
USH
Autumn 1
Newsletter

A Message from.. Mr Sykes

As we reach the end of our first half term, it is worth pausing to reflect on just how much has happened since September.

I am delighted to announced the launch of our leadership 'Leave Your Legacy' programme, which is encouraging our students to think about the contribution they make to USH: working hard, getting involved, supporting others and making the most of the opportunities available to them.

There has certainly been plenty to get involved in. Learning has extended well beyond the classroom, with visits including Portchester Castle, the Year 11 Geography field trip and today the Year 7 Maths World trip to London. Our Year 11s have also experienced their mock results morning, an important milestone as their focus increasingly turns towards next summer.

It was fantastic to welcome so many prospective pupils and families to our Open Morning. We were incredibly proud of the pupils and staff who showcased the school, and we currently have a record number of applications, which is a wonderful reflection of the confidence families continue to place in USH.

One of the most poignant moments of the half term was the Memorial Match against St Mark's in memory of former student Irebami. It was a fitting opportunity to remember Irebami and to bring our communities together through sport. Thank you to everyone who planned, supported and attended what turned into a thrilling 6-6 match.

Meanwhile, our new Year 7 pupils have settled brilliantly into life at USH. After half term, many will head off on the Year 7 residential, which I know will provide another opportunity to build friendships, confidence and some great memories.



Thank you, as always, to our pupils, staff and families for everything you have contributed to such a positive start to the year. I hope everyone enjoys a restful and well-earned half-term break and I look forward to welcoming pupils back for Autumn 2.

A Message from.. Our Governors

Can it really be half term already? It hardly seems possible that seven weeks have passed since we returned from the summer break. Of course, that's easy for us governors to say, staff and pupils may well feel differently!

At their most recent meeting, governors received reports and updates covering a wide range of school activities and priorities. There was particular cause for celebration in the exam results report, with the summer 2026 results exceeding targets and expectations - a fantastic achievement and a reflection of the hard work and dedication of pupils and staff alike.

Governors continue to meet several times each term, receiving updates from the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team on all aspects of the school's policies, activities and performance. We also work closely with Hamwic Education Trust to ensure that governance at Upper Shirley High School remains as effective as possible.

Finally, governors would like to wish everyone connected with the school a well-deserved and enjoyable half-term break, and a happy Halloween!

Upcoming Events

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

26 OCT
Autumn Half Term Holiday

06 NOV
Y9 & Y11 Portrait Photographs plus siblings

05 NOV
PTFA Fireworks Night

19 NOV
Parents Evening Year 10

02 DEC
Y9 & Y11 missed portrait photographs

03 DEC
PTFA Christmas Wreath Making

21 DEC
Christmas Holiday

11 JAN
KS3 MFL Spanish & French Play

14 JAN
Meet The Professional Careers Event

14 JAN
Parents Evening Year 11

01 FEB
Staff Inset Day - closed to students

04 FEB
Parents Evening - Year 9

05 FEB
PTFA Quiz & Curry Night

15 FEB
Spring Half Term Holiday

22 FEB
Y7 & Y11 Year Group photographs

25 FEB
Parents Evening - Year 8

04 MAR
World Book Day - PTFA Wonka Bar sale

24 MAR
Parents Evening - Year 7

25 MAR
Staff Inset Day - Closed to studuents

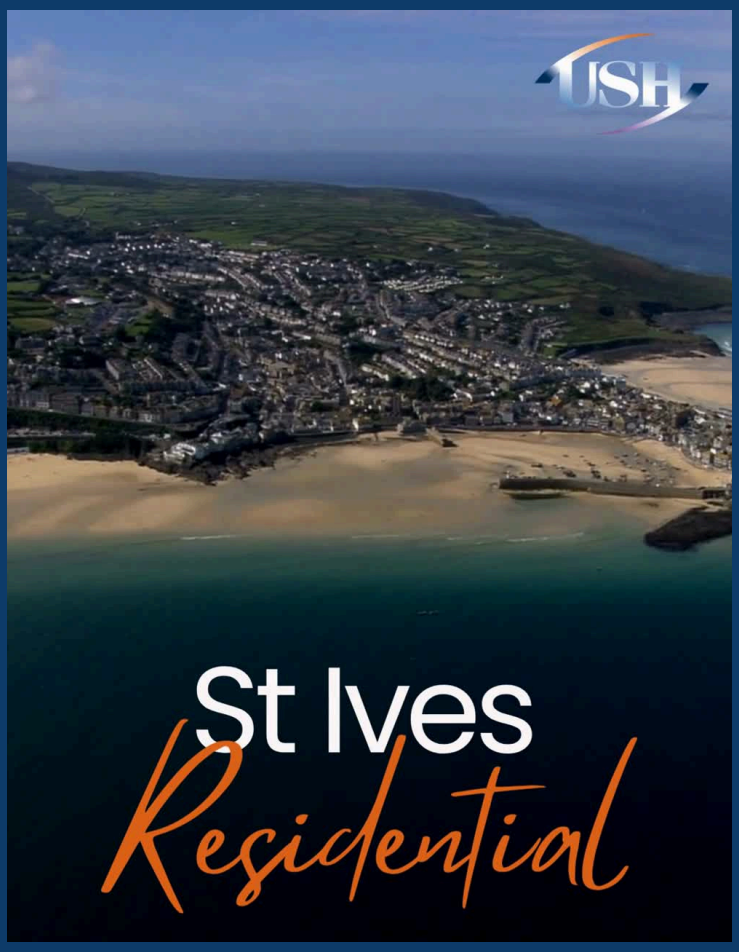
26 MAR
Easter Holiday

Upcoming Trips







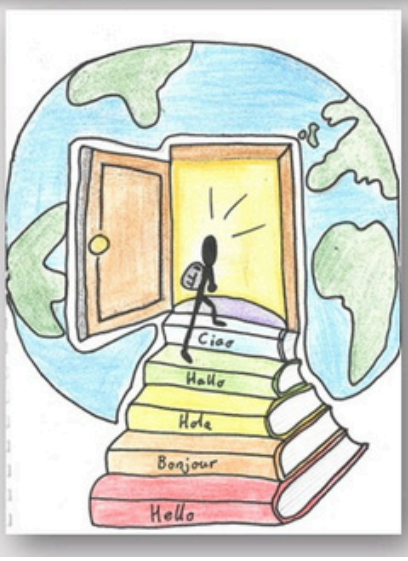




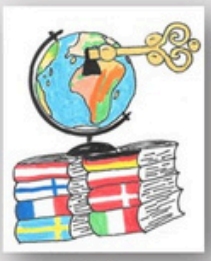
What's been happening in..MFL

MFL LOGO competition WINNERS

Congratulations to Isabella C (8E2) for winning our **MFL logo** competition!



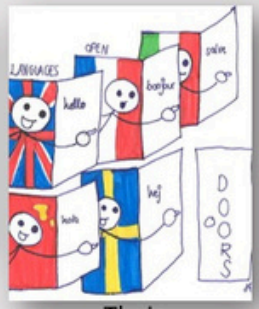
Runners up:



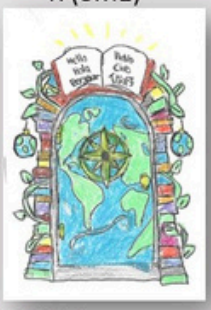
Mihails
R (8M1)



Chizite
I (10A2)



Theia
WR (8M2)



MM (10M2)



MS (7E2)









European Language Day at USH

This year's theme was 'Languages Unite', and the MFL team celebrated with three exciting competitions, alongside some creative activities in lessons!

During Tutor Time, students took part in a Blooket Spelling Bee. Congratulations to Saad in 9M1, who won sweets for his whole tutor group! We also held an MFL Logo Competition, with Isabella in 8E2 taking the top spot for her design, which best captured our department motto: 'Languages Open Doors'.

Our Language Nut Competition brought out the competitive spirit of Year 7, with the top 10 students winning hot chocolate and cake with a friend! Year 7 also got creative in their MFL lessons by making their own 'jazzy' pens.

It was fantastic to see so many students getting involved. House Points were awarded for competition entries and achievements throughout the week.

Well done to everyone who took part in celebrating how languages unite us and open doors to new opportunities!

Leave your Legacy

This half term we have launched our 'Leave Your Legacy' program. This is a really exciting opportunity for students across all year groups to gain skills and experience in leadership. In order to sign up, students need to come to Mrs Fortune or Mr Rumseys office (in science), tick their name of a register and take the form they need.

What are the different stages?

Stage 1 Leader - "I can lead myself and contribute positively."
Stage 2 Leader - "I actively support and encourage others whilst taking responsibility"
Stage 3 Leader - "I lead others and make a positive impact"
Stage 4 Leader -"I can develop leaders and create opportunities."
Stage 5 Leader -"I can leave a lasting legacy"

To complete each stage students will need to attend a workshop. Our first leadership workshops are being run on:
5th November- Team building
11th November- communication

Once students get to stage 3 they can start to run leadership workshops on a topic of their choice such as how to referee a game of football.

We have already had a significant number of students start their stage 1 leadership journey which we are really excited about. Come and sign up today!

Mrs Fortune and Mr Rumsey



Upcoming Events



Grandparents' Open Morning – Remembrance Day

We are delighted to welcome grandparents to our annual Grandparents' Open Morning on Wednesday 11 November 2026.

Grandparents are invited to join us for our Remembrance Day commemoration, including the two-minute silence at 11:00am, followed by refreshments and a tour of the school with their grandchild.

Due to venue capacity, each student may invite up to two grandparents and all guests must be registered in advance. Tickets will be issued to students nearer the event and must be brought on the day for admission.

We look forward to welcoming our grandparents and celebrating the important role they play in supporting our students.



The Crochet Club will be selling poppies at this event

Duke of Edinburgh Award – Year 9

On Monday 2 November, Year 9 students will attend a Duke of Edinburgh Award Launch Assembly, where they will learn about the opportunities, challenges and benefits of taking part in this nationally recognised programme.

Parents and carers are then invited to a Duke of Edinburgh Award Information Evening on Wednesday 4 November at 6:00pm. The evening will provide further information about the award, including the activities involved, expedition requirements, costs and how students can sign up.

We encourage all families interested in the programme to attend.



Class of 2026

We are incredibly proud of all that you achieved during your time at USH and would love to welcome you back for our GCSE Presentation Evening on 26 November.

This special event is an opportunity to collect your GCSE certificates, reconnect with classmates and celebrate an important milestone with family, friends and staff.

Whether you've started college, sixth form, an apprenticeship or something new, we'd love to see you again and celebrate your successes together.

Don't forget to register your attendance via the online form **here**

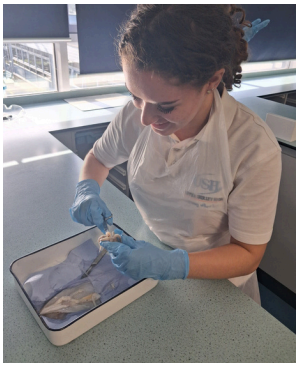
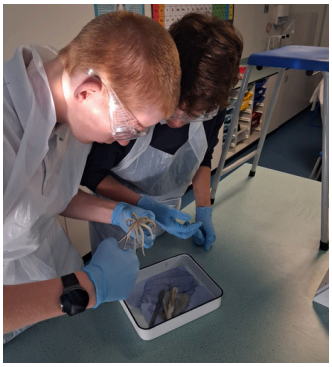
What's been happening in.. Science

Year 11 Biology Students Get Hands-On with Squid Dissection

Learning came to life in Biology recently as our Year 11 students took part in a fascinating squid dissection. This practical experience gave students the opportunity to explore the anatomy of a squid first-hand, identifying key organs and examining how each contributes to the animal's survival.

By investigating structure, function and adaptation in a real specimen, students developed a deeper understanding of how these remarkable creatures are perfectly adapted to life in the ocean. The activity brought classroom learning to life and provided valuable preparation for their GCSE studies





English

USH Reading Pioneers proudly accepted the Silver Reading Award at a prestigious ceremony held at Southampton Football Club on Weds 21st October.

The author M.G. Leonard gave a fascinating talk about writing books then signed a copy of her new book: 'Hunt for the Golden Scarob' for each student.



What's been happening in.. Geography

GCSE Geography Field trip to Bournemouth

Our GCSE Geographers enjoyed a fantastic day of fieldwork in Bournemouth, completing the compulsory fieldwork element of their course and developing skills that will support them in their Paper 3 examination.

During the morning, students headed to the beach to investigate longshore drift, measuring deposition around the groynes and conducting beach profiles. They then turned their attention to tourism in the town, completing questionnaires, land-use mapping and bipolar surveys to collect a wide range of primary data. It was brilliant to see students applying the geographical knowledge and fieldwork techniques they have developed in lessons to a real environment.

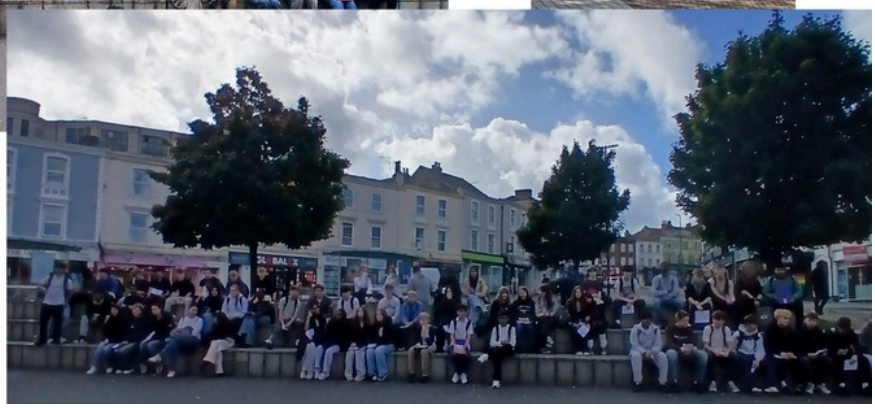
The students approached every task with maturity, enthusiasm and curiosity, worked extremely well together and behaved impeccably throughout. They were a real credit to the school, and we are very proud of the way they represented themselves and the Geography Department.

Mrs Hyslop

Subject Leader for Geography







Year 10 Update

Well done for all Year 10s who have had a really good start to their GCSE journey. I have been blow away by their hard work and laser sharp focus in lesson.

Alongside this, it has been great to see so many sign up to the 'Leave Your Legacy' programme. I hope you all enjoy a restful half term, ready to go again!

Mrs Fortune



Upper Shirley High School is looking to appoint a reliable and motivated **Cleaning Supervisor** to lead our cleaning team and help maintain a safe, clean and welcoming environment for our students, staff and visitors.

This permanent role involves supervising a team of 12 cleaning staff while also carrying out cleaning duties across the school. We are seeking someone with strong leadership skills, high standards, attention to detail and a proactive approach to maintaining our excellent school environment.

20 hours per week, 52 weeks per year
Salary: £14,742 - £15,749 (£27,273 - £29,137 FTE)
Start Date: As soon as possible
Closing Date: 13 November 2026

For full details and to apply, please visit the vacancies section of our website.

Early applications are encouraged as interviews may be arranged before the closing date.



🎆🎸 LIVE MUSIC AT USH FIREWORKS NIGHT! 🎸🎆

We've got even MORE reasons to join us for our spectacular Fireworks Night on 5 November!

🎤 A familiar face with a fantastic talent! We're delighted that one of our very own teachers, Mr O'Farrell, will be performing live! It's not every day you get to see your teacher on stage in a different light!

🎸 And back by popular demand... STATIC REPLAY! You loved them last time so we just had to bring them back for another night of brilliant live music!

🎶 Live music starts at 6.30pm, so come along early, soak up the atmosphere and get ready for an unforgettable evening of fireworks and family entertainment!

🎟️ Want to be part of the team behind the magic? Our amazing volunteers can sign up now, claim their FREE ticket and get discounted tickets for family members! It's a brilliant way to enjoy the event while supporting our school.

https://tickts.co.uk/events/ush-fireworks-night-2026

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 2026/2027
Year 8 @ USH 2026/2027
Year 9 @ USH 2026/2027
Year 10 @ USH 2026/2027
Year 11 @ USH 2026/2027