

UPWEY HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Week 9 | Term 1 | 2026



As we now head into the last week of Term 1, it is hard to believe we are now already a quarter of the way through the year. It has been an extremely busy and productive term with some great learning and wellbeing outcomes across all year levels. In our final newsletter for Term 1, next week, I will provide a thorough overview of some of the key achievements we have seen this year already – a great start to continuing our school improvement journey.

Although a short week, with the Industrial Action on Tuesday and our Parent/Student/Teacher, it has been a very busy week especially for our Year 9 students who embarked upon their City Enquiry on Wednesday and Friday this week – with one more day to go on Monday next week. This is a core component of our Year 9 course and one which provides many benefits for our students. It was lovely to hear some fantastic reports of student behaviour from members of the public while our students have been using public transport. This is a real credit to them and embodies our values of kindness and respect.

On Wednesday night we held our 'First Meeting of School Council following the Declaration of the Poll'. It was great to see a full council being represented and I congratulate the following members on being nominated unopposed to Office Bearer Positions

- Kelly Verwey (President)
- Sarah Evans (Vice President)
- Marcus Ogden (Treasurer)

Please read the full 'President's Report' on page 4 of this week's newsletter for more details about the meeting. In addition to this, every year schools are required to produce an 'Annual Report to the School Community' highlighting achievements of the previous year. The 2025 Annual Report to the School Community was attached to this week's 'Weekly News' Compass Post for school community members to read, following its endorsement at School Council on Wednesday.

As you are aware, a significant number of staff chose to take Industrial Action on Tuesday. These decisions are never made lightly, and I am proud of the thoughtful and professional way our staff continue to advocate for a strong future for education while remaining deeply committed to our students and school community. I want to be clear that I support our staff in this space – they work tirelessly to support our students and community, and they deserve fair and sustainable pay and conditions that reflect the importance and complexity of their work. Their commitment to our students remains unwavering, and I am proud to lead such a dedicated and passionate team.

Rachel Lynch, Principal

NEXT WEEK

Monday March 30

Year 9 City Inquiry Day 3
EMR Swimming

Tuesday March 31

Year 11 VM excursion

Wednesday April 1

Year 7 Inter-School Volleyball & Tennis

Thursday April 2

Last day Term 1 2.30pm finish
U3 ACP Critique Day

Friday April 3

Public Holiday - Good Friday

UHS Breakfast Club

We all know the breakfast is the most important meal of the day but unfortunately it seems to be a meal that a lot of teenagers seem to skip. Research consistently shows that students who eat breakfast demonstrate improved concentration, memory and overall learning outcomes, which is why our Breakfast Club continues to play such an important role in supporting students to start the day ready to learn.

Available on Tuesdays ('Toastie Tuesday') and Thursdays at no cost to students, our wonderful Wellbeing Team run our UHS Breakfast Club in P1 from 8.30. We encourage all students to come along for a feed and see the results for yourself!



Year 11 Geography visits Bushfire Education Centre

The Year 11 Geography class ventured up to Cockatoo on Wednesday for their second fieldwork exercise to the Ash Wednesday Bushfire Education Centre (AWBEC). The students listened to an extensive presentation from volunteers Graham and Dot and got to hear firsthand the events of Ash Wednesday and the experiences of residents. Graham was the CFA captain of Cockatoo in 1983 and played a major role in protecting the town during the Ash Wednesday fires. He explained to the class the suspected causes of the fire, the impacts of it and the importance of the former kindergarten building in protecting residents during the disaster. The students then had the opportunity to complete fieldwork in the surrounding areas to identify points of hazard or risk in a bushfire event and will now use this data to complete a fieldwork report for their SAC next week.



EMR Senior Volleyball

On Wednesday, our Year 11 volleyball girls team competed in the Eastern Metropolitan Regional volleyball tournament. The girls played really well and demonstrated a consistent team effort against their opposition. Their final two matches were played out to a nail-biter third set, just losing both to East Doncaster and Balwyn High. The girls places 3rd overall in their pool and should be proud of their performance and the way they represented the school at such a high level.



Good Friday Appeal Fundraiser

On Thursday 2nd April the SRC have organised a free dress day, and are fundraising for the Good Friday Appeal. We kindly ask for a gold coin donation for this worthwhile cause. As well, at lunch time students can participate in their year level 'chocolate egg and spoon races' down in the stadium. We kindly ask for another gold coin donation for any student participating the races. All proceeds of the free dress day and the races will be supporting the Good Friday Appeal. A huge thanks to Robyn Carbery for kindly donating the easter eggs for the 'chocolate egg and spoon races' – we are always amazed at the generosity of our parents and cannot thank you all enough for your support.

Kind regards,

SRC

UHS Free Dress Day Last Day of Term!

(Gold Coin Donation)

Join us at lunchtime in the Stadium for an

Easter Egg & Spoon Race



Collecting Gold Coin Donations to

Year 12 Food Studies students had the 'unboxing' some new food storage this was supplied free of charge from a sponsor of OzHarvest's 'Feast' food education program. Students in Years 7 and 8 will be participating in the Good Friday Appeal.

Year 12 Food Studies

proceeds support The Good Friday Appeal

School Council President Report - March

Hello everyone

On Wednesday night we held our first meeting for School Council 2026/27.

I am pleased and grateful, that we have such a great team, who have volunteered their time, dedication, skills, and experience, to UHS School Council.

It is with great pleasure, to share with you our 2026 School Council team

Staff representatives:

Rachel Lynch (Executive Officer and Principal)

Summer Blackman

Di Martini

Amanda Flink

Deb Martine (appointed minute taker)

Student representatives:

Miranda Jacobson

Lincoln Hope

Parent representatives:

Lucy Demant

Sarah Evans (elected Vice President)

Marcus Ogden (elected Treasurer)

Sharon Harris

Simon Mcintosh

Myself, Kel Verwey (elected President)

As this was our first meeting, there was a lot of "things", that we needed to ensure all, of the team, were informed/undertook, such as:

- Child Safe standards training/information (including role of School Council and relevant policies)
- School Council Orders (roles and responsibilities, conflict of interest)
- Roles and Responsibilities of School Council
- School Council training tools
- Formation of sub committees (Finance and Facilities, Education and Policies)

Our next meeting is in May (after the term break), and I look forward to seeing all of, our School Council team, working together to achieve the best outcomes for our School Community in 2026.

To our School Community, I wish you all a wonderful term break.

Take care and enjoy.

With thanks,

Kel Verwey.

Weekly Maths Challenges

As part of our Numeracy Improvement Plan, over the past four weeks we have included our 'Weekly Maths Challenge' for community members to test their Mathematical skills! Here are the questions with all of the solutions - how did you go?

The Puzzle:

The cold faucet in my bath lets the water in at the rate of 15 litres per minute.
The hot faucet fills the bath at the rate of 10 litres per minute.
The plug hole lets the water out of the bath at the rate of 12 litres per minute.



The bath holds a maximum of 520 litres.

I turn both faucets on, but forget to put the plug in. After how many minutes will the bath begin to overflow?

Solution

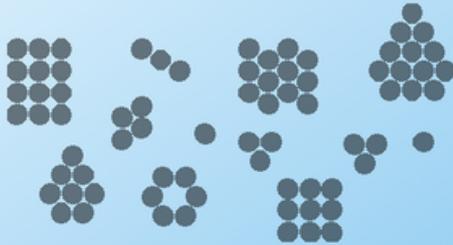
Cold faucet fills at 15 litres / minute.
Hot faucet fills at 10 litres / minute.
→ So water enters at 25 litres / minute. $(15+10=25)$
Plug hole empties at 12 litres / minute.
→ So bath fills up at 13 litres / minute. $(25-12=13)$
Bath holds 520 litres.
→ So bath overflows after 40 minutes.
 $(520 \text{ litres} \div 13 \text{ litres/minute} = 40 \text{ minutes})$

The Puzzle:

The Birthday Cake has all gone but there are twelve piles of Smarties left.

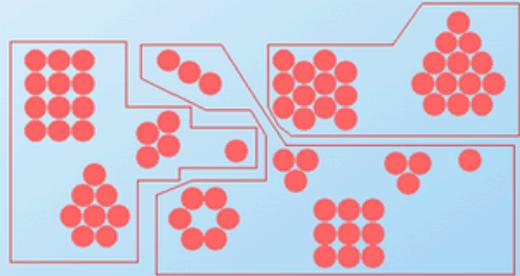
Each pile is held together by icing so can't be split up.

Most of the guests have gone, but Hungry Horace and his two friends want to share out the Smarties equally.



Can you draw around the piles so that everybody gets 25 Smarties each?

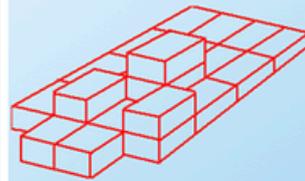
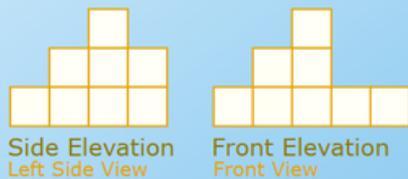
The diagram below shows one way to group the Smarties so that Horace and his friends get 25 each.



Another way would be: $12+9+3+1$, $12+13$ and $4+1+3+3+8+6$.

Hilda made a house from building blocks and it looked like this from the top and two sides.

How many bricks did Hilda use altogether?

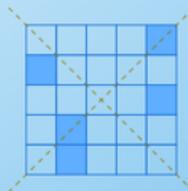


This diagram shows the building made of 22 blocks, but it is possible to add up to 3 other blocks without affecting each of the views.

Mirror, Mirror Puzzle

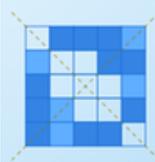
The Puzzle:

If you continue shading the squares so that the two dotted lines become lines of symmetry (mirror lines) of the completed diagram, how many squares will be left unshaded?



Our Solution:

If you continue shading the squares so that the two lines become mirror lines, we get this:



(Note: I have shaded the new squares differently just so you can see where they go.)

The number of squares left is then 9.

UHS Classroom Routines



Before Lesson

Line up outside the classroom on time, entering calmly when directed to by staff

Be prepared for learning - have all equipment (including a charged laptop)

During Lesson

Wait for formal greeting and roll call / entry activity

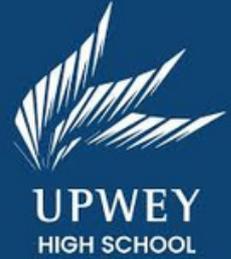
Actively participate to the best of your ability in all learning activities

End of Lesson

Take note of homework or activities to be completed before the next class

Pack up when directed and clean the room before leaving in a calm manner when dismissed

UHS EXPECTATIONS IN 2026



Relationships

Kindness and Respect is to be displayed by all members of our community at all times. Build positive relationships with those around you and look after each other



Attention



Laptops are used in the classroom for teaching and learning purposes only. They must remain closed at all times unless students are instructed by a teacher to use them. Students are expected to give teachers 100% of their attention when being taught in class

Uniform

Students are permitted to wear uniform items (bottom half only) that do not have a logo but they are NOT permitted to wear tracksuit pants or leggings. All top half uniform must have the approved UHS Logo as supplied by KLAD. Year 7-9 students can wear PE Uniform on days they have PE only.



Food & Beverages



Energy Drinks are completely banned on school grounds
Water bottles are the only drink permitted in class
NO food permitted in class at all (students can eat at recess/lunch or during the five minute break between P1 and P2 or P3 and P4 only)

Key to Opportunities



To access opportunities to attend sports, excursions and camps our staff will work with families and students to support strong and consistent school attendance. Where attendance is a concern, the school may work with families to ensure students are demonstrating a commitment to regular attendance before participating in additional school opportunities. Students will also be required to demonstrate positive behaviour at school (no more than three serious behaviour concerns on Compass in a Term) and be completely up to date with schoolwork.

Aspiration

Respect

Kindness