
USH
Autumn 1
Newsletter

A Message from.. Mr Sykes

As we reach the end of a vibrant and busy first half term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly brilliant start to the year at USH.

Our students have been nothing short of amazing — from the energy of our new Year 7s, who've made a fantastic start to their journey with us, to the creativity and commitment shown across all year groups. I am delighted to report that school attendance is up significantly on last year (which was already well above national averages) and the initial predictions for our current Y11s are very strong.

One of the standout moments this term was Open Morning, where we welcomed over 1,000 visitors through our doors. What made it even more special was the number of current students who volunteered their time to show off their school with pride. Their warmth, confidence and genuine love for USH left a lasting impression on our guests — I couldn't have been prouder.

I also want to thank our brilliant parent community. The stunning PTFA continue to amaze me with their passion, organisation and creative zeal! The recent Curry and Quiz Night was a huge success and I encourage you to keep an eye out for future fundraising events, the next one being Fireworks Night on 5 November. The money raised goes straight back into the school; last year, the PTFA funded the outdoor classroom by the Oak Building, which has quickly become a much-loved space.

This half term has also seen a wide range of trips, events and enrichment opportunities, from science exhibitions to sporting tournaments and house charity weeks. I've had the pleasure of leading assemblies for Black History Month this week, which has been a lovely opportunity to celebrate stories, voices and achievements that inspire us all.



Thank you for your continued support — I hope you enjoy reading about all the fantastic things happening at USH. Have a restful and well-deserved half-term.

With warm wishes,
Mr Sykes

A Message from.. Chair of Governors

Dear parents and carer, the Governors have continued to support the school this term meeting twice this year. We were delighted with the excellent GCSE results, but as always also encouraged with the Senior Leadership Team's enthusiasm for how they can improve things further. There is to be a focus on school attendance and supporting students with SEND this year which was welcomed by the Governors.

Governor visits to the school continue and the Chair of Governors welcomed parents to the incredibly successful school open morning with well over a thousand visitors.

As you will see in this newsletter, there is a vacancy for a Parent Governor and we would encourage anyone who is interested to apply and to discuss this role with the Chair of Governors.



Governors continue to meet three times a term and receive reports about all aspects of the school's policies, activities and performance from the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team. Governors also liaise closely with Hamwic Education Trust on ensuring the governance of Upper Shirley High School is as effective as it can be.

Dr Michael Roe

Upcoming Events

Want to stay up to date? You will find all our school dates, term times and INSET days right here: USH Calendar

25-26 **INSET Days**
28 NOVEMBER
2 FEBRUARY
5 MARCH
26 JUNE

05 NOV
Year 9 and 11 Portraits (& Sibling photos)

05 NOV
PTFA Firework Event
From 6pm

11 NOV
Grandparents' Remembrance Event 10:30am

12 NOV
SEND Parent Forum 6pm

13 NOV
Careers Fair Y10 & Y11

14 NOV
Children in Need Day

20 NOV
GCSE Presentation Evening

26 NOV
Parent Forum
6-7pm

27 NOV
Y10 Parents' Evening
From 4pm

27 NOV
Y10 and Y11 Drama Trip - Woman in Black

28 NOV
Staff INSET Day - closed to students

04 DEC
PTFA Wreath Making Evening
From 6pm

Visit the USH PTFA to purchase tickets here

What's been happening in..

Planet USH

Last week, Year 8 launched Bite Back 2030 — a youth-led movement campaigning for a fairer, healthier food system. Molly, an inspiring 18-year-old Bite Back Ambassador, led an engaging session on how marketing, pricing and availability shape young people's food choices and impact health. Students explored actions they can take to drive change.

This project aligns with **Planet USH** and our goal of promoting healthy, sustainable lifestyles. Over the coming weeks, Year 8 will continue these discussions through the tutor programme, learning how to challenge the system and create a better food environment for all.

Food & Nutrition



It's been an exciting start in our brand-new food room at USH! This fantastic space keeps our hands-on food curriculum thriving, with creativity, health and sustainability on the menu.

Year 7 have kicked things off with colourful crudités, bean dip and overnight oats — learning knife skills and the importance of balanced breakfasts. Year 8 have explored global flavours with super salads and ramen bowls, discovering the power of plants in tasty, nutritious dishes.

A huge thank you to our food technicians and site team for making this vibrant new kitchen possible — creating an environment where students can enjoy cooking and build lifelong skills.

Photography

Now that we can publish the amazing Photographs produced by the students who completed their GCSE in the summer, I am delighted to announce the winners of public vote from our exhibition.

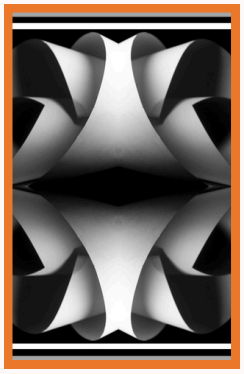
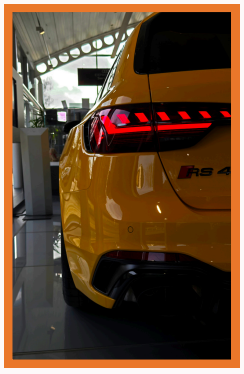
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- In first place is Ellis with his Owl photographs.
- In second place is Afia with her floral inspired photos.
- In third place is Alex with his car and curled paper photos.

Congratulations !





What's been happening in..

PE

The football season has begun for a variety of year groups. A big well done to the Year 7 Boys football team who have started strongly, remaining undefeated in their first four games against St Georges, St Marks, Woodlands and Bitterne Park. Victories in all barring an entertaining 4-4 draw against St Marks. We hope they can continue with this superb form to march onto the Division 1 League Title. Best of luck to the boys and Mr Staples!

The U15 Girls Football team have played one game so far, losing to a strong St Marks team. We wish them well in their fixture this afternoon against Cantell.

The U16 Boys Football team have played three matches so far, with a win against Woodlands and then losing to a strong Oasis Sholing team and to Bitterne Park. The match against Bitterne Park was especially close, with the boys coming close to a 2-2 equaliser but missing a penalty to level things up. These boys have come a long way in terms of team spirit and gaining valuable experience in how to play in such a physical and competitive league. Well done to all those involved.

The U14 Girls Netball team played in a tournament at Wide Lane involving 9 other schools. The team was led superbly by Lily C as captain and the girls finished 4th overall. There were some superb victories along the way against St Anne's, St Marks, Oasis Mayfield and Bitterne Park. Well done to all the girls involved!

The Cross Country events at Gregg School have been a real success this year, with strong runs from a number of our students from a variety of year groups. A big congratulations in particular to Megan P, Millie H, Kieron P, Lawrence A and Charlie M who all finished in a podium place for their age category. A big congratulations to all our runners for making this event a successful event for USH.

A massive congratulations to all those involved in Extra Curricular PE this half term - we have calculated we have had at least 150 students each week turn up to do some form of PE extra curricular activity. Please keep an eye out on clubs that will continue after half term, with the majority of club changes happening after Christmas!

U14 Girls Netball team



What's been happening in.. House Teams

This week has seen the first of our House Charity Weeks with a hive of activity organised by Aviators House. The house-prefects spent several weeks planning with Mr O'Farrell (Head of Aviators) and their programme has – at the time of writing – been going very well.

Monday saw a dedicated team of Henna-operatives tattooing temporary designs on the hands of an ever-growing queue of volunteers, as well as students taking the opportunity to grab a 'selfie-with-the-mascot' - Edie The Eagle.

Edie was also put through her paces on Tuesday with 'Mascot Arm-Wrestling' (special thanks to Tyler in Year 11 for spending so long in the suit) and a few rounds of 4-player MarioKart on the hall's big screen.

Wednesday's fun consisted of a badminton tournament in the sports hall, and this will be followed over the next two days by Just-Dance, 'Find the Mascot Plushie' and a bake-sale/non-uniform day on Friday.

Students have enjoyed the activities and raised some money for good causes (Naomi House and the MND Association), so a win-win all round.

The next house announcement to look out for will be the entry forms for the Talent Show – coming soon!







What's been happening in.. Design Technology

In Design and Technology, the Year 7 students have been practising making pop-up mechanisms for their "Sustainable pop-up story book ". They have found live modelling very useful to understand how to improve their measuring and cutting skills.

Despite being a long time until they will get their first job, they were very wise in answering questions like: "Can you think of a job where cutting accurately is very important?", or "Why are precise cutting skills essential for a carpenter?".

When I let their creativity flow in creating their first pop-up up mechanisms, the results have been quite impressive, as you can see in the images.

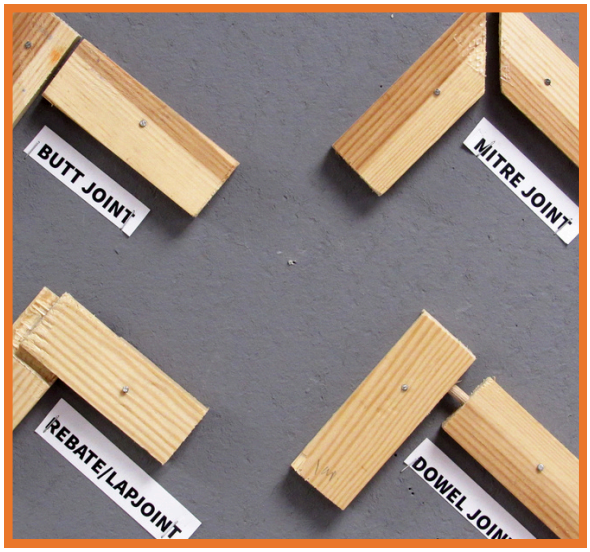
I'm very proud of our creative and wise Year 7 students! Dr A Dinoiu











Year 9 Design and Technology students have been crafting timber photo frames as part of their practical skills development. They have explored four key wood joints: butt, mitre, rebate and dowel.

Each joint offers unique structural and aesthetic qualities, helping students understand real-world applications. The project encourages precision, creativity and problem solving.

Finished frames shows both technical skill and personal design creativity.





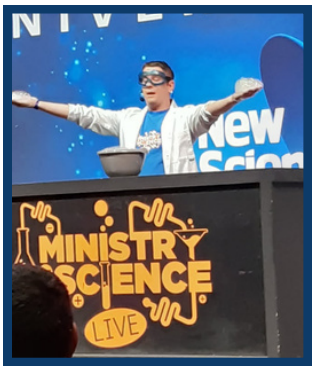
From this.... ... to this.

What's been happening in.. Science

On Monday 20th October the Science department (in collaboration with Design and Technology department) took 24 Y11 students up to the Excel in London. Students took part in a range of interactive exhibits and immersive experiences as well as talks from experts in their fields.

There were more than 90 interactive show floor exhibits where students could try VR, meet robotics, explore health, climate and farming innovations.

Our students were delighted by the Ministry of Science show and impressed with a talk on the real world challenges and journey to constructing a Moon base.







Charity Week

We're proud to announce that Aviators House Team is raising money for two incredible causes:

- **Naomi House & Jacksplace** – providing hospice care and support for children, young adults and families.
- **Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA)** – supporting people affected by MND and funding vital research.

















Upcoming Y11 Exams

Date	Time	Examination
1st December	All day	MFL
4th and 5th December	All day	Photography
8th and 9th December	All day	Textiles
10th and 11th December	All day	Art

Date	Time	Examination
WEEK A		
Monday 17th November	9.00am- 10.30am	Maths Paper 1
	2:00pm-3:30/45pm	Science-Biology
Tuesday 18th November	All Day	Drama Real exam
	9.00am- 10:00am	Y7 Maths
	12:00pm-13:00pm	Y8 Maths
Wednesday 19th November	9.00am- 11:00am	11W - Food/GCSE PE/History/Construction
	2:00pm-3:30/45pm	Science- Physics
Thursday 20th November	9:00am-10:45am	English Language Paper 1
	2:00pm-3:30/45pm	Spanish Reading and Listening
Friday 21st November	9.00am-10.30am	Maths Paper 2
	2:00pm-3:30/45pm	Catch up session
WEEK B		
Monday 24th November	9:00-11:00am	11X - Creative iMedia/Construction/Citizenship/Music Tech
	12:00pm-13:00pm	Year 9 Maths
Tuesday 25th November	9.00am-10.30am	Maths Paper 3
	2:00pm-3:30/45pm	Geography Combined Paper 1 and 2
Wednesday 26th November	9:00am-11:00am	11Z - BTECH Sport/Citizenship/DT/Food/History
	2:00pm-3:30/45pm	French Reading and Listening
Thursday 27th November	9:00am-11:00am	11Y - Creative iMedia/DT/Food/Music/RS
	2:00pm-3:30/45pm	Catch up session
WEEK A		
Monday 1st December	9:00-11:00am	Home Languages - Reading and Writing
Tuesday 2nd December	9:00-10:00am	Home Languages - Listening (Polish, Portuguese and Persian)

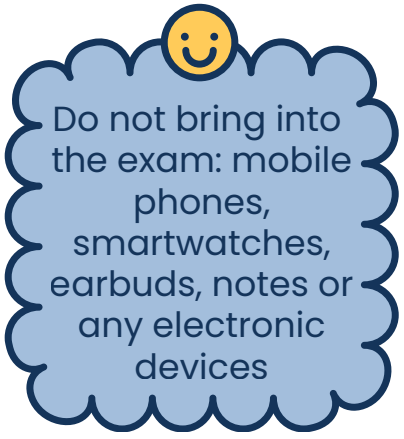
Mock exams are an important step in preparing students for their final assessments. Please help your child by:

- checking their exam timetable and ensuring they have the correct equipment;
- supporting a structured revision routine and creating a quiet study space;
- encouraging positive wellbeing and regular breaks.

Mocks are a valuable opportunity to identify strengths and areas for improvement.

Thank you for your support in helping students succeed.







Important Notices

School Shop on MCAS
We are now selling Casio Scientific Calculators £9.00, Oxford Maths Sets £1.70 and premade up pencil cases £2.00

The deadline to apply for the Zanzibar trip is 31st October; register here!

Our free Breakfast Club is open to all students every day from 8:00am

Big thank you from the PTFA the recently donated clothes raised £101.70!

10 December Student Flu Vaccinations

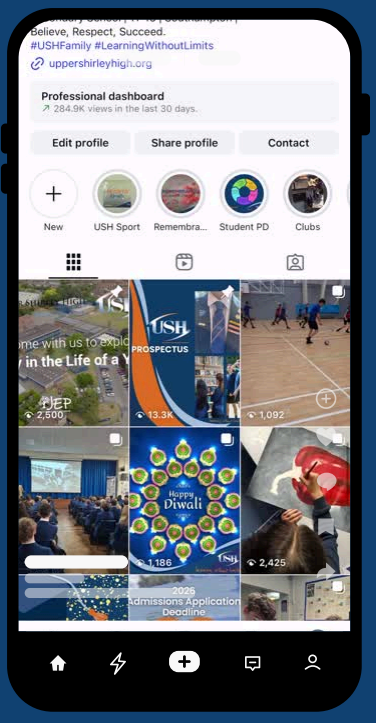
We are hiring! Receptionist, Teaching Assistant & Pastoral Support Worker apply here

Poppies on sale from 3 November

Grandparents' Remembrance Morning Register your place here:

Many of our departments are appearing on Instagram, we are sharing their posts through our social media feeds but do go and take a look at the great work happening across the school.

@USHschool
@USHPhotographyDepartment
@USHArtDept
@USHPhysEd
@USHGeography
@USHEnglishDepartment



The PTFA manage private Facebook groups for each year group, where you can keep up to date on what's going on. Please join by searching for the following groups:

USH Stuff! (for all year groups)
Year 7 @ USH 2025/2026
Year 8 @ USH 2025/2026
Year 9 @ USH 2025/2026
Year 10 @ USH 2025/2026
Year 11 @ USH 2025/2026

Join our..Clubs

AUTUMN 1 Clubs

MONDAY LUNCHTIME

English Homework (ENG4)
Support with English homework

TUESDAY BEFORE SCHOOL

Prayer space 8.15 (Learning Support)

TUESDAY AFTER SCHOOL

Guitar Club (MUS2)
All abilities welcome to come and play guitar

Netball club (Netball courts)
Year 9, 10, 11, a chance to learn netball skills ready for match play

Basketball club (sports hall)
Year 8, 9, a chance to learn basketball skills ready for match play

Creative iMedia ICT1 NEA
Resubmission

Year 11 English Intervention ENG3

Dungeons and Dragons (RS1)
Role play game with adventure

Design & Technology (DT1)
Year 7 & 8 Design and make your own Christmas decoration using 2D Design and the laser cutter

WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME

Dungeons and Dragons (RS1)
Role play game with adventure, fun and friendship

Pokemon (Hall)
Strategy game involving pokemon cards

WEDNESDAY AFTER SCHOOL

Choir (MUS 1)
Learn new songs and be part of a group that perform in concerts and school community events

Social football (Muga)
Year 7 football for fun

Volleyball (Gym)
Guest coach KS3, teaching skills and tactics ready for match play

Origami (MA5)
All years welcome, learn how to make orgami items

Year 11 French Intervention (MFL2)

Year 11 Further Maths (MA1)

Crochet (Lib)
Learn how to crochet

THURSDAY LUNCHTIME

Eco Committee (HUMS 5)
Get involved with whole school eco projects

Geography club (HUMS 6)

THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL

Year 11 Food & nutrition NEA support (FD1)

Social football (Muga) Year 8 football for fun

Netball club (Netball courts)
Year 7,8, a chance to learn netball skills ready.

Year 11 Volleyball
Guest coach
Learning volleyball skills for match play

Fitness club (fitness room)
All year groups, use the weights room

Touch rugby (field) All year groups, learn the skills to put into practise in games

Year 11 GCSE Maths club (all rooms)

Creative Writing Club, ENG4

Warhammer Painting Club, LS

EVERY CLUB YOU ATTEND YOU WILL GET A HOUSE POINT.

NO NEED TO SIGN UP, JUST DROP IN AND MAKE SURE YOU USE THE QR CODE TO REGISTER

SCAN ME

FRIDAY LUNCHTIME

Chess Club(MFL 2)
All year groups, learn how to play and challenge your friends

FRIDAY AFTER SCHOOL

Jazz Band (MUS 1)
Invitation only

Table tennis(Gym)
All year groups

Design & Technology GCSE NEA Support (DT1) Year 11
Week B 3-4pm

MONDAY LUNCHTIME

Youth Alpha (TBC) Barney & Sam
Discuss your beliefs and find out more about Christianity

Henna Club (TBC) Shriya, Alys, Lana
Learn how to do henna on each other

Time-out club (TBC) Faryal, Edith, Maddie
A chance to chill out with friends

TUESDAY LUNCHTIME

Mange animae (TBC) Faizaan, Ryan, Nmachi, Vanessa, Jordan
Draw animae with students

Quiz club (TBC) Presiyana and Isabella
Weekly quizzes with prizes

1v1 Football (TBC) James, Harry, Alex, Flynn

WEDNESDAY AFTER SCHOOL

Computing/ Minecraft club (ICT2) Aiden, Umar, Great, Faizaan, Divine
Use the computers to play minecraft

Chrisitan Union TBC (Carys, Ben, Elliot, Toby, Divine, Jacob)
All student welcome to learn about the Christian faith

AUTUMN 2 Clubs (Student led)

EVERY CLUB YOU ATTEND YOU WILL GET A HOUSE POINT.

NO NEED TO SIGN UP, JUST DROP IN AND MAKE SURE YOU USE THE QR CODE TO REGISTER

SCAN ME

MONDAY AFTER SCHOOL

Debate club (TBC) Jen and Aiden
Debate key topic areas eith friends

Hellenisn Club (TBC) Tyler
Learn about Greek mythology

TUESDAY AFTER SCHOOL

Dance club (TBC) Nicky
Learn different dances

Film Club (Hannnah and Cariad)
An opportunity to share film ideas and review with friends

THURSDAY LUNCHTIME

Pokemon and board games (TBC) Niamh
A quiet space to do board games and play pokemon

Wellbeing club (TBC) Isabelle, Nicky, Ruby, Amy, Andrea
Somewhere to sit and focus on wellbeing

FRIDAY LUNCHTIME

Rubix cube (TBC) Theo, Mihails, Isabelle, Max
Learn how to solve rubix cubes

Basketball free throw (Basketball courts) Abdul

USH Student Leadership

Maths Homework Club

Wednesdays, 3pm - 4pm
MA2
Come along and get help and support with maths homework!
Open to all students



Wednesday Lunchtime in the hall