

UCC EXCELLENCE PATHWAY NEWSLETTER



Summer 1 term updates



YEAR 7 EXCELLENCE PATHWAY

The Excellence pathway aims to continue to challenge, stretch, and support these pupils to achieve their full potential. Through targeted enrichment activities, high-quality teaching, and opportunities for deeper learning, students are encouraged to develop independence, resilience, and a love of learning. We look forward to sharing updates on events and progress as the programme develops.

This newsletter features all past and upcoming events for our pathway students, along with success stories and a celebration of different achievements.

Events at UCC

ROTARY TECH CHALLENGE

The annual Rotary Design Challenge took place this year at Oakham School, bringing together creativity and design innovation.

The Design & Technology department proudly entered two Year 9 teams at the intermediate level, competing against 20 teams from across the county. The students raced against the clock to design, build, and problem-solve under pressure.

Our teams rose brilliantly to the challenge, showcasing impressive teamwork, ingenuity, and determination throughout the day. They performed exceptionally well and, despite just missing out on a top-three finish, should be incredibly proud of their achievement.

Most importantly, all students had an unforgettable experience, leaving inspired and eager for the next challenge!

CRICKET AND NETBALL MASTERCLASSES AT UPPINGHAM SCHOOL

This half term a selection of upper-KS3 students have been fortunate to receive professional coaching sessions through our partnership with Uppingham School. Students have benefited from expert guidance, developing their skills and confidence in a supportive and inspiring environment.



INSPIRE SKATEBOARDING/SCOOTERING EVENT WITH SCHOOL GAMES

A number of our pathway students were lucky enough to secure a place on the Scooter/Skateboarding Festival event last week. They were taught the key skills of balancing, turning and pushing, before they moved on to some fun little tricks. The session strongly promoted teamwork and qualities such as perseverance and determination.

Well done to Olly, Oliver, Thomas, Marley and Harrison for your participation!

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Yr7 student success

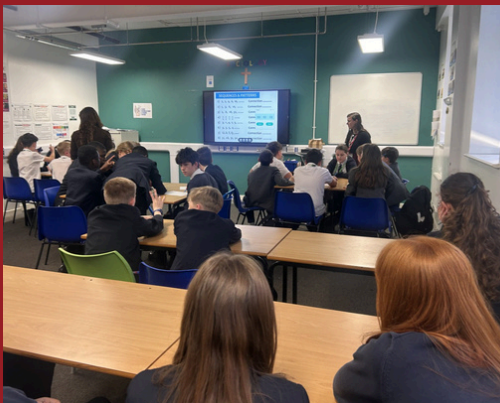
INTERHOUSE COMPETITION

This week our pathway students travelled to Lutterworth College for the first of many inter-house competitions. Previous champions from the KS3 Maths Factor and the KS3 Spelling Bee went head-to-head in an exciting bid to win the annual trophy.

We were incredibly proud of how our students performed across both competitions. They demonstrated enthusiasm, teamwork and excellent sportsmanship throughout.

Both schools celebrated success, with Lutterworth winning the Spelling Bee and UCC taking home the Maths Factor trophy. We're already looking forward to next year and hope to retain our title!

Well done to Finlay and Hans for representing UCC!



EASTER CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Well done to the following pathway students who received an award or recognition during our whole-school assembly for their achievements over the last term:

Tillie T (Maths subject award)

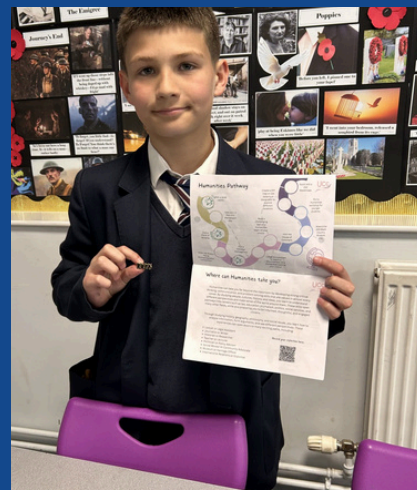
Annika F (Bronze drama award)

Tillie T (Bronze drama award)

REFLECTION CHECK IN

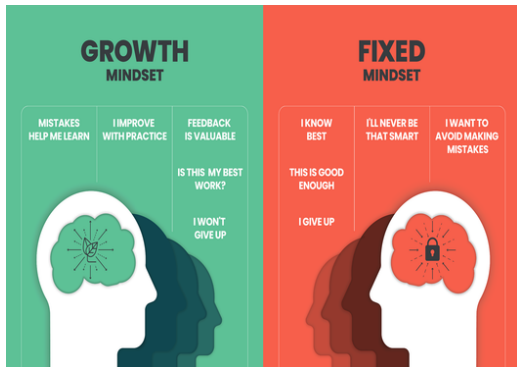
A number of our Pathway students have been diligently reflecting on their extra-curricular activities—well done to all involved. It has been wonderful to read about the knowledge and skills you are developing through these additional experiences.

Special recognition goes to Robert and Finlay, who went above and beyond by submitting over 20 reflections between them... an outstanding effort!



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Pathway Masterclass - Discovery and Thinking Skills



Fixed mindset or growth mindset?

- "I only feel confident when I get things right first time."
- "I ask for help when I need it."
- "I prefer easy tasks so I can succeed."
- "I learn more from difficult work."
- "If something takes too long, it's not worth doing."
- "I try different approaches when I'm stuck."
- "Getting things wrong is embarrassing."
- "I can train my brain like a muscle."
- "I compare myself to others to see if I'm good."
- "Effort matters more than natural ability."

Rewrite one fixed mindset statement into a growth mindset statement

Session topic: What does "Growth Mindset" mean?

Name: _____

Complete your skills audit below:

Skill / Knowledge Area	Strength	Developing	Needs Work	Endorse (What proves this?)
Problem solving	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Explaining ideas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Remembering information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Working independently	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Asking questions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Subject knowledge (choose one)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Spot the Patterns

- Which area is your strongest? Why?
?
- Which area needs the most improvement? Why?
?
- What surprised you?
?

Target Setting:

Choose ONE focus area and complete:

- My target skill: _____
- What I currently struggle with: _____
- What I will do to improve: _____
- When I will practice this: _____

This half term, Pathway students took part in a masterclass focused on discovery and thinking skills. During the session, we explored the concepts of growth versus fixed mindset, what it means to be a more able learner, and the personal skills and attributes that support success.

Students completed a personal skills audit, identifying key areas they would like to develop further. They engaged thoughtfully in discussions, making clear links between their targets and their upcoming KS3 end-of-year exams, as well as their wider classwork and understanding of morals and ethics.

Students approached the session with maturity and enthusiasm, contributing positively throughout. Well done to all involved!

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UCC Excellence Pathway – Information for Parents

How to use this booklet

Use this handbook to record and collect stamps for your participation in extra-curricular and extension activities. Each time you take part in an approved activity, ask for a stamp to be added as evidence of your learning and skill development. We will meet once every half term to share progress, showcase new skills, and celebrate achievements as you work your way through the UCC Excellence Pathway. Badges for bronze, silver and gold participation is outlined below.



Bronze – 5–7 stamps
Consistent participation

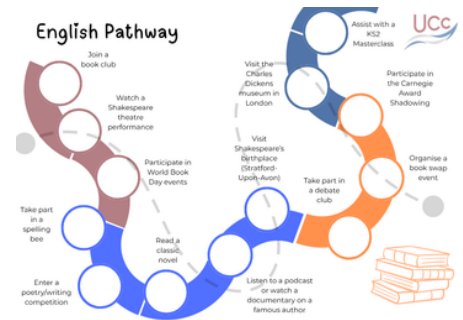
Silver – 10–14 stamps
Broader skills and regular engagement

Recording reflections

Completing your reflection pages is an important part of the pathway. Recording clear details of your activities and the dates they took place helps evidence your participation, track your progress, and recognise the skills you are developing over time. These reflections support award decisions, prepare you for half-termly showcases, and provide valuable examples you can use for applications, interviews, and future opportunities.



English Pathway



The Excellence Pathway is designed to encourage students to extend their learning beyond the classroom by taking part in extra-curricular and enrichment activities.

Students record their participation and reflect on the skills they develop in a dedicated handbook. Progress is reviewed through half-termly meetings where students showcase new skills and achievements. The pathway promotes confidence, independence, and employability skills, and recognises commitment through Bronze, Silver, and Gold participation awards.

Students taking part in the Excellence Pathway attend a half-termly meeting to review their progress, reflect on achievements, and share the skills they have developed. These sessions also provide opportunities to hear from guest speakers, explore pathways into further study and careers, and learn from the experiences of others in the programme.

How can parents support?

- ✓ Encourage your child to take part in extra-curricular and extension activities
 - ✓ Remind them to record activities and dates in their handbook
 - ✓ Talk with them about new skills they are developing
 - ✓ Support attendance at half-termly pathway meetings
- ✓ Celebrate progress and achievements at Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels

Contact: excellence@ucc.rutland.sch.uk