FAMILY & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021
Dear Families and Friends of the College,

Welcome to the March edition of UWC Atlantic’s Family & Friends newsletter. Spring has arrived at the College, and the sunshine of the last few days allowed students to enjoy their breaks and lunches on the Top Lawn admiring the views and the fresh colours of the season.

It is fantastic to see a number of exciting programmes in development at the College. One of them is the seafront being a hub of activity through our ‘Ways of Life’ programmes and the new Changemaker curriculum units. Another excellent development on campus has been the recording studio, generously supported by the Mousetrap Settlement Fund. We are also pleased to tell you about all of the new initiatives our students have been getting up to outside of the academic sphere. One of them, the ‘Hideout’ was set up by our Wellbeing Council helped by the Head of Students and Student Affairs. We have a message from outgoing Wellbeing Council chair Rufaro in this newsletter.

There are a number of events which we look forward to over the next few weeks. This Thursday’s InTouch session will focus on the College’s present and past. Later this spring, the International Show is sure to be a wonderful celebration. You can find out more about these and other events in this newsletter.

Thank you for reading this newsletter, I hope you enjoy it! With best wishes,

Kate Vincze
Deputy Head/Vice Principal Education

Photo taken at the East Asian/South-East Asian National Evening by Shuqian Lyu (Class of 2021)
At UWC Atlantic, we have been picking up steam with our plans to re-establish the seafront area as the heart of everything that happens at the College. It is hoped that the seafront will be a vibrant hub of various activities, even more so than it already is.
A major development has been the hiring of a seafront coordinator, Richard Carpenter, to oversee the capital developments and activities at the seafront. Having worked in the outdoor industry for fifteen years, Richard has a wealth of experience in commercial and education centres, particularly being able to provide technical expertise in paddlesports and canyoning. Richard also has a keen love for climbing and caving, as well as many other outdoor activities and adventures. Richard has worked in all corners of Wales, as well as the rest of the UK, France and Norway. Richard is looking forward to pushing forward the seafront developments.

Since the students returned from the winter break, our ‘Ways of Life’ programmes have got into full swing. Before the winter break, students who wanted to be in a ‘Ways of Life’ programme, had to participate in a series of trial sessions to display their commitment to the programme, but now get to enjoy their selected programme, either Search and Rescue, Paddlesports, Lifesaving or National Coastwatch Institution.
Students have been engaged in a variety of activities through the programme. Some tried on a wetsuit for the first time ever, an interesting experience, though they did not have to make their own like some of our alumni did! Our lifesavers have been hard at work improving their swim times and learning basic reach rescues that form the basis for so many rescues at sea. Students in the paddlesports group have been getting used to being in canoes and kayaks, learning the basic movements and working on their core strength. They also practiced capsizing the boat so that they do not panic if it happens in real life! The National Coastwatch students had a great session learning how to read nautical charts and maps.

We look forward to providing you with more updates of the exciting activities and initiatives happening at the seafront. If you would like to make a donation to help support this, please click on the 'Donate' button below or email philanthropy@uwcatlantic.org.
We are so excited to be launching our brand new Seafront Development Programme! For nearly 60 years, UWC Atlantic students have learnt an incredible amount from the sea and the seafront has always been a hive of activity. However, our facilities are currently not fit for purpose and are in need of an upgrade. We are therefore launching a new campaign to fundraise for a number of significant seafront projects.

We are calling on your support to enable these projects to happen, allowing us to open up all seafront activities for the benefit of both current students and the wider community.

We are delighted to announce that we have already raised almost half of our Phase 2 goal of £428,500 and we welcome you to join us today to assist us revitalise the Seafront to its former glory.

Help us reach our £100,000 goal and make waves today by donating, HERE, selecting Capital Atlantic! To donate tax-efficiently, click here.

We must secure all pledges by April 19th to ensure we can steam ahead with the development of Phase 2.

Thank you.
Thanks to the extremely generous support of the Mousetrap Settlement Fund, we now have a recording studio on campus. Located in the Arts Centre, it has already been fully utilised by UWC Atlantic for their IB music coursework and to record songs created by bands we have on campus. It will be used for more than just music though, for example, one of the projects in this year’s project week will be using the recording studio to record a podcast.

We are really looking forward to seeing our students use the space to maximise their potential. To the right is a video created by Media Productions students Runa Kolaczynska and Leonardo Coppi highlighting the recording studio with interviews from Principal, Peter T Howe and music teacher Ed Picton-Turbervill.
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NEW STUDENT HOUSES

In early 2021 we were delighted to welcome students into the two newest houses on campus, Kurt Hahn House and Antonin Besse House. The building of these houses would not have been possible without the generous contributions of our supporters. A big thank you to everyone who donated to support these developments. The below video introducing the new houses was created by Leonardo Coppi and Runa Kołaczyńska (Class of 2021).

CLICK HERE
The HideOut is an initiative by The Wellbeing Council which runs on Fridays between 2000h and 2200h in the Moondance Café (concurrently with Sosh). It aims to support the wellbeing of the community by offering students a place to relax whilst chatting, playing games, watching movies or singing in a karaoke. For a recent session we had tea, coffee, punch and snacks as refreshments and multiple games. It is such a nice way to relax after a long week of codes and activities!

Rufaro and Dechen
The Wellbeing Council Chairs
Class of 2021
In the “Digitise AC” activity, six students and a member of staff meet once a week in the IT lab and go through old photos and slides that have been stored in the archive for many years. The idea is to scan and label them in order to create a digital archive that will remain for many years and will give access to the UWC Atlantic community to these valuable memories. So far the team have already scanned about 400 photos!

Got photos which could enrich our digital archive? Get in touch by emailing: archive@atlanticcollege.org
"DIGITISE AC"

Photo credit: Robin Kaikull, Class of 2022
Student wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do at UWC Atlantic and an integral part of that is ensuring that students are active and exercising. To help with this, students have recently started going on walks in the local area, supervised by staff members.

Currently there are three routes that staff and students are able to take. By far the most popular is the walk to Nash Point. It has allowed staff to introduce or reacquaint students to Marcross, the Nash Point Lighthouse & fog horn and the ‘Welsh Sphinx’. The wild Welsh winds along the cliff tops also ensure the students get plenty of fresh air!

Students have also been exploring the seafront area, which is great for students who like collecting shells and investigating the rockpools. Some of the braver students have even experienced how cold the Bristol Channel is in the winter. There is also a ten kilometre route through Marcross and Broughton that is being used to take students who want to go for a run.
The International Mother Language Day was on Sunday the 21st of February. UWC Atlantic being such a diverse place, the celebration offered an opportunity for our community to showcase the diversity of its languages. The students marked this very special day by dancing, singing, performing and reciting poetry.

Photo credit: Nacho Garcia
Cinema is a fantastic way to investigate issues and other parts of the world through someone else’s perspective. To facilitate this for UWC Atlantic, a group of students set up ‘Cine Club’, a group that meets each Tuesday at 6pm in the Great Hall to watch a different film each week.

Film suggestions come from the students or staff and they tend to stay away from Hollywood blockbuster films, preferring to watch classic or independent films. This term, the films have varied from romantic-fantasy film ‘Wings of Desire’ to ‘County Lines’, a film about the county lines drug trafficking issue in the UK.

The club has been really excellent for getting students to engage with a variety of topics as they often stay behind after the film to discuss what they have just watched. It also gives them the chance to relax in a nice space!
Legacy Giving

A gift in your will is a unique and very meaningful type of gift. The impact may be felt by many, yet it is a deeply personal statement. It is your legacy, it is a lasting expression of your values and commitment, to be remembered and carried forward. When you pledge a legacy gift to UWC Atlantic, you and your family can take comfort in knowing that your wishes will be looked after by people who understand and share your values.

A gift in your will costs nothing in your lifetime, but from the moment you pledge, you know you are making a difference to the future of the College, the future of our students and the continued shared experience of a UWC Atlantic education. A legacy gift needs not be large to make a difference. Gifts at any level are valued and an endowed gift can make your support go even further.

View the UWC Atlantic Legacy Brochure

If you would like to arrange a conversation, please don’t hesitate to be in touch with Keith Steel at keith.steel@atlanticcollege.org. Stay safe and well.
New way to donate to UWC Atlantic!

UWC Atlantic has recently teamed up with GoCardless, a payment operator that allows friends of the College to make recurring direct debit payments online. This means that if you would like to make a donation to UWC Atlantic, rather than going via WorldPay where you have to give your bank card which will then expire when your card expires, it asks for your account details and takes the payment that way! GoCardless operates in many international countries, the list of which is available here. To sign up, all you need to do is visit www.atlanticappeal.org and if GoCardless operate in your country, select Direct Debit on Step 4 and you will be able to set this up.

If you have any questions, get in touch with us by emailing philanthropy@uwcatlantic.org.
Keeping the UWC Magic Alive
Alumni involved with Lighthouse keep the UWC spirit

A central part of the Lighthouse mission is to create opportunities for UWC Atlantic students to increase their capacity for meaningful changemaking. Often, however, the phrase ‘meaningful changemaking’ risks being nothing more than a buzzword. This term we have been inviting several speakers, all connected to the College in some way, to deliver an engaging session for students as part of our “Dimensions of Meaningful Changemaking” series. The aim of this talk series is to introduce students to individuals with expertise in an area that can contribute to meaningful change and, by doing so, improve students’ understanding of what such change can be and what it may require. In short, this talk series aims to demystify and make accessible the countless complexities that meaningful change involves. The events also offer opportunities for Lighthouse mentors and project leaders to come together to get to know each other and learn more about each other’s projects.

For one of our first sessions of the series, we hosted Roberto Pitea (UWCA ‘04) who discussed his post-UWC journey, as well as some reflections on working in institutions traditionally understood as contributing to changemaking.
Roberto shared with us his impressions after speaking to students:

I was very fortunate to speak to current students about making change (lower case C), based on my experiences working in the public, private and third sector. It was a chance to reflect on the advice I’d give my 17-year-old self. We spent the bulk of the session chatting about the challenges students experience when trying to affect change. You won’t be surprised to hear that these are the same things we all struggle with, things like how to build a sustainable coalition, how to be effective in the face of structural inequalities, how to acquire the right skills.

We ended the session talking about how UWCers can keep the spirit alive after they graduate - I recommended reaching out to alumni offices and to National Committees as there are plenty of juicy volunteering opportunities, especially now that a lot of activities have moved remotely!

Here are some reflections from students participating in the session:

Roberto’s balance of specialisation and judicious exploration, to find what is really important to oneself followed by becoming good at it, really resonated with me; change can be made anywhere, but do we seek it out because it is ‘UWC’ or because it is ‘U’ [ourselves]?

At UWCA there are plenty of opportunities for students to learn from, and I now feel more equipped to critically select and personally engage with these opportunities, thereby better preparing me to make meaningful and rewarding change in our dynamic world.

Karim Ghaddar, UWCA ‘21

The most valuable thing in lectures is not a lecture itself, but a dialog. That’s what I appreciated about Roberto Pitea’s talk - space for the audience’s reflection. And of course, the advice from someone who has gone through the same UWC path as you, who tells you about the reality and admits that "to keep magic in life, you need to put effort in it. And sometimes it’s maddening."

Dasha Sviachena, UWCA ‘21

The “Dimensions of Meaningful Changemaking” series will run until the end of March and we are excited for the upcoming sessions prepared by the UWC Atlantic alumni and parents. If you are interested in supporting students’ changemaking projects, for example via mentorship, we’d love to hear from you! Please do not hesitate to reach out to us via email: lighthouse@atlanticcollege.org.
COMING UP

Saturday 10th April
The International Show is coming! This show is a great chance for all the students at UWC Atlantic to reflect their different cultures, thoughts, and customs to the outside world. Before Covid, the school hosted people from different places in the UK to see the show and diversity of our College! Sadly because of Covid, the school is not able to invite them to the campus. But this big event will be live-streamed to the audience. The event will include student performances: dancing, singing, playing an instrument, spoken word and other performances to the local community, families, alumni and donors. After that - the Flag Ceremony! Further details will be circulated by email very soon.

If you’d like to find out more about our upcoming events, check out the UWC Atlantic online calendar or get in touch with Magda Joshi, Events and Alumni Engagement Manager, by emailing joinin@uwcatlantic.org.

Thursday 25th March
5 - 6.30pm GMT
REGISTER HERE
As part of the InTouch series of UWC Atlantic online talks, we are delighted to invite you to an event featuring Peter T. Howe, Andrew Maclehose and Gareth Rees, moderated by Rhian-Anwen Hamill.
DIGITAL ELEA | SPRINGBOARD - ONLINE EFL PROGRAMME
Dates | 29th March – 1st April 2021 (Booking Deadline | 22nd March 2021)
Ages | 12-17 years old
Fee | £70 GBP

ADVENTURE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (ALE)
Dates | 10-17th July / 17th-24th July / 7th-14th August 2021
Ages | 12-17 years old
Fee | £995 GBP (£100 discount if booking multiple weeks)

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (GLE)
Dates | 30th July - 14th August 2021
Ages | 16-18 years old
Fee | £2,595 GBP (scholarships available)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE AND ADVENTURE (ELEA)
Dates | 31st July - 14th August 2021
Ages | 12-17 years old
Fee | £2,150 GBP
THANK YOU FOR READING