



#USFproud
Student Newsletter
#USFproud to present our newsletter in collaboration with the USF Journalism Team

Spring 1
2023

Welcome from Mrs Wallace-Northridge

The spring half term may have only been six weeks long, but it's been a busy one for all our USF students.

We started the year with saying goodbye and good luck to Mrs Cornick from the USF admin team who has gone off to new adventures at Bournemouth University. Mrs Cornick had worked with the sixth form for nearly 10 years and is looking forward to welcoming USF students to Bournemouth Uni for years to come.



We have appointed a new Pastoral Lead, Mrs. Green and one of our year 12 journalists has put her in the spotlight for an interview so we can get to know her better.

Year 13 have been hard at work finalising their applications to Universities across the country with offers continuing to pour in. They are now preparing for their second mock session when we return after half term.

And finally, applications for the Class of 2025 closed on the 31st January. Mr Coe and I will be interviewing the applicants throughout February and you can read more about the exciting opportunities at USF for next year in his article at the end of the newsletter. If you have any questions about joining the USF for A-Levels in September, please do get in contact with us via email at office@unitedsixthform.org.uk

Introducing our new Pastoral Lead



As many of you are aware, the end of the Autumn term meant saying goodbye to some much beloved members of staff. For our Sixth Formers, this was a particularly difficult time, as they gave their best wishes

to their Head of Sixth Form, Ms. Little, who will be dearly missed. In her absence, they were briefly left without a pastoral lead, but the wait is finally over... We are pleased to announce that our new Head of United Sixth Form is Mrs Green!

After spending ten years at Glenmoor and Winton, followed by three years at Avonbourne with the Year 10s and 11s, Mrs Green wanted to know more about the Sixth Form, as we are all "part of the same team". Her transition from a behavioural management role to a pastoral role was fuelled by her belief that pastoral care is a "heart job", as she wanted to make a difference and be a part of the progression of our Sixth Form. The internal application process was followed by an interview on Friday the 13th. Very spooky! Despite her post-interview nerves, Mrs Green was offered the job shortly afterwards, which she gladly accepted.

Her current plans for the future of United Sixth Form are to incorporate softer life skills into the students' arsenal, through an extracurricular programme that targets areas specifically desired by the attendees, such as learning how to set up a bank account, acquire a provisional license, and even wash laundry! Mrs Green strongly hopes for United Sixth Form to be her permanent career settlement and is very excited to assist our Sixth Formers with their development into young adulthood.

If you would like to chat with Mrs Green, her timetable can be viewed on her office door, in the lower Sixth Form block (beside 6:2). She would like to encourage all Sixth Form students to speak with her about any pastoral concerns you may have or if you simply want someone to talk to about your day.

Introducing our Teacher Editor: Mrs Davie



After the departure of Mrs Cornick at the end the term, the #USFproud team would like to introduce our new editor, Mrs Davie, who will be overseeing the production of the newsletter for the foreseeable future. We are delighted to welcome the latest member of our team, who will be sure to benefit our efforts with her dedication and expertise. Mrs Davie, a teacher of English Language at A-Level, has worked with our Sixth Form for three years, and has expressed that she feels “very excited to be working with such a lovely group of people”. Thanks, Mrs Davie!

Following this change in management, there may be a few adjustments made to the formatting of the newsletter, which we hope will further engage you with our articles. Look out for subject overviews to help with your decision of which A-Levels to study; quick facts about history; and competitions, where the winning entrants may be featured in the following edition. The team is very excited to introduce these new features, so we hope that you are looking forward to receiving them!

USF Students Spotted in the Wild



M. Brown

On the 14th of December, the top Year 12 students on the REACH leader board were rewarded with an exciting trip to the historic city of Bath, where they had the opportunity to complete some Christmas shopping and watch a pantomime of Aladdin in the theatre. They were sure to capture lots of photos with the stunning Christmas decorations, as they explored the city and grabbed a bite to eat. They especially loved the beautiful lights and the hilarious panto, and no student could resist singing along to the radio on the drive home in the snow! We'd like to thank the staff for providing us with this memorable experience and for accompanying us on the trip.



What a Journey! Studying A-Level Geography



A. Carding & J. Klyen

This year in A-Level Geography at USF, we suffered a rocky start (see what we did there), beginning with just two students, with one deciding not to continue their study of the course. Thankfully, another student joined the class, to pick up where she left off. After a dedicated period of catching up, she can now easily explain the process of longshore drift - thank Miss Seymour for that! With one of them receiving an A and the other not far behind at GCSE level, they have continued the exploration of their passion for Geography, facilitated by help from the USF staff. On the other side of the subject, the students study Human Geography, where they are currently being taught about diverse places. We had the opportunity to interview one of their teachers, Ms Hipsey, who recalled her favourite statistic: ‘Cornwall has 60 different cheeses’ - what an inspiration! Year 12 student, Licia, stated that her favourite part of Physical Geography was learning about volcanoes, particularly the interesting workings of the magma chamber. Jordan, another student in Year 12, shared that his favourite part of Human Geography was learning more about the local area and how it is becoming increasingly diverse. Overall, both students are thriving in their Geography lessons so far and are looking forward to another year of learning. Let's hope none of them drop out!



History over the Holidays

17th December 1903 - The first aeroplane flies

22nd December 1956 – The first gorilla is bred in captivity

23rd December 1888 – Artist Vincent van Gogh chops off his own ear

9th January 1493 – Christopher Columbus mistakes manatees for mermaids



Busy as Bees



Now led by Mrs Donnelly, our Eco-Committee have decided to focus their efforts on increasing the variety of wildlife found at the Academies. They are set to conduct research on sustainable companies, who will donate products for their

'Bug Hotels'. The students will also use 'bee bombs' to plant seeds around the outskirts of the field, which will grow into beautiful wildflowers to attract bees. They may even build beehives with the assistance of our site team! The Eco-Committee hopes that these improvements will increase our biodiversity, and further show that we are an environmentally-friendly school.



On Thursday 9th February, the group spent their lunchtime on the field, as they took part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch and sent their findings to the charity. Every year, the RSPB asks people to spend just an hour counting the wild visitors to your garden or local park to help give the charity a snapshot of how our wildlife is faring. Do take part next year...



[Big Garden Birdwatch | The RSPB](#)



In other news, as you may have noticed, our canteens are now offering *Meat-Free Mondays* to help reduce our carbon footprint and encourage healthier eating within the Academies.

If you have any suggestions for how we can help the environment, or would like to be a part of this force for change, we would love for you to join the Eco-Committee by attending weekly meetings each Thursday.

Competition Time!

As journalists, we are tasked with writing articles on key events that have occurred within our school community, or around the world. Sometimes, we lack the information we require in order to produce a detailed and entertaining piece. This means that we need to do a little digging.

So, for our first competition of 2023, we are challenging you to conduct your own research on a topic of your choice, surrounding the transition from Winter to Spring. You may present your findings in whichever format you decide, so please be creative and have fun! All entries must be submitted by 5th March, before midnight, when we will select the winner(s) to be featured in our next edition.

Topic Examples:

- Plants growing
- Warmer weather
- Fun activities
- Animals emerging from hibernation
- Reactions towards the changing seasons
- The influence of Spring on art



Format Examples:

- Poster
- Article
- Artwork
- PowerPoint presentation
- Speech/Song

Feel free to use these examples as a starting point for your work if you would like, however, do not let them constrict your creative flow.

Please email your final projects to Mrs Davie at alison.davie@avonbourneacademy.org.uk or hand in any physical work to Mrs Wallace-Northridge's office (in the upper Sixth Form block, between 6:5 and 6:6).

If you have any queries about the competition, please also email Mrs Davie on the above email address.

Please note, photo permission must have been granted for photo/video submissions to be considered.

Good luck!



Student Editor: Ellie Wright



Each edition of #USFProud is produced by our journalism team, with a different person taking responsibility for the final edition each half term. Spring 1 has been overseen by the delightful Ellie who has managed her team with

diplomacy, tact blended with a little bit of love and nurture. Thanks Ellie!

Message from Mr. Coe – Recruitment sours at USF

We are incredibly pleased to report that interest and applications to United Sixth form for September 2023 have soared and are far higher than previous years. As a team we are thrilled about the prospect of increased numbers for next year of



both internal and external candidates. On application deadline day we had 136 applications, a 100 % increase on last year which is testament to the hard work of USF and GW staff who have spread the message of how USF is THE place for students to achieve both academically and in terms of personal growth.

Currently, we have 81 internal applications and 55 external applications; most of these are students currently attending our cluster partners Glenmoor and Winton Academies, but also include applications from local schools, national and even international schools. It has always been my aim to showcase the brilliant provision for the local community here at USF and these numbers suggest that students and parents are sitting up and taking notice!

I believe that many strategic decisions made by the USF team with support from leadership in United Learning have helped us with our recruitment drive. Initiatives such as 'Dress-down Friday' and '4MeTime' have allowed USF students a greater degree of personal freedom which they have enjoyed alongside the high standards set by the academies and USF.

Students have taken advantage of this 'me' time to "book in driving lessons", "partake in extra football training", "enjoy some fresh air", or just "have some well earned 'downtime'" which we recognise as important in students becoming better self-managers and having a successful work-life balance. The fantastic enrichment opportunities such as mentoring Avonwood students, life skills and physical activity only help to ensure USF students receive a fantastic package during their time with us.

From speaking to prospective applicants and by looking at the provisional data, the decisions made regarding entry criteria and extending our curriculum offer has also been met positively. For example, the interest in Product Design, Engineering, Politics and Dance are really positive and we can't wait to see students studying these next year! The incredible efforts by Avonbourne teachers (not to mention the leadership teams at Avonbourne and Glenmoor and Winton) to facilitate taster sessions in every single subject being offered has been incredibly well received by students as they realise just what great teachers USF have and why walking away from this might not be such a great idea! The incredible academic results last year only serve to confirm the observations I have seen at my time here – great teaching, great students, equals great outcomes.

Further Info

If you have any further questions regarding study at USF, please email the USF team at: office@unitedsixthform.org.uk