



UPPINGHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

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Introduction

I am delighted to introduce this celebration of 100 years of Uppingham Community College. The college opened its doors as "Uppingham Central School" on 15th November 1920 using just two huts from the Prisoner of War camp which were too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter. With just 35 children on the roll, the formal opening took place on 21st February 1921 and the children were all taught by the Headmaster, Mr GW Farmer assisted by peripatetic teachers in woodwork, gardening and domestic science. (Grantham Journal 25 March 1922).

Now, a century later, we have an extensive campus, 900 students, a broad curriculum, a strong reputation for personal development and Respect, Honesty and Kindness as our core values.

Our local community have always been very supportive of the college, never more so than following the recent fire, which made it all the more disappointing that, due to coronavirus, it has not been possible to involve the community in our celebrations this year, but the college is very grateful to all those individuals and organisations that offered help in 2020.

Over the 100 years we have been lucky to have had just 10 Head Teachers - it seems that our Heads like to stay at the college and are in no hurry to move on. Our last five Heads, spanning almost 50 years, have been pleased to contribute to this publication with their recollections of the college and I hope you enjoy reading them.

A common theme across them all is a pride in UCC, most notably about the culture of the college and its strong reputation. This has been built up and maintained over the 100 years of its existence but it is clear that this has been achieved as a result of having amazing and dedicated staff, a highly skilled and hard-working senior leadership team and a strong governing body and I would like to thank them all for their dedication to supporting "Team UCC". Of course our students play the largest part in UCC - their success is our success.

Thank you all.

Geoff Thompson
Chair of Governors
2012-2020

1972-1987: Mr Dennis Whight

1972 presented me with the challenge of a lifetime. After almost twenty years in teaching I was chosen to lead the smallest secondary school in England's smallest county into an educational establishment based on the comprehensive ideal. Rutland, with two public schools in its area, already had the south Rutland community educationally orientated and it was my task to gain the full support of parents, the Authority and the community at large. By the time I retired in 1988 I hope that the growth from low two hundred to over 500 had produced student results that were commendable and that the College had established its reputation in the community. That seems to have been the conclusion of the 1987 HMI Inspection Report in which they found much to praise, particularly in positive educational attitudes and relationships between staff, pupils and the local community.

There were special moments in those 16 years:-

1. The fund raising which brought about the purchase of a brand new College minibus and the building of a four badminton court Sports Hall. In the 1977 building development programme the College was to have a replacement gymnasium. It was decided at College level that this would not satisfy our needs as a growing comprehensive community College. I led a small working party to a meeting with the East Midlands Regional Sports Council at Nottingham in March 1978. At the end of all the discussion I was asked what sum the College was prepared to commit to the project. I volunteered to raise £10,000 and the LEA, the District Council and the Regional Sports Council responded generously to my commitment. A Sports Hall costing £145,000 replaced the original £70,000 gymnasium. Parental and community support was excellent, and we actually raised £11,700 in two years and had surplus money to purchase equipment. In 1986 Peter Barton, Deputy Head, brought the World Chess Champion Gary Kasparov to play a Simul against 20 members of the England Junior Squad plus Alex Crombie – a local solicitor and Braille National Chess Champion. We achieved National Coverage.
2. Another outstanding achievement was the growth of music under the leadership of music teacher Barry Collett. The creation of a College choir of 31 sopranos and altos, 13 tenors and basses brought staff and students together and two record albums were recorded. Following a Concert in Uppingham by The Dartington String Quartet, Barry was invited to Dartington as a pianist to train with them for another Uppingham Concert.
3. The College forged links with 2 overseas schools in the growth years - the Dom Bosco School in Haacht Belgium through Tony Wilks, Head of Physical Education, which brought an annual football exchange and a twinning along with the community with Caudebec en Caux in Normandy, France. My wife, Gloria, and I still correspond with our hosts from that first visit.
4. Finally, I must mention the significant growth of the College as a resource for the community and further afield, There were numerous Conferences held there in the 1980's, there were 60 affiliated groups, and many visitors from Leicestershire and nearby Counties came to see the College at work, as did parties of adult educators from Zambia, Israel and America as part of their study tours with the British Council. The Regional Director of that organisation wrote in May 1987 concerning the visit by adult educators from Israel – they were thrilled with their reception at Uppingham – it will be remembered as the highlight of their tour.

All the staff originally appointed by me gave me valued support, very few left over the first ten years except for promotions, and subsequent appointees quickly entered into the general ethos of the College. I thoroughly enjoyed my tenure of office.

Mr D Whight.

1987-2000: Dr Peter MacDonald-Pearce

When I was asked by the Principal to contribute to the Centenary Celebrations of Uppingham Community College (1920 -2020), I was delighted to have the opportunity to recall the twelve years there which, in a career spanning almost forty years, were the most memorable. There were two reasons why I was attracted to the College. First, it had a very good local reputation and second, it was a community college.

Thus, I succeeded Dennis Wight who was retiring with a formidable reputation in Leicestershire and I began my tenure as Principal of Uppingham Community College in September 1988.

The College was rather small by secondary school standards with only 480 students but it had a generous staff allocation with three vice principals two to focus on the 11-16 element of the college and one who was responsible with the youth tutor for the community developments of which more later.

I was impressed with the general enthusiasm and dedication to the College of most of the staff and the students too were mainly good natured and well behaved. This general view was reflected in an HMI report of the year previous to my arrival (1987) which arrived on my desk some two months after I was appointed. The report was hailed in the local press with the headline COLLEGE GETS TOP MARKS IN SCHOOL REPORT. That set a challenge for me – I had to ensure that these standards would continue to be maintained or improved upon!

Although the inspectors commented that the facilities were adequate, I felt that some of the older areas, many dating back to the 1920s, were in need of refurbishment. I also felt that the number of students needed to increase especially as the new funding formula (LMS) was based on actual student numbers and this would threaten the more generous staff / student ratio that the College had enjoyed for many years.

We managed to gain some funding from Leicestershire to refurbish the Science laboratories and the toilets. Later the dining hall, which was the original main hall of the Uppingham Central School, was refurbished but as the stage at the end of the hall was removed asbestos was discovered so that had to be dealt with. We also received £15,000 from the Government as one of 12 schools in the country to evaluate the use of technology which later led to us receiving full Technology College status with the accompanying funding later in 1995.

After I was in post for about two years, I was able to appoint two new Vice Principals. Margaret Jennings had decided to retire after a long commitment to the College and Peter Barton achieved a well-deserved headship. The new Vice Principals Peter Laxton and Lynne Wells arrived at just the right time in the College's development. Peter took oversight of the curriculum and timetabling and Lynne took broad control of the pastoral organisation in the College. In a short time, they both developed excellent relationships with staff and students. I could not have wished to have two better colleagues at this stage and together we made an impressive and powerful senior team,

The Senior Management Team (SMT) made up of the Heads of Departments and the Vice Principals and myself set about reviewing the College values and aims and objectives. This resulted in a clear College Development plan which in turn gave all our aspirations a real sense of direction.

The review concluded that the school day was not appropriate because there were just four long periods and a very long lunch break with a finish at 4pm. In September 1990 we changed the school day from a four to a five period day and registration and assembly changed from 9am to 8.35am. The lunch break was reduced by ½ half an hour from 1¼ hours to ¾ of an hour and the end of the school day changed from 4pm to 3.10 pm. This allowed us to develop a programme of activities involving all staff and students on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. As it was added to the five period day it was called Session Six. The range of activities the staff offered was enormous - such as most sports including for the first time golf, musical

groups and tuition, art subjects of various types, drama, gardening and the more unusual activities such as tea tasting and the art of pizza making! I was delighted when the transport authority in Leicester agreed to give us extra buses for the Session Six programme in addition to the regular buses! An OFSTED inspection commented very favourably on this initiative.

Another initiative was the monthly Success Assembly where the whole school assembled in the Sports Hall and witnessed the success of students in every imaginable in- school and out -of -school activity. I recall with pride a large contingent of students at the front of the Sports Hall in musical groups from string quartets through deafening rock bands to the complete school orchestra, whole sports teams, a lone Year 7 girl who had won an international award for junior sailing, students who arrived at the school in Year 7 barely able to read receiving awards for their incredible progress and Aileen Wilson (13) who had won the junior girls' high jump with 1.72m at the TSB All-England Schools Athletics Championships. Quite a set of achievements and successes! In their report the OFSTED inspectors commended the whole-school recognition of students' progress, achievements and success.

Paul Jackson was the Community Vice Principal and ran an impressive programme of courses both during the day and also at night for adults, mainly women, to acquire new skills. There were Word Processing classes from basic to advanced as well as Book Keeping and learning a Foreign Language. I joined the basic Word Processing class in the evening and was very proud to go up to Janet Pink the organiser to receive my certificate on the Community Presentation Evening. Another impressive development that Paul with others organised was **Women's Day** where women could come to the Community Lounge to follow hobby interests or simply meet others. The little kitchen in the Lounge came into its own as copious cups of coffee or tea were made there and the occasional meal! There was a crèche available for those with young children but a little later we did manage to get funding for a full- time nursery called Upstarts which helped young parents enormously.

Adrian Haigh ran the Youth Centre which had been purpose- built for the young people in Uppingham. He developed a programme of activities for the young attendees but also offered counselling services to those who requested them. He also founded and organised the Cellar Coffee Bar in the town centre where young people could socialise in the evenings.

By 1992 there were only 550 students and I had it on good authority that there had been discussions at County Hall concerning the future of Uppingham Community College and the possibility of having one community college in Oakham to serve the Uppingham and Oakham areas. To ensure a future for the College and improve the student numbers, a new Government initiative called Grant Maintained Status (GMS) might offer a way forward for the College. I was determined to avoid any threat of closure because I knew how good this school could be. So I began to look into the advantages of GM status. I put the idea to the Governors and the majority agreed to explore the possibility. When all the facts of the scheme were assembled and digested the Governors and I were in favour of going ahead but many of the teaching staff were not although the final decision would rest with the parents. There were very many meetings and copious letters to the press for and against the proposal. Joanne Beaver Chair of Governors and Paul Bower Chair of the Finance Committee put forward powerful arguments for GMS both in the press and to the staff and parents but there were many equally strong counter arguments. The whole issue was complicated by the fact that Rutland County Council at the same time was putting forward an application to become a Unitary Authority and therefore achieve some independence from Leicestershire. It was now a possibility that responsibility for Education would transfer to Rutland County Council and that raised a good many questions for the Governors and me.

The Electoral Society conducted the ballot among the parents and, seemingly against the odds, the vote went in favour of Grant Maintained Status 52% to 48%. The College would become independent of Leicestershire in April 1993 and run its own affairs from that time onwards.

The aftermath of that vote proved a difficult time for everyone and many bridges had to be built not least in the staffroom. To be fair to the teaching staff who were against the move to GM status, they were very professional and accepted the decision that the parents had taken. Everyone worked together to make the new status a success.

And it was a success. We received an annual budget of £2,000,000 to cover staffing costs and the general running of the College. We also received a budget of almost £500,000 to improve our buildings and grounds. This was quite a contrast to the education budget of £36,000 we received the year before!

Within a short time architects were employed to plan a whole new range of classrooms, a new administration block and to link up the various sections of the College. More resources were made available to all Departments and a planned cut in staffing was reversed.

We also bought the fields next to the College from a local farmer so that we could expand the playing fields to the limit they are today. It was a very exciting time.

The students needed leadership among their own and we decided to appoint a Head Girl and Head Boy and set up student councils to consider issues to be raised with the senior staff. A new tie was commissioned to match the dark blue uniform and the prefects had their own special distinctive tie.

In the first phase of the building development, the architects had created an exhibition space at the confluence of various corridors. Here artefacts and art from the DT Department were displayed as well as all the sporting trophies in their brand new cases. The area was also stylishly carpeted. I recall taking a visitor through that area and saw the look of amazement on her face accompanied by the comment that it could easily be the lobby of a five star hotel!

I felt that it was important to communicate regularly with staff and students. So every Friday *THE WEEKLY BULLETIN Information for teachers, support staff and governors of Uppingham Community College* arrived in pigeon holes and sent to governors. By June 2000 we had reached Volume 8 issue no 33. For example, on the front page of the A4 sheet of the June the 9th Bulletin was information about half term, the Development Plan, Movement around the College, New Parents and the Budget for 2000-2001. On the back page were details of what would be happening the following week. Thus on Monday 12th June: *Tech/RE/Drama / SOMAS meetings 3pm; TAF SEN meeting Leicester; Y10 DT trip to Loughborough; SB Teacher Award Nottingham; IS Librarian's meeting Rothley; Year Council meetings this week*. This level of detail kept everyone informed from week to week. The other important vehicles for communication to staff and students were through the daily morning staff briefings and the regular assemblies. The College parents too received regular newsletters and a yearly summary of examination results in both the GCSE examinations and Standard Assessment Tasks.

We developed a good working relationship with Leicestershire despite the split and the community funding continued so that our work in the community could continue. We also bought back some of the services such as In-Service Training (INSET).

In 1995 the College received Technology College status together with a budget of £100,000. In order to achieve this sum we had to raise £100,000 ourselves which the staff, parents and governors did within a year. One governor Dr Reid wrote over two hundred letters to firms all over the country asking for sponsorship. Tim Smith, Lynn Stewart from the Design Technology Department and I set off to visit various firms to convince them that we were a worthy cause. At one firm we visited, LJ Electronics, the Managing

Director greeted us with “ If I want to give to a charity it will be Mother Theresa so what do we get out of sponsoring you?” We did convince him and received a substantial contribution in cash and equipment towards our target. The company in turn had the LJ Technology Laboratory named after it with the latest IT equipment to provide opportunities to study robotics, automation, construction, electronics, aerodynamics and space technology! It was also set up as a showpiece for the LJ projects that other schools could acquire.

The status of Technology College was a marvellous present to celebrate the College’s 75th anniversary having been founded in 1920. We had much to celebrate. We held a big assembly in the Sportshall and two of our guests were Mrs Doris Feltham and Mrs Flossie Shelton who were two of the original students in the then Uppingham Central School. They joined our youngest student Kerry Reagan in cutting a giant birthday cake complete with 75 candles!

The College was by now attracting more students from out of the catchment area and by 1996 student numbers were around 650. An OFSTED inspection in 1996 summarised our College: STUDENTS AT UPPINGHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENJOY A VERY GOOD EDUCATION AND REACH STANDARDS WELL ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

Another initiative praised by OFSTED was to target those bright students who were recognised as Students of Marked Aptitude (SOMAS). A teacher was designated to offer these students opportunities to match their abilities. For instance, they learned Latin to GCSE level including the member of staff and of course achieved the top grades. They also became involved in archaeology and problem solving at very high levels. Often their activities took place over weekends with visits to the theatre and museums.

By 1997 the student population had grown to 750 with parent-organised buses coming from all corners of Rutland and beyond. The total refurbishment of the Design and Technology areas had brought them all up to the latest standards with curricula to match. As a growing Technology College we were up with the best and our results were improving every year which put us into the top ten per cent of state schools in the country. A small group of our parents were so pleased with the College that they contacted the “Good Schools’ Guide” and after an inspection we were given an entry in the Guide in each of the following years.

The numbers of students continued to increase to the point that we became oversubscribed. A system for appealing the decision not to admit particular students was set up and the appeals were held in a local hotel in Uppingham. Looking back on the time when we had relatively small numbers of students, I always felt a real pang of sorrow as we had to turn away keen parents who wanted their children to come to Uppingham Community College.

1997 was another momentous year when Rutland became a Unitary Authority with considerable independence from Leicestershire. Responsibility for schools moved overnight from Glenfield to Oakham. At the same time Tony Blair formed a Labour Government which now threatened the Grant Maintained sector. By now the other Rutland Community Colleges Vale of Catmose and Casterton had also become GM so it was comparatively easy to continue our cooperation and also establish very good relations with the new Director of Education in Rutland.

Any secondary school relies on good contributory primary schools and UCC did have such schools. . We had a sound working relationship with all the primary schools both inside and outside the catchment area. It was always a particular delight to visit the more rural schools often in some of the most beautiful countryside of Rutland and Leicestershire. Lynne Wells was particularly effective in liaising with the rising number of contributory schools. She always organised familiarity days at the College to remove some of the fears of transfer among the young prospective students coming to “big school” for the first time. They were always fun days and many of the primary staff joined in with the games and practice lessons.

At the other end of our students' educational journeys was post 16 provision mainly by the Rutland Sixth Form College which had been an educational establishment in various guises since the 1930s. Most of our students went to this College to study for A levels and other courses. It had a good reputation and was generally popular. It was with some alarm that we heard that Tresham College from Corby wanted to take over the College. The two principals at Casterton, Vale of Catmose and I went in person to Rutland County Council and begged the Leader and Councillors to keep the Sixth Form College in Rutland. But our pleas fell on deaf ears and the take-over proceeded. Unsurprisingly, Tresham decided after a short time that the Sixth Form College was not viable and closed it down retaining however the land! That land worth several millions is now occupied by the supermarket Lidl! This action brought about major disruptions in post 16 education but I shall leave others to tell that story.

To celebrate the achievements of the College's departing students an annual Presentation Evening was held. I really enjoyed those occasions enhanced by the appearance of a special guest of honour. The girls appeared in smart dresses or trouser suits while the boys wore everything from suits to smart casual clothes. It was a joy for me to hear their good results and successes read out to the proud students and their parents by Lynne Wells and Peter Laxton. They all seemed to have grown between July when they left and November as they came up to the rostrum to receive their certificates and cups and medals. Sue Ball with her assembled band of musicians played at the beginning, middle and end of the ceremony and I was always pleased when she invited me to play my bass with the orchestra. Icing on a wonderful cake so to speak!

By the year 2000, Uppingham Community College was still performing well above average in the GCSE and had state of the art facilities as a technology College. The number of students had now risen to a capacity at that time of 800.

While much of what I have written so far is to do with the physical and educational development of the College and the ways in which the independence factor led to initiatives and improvements which in turn attracted parents to the College, my reflections now take me to those aspects of the College which were central to the success of UCC: the teaching staff, the support staff, the community staff, the governors, the parents and above all the students.

The Design and Technology Department under the leadership of Lynn Stewart was second to none and they did get the facilities their talents deserved. My enduring memory is going to the Department each year to see the latest GCSE Art and Design Exhibition and I always marvelled at the skills and imagination our students had and those of the teachers who inspired them. Their work was recognised nationally and the Department received the ARTSMARK Award.

The Modern Languages Department under Sue Hodges was innovative in so many ways including exchanges with Germany and France. One of my fond memories is accompanying Irma Roberts the German teacher to the Bremen Youth Hostel to meet up with students from the Cooperativa Schüle there. In the hostel Irma carried out rigorous room inspections in the morning and as well as socialising with the staff and students we went to the Eduscho factory to sample their excellent coffees and the Ratskeller for wine tasting! One day Irma and I were given a tour of the school and as we went into the staffroom I noticed staff working or talking on hard wooden chairs in the main part of the room. In the corner of the staffroom however a small room was with an enormous glass window looking into the staffroom and one could see the teachers there relaxing in easy chairs. I asked the Principal what was the function of the small room and she replied that the room was for the smokers on the staff and they were given more comfortable chairs because they would not be around as long as the non-smokers! I suspect that she was joking. Or was she?

The College also had a sporting exchange each year with the Don Bosco College in Belgium. This exchange which was largely organised by Tony Wilks and included parents and others devised an impressive

programme of sports and socialising on quite a grand scale. The amazing thing was when I left in 2000 the exchange had reached its 28th year! This must be a record for any school.

For all the international work of the College I was proud when we received the INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS AWARD.

For a school to have a Physical Education Department that offered to both boys and girls GCSE Physical Education with A* - C grades at over 80%. They also offered team games of football, rugby, cricket, athletics, netball, rounders, tennis, badminton and also competed against other schools at most of these sports. This was an outstanding achievement and Gill Cartwright and Tony Wilks made this happen.

English, Mathematics and Science Departments under Cathy Wilkins, David Short and Andrew Burns respectively all produced outstanding results at GCSE. David also served as Examinations Officer. Andy and the Science staff also developed an impressive natural garden outside the Science Labs and this was much valued by the students. The extra resources all Heads of Departments were now receiving helped to raise their results year after year. I recall that a year or so after GMS, a Radio Leicester reporter complete with tape recorder asked to visit the College to find out how Grant Maintained status had changed the College. As I took him around the College and proudly showed him all the developments and plans for the future, I saw Cathy Wilkins Head of English marking books in her empty classroom. The reporter asked her how GMS had changed for her English Department. She stood up and beckoned him to follow her into the resources room at the back and said: "Come into my Aladdin's Cave" and there the reporter saw shelf after shelf of brand new Shakespeare texts, new sets of novels and many other books and resources which had replaced all the dog-eared textbooks that had lain there for years.

The Drama Studio was a magical place loved by the students. I enjoyed taking visitors there because there was always something different and spectacular going on. Jannet Wignell the Head of Drama, who sadly passed away recently, was a bundle of energy providing opportunities for the students to reach the highest level. In addition to the very successful GCSE Drama course, Jannet produced memorable plays and other productions and not least an opportunity for her devoted students to perform at the Edinburgh Festival. We were also able to transform the Drama Studio into a small theatre with recently acquired portable raked seating.

The Music Department under Sue Ball flourished with a large number of students learning instruments but also playing in wind bands, string ensembles, recorder groups and several rock bands. All these players were seen regularly in the Success Assemblies in the Sports Hall. One of the initiatives devised by Sue was the formation of the Rock School where tutors were brought in to help all those young people who wanted to play rock music. One of the attractions of the Rock School for me was that it gainfully engaged many of those students who with time on their hands may have been less productive! As a result of her dedication and hard work Sue was recommended for and went on to win the regional final of the Teaching Awards in 1999

The Humanities Department under George Paul continued to produce excellent results year on year. The field work the geographers produced was always of a high quality. The department's domain was at the top of the three storey block and we were able to have a lift installed to aid any disabled student or guest and occasionally an aging College Principal to reach those dizzy heights!

Just below the Humanities Department was the Library and the major Computer Suites. This area was given the title LIBRIS which meant Library, Resources and Information Systems. Claire Brown transformed this area into a comfortable study zone. Christine Wise, later to become Dr Christine Wise of the Open University, was responsible for developing computer studies and research and this area with the Design Technology Department became the throbbing heart of our technology developments. We had also recruited Steven Peverett as a fulltime IT Technician to support our work in this area. An important member of this team, who

started his teaching career just as I joined the College, was Matthew Knight who succeeded Christine as Head of ICT. Matthew was particularly instrumental in switching us all on to a different level of understanding about the role of Information Technology.

An interesting technological development took place in 1999 when Microsoft asked us to develop a regional Training Resource Centre at the College. Janet Pink who had by now replaced Paul Jackson as Community Leader joined Matthew Knight to develop this training facility with all the latest Microsoft software. Schools and teachers in Rutland and beyond were invited to take part in the training programme.

Although the College appeared from the GCSE results to have all high- performing students the fact is that there was quite a number of students with special educational needs. Gary Whitehouse was responsible for providing support and with GMS we were able to buy in a good deal of help for those students. We even had a special room designed so that any student with special needs who found it difficult in the main classroom could come out of class and receive one to one support which later became a regular feature of the SEN programme with Marion Clarke and Jean Williams. We also had a staffed Remove Room for those students who had to be sent out from the classroom. This facility reduced the small number of temporary exclusions from the College and permanent exclusions ceased altogether.

GMS gave us an opportunity to increase the number of support staff both for the administration of the College but also supporting teachers particularly in the practical areas. We appointed a fulltime Bursar Myra Sutherland to supervise the Support Staff and manage the College Finances. She was responsible for some £2,000,000 plus other funds for the Technology Status element and the Community funds which were still being paid by Leicestershire. Unfortunately these latter funds dried up when Rutland became a Unitary Authority.

I was always impressed how cheerful so many of the Support Staff were. I could go into any of the offices and a Sally or Rosie would be there to greet me with a smile. In the staffroom a cheerful Dawn Bryan made sure that all the staff had their tea or coffee at break times. Most of the support staff enjoyed working in the College despite all the pressures that our independent status had brought us. I was particularly lucky to have an excellent secretary in Cathy Kidson who supported me very well during my time there.

Steve Berridge who was a very capable laboratory assistant was promoted with the grand title of Estates Manager and tasked with supervising and maintaining the now extensive buildings and grounds. He became a very resourceful and effective manager of the College facilities and buildings. Steve also managed the CCTV system which we installed to protect the very expensive equipment we now had. One amusing incident occurred shortly after the system had been installed. A student urged on by others to see if these were real cameras climbed up with her nose an inch from the camera and announced to the assembled group that she thought the camera was a dummy. It gave Steve and me a great deal of fun by showing the startled student her face as it approached what was a very live camera!

I was fortunate to have a very supportive body of governors during my time at UCC. There were parent governors, governors appointed by the local authority and community governors including Margaret Jennings the retired former Vice Principal. Joanne Beaver steered us through the GM process with consummate skill. Paul Bower also a parent took over from Joanne and as a senior partner in a major international accounting firm he was a good person to have as we developed our competence as an independent establishment. Paul had five children and he had considered sending them to one of Rutland's private schools but after attending an Open Evening he decided to send all his children to UCC. Unfortunately Paul contracted cancer but often chaired Governors' meetings having had a day's chemo therapy. What a brave man he was. Paul suddenly died leaving his widow with five quite young children. This was a shock to us all. We did however build a memorial garden to Paul between the Staffroom and the Modern Language classrooms. Jadz, Paul's widow, dedicated the garden to his memory.

Bob Salmon then took over as Chairman. His children had passed through the College several years before. Bob was also a very supportive but challenging Chairman.

For all our work with teachers, support staff, governors, parents and students I was delighted to receive on behalf of Uppingham Community College the Investors in People Award.

But none of the development of the College between 1988 and 2000 would have happened without the support of the Parents. I always felt that they were by and large behind all our endeavours and it was clear from the Parents' Evenings that the support was there. The Parents and Friends of Uppingham Community College raised thousands of pounds over the years. They contributed towards the various minibuses we bought and also the Millenium Courtyard which was intended to remember those students who had died.

To conclude, I look back on my twelve years at Uppingham Community College with great fondness. I feel honoured to have played some small part in developing the College into the wonderful school that it still is. The growth of the College from a central School of 37 in 1920 to a successful community college in 2020 is a tribute to all those who had a hand in its development.

When I handed over to the new Principal, Malcolm England in 2000, I felt comfortable that both Lynne Wells and Peter Laxton would with all the staff support him in taking the College forward into the new century.

Dr Peter MacDonald-Pearce

Former proud Principal of Uppingham Community College

2000-2007: Mr Malcom England

As UCC celebrates its centenary, I regard it as a great privilege to have had the opportunity to be the Principal of the college for the opening years of the new millennium. Each phase of a school's development brings its own challenges and successes but for me the common thread throughout is that central word in Uppingham Community College.

I hope that many readers, whether still based locally or further away as I now am, will still feel that sense of a community and be prompted by the centenary to reflect upon great memories of events within that period; perhaps of staff, colleagues and friendship groups of the time, key personal dates such as *First Day at UCC*, the *Year 11 Prom* and *Results Day* or involvement in the opportunities provided through such a range of school trips and visits, concerts, productions and sports (including on the at-the-time new artificial pitch!).

The fact that we can all still remember aspects of our time at UCC proves its importance and impact on so many, so with that in mind I wish UCC every success in celebrating "our" centenary in 2020!

Malcolm England

Principal

2000-2007

Additional notes from Lynne Wells

Development of the buildings continued with the enlarged and refurbished dining room. This was used for many and varied activities including ballet, ballroom dancing, drumming, drama, PE, talks as well as eating and socialising! New classrooms were added and the Science labs were refurbished (not for the first or final times!).

The Youth Centre which was no longer used for the community was refurbished and remodelled as the Student Support Centre lead by Marion Clarke as Behaviour Support Manager. The work done by this department was exceptional. The two Inspections praised the work done by the Behaviour Support and Special Needs departments. It was really pleasing that in 2006 Marion received The East Midlands Teaching Award for her work and subsequently a party went to London to support her at the National Teaching Awards ceremony. Another area where UCC received awards and recognition was for Vocational and Work-based Learning. We were chosen together with the other two Rutland secondary schools to Pilot the Young Apprenticeship Scheme where students worked three and a half days in school and one and a half in college and workplaces. The first cohort completed in 2007 with five Motor Vehicle students one of which was taken on by Land Rover/Jaguar. In 2009 Mark Jefferson was awarded National Young Apprentice of the Year at a ceremony in London (I was interviewed on camera at his placement garage in Corby!). UCC was also part of ROVA, not a dog or car but the scheme Rutland Opportunities for Vocational Achievement. We sent students for a day a week in years 10 and 11 to colleges to gain qualifications in Catering, Motor Vehicle, Animal Husbandry, Hair and Beauty or ICT. This part of the curriculum was very successful and popular and supported well by Jean Williams(TA). It kept many disillusioned students on track. UCC received a Lincolnshire and Rutland Work Based Learning Award for the outstanding work in 2009. UCC also achieved Sportsmark for their work in school and the community and was proud to boast of successful students in archery, dancing, equestrianism, polo (Captain of World Junior Polo Team) as well as the more mainstream sports!

2007-2017: Mrs Jan Turner

My warmest congratulations to all at Uppingham Community College in this significant centenary year.

It was my honour and privilege to serve as Principal of UCC for years from 2007 to 2017. I can still remember the sense of pride I felt as I stood in front of the assembled college community in my first full assembly – a feeling that remained with me during the whole of my tenure. Pride – not for myself – but for the college as a whole, and all its members, in whatever capacity they held. The college has matured and grown in so many ways since its inception in 1920 but its core purpose has remained fixed through all those intervening years – to provide the best possible learning environment for all who pass through its doors.

There were many significant events during my leadership but the ones that are important to me are the ones that reinforced the ethos of the college and involved a team effort which brought us all closer together.

Some large: the change to academy status whilst still retaining that all important 'Community' in the college name; the setting up of Harington School, ensuring a high class 6th form in Rutland for all UCC students; the bidding for, and building of, the new Maths Block and tennis Courts.

Some small: the whole college coming to a collective silent standstill as the trumpet played the Last Post from the top of the Humanities Block on Remembrance Day; the respect shown to award winners and performers in each Success Assembly; the entire school taking part – in whatever form – in the Sponsored Walk.

Some consistent: maintaining our commitment to ensuring equality of opportunity to everyone who came through the doors and welcoming diversity – and challenge- with good humour and tolerance; playing a full and active role in the wider community; ensuring that we offered more than just lessons to create well rounded and tolerant citizens of the future.

I was blessed to work with a fantastic Senior Leadership Team, strong and supportive Governing Body and many excellent staff throughout my time at UCC and I know that the students always appreciated the care that was taken of them and for them.

100 years may have passed but the heart of UCC still beats strong for its community and I am sure that it will continue to thrive and develop for many years into the future.

With best wishes

Jan Turner

Principal 2007 -2017

2017-Present: Mr Ben Solly

It was an honour and privilege to be appointed Principal of Uppingham Community College in 2017. I joined UCC, having served 3 years as Headteacher of Lutterworth College in Leicestershire, inheriting a very happy and successful school, following a decade of excellent leadership from my predecessor Jan Turner.

What struck me immediately was how much this school means to the people who work here. The commitment and dedication to the school from the staff is palpable and I recall feeling this in abundance during the gruelling interview days I spent here.

2020-21 is my fourth year as the UCC Principal and there have been a number of notable achievements and landmarks during my time here so far. Ofsted certainly didn't waste any time picking up the phone and on my ninth day I received the phone call informing me that an inspection team would be arriving the following day. Thankfully the inspection went to plan and 'Team UCC' (as I affectionately refer to the staff body), secured a judgement that meant the school continued to be judged as 'Good'.

One of my proudest achievements has been establishing the core values of Kindness, Honesty and Respect throughout the school community. These are a visible consistency across the school and we ask all stakeholders to demonstrate them at all times. Our values are important to us because we want UCC alumni to enter the adult world as kind, honest and respectful human beings and we have worked tremendously hard with students to support this aspect of their development.

A particular highlight of my relatively short tenure so far has been the recognition we have received from external organisations for our approaches to developing our staff and securing excellent outcomes for young people. In 2018 we received an award from the Students Schools and Teacher Network for achieving GCSE outcomes which were in the top 20% of all schools nationally. The SSAT then recognised us again in 2019 by awarding UCC 'Ambassador School' status for our innovative approaches to supporting pedagogy within our teaching staff. As an Ambassador School, UCC now supports other schools nationally in developing improvement strategies that enhance the impact of classroom practice.

UCC has always had an excellent reputation for school sport and PE, and this has continued to flourish in recent years. In 2018 we were awarded the inaugural 'Ernie White Commitment to Sport' award for having the highest number of students competing in extra-curricular fixtures than any other secondary school in Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland. This remarkable achievement was repeated in 2019 when we won the award for the second consecutive year.

We have invested significantly in the school site over the past 3 years, resurfacing the 3G artificial football surface and re-cabelling the entire IT infrastructure to improve the network speed of our computers. We also embarked on a £700k project with Rutland County Council which redeveloped the Community Lounge and Drama Green Room into an Enhanced Resource Provision for young people with communication and interaction needs. This project has laid the foundations for UCC becoming a beacon of excellence for SEND, with 2 students placed in this provision each year, ensuring young people with these needs are able to attend a mainstream secondary school alongside their peers. This project also enabled us to build a brand new drama studio, creating 2 bespoke teaching spaces for drama at the school.

The last 10 years in England has seen a significant level of reform within the education system. School funding has decreased substantially and the examination and school league tables system has brought about a 'high-stakes high-accountability' culture. This has contributed to some schools not always acting in the best interest of young people as they seek to climb a couple of notches on the league table ladder, or nudge their progress scores up by a few decimals. At UCC we are extremely proud of our values driven culture and our relentless drive to do the right thing for the young people we serve. Delivering high levels of impact in education is of paramount importance and everyone at Uppingham Community College is dedicated to ensuring we provide a truly great education for our young people. However, the manner in which we work, the ethics and philosophies that underpin our motivations, decisions and behaviours form the cornerstone

of our school culture. Culture in schools is critical and at Uppingham Community College it is culture that will drive our success.

As the Principal of Uppingham Community College I am extremely proud to hold the responsibility for establishing the culture and conditions in which everyone can thrive; this is why our vision is so explicit in extolling the virtues of thriving, in every sense of the word. If we all thrive and make excellent progress in our learning, achievement and our development then we can honestly say we are a truly great school.

I firmly believe that by investing in the development of our staff, treating them with respect and trusting their professionalism, we will have created the conditions in which they can thrive and this in turn will enable our students to achieve incredible outcomes, both academically and personally.

I have really high ambitions for us as a school but I want us to work in a manner that focuses on the right things and with our core values of Respect, Honesty and Kindness at the centre of everything. This means working incredibly hard together, challenging each other to become even more effective and never taking our eye off the things that are most important. Our success, in terms of student outcomes, both academic and holistic, will be a by-product of our dedication to our core values and educational principles.

Our centenary year has been extremely challenging for us as a school. Instead of celebrating 100 years of education at UCC, we have been faced with multiple setbacks which have curtailed many of the plans we had in place. In March 2020 all schools in England closed due to a national lockdown as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Following this, just before we were set to re-open for the 2020-21 academic year, we experienced a fire that significantly damaged a number of teaching spaces in the three story block. However our school community has risen to these challenges superbly and the support we have received from the local community has been overwhelming. The next stages of development for UCC are extremely exciting. We have the opportunity to rebuild parts of our school and develop these into teaching spaces that will serve students for generations to come.

I hope you have enjoyed reading through the reflections of all former Principals of UCC who have been able to contribute to this document. I have been both humbled and inspired by the accounts provided by our previous Principals and it is a huge privilege for me to be able to lead this magnificent school alongside my superb colleagues.

Here's to the next 100 years.

Mr B Solly

UCC Principal



Uppingham Community College


1920

On 15th November 1920, Uppingham Central School opens on the site of a former prisoner of war camp. 31 students attend the school.


1921

Mr G.W. Farmer appointed Headmaster of Uppingham Central School.


1929

Mr Matthews appointed Headmaster of Uppingham Central School.


1960

Mr Searle-Barnes appointed as Headmaster of Uppingham Central School.


1964

Uppingham Central School becomes Uppingham Village School. 211 students now attend the school.

1920 – 2020
Centenary
Timeline




1920

Mr G.F. Hall appointed as the first Headmaster of Uppingham Central School.


1923

Mr W. May appointed Headmaster of Uppingham Central School.


1938

New school buildings created (Quadrangle). 105 students now attend Uppingham Central School


1961

New 2 story block built for art/design and PE.


1971

New 3 story block built with 12 classrooms, a library, cloakrooms and toilet.



Uppingham Community College



1972

Mr D. Whight is appointed as Headmaster of Uppingham Village School.



1972

The first sporting exchange with Don Bosco School in Haacht, Belgium, takes place.



1975

Uppingham Village School becomes Uppingham Community College.



1980

Major building programme installs a new sports hall, drama studio, 3 classrooms and administration block.



1987

480 students now attend Uppingham Community College.



1987

Mr P. MacDonald-Pearce appointed as Principal of Uppingham Community College.



1993

UCC becomes a Grant Maintained School. UCC is now a 5 form entry school.



1995

UCC becomes a Specialist Technology College. D&T and Science facilities are improved.



1997

Car park enlarged, 2 new classrooms created. UCC is now a 6 form entry school.



1998

2 story admin block, Exhibition Area, 3 new classrooms and lift installed in the 3 story block. 700 students are now on roll at UCC.



1920 – 2020
Centenary
Timeline



Uppingham Community College



2000

A new nursery and pre-school 'Upstarts' is opened at UCC.



2000

Mr M. England appointed as Principal of Uppingham Community College.



2001

3 new Design & Technology classrooms and new changing rooms are built.



2003

Dining Room is extended into the Quadrangle.



2003

822 students now attend Uppingham Community College



2006

A new, state of the art, full size, 3G football pitch is built.



2007

Mrs J. Turner is appointed as Principal of Uppingham Community College.



2009

4 new classrooms are created.



2011

Uppingham Community College becomes an Academy.



2011

860 students now attend Uppingham Community College.



1920 – 2020
Centenary
Timeline



Uppingham Community College



2014

New maths block is created with 7 new classrooms, toilets and kitchen servery.



2015

New floodlit tennis and netball courts created.



2016

43rd Don Bosco exchange takes place.



2016

891 students now attend Uppingham Community College.



2017

Mr B. Solly appointed as Principal of Uppingham Community College.



2018

Uppingham Community College awarded inaugural 'Ernie White' trophy for the highest number of students involved extra-curricular activities across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.



2019

Uppingham Community College awarded 'Ambassador School Status' by the Schools Students and Teacher network (SSAT).



2019

UCC is awarded the 'Ernie White' trophy for the 2nd successive year.



2019

3G Artificial Football pitch is resurfaced.



2020

A new drama studio is built as part of a project that involved the refurbishment of the Community Lounge becoming a centre of excellence for SEND provision.



1920 – 2020
Centenary
Timeline



**Uppingham Community College
2020 Centenary Year Celebration**