

Wonderful Week

At Up Holland High School, we are proud to showcase our innovative and embedded approach to developing students' Cultural Capital that culminates with our signature event: **Wonderful Week**. This initiative has had a transformative impact on student aspiration, engagement, and personal development. In addition to reducing the amount of time and disruption caused by trips running throughout the year, enabling more time in front of high-quality teaching, previously disrupted.

We plan our Wonderful Week at the end of each academic year to bring together the learning from the classrooms over the year to life.

We believe every student should leave Up Holland equipped with meaningful, memorable experiences that extend beyond the traditional classroom. These “wow moments” are educational, skills-based, and culturally enriching, designed to fill our students' Cultural Capital “backpacks”—preparing them for a successful and aspirational future in a competitive world.

Our Year 10 students spend the week on Work Experience, which gives them the real-life setting, to showcase the skills they have learnt over 3 years of ‘wonderful week’. Where, Years 7-9 take part in a variety of residential and day trips as well as ‘wonderful’ experiences in school to enhance their Cultural Capital for their future lives.

We rigorously monitor engagement through a Cultural Capital provision map, tracking who has taken part, what experiences they've accessed, and how long they've engaged. This allows us to target support where it's needed most, ensuring all students—including our most vulnerable—benefit from a rich and balanced experience.

Wonderful Week allows us to strategically allocate resources and ensure inclusive participation. This tracking also supports teacher planning and allows for ongoing reflection and improvement of our offer.

Impact:

Our WOW initiative has had wide-reaching effects across the school community:

- **Students** report increased motivation, awareness of future opportunities, and stronger engagement with school life. They express pride in the experiences they've gained and can clearly articulate how these moments are helping shape their goals.
- **Parents and carers** have given overwhelmingly positive feedback, noting the increased confidence, curiosity, and ambition in their children and the capacity to give their children experiences they can't.
- **Staff** feel empowered by the clarity and consistency of the approach and see the benefits of a more culturally aware and engaged student body.
- **Prospective students and families** are drawn to the unique opportunities offered at Up Holland, helping us grow our reputation as a forward-thinking, inclusive school.
- **Other schools** in our network have shown interest in our model, with some beginning to replicate aspects of our approach, supported by our strategic lead.