

UVHS

Spring Term Review

2025

Mr Hardwick writes

“Spring is my favourite season, it’s not just the improvement in weather and the longer lighter days, it’s also the feeling that we have climbed a steep hill of which we have just staggered over the summit and are now freewheeling towards the summer”.

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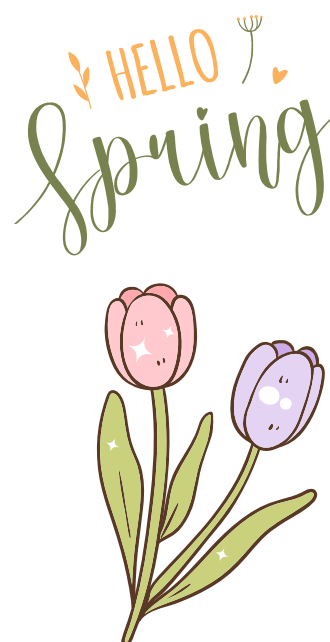
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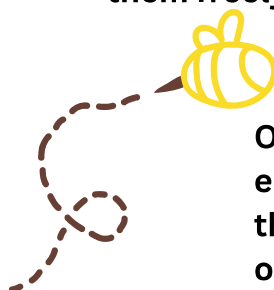
MR HARDWICK WRITES

Spring is my favourite season, it's not just the improvement in weather and the longer lighter days, it's also the feeling that we have climbed a steep hill of which we have just staggered over the summit and are now freewheeling towards the summer. However, for many of our students, and their long suffering parents, this is the run up to their GCSE and A level exams, which will feel anything but an easy downhill stroll, if I can stretch my metaphor to its limit. With the experience of three decades in education I can assure you that with the right levels of effort and support, both inside, taking advantage of all the opportunities offered, and outside of school, success can certainly be earned. I have every confidence that we will be celebrating the achievements of our students in the summer term.

The school is busier than I can ever remember it, with vast numbers of children across all year groups involved with shows, foreign and local visits, and sporting events. It is also the time when the school is developing with key new staff members arriving, including our new SENCO who is commencing her role after the Easter break. There is a constant drive to get better at what we do.



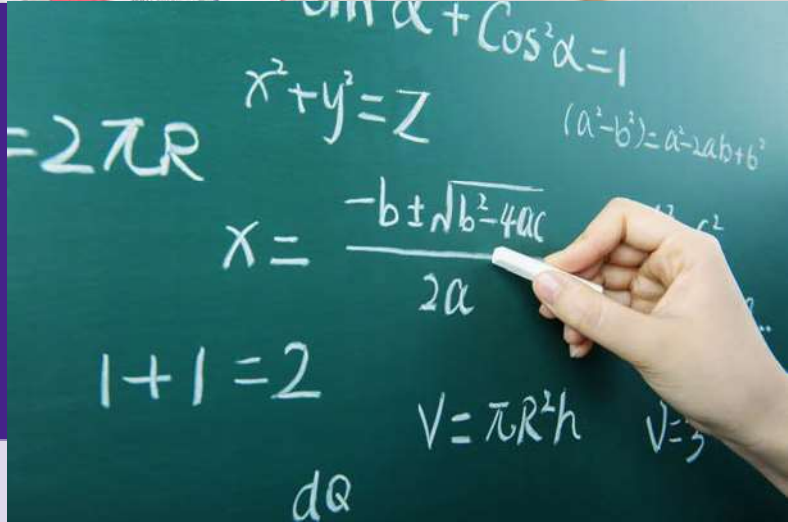
We are continually striving to improve the school environment for your children and for once, I have some good news in one small but significant area of the school. The Local Authority have agreed to commit funding to redevelop, modernise and increase the number of toilets available for our students, ensuring these spaces are as inviting, inclusive and as functional as possible, so that all pupils can use them freely.



Our new catering offer is now embedded and I for one, appreciate the quality and variety of the food offered. Hopefully the students are in agreement with me!



Mr Mach's Classroom News π



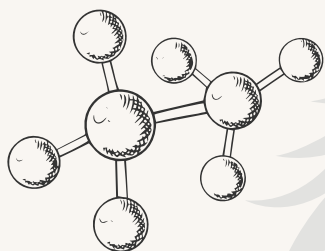
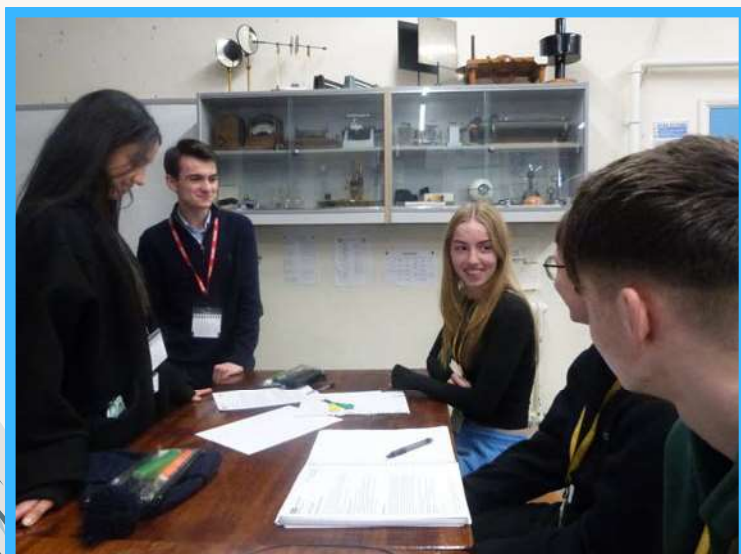
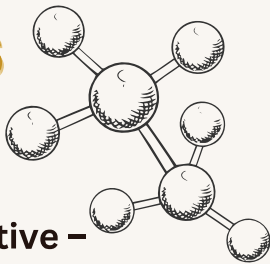
UKMT Maths Challenge

Ben, Idy, Elliot and Freddie, represented UVHS in the UKMT team Maths Challenge at Lancaster University School of Mathematics. This competition gave students the opportunity to tackle a variety of engaging mathematical activities, while developing teamwork and communication skills. They were challenged against 18 other schools and secured second place, narrowly losing to Lancaster Boys Grammar School. Well done to the boys !!

Y12 EXTRA CURRICULAR PHYSICS

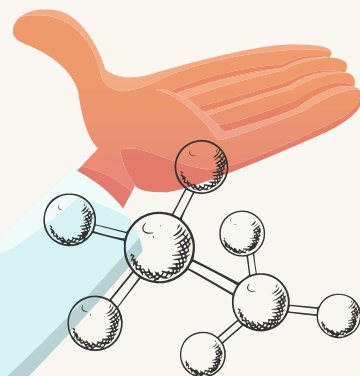
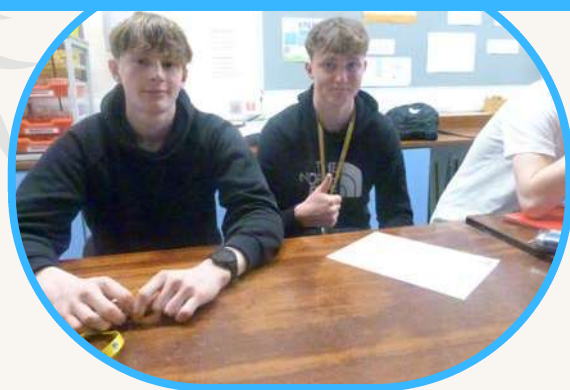
BAE Nuclear Scholars

Which of these is most radioactive – potatoes, bananas or low sodium salt? This was one of the questions covered when the Year 12 Physics classes were visited by some STEM Ambassadors from BAE Systems this term. The students learned about the physics behind fission and fusion and the uses of nuclear power in industry and defence. They were interested to hear about how nuclear submarines are powered.

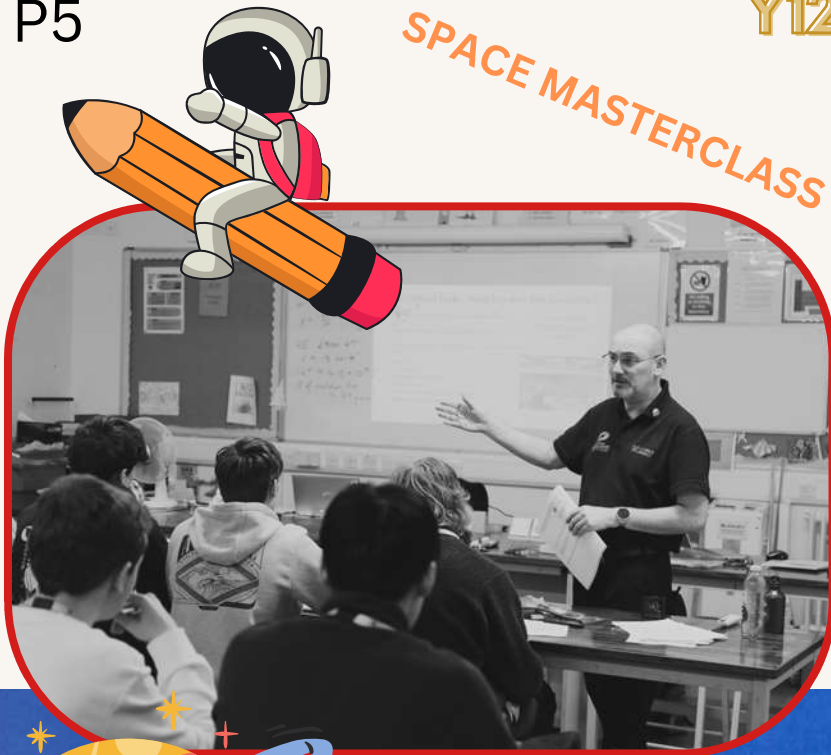


The apprentices talked about a range of things, from what life is like on board a nuclear submarine, to the application process for a degree apprenticeship. Pupils also had the chance to experience what it's like to work for BAE, as they were given a sample contract for a new submarine and had to work in teams to design it to meet the clients' specifications.

This was a very informative session, and Year 12 pupils enjoyed learning about some amazing opportunities available to them after A levels.



"Inspiring students to think creatively, collaborate, and solve problems".



In January, Mr Thompson from the National Space Academy delivered masterclasses to our Year 12 Physics students at UVHS. Through inspiring presentations and demonstrations,

learnt all about the scale of the universe, space exploration and rocket design. They used their knowledge of gravitational fields, Newton's Law's and momentum to solve problems, including calculating the energy of an asteroid and the size of impact craters.

They also learnt how an asteroid heading for Earth could be diverted to prevent it from hitting us. Students gained an insight into the vast amount of career opportunities available in the space industry and how skills developed in their STEM subjects will prepare them for these careers.



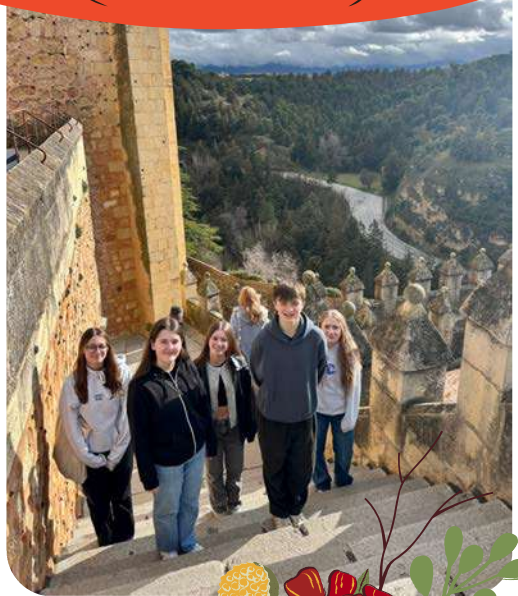


Spanish continues to go from strength to strength at UVHS. This year, we have our biggest ever A Level class! It was great for our sixth form students to have the opportunity to visit Spain's capital, Madrid, in February. Together with Miss Beardsley, Mrs Hall and Mr. Bates, our students enjoyed a jam-packed four days in the city, experiencing Spain's culture, famous sights and cuisine.

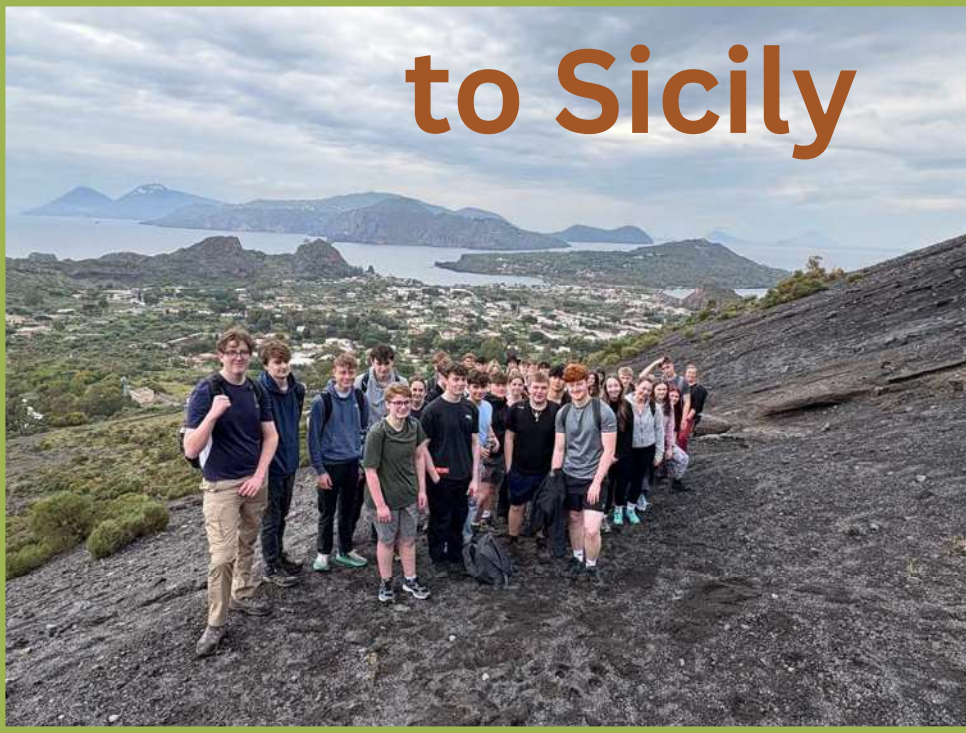


Particular highlights included the flamenco show, a visit inside the royal palace, a guided tour of the third biggest bull ring in the world, and a visit to the Roman aqueduct of Segovia.



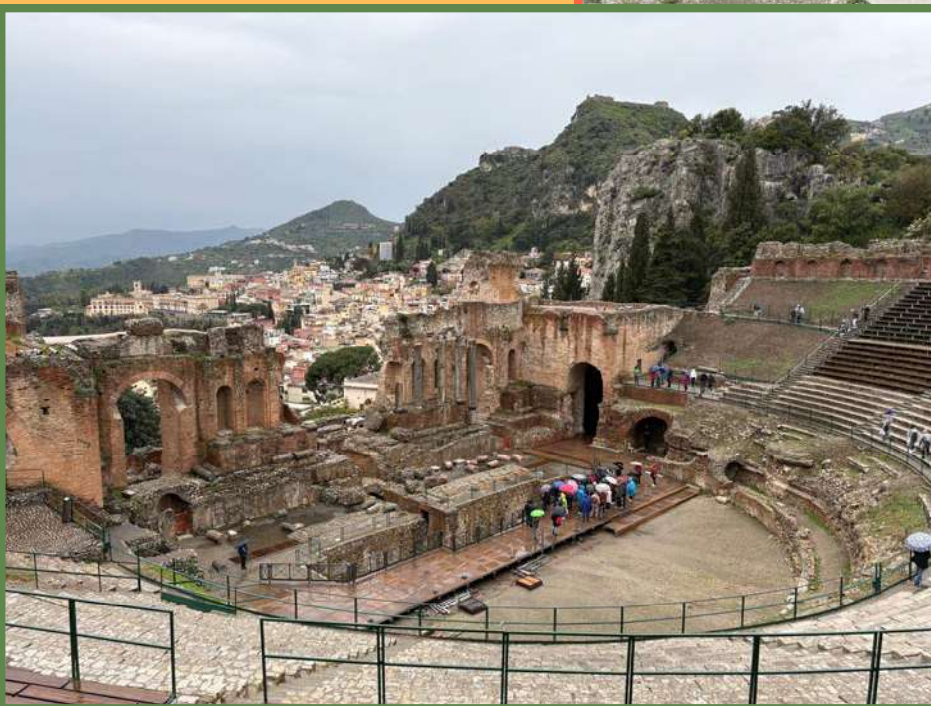


School trip to Sicily



Upon arrival at Catania Fontanarossa airport, we took a coach journey through the picturesque Italian countryside, abundant in yellow flowers, rich green foliage, cacti and cypress trees in order reach Neapolis Archeological Site, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We walked through the site, the paths lined with orange and lemon trees and surrounded by towering cliffs.

The site hosted an ancient Greek amphitheatre, complimented throughout by modern statues symbolic of traditional Greek values, an artistic fusion of both the classical world and our contemporary era.



PIZZA



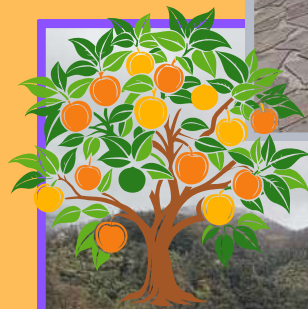


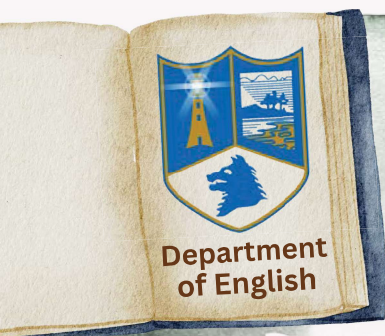
School trip to Sicily

After a 7:30 wake up, which felt like a luxury after the past 2 days, we set out for Mount Etna. Our first stop of the day was the lava field and short walk up to the submerged house. The walk was steep and felt precarious in the rain but didn't last long because we quickly realised we were going up the wrong path and had to return to the bus. The views on the way up the mountain were fantastic views for miles out to the coast.



Reaching the top of the road, we continued through the snow in a cable car, before taking vehicles which resembled snowploughs closer to the summit which were a thoroughly enjoyable- albeit bumpy - mode of transport. We continued up to the crater, persevering against the snow to the highest point we could reach. The clouds limited the view but the landscape more than made up for it.





WORLD
BOOK
DAY



WORLD BOOK DAY 2025

Read Your Way



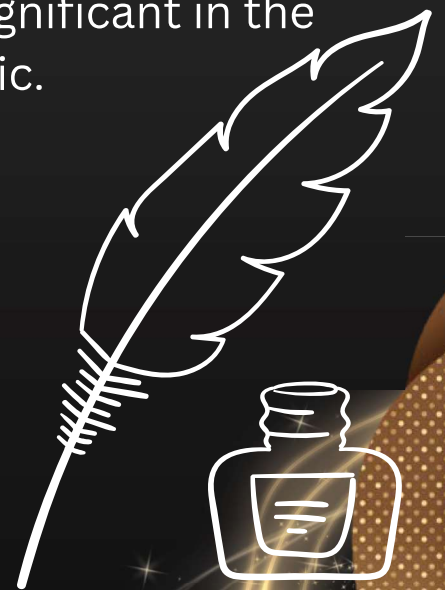
Thursday 6th March marked a very important day in the English department's calendar: it was World Book Day! Across school there were several exciting events, all promoting this year's theme, which was to '**Read your way**'. Staff were invited to dress as characters from their favourite stories, and students took part in various book-themed quizzes.





Theatre trip

Having arrived to see Shakespeare's Hamlet five minutes before it began, we were rushed quickly into our seats as the call bell pealed to announce that the cast was ready. Even before the production started, the stage itself was of great interest. As we would later find, it is able to rotate up and down to an almost forty-five-degree angle which is utilised often and effectively. Featured also is a digital clock on either side of the stage which would pulse between scenes and the times it showed were ones which were significant in the sinking of the Titanic.



The next morning, we arose early and visited Shakespeare's birthplace, a fascinating place preserved it seems, to be almost exactly as it was when he resided there. We saw various artefacts from his early life, from his kitchen and bed to remnants of the family's glove-making business.



Overall, the trip was (as expected) an incredible educational experience which allowed us to both develop our knowledge of the plays and watch some of the greatest theatre that Britain has to offer.

Work Experience Week

P13

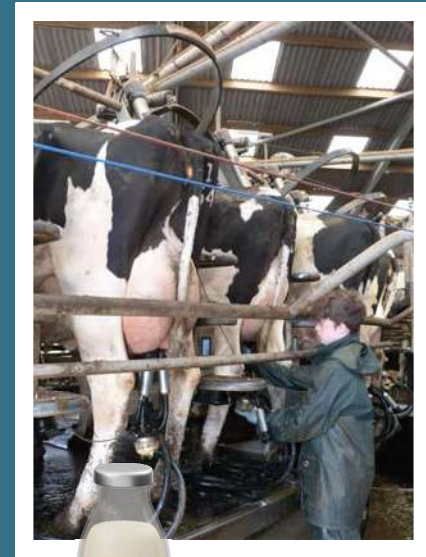
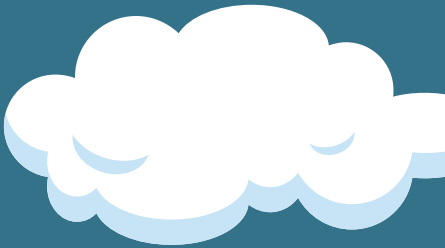
10 - 14 March



Heather



Lucas



Adam

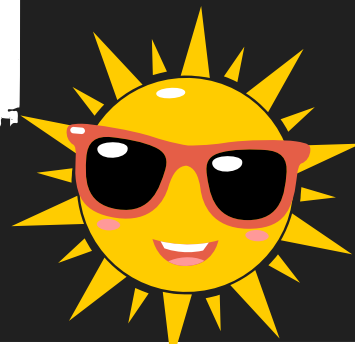


Bradley
Eva
Lily



Henry

Work is also our passion



Work Experience

Week 10 - 14 March

P14



Isaac

Artem



Evie &
Arabella

**CRAFTED
BY HAND**



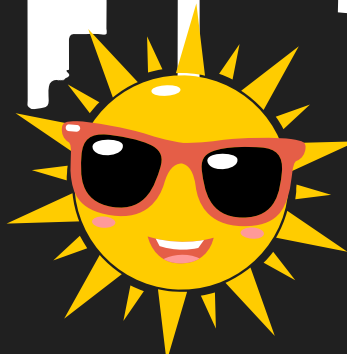
Bobby



Tyler



Work is also our passion



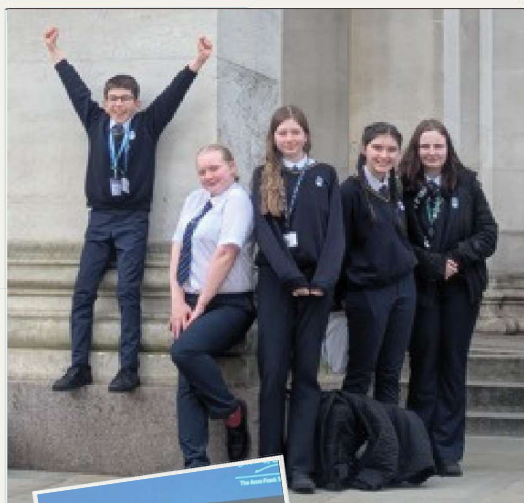
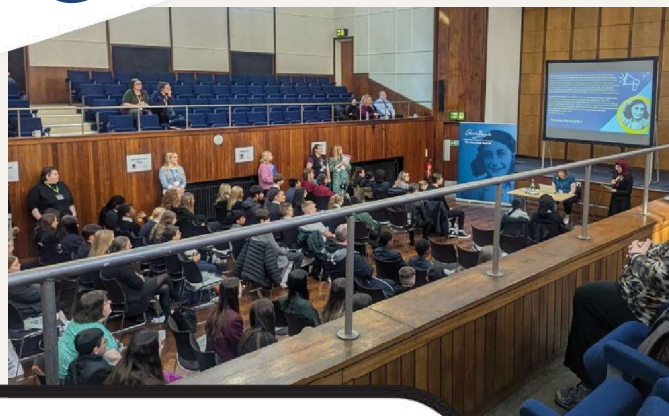


P15



attends

The Anne Frank Trust's Annual Youth Conference



In March **UVHS ID** ambassadors attended The Anne Frank Trust's 'Annual Youth Conference' in Manchester.

The day - which was attended by over 100 students from around the country - was incredibly thought-provoking, with students participating in several workshops exploring anti-racism and its effects in the modern world.

Joe, Holly, Lacey, Keleigh and Isabel made us very proud. Many thanks to The Anne Frank Trust.



Anne Frank.

The Anne Frank Trust UK

UVHS SCHOOL PRODUCTION

THE BOY FRIEND

During the penultimate week of term, UVHS Performing Arts took over The Coro for the annual school production. This year saw our students tackle Sandy Wilson's multi-award-winning musical, *The Boy Friend*. Set in the 1920s at a British finishing school for "young ladies" in the south of France, it is a musical comedy full of music, dancing and lots of laughs.

Over 60 students were involved in bringing the musical to life – not just by appearing on stage, but also in the all-student band and backstage with sound & lighting design as well as stage-management; definitely an all-student production.



SHOW TIME

UVHS Takes Over the Coro (again) !





Everyone who had the opportunity to witness this production will agree that it was an unforgettable experience and one that brought smiles to everybody's faces. It also emphasised just how good our Performing Arts students are at here at UVHS – we are sure that some of those on-stage last week, will soon be gracing the stages of the West End and/or our TV screens.

Huge congratulations to the UVHS Perf Arts staff on bringing so much joy to The Coro.

The dance numbers, choreographed by Miss Sweetman, were absolutely spellbinding as students danced the many Charleston-style routines with almost perfect synchronicity; there were some superb vocal performances both from lead characters and the chorus, and the quality of acting was out of this world.

The band did not disappoint either, bringing the score to life brilliantly and ensuring that everyone went home humming along to the fantastic music.





THE THRILL OF HORSE RIDING

Our newly formed Equestrian Team, have competed successfully in their first events, qualifying for two national finals! In the County Cup final, UVHS were crowned County Champions in the 70cm Show Jumping class. Well done to Daisy, Scarlett, Ruby, Esme & Holly who all rode brilliantly, and we look forward to hearing how you get on in future events!





News from Townlands

Learn, Grow, Succeed with Us

CIRCLES CLUB

Circles

This is a social and friendship group run by Mrs Attard & Mrs Walker-Menzler. Once a week, after school, students meet for all sorts of activities ranging from pizza making, visits to the café at Booths to movie nights.

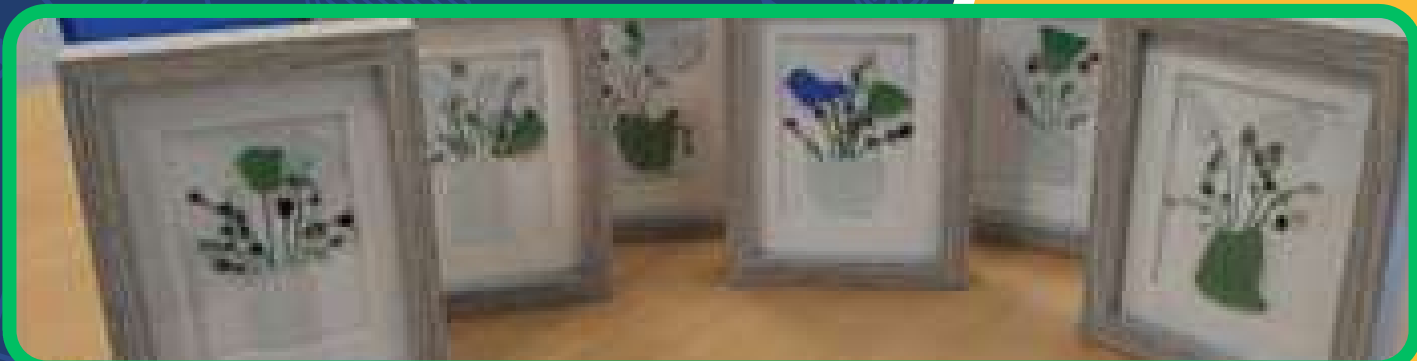


'We really get to see students in a positive light and interact with them differently to how we do in lessons.' said Mrs Attard.

Halle W added, 'Circles is really fun because we get to do so many activities.'



Embark on a journey of personal growth





News from Townlands

Learn, Grow, Succeed with Us

Work P20
Experience

Table-cricket competition



UVHS hosted a Tablericket tournament on Monday 3rd March 2025. 10 other schools from the local area joined us here on the day and brought their cricket teams to compete. Teams played 5 or 6 games across the day and the winners go on to compete at the County Championships



UVHS had a team of 8 cricketers who had been practicing hard over the previous few months, under the guidance of Dan their coach. The captain was Bradley, his team were Frankie, Sophia, Carys, Lucas, Faith and Ryden. They played well winning 3 of their 6 games.

Work Experience Week

Ewan
Landscape Gardening

Bradley
Teaching Assistant

Anna
Hollingarh Nursery

Carys - Animal Farm

Ava - Holy Family Primary School

P21

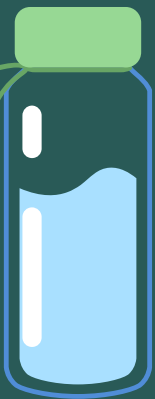
<https://www.uvhs.uk/revision>

"It's better to look ahead and prepare,
than to look back and regret".....
Jackie Joyner-Kersey

EXAM TIME 2025



Good luck to all our students taking
their exams this April, May and June



- Get plenty of rest
- Eat Well
- Revise in 30 min blocks
- Drink your water
- Stay calm



Do you have any
questions ?

Ask the Exams Officers,
Mrs Scott & Ms Dawson, at the
Exams Office ,
in A Block or email
exams@uvhs.uk

Rest!
-DON'T-
Quit





P22



UVHS Wind Band

in concert with

The Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines

Saturday 26th April, 2025
7.30pm @ The Coro

Tickets from £24-£10 (U18 £10-£5)

www.thecoro.co.uk



The better the
question, the
better the answer