
USH
Spring 2
Newsletter

A Message from.. Mr Rumsey

As we reach the end of another busy and successful term, it has been wonderful to see our students continuing to grow in confidence, maturity and ambition. Across the school, there have been countless examples of hard work and thoughtful decision-making, particularly from our Year 8 and Year 9 students, who approached their options choices with impressive care and reflection.

Year 10 have also risen to the challenge this term in submitting thoughtful applications for our Student Leadership positions. The quality of their letters, ideas and interviews has been outstanding.

With the GCSE examination season approaching, we want to wish all our Year 11 students the very best with their revision over the break. Their determination has been clear throughout the term, and we know their continued effort will serve them well in the weeks ahead.

This term has also been filled with some wonderful events. Culture Week was once again a real highlight, with the World Fayre offering students the chance to taste flavours from around the globe and celebrate the rich diversity within our community.

We have also now completed all four House Charity Weeks, and we are delighted to share that our whole-school fundraising total has passed £3,000. A huge thank you to every student, family and staff member who contributed—your generosity has made a meaningful difference.

World Book Day also brought plenty of smiles, with staff once again embracing the fun by arriving in a wonderful array of book-themed costumes. The photos captured on the day are some of our favourites.



As we head into the Easter break, we want to thank all our families for their continued support. Your support in ensuring students arrive prepared, positive and ready to learn each day is greatly valued. We hope you all enjoy a restful and refreshing holiday, and we look forward to welcoming students back after Easter, ready for the exciting term ahead.

A Message from.. Our Governors

The school governors would like to take this opportunity to wish all parents, pupils and USH staff and colleagues a wonderful Spring break.

At the most recent meeting of governors, the committee received reports and updates across a wide range of areas, from budgeting and premises planning to student migration & admissions. There was also a year 10 progress report which featured many positive indicators of success going forward, as well as a clear idea on areas to target for improvement.

There has also been a visit to the school by link governors for curriculum, Simon Crispin and Rachele Newman. Governors also attended the 70's themed Spring Concert - reports of them donning flares and platform shoes are unconfirmed!

Governors continue to meet up to 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.

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

16 APRIL
Year 9 – 'Go to work with an adult day'

22 APRIL
HPV Vaccinations

12 MAY
Y10 Oxford University Visit

14 MAY
Y10 Food Mock Exam

21 MAY
Y10 Photography Exam

01 JUNE
Y8 & Y9 MFL Spelling Bee

25-26 INSET Days
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

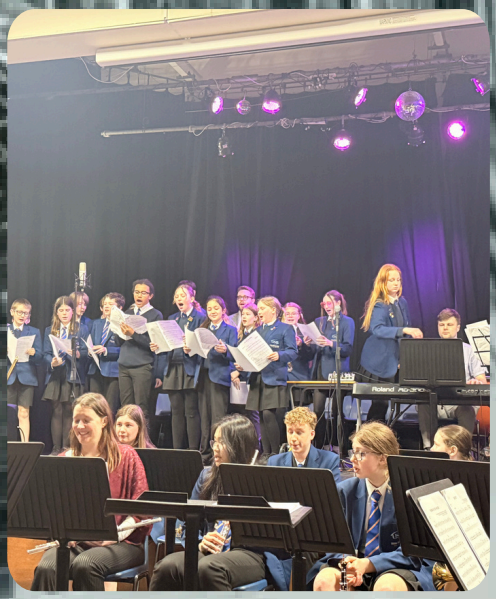
24 JUNE
Parent Carer Network 6-7pm

29 JUNE
Parliament Trip

30 JUNE
Y6 Transition to USH Day 1

Spring Concert

There were plenty of happy faces after last night's Spring Concert, and it's easy to see why. Our students put on a brilliant show, performing everything from Funkytown and Mamma Mia to Respect and a rocking tribute to Queen.
The talent and confidence on stage were clear in every song. It was a great mix of fun, teamwork and genuine passion for music.
A huge thank-you goes to the staff, families and everyone who continues to support our young musicians. Your encouragement helps make nights like this possible.













Student Leadership

This term, Year 10 applicants for the 2026–27 Student Leadership Team delivered an outstanding Leadership Marketplace event, giving staff the chance to meet them, ask questions and hear why they believe they should be part of next year's team.

With an incredible 93 students applying, this is one of the highest levels of interest USH has ever seen showcasing the ambition, confidence and commitment of our Year 10 cohort.

Throughout the event, applicants presented their ideas, strengths and their vision for how they would contribute to school life. Staff were able to move between stalls, listen to student pitches, and get a sense of each applicant's leadership potential.

The professionalism and enthusiasm on display made the marketplace a real highlight. We look forward to reporting on the appointments next term!



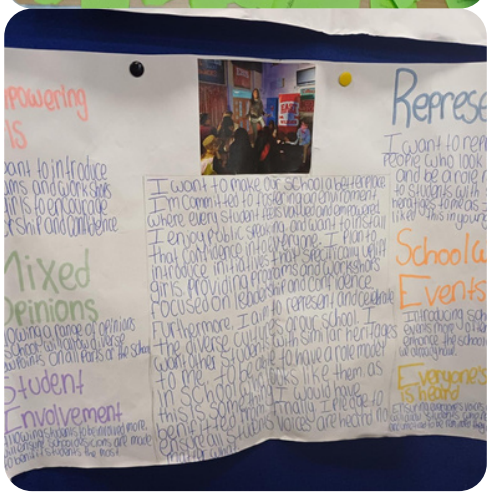










Culture Week






















What's been happening in.. Business Studies

Year 9 Business Studies students have been putting their enterprise skills into action this term by designing a brand-new Easter egg. After completing their theory learning, students have moved into the creative phase developing a unique brand, producing a logo, and using AI tools to generate an Easter egg tailored to their chosen target market.

Their designs showcase fantastic imagination and a growing understanding of marketing and consumer needs. After Easter, students will take things even further as they apply everything they've learned this year to launch their own pop-up businesses. More exciting updates will follow in the summer term!





Congratulations!

Rotary
Southampton Magna

Young Writer 2026

Intermediate Category

Second Place

presented to

Salem M

From

Upper Shirley High





What's been happening in.. House Teams























What's been happening in.. PE



Congratulations to the Year 10 football team on their efforts this season in the league. After a disappointing opening result to Gregg School, losing narrowly 2-1 (in a game where they deserved a draw), there have been some successful results and positive performances in the later half of the season. Prior to wins against Deer Park, 5-2 and Cantell where the boys won 8-1, there was another narrow defeat against Hamble 2-1. The win against Deer Park saw Cohen Lacey bag 4 goals and Oscar McKay with the other goal. The most recent victory was against Cantell with an emphatic win of 8-1. The goal scorers included Max Cole x 2, Cohen, Oscar, Zach Woodgate-Jones x 2 Tommy, and Wojciech. The last game of the season sees them playing Bitterne Park. We wish the boys well in this final game. Mr Janata

The Year 7/8 girls football team have shown incredible determination this season. After numerous rain-related cancellations before half term, the squad battled through an intense run of six matches in just fifteen days. Despite a tough start with two early losses, the girls bounced back brilliantly, securing four impressive wins and a draw. Standout moments included a dominant 10–0 victory over St Anne's and a 7–0 win against Woodlands. With several players stepping confidently into unfamiliar positions, and competing in a higher division this year, the team demonstrated outstanding resilience, teamwork, and progress throughout the season.





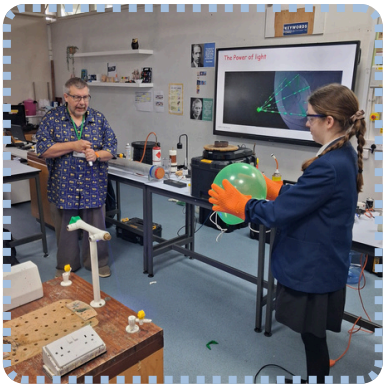
Year 7 Netball Team Shine!
The Year 7 netball team have had a brilliant term, finishing third and then second in two competitive tournaments—earning their place in the County Finals next month. Their hard work, teamwork, and fantastic spirit stood out throughout.
Congratulations to all! Medals will be awarded in the Year 7 assembly after Easter. Bring on the County Finals!

What's been happening in.. Science

British Science Week!

We were thrilled to kick things off with a high-energy STEM show from Eddie, who brought science to life with a brilliant mix of demonstrations, experiments and student participation. Students (and staff!) were captivated as Eddie explored the science behind sound, light and fire, turning big ideas into hands-on moments of discovery. The room was full of curiosity, laughter and plenty of "wow" moments! A huge thank you to Eddie for inspiring our young scientists and helping us launch British Science Week with such a bang.




Year 8 Explore the Science of Their Future at LifeLab, University Hospital Southampton

On Thursday 19th March, 23 enthusiastic Year 8 students spent an inspiring and thought-provoking day at LifeLab, based at University Hospital Southampton. The visit offered an opportunity for students to step into the world of real biomedical science and discover how their everyday choices can shape their long-term health.

The day began with a hands-on practical session in which students extracted DNA from their own cheek cells. This activity introduced them to fundamental genetics and allowed them to see first-hand the biological material that makes each of us unique. Students then took part in a series of health and fitness measurements, helping them understand how lifestyle factors influence the body and how scientists gather data to study human wellbeing.

A highlight for many was meeting working scientists from the University of Southampton. Students were able to hear about their career journeys, explore the wide range of roles, and ask questions about the realities of scientific work.

The afternoon focused on epigenetics — the fascinating study of how behaviours and environment can affect the way gene's function. With this new understanding, students were encouraged to reflect on their own habits and create a personal "health pledge" for their future.





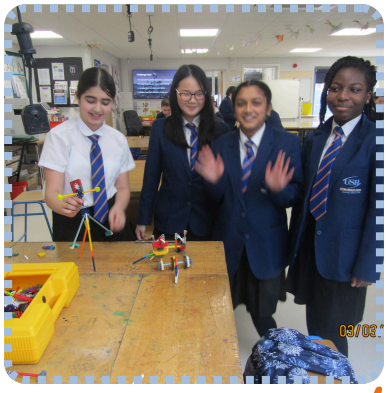
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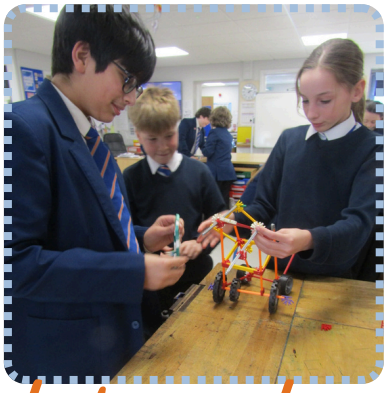
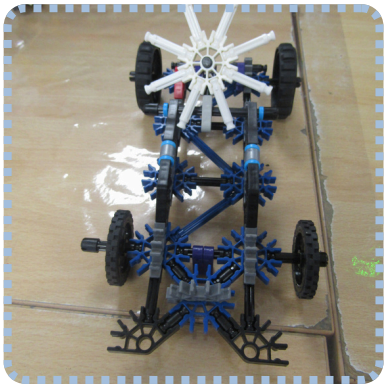
Celebrating Mars Day 2026!

We had an out-of-this-world time taking part in this year's Mars Day, and our students rose to the challenge brilliantly.

Our Design & Technology department worked with groups of students to design and build their very own model Mars Rovers — complete with creative engineering solutions and plenty of imagination. It was fantastic to see their curiosity and teamwork shine as they explored what it takes to engineer for another planet.

A huge well done to everyone involved. Moments like these remind us how powerful hands-on learning can be and how inspiring our young innovators truly are.



Feel Good Friday

Year 11 Students Lead Inspiring Mental Health and Wellbeing Event at USH

Year 11 students Amy and Ruby organised a fantastic mental health and wellbeing event this week, aiming to support and uplift the students of USH. Their thoughtful planning and dedication resulted in a meaningful and engaging experience for everyone who took part.

The event brought together a range of activities and expert speakers, offering students practical advice, coping strategies, and a safe space to learn more about mental health. Amy and Ruby's passion for supporting their peers was clear throughout, and their hard work made the event both informative and enjoyable.

A huge thank-you goes to the student leaders who helped make the day run smoothly, as well as the external agencies who generously gave their time to speak with our students.



What's been happening in.. MFL

We loved celebrating our year 9 students' fantastic achievements in French and Spanish with a special cake party at lunch! Their hard work and enthusiasm truly deserved a sweet reward — and judging by the fact that not a single slice was left by the end, it's safe to say the celebration was a huge success. Bravo and ¡bien hecho! to all our brilliant linguists!





Music



Year 11

I couldn't be prouder of Year 11 this term. They've tackled their PPE mocks with real determination and thrown themselves into revision both in lessons and at home. I know it will set them up for success for their final term at USH.

To celebrate all that hard work, we rounded off the term with a fantastic trip to Thorpe Park. It was wonderful to spend the day thrill seeking and end on a real high with the year group.
Miss Clay

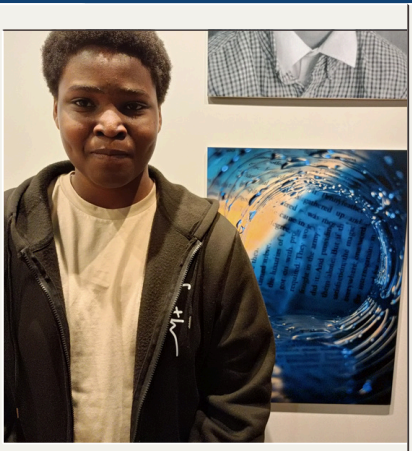
What's been happening in..

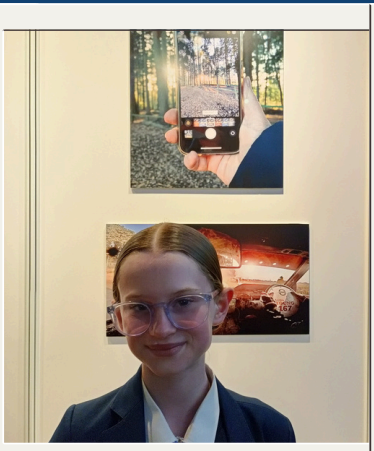
Photography

Interschool Photography competition

Congratulations to the staff and students who were in the finalist's exhibition and awards evening at Ringwood School. We are immensely proud of their stunning photographs. All received 'Highly Commended' in their age category. With over 800 entries this is an amazing achievement.









Design Technology

The Year 10 Design and Technology students designed and constructed sustainable products for the Design Museum's Design Ventura project last term. Working in groups of four, the students had to design a product that could be sold in the Design Museum's shop for under £15, which reflected their target audience feedback, was sustainable and responded to the theme of 'Change'. This project encouraged students to work collaboratively in teams, apply their design and technology knowledge, and develop their problem-solving skills.

To celebrate their fabulous work the students presented their products to a panel of judges, including Mr Sykes and a guest from the University of Southampton. 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes were awarded for the most successful products. In first place was Doodle to Dominate, a game where participants have to work as team to draw an object while the other players try to guess. Second place was awarded to the Memphis Phone stand, which was multifunctional and was inspired by the work of the Memphis Design Movement. In third place was Wren House a build your own flat-pack bird house. Huge congratulations to our exceptionally creative students, their dedication, imagination and consistent hard work.

Our Year 7 and 8 students have been learning about Yinka Ilori a British-Nigerian artist who takes inspiration from his Nigerian heritage to design a range of products from sculptural installations and interior design to textiles and furniture. The students then designed their own chairs, reflecting their own heritage.

Year 8 students also completed their colourful Memphis style clocks this term and Year 7 completed their animal themed hand held torches.

Important Notices

We are
Hiring
Join our team

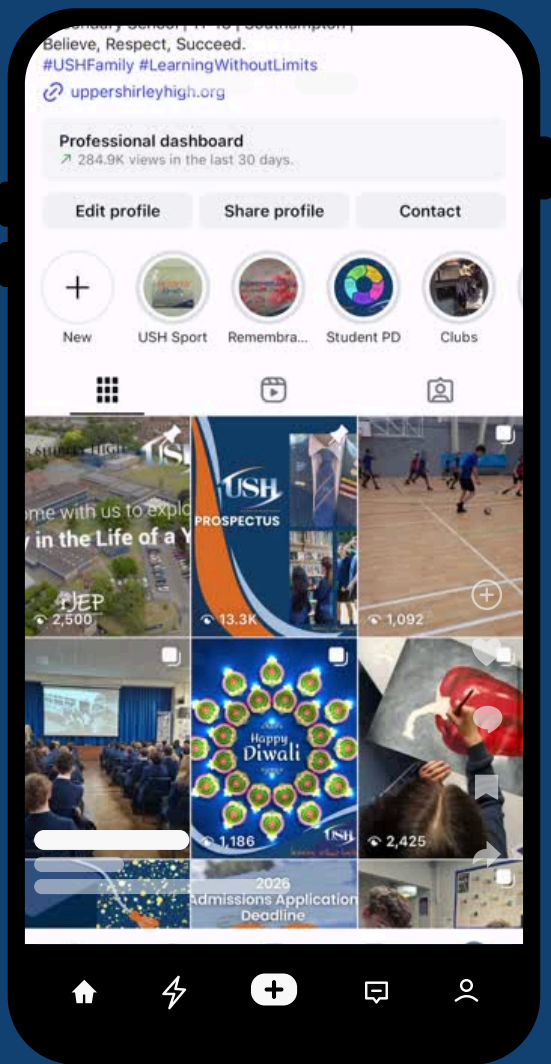
- Head of Year
- HLTA
- HLTA (Maths Department)
- Cover Supervisor
- Caretaker

APPLY NOW VIA OUR WEBSITE

www.uppershirleyhigh.org/staff-vacancies
Recruitment@ushschool.org
02380 522687



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

EASTER ON THE GREEN

2026

Saturday 28th March - 2pm to 3:30pm

Family fun for the whole community with free Easter activities, garden games and refreshments.

COLEBROOK GREEN, SHIRLEY SO15 5NR

Hampshire SENDIASS Online Workshops

- Free impartial advice relating to SEND for 0-25 years.
- Confidential sessions not recorded.
- Peer support, talking to others experiencing a similar journey.
- A dedicated session with an experienced support worker

2 APR 10:00	Responding to a draft EHCP If you are in that critical time frame having received your draft	**7 APR 13:00**	Considering an EHC Plan? Independent and impartial information to guide you through the process
9 APR 16:00	Alternative Provision What constitutes as a suitable education in relation to section 19 of the education act	**14 APR 13:00**	Ordinarily Available Provision and SEN Support Looking at support available for those who do not have an EHCP
15 APR 12:00	Responding to a draft EHCP If you are in that critical time frame having received your draft	**18 APR 13:00**	Appeals to SEND Tribunal A step-by-step guide through the appeals process

www.hampshiresendiass.co.uk/workshops

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TIMES: 10AM TO 1PM OR 1PM TO 4PM (LUNCH PROVIDED)

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