportunity to have their voices heard and learn about the democratic process.

Miss Steele



# CAREERS, WORK EXPERIENCE & REVISION SUPPORT

## Careers Programme: Thriving and Expanding!

Over the past two years, our careers programme has flourished. During the Summer term, we hosted an Employability Week where various professionals shared their career journeys with our Year 7, 8, and 9 students. The careers represented were impressively diverse, ranging from

fashion and wedding planning to medicine, law enforcement, and waste management. We plan to repeat this successful event in July 2025—keep an eye out for an email requesting your support, as this initiative thrives on the generous participation of our community.



## Monthly Career Talks for KS4 Students

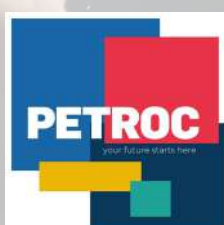
This academic year, we've introduced monthly career talks for our KS4 students. So far, we've hosted Kier Engineering, child and community care professionals, and in December, the Army will present on various career opportunities. All Year 10 and 11 students are invited, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

## Post-16 Evening Success

In November, we held our post-16 evening with over 18 local providers. They shared various pathways including apprenticeships, BTEC, T levels, and A levels. The event was a resounding success, with visitors praising our students for their engaging questions and communication skills.

## Apprenticeships Focus in February 2025

Stay tuned for our whole school focus on apprenticeships in February 2025. More details to come next term!



## Work Experience Programme

We launched our work experience programme for Year 10 students while they were in Year 9. This year, 98 students have already secured placements. We're partnering with UNIFROG to facilitate this process. Additionally, we are excited to

offer tailored work experience opportunities for our SEND students. These include visits to a construction site, a kitchen manufacturer, a residential home, and in December, a tree surgeon.



## Revision Support

In November, all Year 10 and 11 students attended workshops by MADE, focusing on effective revision techniques. We also hosted a session for parents to help support their children at home. The feedback was excellent, with 100% of parents

finding it highly useful. We're proud of these initiatives and grateful for the support from our community. Let's keep up the great work!

Mrs Reed

# ROBOTICS CLUB

Our Robotics teams have been working hard since May on this season's VEX V5 competition – High Stakes. The challenge this year is to design, build and code a robot that can pick up plastic rings from the floor and place them onto goal posts.

One of our teams have designed and built a robotic forklift, while the other team have opted for an intake conveyer belt system. We headed off to Radley College in Oxford on the 17th November to our first regional competition of the season, excited to put our robots into action and see how they would perform.

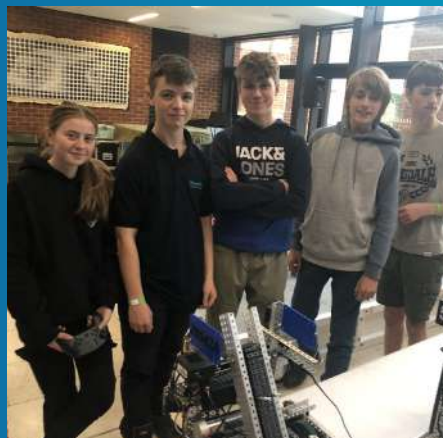
It was a very competitive field! We found ourselves playing against teams from across the south of England, including 4 teams who have previously been national finalists and attended the world final in the USA! After some last minute adjustments, we took part in 6 qualification matches each, and found ourselves ranked in 14th and 15th place, with one of our teams making it through to the quarter finals in the afternoon. Our final match was the most entertaining of the day, our team gave it their all even if their robot did end up in pieces scattered across the game arena!

We were able to talk to lots of other robotics teams and came away with lots of ideas of how to improve our robots ready for the next competition in Birmingham in January 2025.

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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# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Year 11 – RE Talk Series 2024-25

The RE department are delighted this year to be able to provide a series of talks for our Year 11 students, from academics, professionals and others whose work interacts with RE. We are planning a wide range of conversations over the year, so do look out for further reports from all the interesting people due to come in to school.

Our first talk was from Leah Lawford-Bale, who is a PhD student at Exeter University, focussing on the sacred nature of memory and genocide studies. She was taught by Miss Guy and Mr Wigmore when she was at school and she spoke eloquently on 'Where can RE take you?' – having studied RE at

GCSE, then a BTEC at college, before going back to Religion and Theology at Exeter University. She took on a Masters in Psychology, but returned to the Religion and Theology department with a fully funded PhD. She spoke about being born in Exeter and battling with various health problems growing up, but she was still encouraged along the way to embrace her love of RE and she was excited to share about where it has got her. It seemed to open up a lot more possibilities for students, as Leah showed them where many of her peers had ended up and how they are using their Religion and Theology degrees in teaching, journalism, ecclesiastical work and much more.

Year 11 were particularly impressed that Leah had overcome

so many barriers in her life to get to where she is and many people after the talk expressed how they saw the value in studying RE, not just at GCSE, but into further education as well.

Our next speaker, seen below, was Professor John Bryant, Emeritus Professor of Cell and Molecular Biology at Exeter University with a talk on 'Genes, Embryos and Ethics – Moral Issues at the Start of Life' on Tuesday 26 November.

We are also planning to have Leah Lawford-Bale back in the New Year to discuss the Holocaust and how it affects current discourse around genocide.

Keep your eyes peeled for future talks!

The RE Department



# SCIENCE

## Science Club

Over the last half term our fantastic science club members have been busy building! Their challenge for their first project was to build the 'Best Marble Roller Coaster!' They all worked extremely hard on their roller coasters to make them as dramatic as possible, and I'm sure we have some budding engineers in the making with this group. Congratulations to our winners:

1st Place - Jordan Jacobs 7Goldman and James Howitt 7Roberts

Joint 2nd Place - Jonas Bolt 8Maitrise and Jacob B-Jaffri 8Maitrise

Joint 3rd Place - William Atkinson 7Baker and Owen Wilson 7Baker

I look forward to what they will come up with for our next project: building their own wind turbine!



## STEM Leaders

A new year and a new cohort of impressive STEM leaders! On the back of the success of last year's cohort we decided to open it up to even more students! This year not only will we have our Year 8s and 9s completing their Level 1 qualification in STEM Leadership, we also have offered even more places; we now have 25 Year 9s training and 15 places for Year 8's coming up!

In addition, last year's STEM Leaders were so fantastic a number of them are continuing with the training this year to do their level 2 qualification which is just fantastic and makes us so proud as a department that they have such a love for science!

Our second session with the Year 9s was on team building and is always a lot of fun! Our leaders had to do 3 challenges in pairs, small groups and then just two large groups

learning how to work well as a group and break the ice. As the photos show it's fair to say the ice was broken and I think we are going to have a fabulous bunch of stem leaders training this year!

Mrs Legg





# LANGUAGES CLUB

We have had a lovely big group of Year 7s this term, and we have been learning some Spanish through the film, Coco, which is set in Mexico around the 'Day of the Dead'.

Not only have we learnt some Spanish words linked to this topic, but we have discovered more about the celebration and even made our own 'papel picado'

(tissue paper bunting) and sugar skull mask decorations.

On European Day of Languages in September we learnt more about countries around the world through an escape room-style quiz and a game of 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire?!'

Tutor groups also competed throughout the week to guess from one clue which countries

were being described, with house points for the winning tutors in each year.

We are currently looking forward to finding out about Christmas in different countries and hopefully sampling some of their Christmas specialities!

Mrs Embley

# READING AMBASSADORS

Kind-hearted students have been spreading the love of reading to younger students by signing up to become a Reading Ambassador. Up to 16 students from all year groups have been spending their Monday lunchtimes walking down to the primary school to help Year 2 students with their reading. This involves reading to the younger pupils, helping them to read aloud, or helping with their comprehension. English teacher Mrs Groves, who organises the visits alongside

Year 2 teacher Kathryn Moss, said: "This is one of my favourite ways to promote reading and such a fantastic opportunity for both sets of students.

"It is so important that pupils have positive reading experiences from a young age to help them become lifelong readers. We are incredibly grateful to our secondary students for volunteering their time to undergo training, then visiting the primary school each week to help these younger ones. They

are, of course, also learning key leadership and communication skills, and reading some excellent stories! Watching them together melts my heart! I know it will have a hugely positive impact for all involved."





# FRENCH CY

In 2024, 120 enthusiastic Year 7 pupils, accompanied by 21 dedicated adults, embarked on the much-anticipated annual cycle trip to France. This year, the journey took them to the charming village of Diggosville in Normandy, marking a new and superb location for their adventure.

The trip began with a ferry crossing from Poole, after which

bicycles became the sole mode of transport. Upon arrival in Diggosville, the group set up camp and were warmly welcomed by the mayor and the local community.

Each day brought a new adventure. The itinerary included a long cycle ride through the picturesque countryside, a day dedicated to swimming and shopping, an educational visit to

the Cité de la Mer, and a relaxing beach day. The pupils excelled on their bikes, demonstrating resilience and enthusiasm.

On the Saturday, the inaugural Uffculme vs. Diggosville football match took place, bringing excitement and enjoyment to both players and spectators. The event was a great success, with everyone appreciating the spirited competition and



# CLING 2024

camaraderie. At the end of the match, participation medals were presented to all players by Mr. Eve and Monsieur Martin (the Mayor of Diggosville), adding a special touch to the occasion. The positive response from all concerned suggests that this contest will likely become an annual event, fostering friendly rivalry.

The French cycle was, as ever, a

resounding success, filled with memorable experiences and new friendships. It was a testament to the spirit of adventure and the joy of exploring new places on two wheels.

Mr Eve





# BIKE MAINTENANCE

We are delighted to have welcomed David Curnow of Sampford Cyclery back again this year to run a bike maintenance course for our Year 9 students.

The course began in October, and will run for 13 weeks. In our first session we learnt how to properly clean our bikes (this is the second most important

thing to do with your bike – the most important thing being to ride it!).

We have also learnt how to fix punctures, replace inner tubes, and take the wheels on and off properly, as well as how to fit or adjust rim brakes to make sure they are safe and effective and to eliminate squealing brakes!

There is a lot more to come on the course, including adjusting gears, replacing cables, maintaining headset/wheel bearings, safety checking a bike and setting it up correctly to fit the rider.

Mrs Vaughan



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH WORKSHOP

Students had the opportunity to get together, learn about and discuss Black History Month at the end of October.

Mr Addy organised a live link via What'sApp with his friend, a chef and French teacher based both in the UK and on the French speaking island of Guadeloupe in the Caribbean.

Jocelyne Rimbon-Whittaker took the students on a live and colourful visit of the market in her town of Sainte Anne in Guadeloupe. Showing the students the richness of the Afro-Caribbean culture on the island. She spoke to market traders and explained the different food and drink on sale on the stalls.

Students had the opportunity to ask her questions, as they drank their tropical fruit punch and learned about how society was organised in the Caribbean compared to Africa and how other communities such as the Indian community are an important

part of life in the Caribbean. Mr Addy also shared stories and images of his time working in Guadeloupe.

Students really enjoyed the opportunity and were very engaged. Kimberly in Year 7 enjoyed the fact that we could ask her questions about black history directly and enjoyed the whole experience. Sofia in Year 7 was equally enthusiastic and said, "I would definitely like to do it again!"

Several Year 9 students led much of the discussion. Addy C defi-

nately kept Jocelyne on her toes with his questions. Spandan told me "We found out about how Indian workers replaced the slave labour in the Caribbean after the abolition of slavery and about how food has been influenced by Indian food with dishes such as curried goat and Colombo (the emblematic dish of Guadeloupe)."

We would like to thank Miss Francombe and Mrs Poortman for supporting this event!

Mr Addy





# LIBRARY NEWS

It's been a busy start in the library this term, with new Year 7 students settling in well and plenty of older students returning. We began the library year with the BookBuzz programme, which enables all Year 7 students to choose a brand-new book to start them on their reading journey with Uffculme School. This scheme is generously funded by the PTFA and we are very grateful for their support.

We now have all titles in the recently launched Canon Literature collection available in the library, as well as books recommended by subject teachers as part of our wider reading programme. These more challenging reads have proved popular with students wishing to stretch themselves

and improve their reading fluency and subject knowledge.

In conjunction with this, the Year 7 and 8 reading challenges were launched in assemblies just after half term and are open to all students in the year groups. Year 7 students are invited to take part in 8B48, a challenge to read and review at least 8 books from the reading list before the end of Year 7. Year 8 students are asked to complete a series of tasks and produce a reading journal, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate last year's winner, Imogen L and runners-up Harriet F and Eowyn P on the beautiful work they produced.



*Harriet F, Eowyn P, Ivy W, Emilia S and Imogen L*

Information on the Reading Challenges has been emailed home to parents of Year 7 & 8 students and there are copies of the reading lists and tasks required to complete each stage of the award available in the library. I very much hope your child will take part and enjoys being introduced to new authors as well as re-visiting old favourites.

Ms Davies



# AUTUMN TERM ASSEMBLY PERFORMERS



# STUDENT AC



Recently, 9 pupils headed to Addington in Buckinghamshire for the NSEA finals. Everyone rode fantastically.

All pupils also represented Uffculme for the South West in the RPL League after finishing top school for the South West throughout the 23/24 season. A huge achievement riding against the best schools from every county in the country to finish 5th, all riding super rounds.

A fantastic achievement. Well done!

Eva Morris, Year 9, took part in the Karting International Max Challenge.

Eva competed with 72 drivers (12 - 15 year old racers, 4 females and 68 male) from around the world. Starting 35th out of 36 drivers she finished 24th overall, but with top 10 pace. Eva ended up getting the best result in the team.

She has recently secured her place at the next two races; Cumbria and Belgium.

Good luck Eva! We look forward to following your progress!



Henry Milton, 7 Wood, competed at the 12th carpet oval world finals on Sunday 17th November, held at Hereford remote control car club. Henry won both the mini and 1300 saloon junior world championships for a second year running! Let's see if he can retain the European championship in a few months time. Henry races remote controlled cars most weekends, on various tracks up and down the country.

Well done Henry!

# ACHIEVEMENTS



Harry Walster (10Foster) won gold at the South West Schools Target Shooting Regional Championship at Okehampton at the beginning of November.

As the winner of the South



West Region, Harry qualifies for the National Final in Carrock, Staffordshire, next February. Harry is now a member of the GB Scout Target Shooting team, training alongside some of the best Target Shooting athletes in the country.



He trains with GB coaches at the National Shooting Centre at Bisley and at Somerton, Somerset.

Well done Harry!



Robyn Langford completed her work experience with the Royal Marine Band at Lymptone at the end of the summer term. She was invited, with 2 other students, to play with them in their Concert Band as part of the Exmouth Festival in July – a great experience, privilege and achievement.

Well done Robyn!

Congratulations to Harriet G, 7 Hodson who won gold at the Tony James Cup trampolining competition. An accomplishment made all the more notable as she was competing against 12 others in the 11-14yrs Novice level 3 category.

Well done Harriet!



# IT'S ALL ABOUT US



On Friday 15th November we celebrated with our 70th Anniversary Exhibition. It was an unforgettable evening filled with treasured memories, featuring a collection of photos and artefacts in the dining hall and a film and music performance in The Venue as well as the unveiling of our commemorative anniversary book, which is available to purchase.

Past and present students, staff, families and friends came together to celebrate this milestone. Thank you for making this event truly special.

If you were not able to attend the event and would like to view some of the photographs and films that were shown on the night, please go to our 70th anniversary webpage: [www.uffculmeschool.bep.ac/70thanniversary](http://www.uffculmeschool.bep.ac/70thanniversary). You will also find details of how you can buy one of our anniversary books or pens.



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 6th January 2025	First Day of Spring Term
Saturday 11th January 2025	Ten Tors Practice Walk 2
Monday 20th January 2025	Year 9 Core Subjects Progress Meetings
Friday 24th - Saturday 25th January 2025	Ten Tors Camp 1
Monday 3rd February 2025	Year 11 Progress Meetings
Tuesday 11th February 2025	Battle of the Bands
Friday 14th February 2025	UST Non-Uniform Day
Monday 17th - Friday 21st February 2025	Half Term Holiday
Saturday 1st - Sunday 2nd March 2025	Ten Tors Camp 2
Monday 3rd March 2025	Year 10 Progress Meetings
Wednesday 12th March 2025	Year 9 Options Evening
Wednesday 12th March 2025	Year 10 Drama Devising Exam
Thursday 13th March 2025	Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Trip
Saturday 15th March 2025	Ten Tors local walk
Thursday 20th March 2025	Merchant of Venice Performance
Monday 24th March 2025	Year 7 R Band Progress Meetings
Saturday 29th - Sunday 30th March 2025	Ten Tors Camp 3
Monday 31st March 2025	Year 7 B Band Progress Meetings
Wednesday 2nd April 2025	Spring Ensemble
Friday 4th April 2025	Last Day of Spring Term
Monday 7th - Monday 21st April 2025	Easter Holidays



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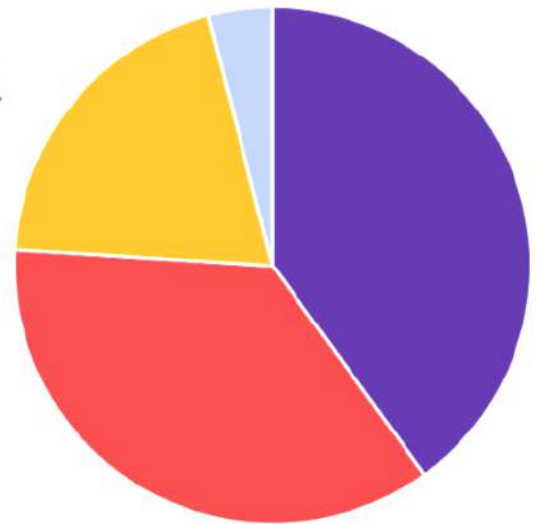
## How it works...

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](http://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](http://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  
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To join visit our website:  
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# FITNESS CLASSES



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DAY	TIME	CLASS	CLASS LENGTH
Monday	18:00	Pump	45 mins
Tuesday	06:45	Spin Express	30 mins
Tuesday	18:00	Pump & Spin	45 mins
Wednesday	18:00	Spinning	45 mins
Wednesday	19:00	HIIT	30 mins
Thursday	18:00	Core Blast	30 mins
Thursday	19:00	Pump	45 mins
Friday	06:45	Bootcamp	30 mins
Friday	18:00	Spinning	45 mins
Sunday	09:30	Spinning	45 mins

# IT'S ALL ABOUT



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