

A warm welcome to our New Year 7



Excited Year 7's are settling into life at University Academy Holbeach exceptionally well.

During the first 3 days of life at UAH, Year 7 students took part in drama workshops which were run by Konflux Theatre. The idea of these transition workshops is to build students' confidence and encourages them to work together. These workshops involve all students and it helps them to share any of their concerns or worries with school staff, and each other. Some staff had the opportunity to go and watch the performances presented by the students.

"It was brilliant to see the students' confidence bloom after their hard work throughout the day. Students who, at the beginning of the week, seemed shy and anxious left the hall beaming with pride at what they had achieved. They forged new friendships along the way and, as the content of the performance was focused on calming any worries they may have had about starting secondary school, they reassured each other along the way. All of the staff members who watched the performances were thoroughly impressed with how well they had worked together and how competently they performed." - **Miss Harmon, Teacher of English**

All students spent their first morning with their form tutors before heading off to their first lessons and workshops.

"The transition from primary school to secondary school is a very big step but is one which the majority of the new cohort of Year 7s have coped with well. Those who have found it a little more difficult have been supported well by staff and have begun to adjust to the changes; some have also taken advantage of the 'Chill and Chat' drop-in sessions offered this term every Wednesday lunchtime by Mrs Rechciglova, (one of the school counsellors). Overall, the new intake have got off to a very good start; the Year 7 team are particularly impressed with their smart appearance and correctly worn uniform." - **Mr Sadd, Year 7 Learning Co-Ordinator**

Congratulations to the 182 pupils in Year 7 who currently have 100% attendance. The overall attendance for the year group is an impressive 98.08%. Well done Year 7!

Comments from some of our new Year 7 students:

"I have really liked being here and I have enjoyed it so much. The one thing I had worried about was forgetting books and homework. I have made lots of friends and so far I have remembered everything I need too!" - **Millie, 7I**

"I have enjoyed meeting new people. I thought that I would get lost, but luckily I haven't. There are lots of friendly people there to help you." - **Callie, 7D**

"I have really enjoyed my first few weeks at UAH, and have loved the new variety of subjects and clubs available as well as making new friends." - **Ewan, 7B**

Music of the Americas comes to Holbeach

The Music Department held its final concert of the year, celebrating Music of the Americas. All of UAH's ensembles performed music from the other side of the world to a large and appreciative audience.

Musical styles included Samba, Rock, Jazz, Salsa and Calypso. It was the culmination of a year of hard work and practice and a great way to show the achievements of all musicians within the school. Chamber Choir gave a poignant performance of the song *Remember Me* from Disney's *Coco* and Ukulele Orchestra performed *Aloha Oe*, which was written by Queen Liliuokalani. Other highlights included a performance of Samba drumming and Mash Up's *Country Boy*. It was lovely to hear the school's top student-led ensemble, Atonal 5 perform once again with another creative and imaginative interpretation, this time, *Beyond the Sea*.

Alongside the musical delights, Miss Allen presented Music Awards to a large number of the pupils. These awards come in a variety of levels and recognise the hard work and progress made by our pupils. Those who received awards were given a certificate and a badge, many of are worn proudly on their blazers.

The audience were all extremely impressed with the level of musicianship on display and the whole evening was a great success and very fun to be a part of.

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Results Success at UAH

Mr Baragwanath was delighted with the exam performances of Year 11 and 6th formers this year. Both year groups have made excellent progress.

Early indications - as some grades and re-marks are still to be confirmed - are that Year 11 students had a progress 8 score of +0.24. This is excellent and really reflects the hard work of pupils and teachers.

Highlights include 74% for English, 100% for Chemistry and Biology, 61% for combined science, 66% for Maths, 100% for Health & Social Care, Engineering (Motor Vehicle, Pipe work and Electrical) and Hair & Beauty. Their results included 18 grade 9's, and 32 grade 8's in the GCSE's - showing just how able our high ability learners are and just how well they can achieve.

There were also 18 Distinction* and 42 Distinctions in our vocational subjects.

Post-16, the A-Level pass rate was 99% with an average grade of C+. This is the same as last year and place UAH 2nd in Lincolnshire for A-Level progress. 80% of our A-Level grades are A-C, beating the national average of 75%.

34 students from our 6th Form are progressing on to University and we wish them well!

58 of our Year 13 students are applying to University this year.

68 of our 6th Form students completed Level 3 BTECs. With an average grade of Distinction, which again surpasses the National Average of Merit.

Over 100 students also completed Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications in technical subjects ranging from Motor Vehicle to Childcare.

Well done to all concerned!

6th Form Open Evening for current Year 11's is the 30th October at 6:30pm.

Spotlight on... Apprenticeships

As the first school in the country to be given the opportunity to deliver Apprenticeships, we pride ourselves to act as an alternative option for post 16 students by providing progression into employment. We currently offer Level 2 and Level 3 Apprenticeships in 13 different sectors including:

- Brickwork (Level 2)
- Business Administration (Level 2 & 3)
- Childcare (Level 2 & 3)
- Children and Young People's Workforce (Level 2 & 3)
- Customer Service (Level 2 & 3)
- Electrical (Level 3)
- Hairdressing (Level 2 & 3)
- Health and Social Care (Level 2 & 3)
- Horticulture (Level 2 & 3)
- Joinery (Level 2)
- Motor Vehicle (Level 2 & 3)
- Plumbing (Level 2 & 3)
- Support Teaching and Learning in Schools (Level 2 & 3)

Our team are friendly, helpful and dedicated to support all students through their Apprenticeship by offering constant support and catering each individual's Apprenticeship to their company's own needs. Our 2018/2019 figures show we have a 94% completion rate and we received 99.3% success rate in our last external audit. We currently have 89 apprentices on roll, with scope to increase in the next few weeks – our aim is to hit 100 Apprentices by Christmas. This will be helped once we are accepted on the RoTAP so we can then provide our own Apprenticeship contracts with SME's, as well as Levy payers.

If you would like more information on Apprenticeships at UAH, please contact the Apprenticeship Department on 01406 423042 Ext 327 or by email at apprenticeships@uah.org.uk

Reward Trips

Congratulations to pupils who had over 97% attendance with an outstanding behaviour record - 311 pupils qualified for reward trips for the Summer term.

These pupils enjoyed days out to Tattershall Lakes Aqua Park, GoApe in Thetford, Tallington Lakes and the cinema and bowling in Peterborough.

Sixty Year 10 students went on a rewards trip to the Showcase Cinema, McDonald's and a game of bowling. The group of students had been selected for their achievements throughout the year, including impressive attendance and good behaviour throughout the year.



Trip to the Houses of Parliament

Law, Business, Art and Science students all went on a trip to London to visit some of the capital's museums before visiting the The Houses of Parliament.

Law students had a tour of The Supreme Court where they looked around the court rooms and got to see the exhibition of artefacts and different law and legislation documents, including information about the Magna Carter too!

Meanwhile, Business and Science students had the opportunity to see the exhibits at The Natural History Museum whilst the Art class went to The National Gallery to have a look at some of the most famous pieces of art work in the world.

All students reconvened at Parliament Square where they had a tour around the Houses of Parliament and took part in a workshop before meeting and having a chat with our local MP, Sir John Hayes.



Food Success

Food Preparation and Nutrition students had to design and make 3 dishes associated with Italian cuisine.

On the lead up to the practical, the students carried out research and demonstrated technical skills by making 2 initial dishes before they planned for their 3 hour mock exam.

All students who created a pasta or bread dish made their pasta and bread entirely from scratch. There was also some students who jointed their own chickens! There were a variety of dishes including: Focaccia, calzone, pizza, ravioli, lasagne and lemon mousse.

"Students have performed exceptionally well to showcase a range of different skills and have conducted themselves professionally and have been well organised. They have been able to draw on the skills developed over the past 2 years studying the qualification to produce high quality outcomes" – Mrs Murphy, Food Preparation & Nutrition Teacher



Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students had a slightly different task to the Food Preparation and Nutrition students. The students had to design and make 2 dishes with accompaniments which demonstrated a range of preparation and cooking skills.

On the lead up to the mock exam, the students had to identify their dishes, practice skills and create a time plan to follow during their exam.

"All of the students would receive a Merit or a Distinction for this level of work. They have all conducted themselves in a mature and safe manner and have produced dishes that demonstrated a range of preparation and cooking skills. By doing this, it has allowed them to strive for higher grades" – Mrs Mason, Hospitality & Catering Teacher

Christmas Lunch

Christmas Lunch will be held on Tuesday 17th December and tickets will be on sale from the start of November from Pupil Reception. Tickets are £3.50 per student. There will be no other hot food available, but sandwiches and baguettes will still be sold.

GCSE Geography Fieldwork

The Year 10 GCSE Geography students spent a day at Old and New Hunstanton as part of their Physical Fieldwork.

Students had to undertake several different tests to look at wave height, Longshore drift, the profile of the beach, field sketches and compare how they differed between the two sites. They also looked at the coastal defences at the two sites. The hard engineering at New Hunstanton such as Sea walls and groynes, why they were needed there to protect New Hunstanton and why there were only sand dunes at Old Hunstanton. Students returned to school and were expected to draw graphs to show their results and analyse the data they had received. All students were well behaved and a credit to the school and worked extremely hard during their fieldwork.



Sixth Form Geographers Head to Dorset

During the Summer term, Year 12 A-Level Geography students went to Dorset for 5 days to complete their fieldwork.

Human fieldwork was conducted in Weymouth and they had to ask people to take part in their questionnaire, complete land use surveys and non-participant surveys.

Physical fieldwork was completed at Durdle Door, Lulworth Cove, Chesil Beach and Lyme Regis.



Sixth Form

Year 12 Work Experience

Year 12 students had a fantastic week of work experience, with a range of local businesses and employers.

At UAH, we believe that work experience is essential for our students to get an insight into the working life after they leave school. This is also a brilliant opportunity for our students to put themselves out there for a potential Apprenticeship or job position within the company.

We have received excellent feedback from both students and employers. One employer said; *"I just wanted to say how impressed we have been with your 3 work experience students. They have really shown initiative and been proactive. They have been punctual, polite and organised. A credit to UAH!"*

6th Form Leavers Meal

Year 13 students went to Prezzo, Spalding for a leaving meal with their A-Level teachers.

The evening was organized by the Sixth Form Staff to celebrate the students finishing their A-Level courses.



Sixth Form Induction Day

We are pleased that the new Year 12's have settled in well. They started the year with team building and study techniques workshops and we have been impressed at how well they have adapted the skills developed and used them in their courses. It is great to see the positive energy they have brought with them and this is evident in the common room, where they have demonstrated a mature approach to their new found independence.

Macmillan Cake Sale

Well done to the Year 12 & 13 Health & Social Care students who made a huge £143.55 from their Cake Sale for the Macmillan Coffee Morning.

Book Buzz

Bookbuzz is an exciting opportunity for all of our year 7 and year 8 students to choose a free book. We have a selection of different genres including: sports, war, science fiction, comedy and mystery. Something for everyone. There is an extensive variety of titles, from non-fiction reads for inquisitive minds, to gripping page-turners which have you hooked from cover to cover. Bookbuzz certainly has something for everyone. Each Bookbuzz student is able to choose their book to take home and keep.

The list includes:

- Armistice Runner by Tom Palmer
- Cyborg Cat by Ade Adepitan
- Doctor Who : The Secret in Vault 13 by David Solomons
- The Crossover by Kwame Alexander
- Who Killed Darius Drake by Rodman Philbrick



Students win trip to French Battlefields

GCSE History Students: Mikey Baxter, Demi Mole, Isabelle Rudman and Logan Goddard, have won places to go on a 3-night visit to battlefields in France.

Students had to write an essay outlining why they think it is important to still remember those who lost their lives in The Great War. They will have a tour of the trenches, dress up in military clothes and have the opportunity to research their own wartime family history! This is a fantastic opportunity for these students.

Get in Touch...

Do you have anything to add to our Newsletter? Do you know of a student who has helped the community?

Let us know via email:
newsletter@uah.org.uk

Sports Day 2019

Over 300 students took part in our annual Sports Day in July 2019 at PRSA, Boston. All 4 of our Houses took part; Balmoral, Buckingham, Sandringham and Windsor.

Buckingham were the overall winners with 857 points.

Florence Southon made a record of 5.86m in the Shot competition whilst Charlie May completed the 800m in 3 minutes 3 seconds!

Record Breaker, Francesca Hubbard completed the 200m in 29.15 seconds. Flynn Slater became the new record holder for the Triple Jump at 9.18 metres and the 1500m race at 5 minutes 25 seconds.

Current Year 10 students did not fail to disappoint with Eljay Secker finishing the 80m hurdles in 11.19 seconds.

Alice Penc became the new record holder for 200m in 31.46 seconds and the Long Jump at 3.73 metres.

Last but not least, the year 10's did exceptionally well with the Girls Balmoral team completing the Relay race in 63.38 seconds. Well done girls!

All students conducted themselves impeccably and represented the school exceedingly well.



Education Awards 2019

The UAH Music Department was awarded Secondary School Music Department of the Year at the Lincolnshire Music Service Awards 2019.

The Department was nominated by our visiting woodwind teacher, Ann Wright. She nominated the department because it has a wide and thriving programme of activities which are inclusive and welcoming to all.

The Music Department prides itself on making music accessible and exciting to all pupils and the department's ensembles include; The Chamber Choir, Pop Choir, Chamber Orchestra, Big Band and Ukulele Orchestra.

Regular concerts are held every year and the department is passionate about bringing music into the community, giving performances to local schools and care homes.

The department has a good record of results at GCSE and KS5 and classes are flourishing whilst studying these qualifications. The curriculum is designed to be ambitious and engaging to develop a knowledge of a wide range of musical styles, including classical, pop, Samba, Gamelan and African Drumming.

Drama has recently been added to the curriculum at UAH, making the Music Department now The Performing Arts Department.

Head of Performing Arts, Miss Graper, said: *"Winning this Award is a lovely way to mark the end of a chapter in the department's history and the staff and pupils are thrilled that the achievements have been recognised in this way."*

