



## **Upper Shirley High School Feeder School Newsletter**



Issue 4 July 2018



Hello Everyone,

I am delighted to introduce our final newsletter for this academic year, and what a brilliant year it has been! The work between our schools has developed immensely and USH counts itself very lucky to have such high quality, dedicated partners.

Just so you know my right hand is still buzzing from the high fives (more than 100) that I was given on the last day of transition. What a spirited group of students we have coming to USH in September.

I wish you a well-deserved summer break everyone. Happy Holidays!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Woods', written over a horizontal line.

**Mr Woods**

## Expansion News

Many of you will be aware that USH has three main feeder schools from within the **Jefferys Education Partnership** (Hollybrook Junior, Shirley Junior and Wordsworth Primary).

We were delighted to see the first cohort of Wordsworth students join us in September 2017. To meet the needs of our JEP community, as well as the local demand for places, we began our multi-million pound site expansion earlier this year. We are pleased by the consistently high demand for places and 2018 has been our best ever first-place preference.



Our initial phase of expansion involves adding eight new classrooms. The new block is nearly finished and will include a Design Technology suite and computer rooms.

If you have driven past our school, you will also have seen the new additional parking at the front of school; this is all part of our expansion planning and has improved the flow of traffic in and out of the main entrance.

The capital investment to support our expansion has been raised through the **Hamwic Education Trust** and we are very grateful for their financial support. We continue to work closely with them to secure further investment; leading to improved sports facilities which are long overdue, given our first-place ranking for sport in Southampton.

In addition to these improvements, our JEP caterers, Chartwells, are installing a new serving kiosk in the main playground over the summer to add extra capacity to break and lunch service.

If you would like to see the changes for yourself, please come along to our September Open Morning. Alternatively, follow our expansion on social media.

## Open Morning—Saturday 29th September

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018, we will be holding our annual Open Morning. Our school will be open from 9am to 1pm to give you the opportunity to have a look around, meet our staff, our students and to sample what we have to offer.

We choose a Saturday morning to make it easier for prospective parents and students to come together. It's our biggest community event of the year so we are keen for you to put the date in your diary.

We are so grateful for our student involvement on the day; who better to promote our school than our inspirational students? Come along and meet them for yourself. You will be inspired.

Visitors will be given the opportunity to look around our facilities, meet our Headteacher and our Student Leadership team. In addition to this, other staff will be available to answer questions about all aspects of school life, including admissions.

Hope to see you then.

## Transition Day

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> of July, USH hosted the next cohort of 180 students that are due to come up to USH in September.

Over the two days, they moved through our school, experiencing a range of different subjects taught by different staff members- from English and Maths to Art and Languages. At lunchtime, they had exclusive use of our school canteen and were able to try something from our ever-growing menu. They were then treated to a 'Musical Celebration' on the Thursday afternoon with Ms Owen, Mr Harvey and members of the USH choir and orchestra.

Students were also able to spend quality time with their tutor who will support them throughout their five years here. It was a fantastic two days and the students are now getting excited about their first day here in September.

A special thank you to the Student Leadership Team, Sports Prefects and Peer Mentors, for being a real support to our year 6 students across the whole transition period. You were an absolute credit to our school.



## Sporting Activities

Upper Shirley High have helped out with primary school Sports Days at Shirley, Wordsworth and Hollybrook. 16 Sports Prefects and students from years 9 and 10 helped with activities as well as scoring at the Sports Centre and received some excellent feedback. They will continue with the link to our primary schools and help out with many activities during the next academic year.

Our sports prefects learn to work outside of the school in the wider community, promoting Upper Shirley High and the PE department. The relationship between our school and the primary schools in sport is going from strength to strength with over 35 Sports Prefect applications this year the most ever!!

We also work with Team Spirit, who run many of the Jeffery's Education Partnership (JEP) school sporting events. We are pleased that we can support some of these activities by offering our facilities and help from our students.

USH picked up many awards at the Southampton City Sports Awards. We now have a group of lovely trophies on display in the foyer of the school including "Overall city athletics champions"! Well done to everyone who took part!

Complete list of all the awards we won:

Rounders League Year 7 and 8

Athletics Year 7 Boys City Champions

Athletics Year 8 Boys City Champions

Athletics Year 10 Girls City Champions

Girls Field City Champions

Girls City Athletics Champions

Netball U12 League and Cup

Athletics Year 7 Girls City Champions

Athletics Year 9 Girls City Champions

Cross Country Junior Girls Team

Boys Field City Champions

Boys City Athletics Champions



## Music at USH

The Music Department is very much looking forward to the arrival of another skilled and talented group of young musicians to our school, in the form of our Year 7 intake in September!

We have already got together with many of you at the JEP Summer Festival and the BSO Orchestra Transition day. Many of you heard members of the USH School Orchestra and Choir who entertained you at the Transition Day Assembly.



There will be opportunities for singers right from the start to gain vocal experience and develop confidence, in class and in the various Choir activities. Those who already play or would like to start or restart instrumental lessons can sign up for music lessons any time from now onwards. Anyone is welcome to come and play in the Orchestra, and there are parts for beginners and skilled players alike, on most instruments, so everyone can feel included.

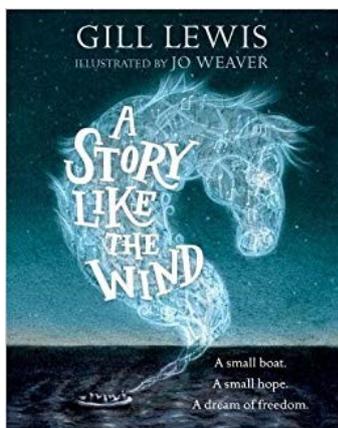
Most exciting is the continuing project with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. Those who were at the Orchestra Day will have heard about the plans for a trip to the Royal Albert Hall in November to perform with other young musicians from our area! Places are limited so make sure you get involved as soon as you can!

The Carol Service is another chance for singers and instrumentalists to get involved, and last year the students themselves were key in the planning and organisation of this popular event.

Musicians are also a very important part of the School Theatre Productions, whether singing lead roles or in the chorus, or playing in the Band.

We aim to offer a full range of Musical opportunities for all students, and look forward to you joining in!

## Story Like the Wind



This year, we have started a new transition scheme of learning that began in the summer of Year 6 after the students finished their SATs. It will continue in September, with the students in year 7, within their English lessons.

In Year 6, the students' junior school teachers have been reading a novel with them called *A Story Like the Wind* by Gill Lewis. They are doing some work around key characters, themes and events that take place throughout it. In Year 7, we will continue this work with the students and move onto working with this text as a stimulus for other pieces that the students will create.

We will also be fortunate enough to have a visit from the author, Gill Lewis at USH in October and the students will all receive their own copy of the book to keep.

## Literacy Links



This half term in English lessons, some of our year 7 students have been working on producing a book aimed at infant school children that teaches a moral. We have had some excellent pieces of work, with lessons ranging from how to tackle bullying to ensuring you always believe in yourself. All of the books will be used to create a reading corner in our library for the younger siblings who visit us during our Open Morning in the autumn term.

The best projects from each class went to Shirley Infant School one afternoon, where the students who wrote them read their stories to the students and they were very well received. Well done to all students!

Some USH student and Shirley Infant student comments include:

'I enjoyed this project and would recommend this to lots of people and would definitely do it again' – Jess H

'It was great, I enjoyed writing the book, and reading it to the little kids was enjoyable too, and was definitely better than school!' – Josh C

'I liked this trip because we got to meet other people and it was a good experience for us. It was fun reading to young people.' – John C & Charlie W

'Seeing the children interact with the book and have fun in general was a really good experience, we would enjoy doing it again!' – Megan C, Darshi R & Olivia C

'I really enjoyed this project because it got me really thinking about what I could do as my story that would be suitable for children and clearly show a moral. Also, I think that not only did it get me thinking, but it was also fun, especially the illustrating and colouring in.' – Nicola

'I really liked the pictures!' – Daisy, aged 7

'It taught me a really good lesson' – Izzy, aged 7

'They were really funny and the pictures were really good!' – Carl, aged 6

## Arts Week at Hollybrook Infant School



We were delighted to support Hollybrook Infant School during their Arts Week and received a fantastic message of thanks from them.

The staff and children at Hollybrook Infant School would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to the 28 Year 9 students from Upper Shirley High School who helped to make our Arts Week such a success.

The USH students came into school for three consecutive mornings and gave our young children practical, hands-on experiences in drama, art and design, music and creative writing.

The staff were very impressed by the mature and professional way your students conducted themselves at Hollybrook and our children benefitted hugely from their enthusiasm, encouragement and creative input.

Activities ranged from drama workshops led by the USH students, to a hands-on music assembly and included collage making, printing, sewing, poetry-writing and model-making using willow. The standard of work achieved during the week was greatly enhanced by having so many supportive students to guide our young children.

We would particularly like to thank Mr. Dan Hughes, Head of Year 9, who organised this partnership and we hope he will be able to visit Hollybrook Infant School very soon to see the wonderful work that his students helped to create.



## Social Media

We use social media across the year to share activities (in and out of school) with our parents and the wider community. If you want to know more about USH, please follow us!



To find us on Twitter you can copy and paste this link: <https://twitter.com/ushschool/> or find us @ushschool



Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UpperShirleyHigh>



Find us ushschool



## What would you like to see in future editions?

Please contact us to tell us what you'd like to see in our future newsletters.

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