
USH
Summer 1
Newsletter

A Message from.. Mr Bhardwaj

As we reach the end of another busy and successful half term, it has been great to see our students continuing to grow in confidence, maturity and ambition. Across the school, there have been countless examples of resilience and determination, particularly from our Year 11s, who have approached this examination season with real focus and composure.

Year 11 have been exceptional in the way they have conducted themselves throughout their practical examinations, where they have truly been 'locked in', demonstrating a calm, focused approach and a determination to achieve their very best. They have been a real credit to the school so far and we are incredibly proud of the way they have embraced this important period.

It has been a particularly busy half term beyond the classroom. Students have benefited from a range of enriching experiences, including trips to the Natural History Museum and the Ordnance Survey. Our Swimming Gala and City Athletics events highlighted excellent participation, teamwork and sportsmanship, whilst the Ski Trip provided a fantastic opportunity for challenge, independence and unforgettable memories.

We were delighted with the success of the Year 9 'Go to Work with an Adult' day. This proved to be a valuable experience, giving students a real insight into the world of work and helping to broaden their aspirations for the future.

As we look ahead to Summer 2, there is much to look forward to. We will soon be saying goodbye to our Year 11 students as they complete their final examinations and begin the next stage of their journey, whilst also preparing to welcome our new Year 7 cohort into the USH community. We will also be marking an exciting change as we say goodbye to our current uniform and introduce the new polo top and jumper, which we are sure students will wear with pride.

Year 10 will be stepping up as they prepare for their end of year examinations and begin their Work Experience placements. We look forward to seeing them 'lock in' with the same focus and determination shown by Year 11. Alongside this, there will be plenty of opportunities to celebrate another successful academic year, recognising the achievements of students across all year groups.

Finally, we would like to thank all families for their continued support this half term. We wish everyone a restful and enjoyable break and look forward to welcoming students back refreshed and ready for the final half term of the year.



Upcoming Events

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

Inset Days 2026-2027

- 1 SEPTEMBER
- 2 & 5 OCTOBER
- 1 FEBRUARY
- 25 MARCH
- 1 & 2 JULY
- 25-26 INSET Day 26 JUNE

02 JUNE
Y10 Art/Textiles Mock Exams

03 JUNE
Y9 & Y10 Business Studies Trip

19 JUNE
Y7 History Trip - Portchester Castle

21 JUNE
Y9 DofE Expedition

23 JUNE
Y10 Peter Symonds College Taster Day

24 JUNE
Parent Carer Network 6-7pm

29 JUNE
Parliament Trip

30 JUNE
Y6 Transition to USH Day 1

01 JULY
Y6 Transition to USH Day 2

02 JULY
HPV & Teen Booster

03 JULY
Y11 Prom

06 JULY
Y10 Sports Day

08 JULY
Y9 Wimbledon Trip

10 JULY
Dragons Den

13 JULY
Y10 Work Experience Week

13 JULY
GCSE Art Exhibition

15 JULY
Y9 & Y10 Awards Evening

16 JULY
Y7 & Y8 Awards Evening

17 JULY
USH Sports Day (Sports Centre)

20 JULY
Inflatables & Summer Fair

21 JULY
End of Term Trips

Important Notices

Bike Safety Reminder
We've noticed a growing number of pupils cycling to and from school without wearing helmets. While it's great to see so many children choosing an active and healthy way to travel, safety remains a top priority.

Wearing a helmet significantly reduces the risk of serious head injury in the event of a fall or collision. We strongly encourage all children who cycle to school to wear a properly fitted helmet every day.

Thank you for your support in helping keep our children safe.

Year 7, 8, and 9 student reports are now available to view on MCAS.
Please log in at your convenience to access your child's report.

Gas Works Notice – Wilton Road
DJT Utilities will be carrying out essential gas mains replacement works on behalf of SGN from 15 June to 10 July 2026.

Works will take place in 3 phases along Wilton Road, with rolling road closures:

- **Phase 1:** Bridlington Avenue to Upper Shirley Avenue
- **Phase 2:** Darlington Gardens to Bourne Avenue
- **Phase 3:** Branksome Avenue to Bellmoor Road

Closures will move along the road (not all at once).
Property access will be maintained where safe.
There will be:

- Signed diversion routes for traffic
- Temporary bus stop changes (contact operator for details)
- Parking restrictions and "No Waiting" cones in place

Residents are asked to follow restrictions to help avoid delays.

On Friday 5th June, from 7.30pm to 11.00pm, school is hosting a Quiz and Curry Night to raise funds for some students participating in the Zanzibar trip.

Why not gather your friends and enjoy an easy, fun night out? Tickets are £12, which includes a delicious curry provided by Sanjha.

Tickets can be purchased by clicking here:
👉 **https://charlotte-s-zanzibar-fundraising.sumupstore.com/**







What's been happening in.. Sporting Achievments



Netball Success at the Country Finals

After qualifying for the County Finals as representatives of Southampton, Mrs Hyslop took a team of nine year 7s to Embley School in Romsey on Wednesday 22nd April for a full day of netball.

It was a fantastic and well organised event, enjoyed in glorious sunshine. Following their success in the previous two tournaments, the girls arrived in high spirits and ready to compete.

The team played seven matches in the morning, securing three wins, one draw and two losses. This strong performance earned them a place in the final round against the top teams.



They continued to perform brilliantly throughout the afternoon with another 5 games, ultimately finishing 6th out of 14 teams. Competing against a number of highly competitive private and all-girls schools, this was a superb achievement.

Thank you to Emma and Florrie in year 10 who did a brilliant job as Student Leaders helping to support the year 7s with their warm up, coaching and also scoring.

Well done to all the girls for their fantastic effort and for representing the school so proudly!

Year 7 Success Celebration

We are incredibly proud to celebrate some outstanding achievements from our Year 7 students over the past half term!

Ezekiel and **Zak** have both secured two year contracts with Southampton Football Club (Under 12s), committing to training three times per week, a fantastic achievement that reflects their dedication and talent.

Similarly, **Jude** has signed a two-year contract with AFC Bournemouth, marking another exciting milestone in his football journey.

Meanwhile, **Elliott** has enjoyed an exceptional season with the Solent Kestrels basketball team, celebrating an undefeated year. The team has even gone head-to-head with some of the best teams in the country in friendly matches and won every time!

The boys recently met with Mr Sykes to share and celebrate their accomplishments. While they were rightly proud of their sporting success, it was equally impressive to hear them speak about the importance of their learning beyond the pitch and court. They highlighted how their clubs emphasise key areas such as nutrition, healthy lifestyles and managing emotions, skills that support both their athletic performance and overall wellbeing.

We are delighted to see our students thriving, showing commitment, resilience and a positive attitude both inside and outside the classroom. Well done to all, we are incredibly proud of you!







What's been happening in.. House Teams

The Heads of House have been excited to welcome their new student leadership teams this half term. The new House Captains, Deputy Captains and Prefects have been meeting with their Heads of House to discuss their roles and responsibilities in the year ahead.

These will include helping to plan and organise the House charity weeks and also assisting in the running of large whole school events such as the Talent Show, Culture Week and Summer Activities Day. As well as this, Heads of House talked to prefects about ways in which they could be role models and 'buddies' to some students in lower years and planning has started for routines to make this an increased focus for next year.

Aviators welcome House Captains Aneurin and Christine, House Deputies Jake, Harry and Genevieve, and House Prefects Ellie, Chime and Hibaan.

Engineers welcome House Captains Lois and Blessed, House Deputies Tommy, Olaf and Dev, and House Prefects Sindia, Sirin and Lorena.

Mariners welcome House Captains Izzy and Udayraj, House Deputies Marlowe, Roberto and Leo, and House Prefects Shiney, Stanley and Barney.

Last but not least, Venturers welcome House Captains Elliott and Indi, House Deputies Leo, Morgan and Mia and House Prefects Poppy, Shadrach and Oscar.

Welcome to the team: we're going to need more biscuits!

Year 9



Year 9 have had a busy and productive half term so far. Highlights have included the Go to Work with an Adult Day, a British Red Cross First Aid course and the start of their Business projects.

These activities mark the beginning of students' journey to develop career aspirations and start thinking about their future pathways beyond school.



It has also been fantastic to see so many students taking advantage of leadership opportunities, including running clubs, supporting as student librarians and helping with visitor tours.

If any students would like to get involved in leadership roles, please speak to myself or Mr Hunt.

Author Visit



Your On Wednesday afternoon, we were delighted to have a visit from award-winning author, **Onjali Q. Rauf!**

She has written and had published 11 fantastic titles that are very popular among children (including The Boy at the Back of the Class, The Night Bus Hero and The Lion Above the Door) and she came to deliver an inspiring talk to our year 7 and 8 groups where she shared many stories behind her inspiration for the characters and themes she included her latest title, The Game I Will Never Forget.

Through this acclaimed novel, Onjali has once again captivated young readers with a powerful story that blends humour with some much deeper-rooted themes, and she was more than happy to share her writing journey with our students, as well as a reading from one of the chapters.

She then happily signed students' copies of her books afterward, as well as answering their inquisitive questions.

We are very grateful to the wonderful Onjali, for spending her time with us and giving our students such a truly memorable experience.
text

Coming up in....

Maths



What's been happening in.. Lego League

Our First LEGO League team recently had the unique opportunity to present their work via video call to the Head Judge of the national competition.

The students impressed the judge with their Innovation hands on project, showing creativity, problem solving, and clear communication. Their Robot design was praised for its thoughtful engineering, while their fundraising efforts demonstrated commitment beyond the competition itself.

The team's costumes added enthusiasm and strong team identity to the presentation. Most importantly, the judge highlighted the students' outstanding Core Values, recognising their teamwork, resilience, professionalism and positive attitude in the face of disappointment.

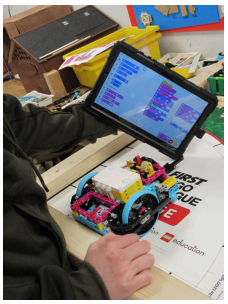
In recognition of their efforts and spirit, the Head Judge awarded the team a special trophy titled "Best Online Team" . This award celebrates not only their technical achievements, but also their determination, teamwork and character values we are incredibly proud of.















A Massive Thank You to Our Supporters

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our journey in this year's FIRST LEGO League competition (FLL). Your generosity and encouragement truly reflect our school values: **Believe, Respect, Succeed**.

At the beginning in September, we struggled even to register and we had only one LEGO robot. However, we had something far more powerful: 20 determined students full of enthusiasm, resilience and belief in themselves. With the support of our students, parents, staff, school leadership, and sponsors such as NATS, we fundraised through selling keyrings and handmade bracelets and worked tirelessly as a team.

By May, our achievements were remarkable. We were the only school in the region with two teams, purchased a second robot and won three regional awards: Best Team, Innovation Project, and Robot Design. We also qualified for the National Finals and We impressed judges online, earning the award for Best Online Team. Additional support from NATS (two iPads) and the IET (two LEGO packs) further strengthen our journey for next year.

As one Year 8 student shared: "I'm very thankful for the support, because without it, we wouldn't be able to go so far."
This success belongs to our entire community. Thank you for helping our students believe, respect one another, and succeed together.

Dr A Dinoiu and The USH diggers

What's been happening in.. Guidance



The year 8 boxing club has started their weekly visit to **Pound for Pound boxing.**

Over the next several weeks they will test their resilience and determination by taking part in strength and conditioning, technical drills and sparring, whilst demonstrating an ability to listen, learn and practice in a challenging environment.



This term, groups of years 7s and 8s have visited the **Outdoor Education School** in Fawley.

They have worked as a team and tested their resilience and motivation whilst taking part in activities such as laser tag, mountain biking and tree climbing.

We look forward to next half term when they will be taking on the water sports challenge and work towards a Discover Award qualification.



This term, groups of year 7s and 8s have taken part in the **Embers provision** in our schools forest area.

Each week they learn key survival skills such as fire lighting, shelter building, knifework and cooking on an open fire.

This term an enthusiastic group of girls have attended **Aldermoor Community Farm** and have enjoyed feeding the chickens and planting green beans, making their own vine for the beans to attach to.

Our students enjoy being at Aldermoor Farm, they always have a smile on their face.

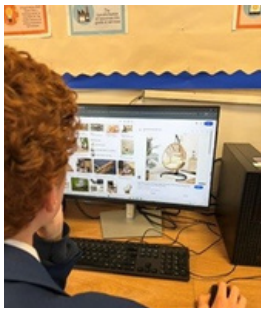


What's been happening in.. Business Studies

This summer term, our Year 10 Business students are taking on an exciting entrepreneurial challenge inspired by Dragons' Den.

Tasked with reinventing the humble chair, students are working in teams to design innovative, marketable products that meet real customer needs. From sustainable materials to smart technology and space saving designs, creativity and problem solving are at the heart of every idea.




Construction




Now that the year 10's have completed their Pearson Set assignments, they are fully engaged with the garden project. We are building bird feeders, shelving, raised beds, baskets and hedgehog houses for the graden area. During this projectwe will only use reclaimed and recycled materials.







What's been happening in.. Geography

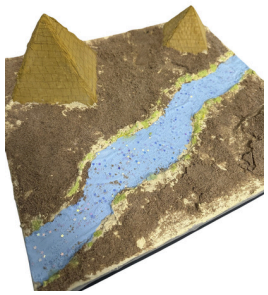
Year 7 Geographers have recently completed their Africa unit of work, culminating in a decision-making exercise on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. Students carefully weighed the advantages and disadvantages before reaching a well-justified conclusion. This unit also showcased some fantastic homework, including creative models of the River Nile and impressive presentations on a range of African countries.



Year 8 Geographers have just completed a topic on Tourism looking at tourism trends, the impacts of tourism and exploring Eco-tourism. Students have enjoyed designing their own Eco-tourism resort.

In Year 9, Geographers have been exploring the vital topic of global resources, focusing on food, water, and energy. As part of this, they have examined the challenges surrounding resource management in the UK, including a case study on the proposed reservoir near Abingdon in Oxfordshire. Students considered a range of stakeholder perspectives, including Thames Water and local residents, before making and justifying their own decisions.





In Year 10, Geographers are currently studying rivers, exploring how they change from source to mouth and the landforms created along the way. Alongside this, students have been completing revision homework in preparation for their end of year exam.

Year 11 Geographers have been working extremely hard in their revision and have now completed Paper 1. Papers 2 and 3 will take place after half term. Revision resources are available on Google Classroom, and regular attendance at lessons and revision seminars is essential in these final few weeks.

Careers

Year 10 students had an exciting opportunity this week as they visited Oxford University, gaining a first hand insight into life at one of the world's leading institutions.



During the visit, students met with university staff and had the chance to ask questions about the application process, including what it takes to secure a place at Oxford. They also explored what day to day student life is like, from academic expectations to the wider university experience.

The trip provided valuable inspiration and helped students to begin thinking about their future pathways, raising aspirations and encouraging them to aim high in their studies.







What's been happening in.. English

Our victorious debating team received some additional recognition this week as Mr Philip Brazier of the Rotary Club popped into school to award Chelsea (Chair), Freddie (Proposer) and Robyn (Opposer) a trophy for their winning performance in the local round of the Youth Speaks competition.

Mr O'Farrell and Ms Bridges are looking forward to building on this year's success and will be looking for more students to get involved with Youth Speaks in the coming months: watch this space!



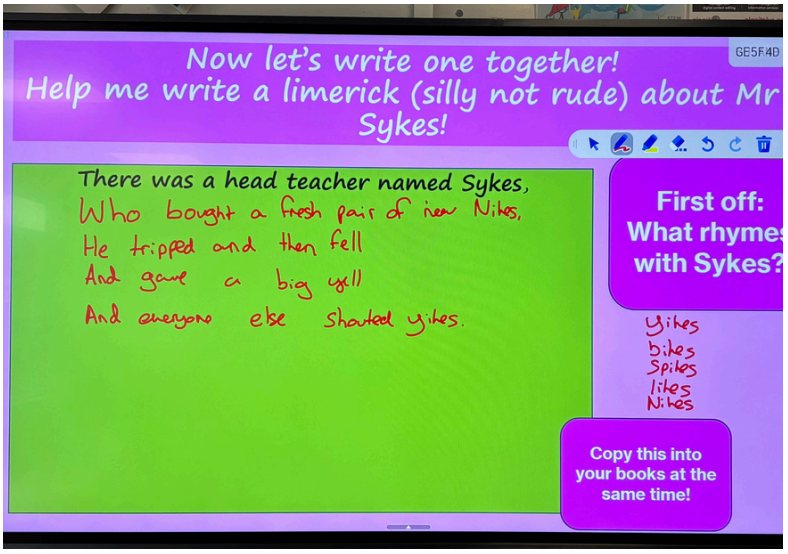


Students in 8T enjoyed a surprise visit this week when Mr Sykes came to deliver a humorous limerick in response to one they had created in English.

The class had originally written a playful poem as part of a lesson and were delighted when he returned with one of his own, performing it in person:

There once was a class called 8T,
Who thought they were funnier than me,
You laughed at my fall,
Very cheeky of all...
Careful or you'll end up in IE!

8T, however, didn't hold back in their critique of the response, with quick witted comments and playful feedback that kept the whole room laughing.



MFL



Coming up in.... Science

Tassomai Competition

For each year group, your Tassomai will be recorded from Monday June 1st until Friday 26th June.

Your points will then be calculated and prizes awarded:

1st Place: £20 Amazon Gift Voucher

2nd – 8th Place: £10 Amazon Gift Vouchers

Y11 Exam Revision Sessions in June

The following sessions will be run after school (3pm-4pm) after half term focussing on supporting students to reach their potential.

- **Monday 1st June – Mr Grainey – Securing Grade 5 in Physics**
- **Tuesday 2nd June – Mr Lamprell – Biology Paper 2: Foundation Focus**
- **Wednesday 3rd June – Mrs Sellick – Biology Paper 2: Higher Focus**
- **Thursday 4th June – Mr Grainey – Separate Science Biology Paper 2**
- **Tuesday 9th June – Mr Lamprell – Chemistry Paper 2: Foundation Focus**
- **Wednesday 10th June – Mrs Sellick – Chemistry Paper 2: Higher Focus**
- **Thursday 11th June – Mr Grainey – Separate Science Chemistry Paper 2**

Important Notices



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

Many of our departments appear 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

HAMWIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Supporting our pupils. Building their future.

donations@hamwic.org

023 8078 6833



What we do

Supporting basic needs
Helping pupilswithessentials to stay safe, included and ready to learn.

Boosting potential
Providingopportunities that build confidence, learning and self-esteem.

Creating brighter futures
Funding experiences and resources that open doors and build hope.

The Hamwic Education Trust Foundation supports vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils across our schools.

How we support

Examples of where the Foundation can help pupils thrive:

Essentials
Itemstosupport basic needs

Opportunities
Residential trips,after-school clubs and extra-curricular activities

Development
Music lessons and other learning opportunities



Fundraising events

We host events throughout the year involving pupils, parents and staff.

The next event will be a non-uniform day with a voluntary donation of £1

How you can help

We welcome support from individuals, businesses and partners:

- Financial donations
- Donations of goods or services

HAMWIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Every contribution makes a real difference.

Thank you for supporting our pupils and our schools