



March Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers.

Reminder of Key Dates (March-May 2017)

Friday 31 March 1.10pm: College closes for Easter.

W/C 3 & 10 April: Easter Holidays.

W/C 10 April: Year 11, Core Curriculum Study Days – Sarah Newall will be emailing all parents to confirm our support for all Year 11 students.

Monday 17 April: Bank Holiday.

Tuesday 18 April: College resumes at the usual time.

Monday 1 May: Bank Holiday.

Thursday 4 May, 5-7pm: College Open Evening for prospective Year 12 (Sixth Form) students for September 2017, plus the opportunity for prospective Year 10 students to meet our Sponsors and Partners. The College day will end at 3.10pm to enable staff to set up for the event.

Saturday 6 May: College Open Morning 10–11.30am, for prospective Year 12 students (for September 2017), and the opportunity for prospective Year 10 students to meet our Sponsors and Partners.

W/C 8 May: Main external examinations begin.

Friday 26 May: College closes for Half Term at 3.10pm.

Monday 5 June: College resumes at the usual time.

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We take great heart from the verbal feedback of the HMI, that the College is taking effective steps to secure the improvements required (in 2016) in order to become a good school.

Ofsted Monitoring Report

Further to the February Newsletter, the text of the HMI Monitoring Visit (on 16th January) was published on 10th February. To view the letter response, please [click here](#).

We all take heart from the overall conclusion that **“senior leaders and Governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the last Section 5 inspection (Jan 2016) in order to become a good school.”**

Knowing that the UTC is heading in the right direction has been well received by staff, students, parents and our array of Sponsors and Partners: equally, we are not complacent, and we know that we have to continue to work together to raise the expectations of all our students and this is the fundamental theme of this newsletter.

Opportunities

An especial feature of all UTCs is the breadth of the links with local employers and the opportunities for students to apply their learning in work-related settings. A summary of our links in the year to date is available on our [website](#), but we also know that we have to ensure that the likes of our internships with Cisco are replicated in other settings so a lot of planning and work is going on to secure a much expanded range of **internships for our 16+ students**, while for our Key Stage 4 students the input of our Sponsors **into applied learning projects** will be a much stronger aspect of the College's work in 2017-18.

As the above work proceeds, we recognise the importance of building all students' aspirations for their future careers, and I am delighted that to support our students a further day will shortly be taking place with **Elevate**. Similarly, last week's visits to the **National Apprenticeship Show** are important in providing coherent careers advice and guidance to our prospective and current Sixth Form students - increasing the number of our 16+ learners progressing into various apprenticeship routes is an important target for the year ahead.

An update from Alan Bailey, Head of Computing:

Students have applied for [Rackspace](#) work placements, and nine were accepted to attend an interview on Friday 24th March, at Rackspace, Hayes.

Ellie Ulrich, Cisco apprenticeship manager, came in on Friday 10th March, to talk about the Cisco Degree Apprenticeships and why students should apply for this amazing opportunity. We are pleased to say 15 of our Year 13 students, submitted their CV for one of these placements.

Oliver, Roksana, Jordan and Bradley all went to see their charity customer on Friday 17th to discuss the progress on the online profile that students are building for them. Learners spent the morning looking around the church and meeting the congregation at St Mary the Virgin, Weston Turville.



The following companies and organisations have supported our 2016-17 curriculum. For a detailed summary, please [click here](#).

Balfour Beatty
Construction

BLETCHLEYPARK
Home of the Codebreakers

bunce
plumbing & heating



Taylor Wimpey

New Sixth Form Provision for September 2017

Sarah Newall is working closely with **Alan Bailey**, Head of Computing, and **Nicholas Han**, Head of Construction, to broaden the range of qualifications which students can secure from our specialist courses, as a result of our support from our main Sponsors, **Cisco**, **Intel** and **Taylor Wimpey**. The breadth of these additional qualifications is outstanding and can soon be perused on our website.

Given the outstanding results achieved both by our Level 3 BTEC courses and growing numbers of Sixth Form students who progress from our Year 12 Level 2 course onto the Extended (Level 3) Programme, the opportunities for Sixth Form students at the UTC [are](#) increasing.

We are repackaging our 16+ curriculum for September 2017 to ensure that students can link with both our (main) sponsors and other employers such as [Rackspace](#) and [Network Rail](#) who are also offering internships to our students.

Finally we are proposing to re-establish our **A Level Offer**, initially in [Mathematics](#) and the [Sciences](#): so, it is an exciting prospect for our provision for September 2017 and we are attracting significant interest from external students.



Berlin - Safely Returned!

I am delighted to report that all returned safely and that the overwhelming feedback from the students has been a resounding 'Thank you' for the staff who led our first ever European trip, namely Tom Byrne, Nicholas Han and Amie Hartwig.

We are delighted to share with you, a report that has been written by Year 10 student, Lila Davidson:

The trip to Berlin was extremely informative and fun. Activities within the visit included a trip to various war bunkers scattered around Berlin's underground depths, a visit to an art gallery on the side of the Berlin Wall and a trip to the Jewish Museum. There were other activities too, such as a guided tour around the Brandenburg Gate and the exploration of different shopping malls within Berlin.

Within the bunkers were the remains of people's old belongings from years ago, eroded by water and aged by time within the dark, crumbling walls of old concrete. The bunkers used to hide concentrated masses of people during bombing, which contributed to the atmosphere of the entire place. There was additionally a reconstruction of Adolf Hitler's bunker, the place where he died, as the original bunker had been demolished.

The art gallery on the side of the Berlin Wall boasted many pieces of both abstract and political artwork, all by different authors. Painted onto the wall itself and protected by an iron fence, there were large pieces of artwork stretching for metres across the street. Some were linked to the collapse or building of the Berlin Wall itself, whilst others were merely normal paintings or were just beautiful patterns. Many were graffitied upon by people looking to make an artistic or political statement (or to say that they loved their partner, or that they said hello from their country of origin).

We attended the exhibition of the Horrors of the Holocaust, this included information about the life and death of some of the Jewish people affected by it, and this could be found within the Jewish Museum. The possessions of the murdered people could also be found within the museum, with explanations of their origins and preservation. It is terrible to think of the slaughter of so many innocent people for what they could not control.

In conclusion, the Berlin trip was an entertaining experience and one I would surely wish to take part in again.



Community Week

On the same week as the above, other year groups in the College were engaged in a community project. We can sometimes underestimate the importance of simply doing 'something' to help our local community. I know that Alan Bailey was delighted to receive a letter from Chiltern Rangers indicating their thanks for the work undertaken by our students. A job well done, and sincere thanks to Cheryl Saunders for organising and overseeing a range of similar projects in a busy week.

A message from Cheryl Saunders:

During Community Project Week we undertook two trips with Chiltern Rangers to help with conservation work in the local community. Our first visit was to Bicester MOD where our Year 12 & 13 students helped to cut down trees and shrubs, and set bonfires so areas could be cleared for vegetation to encourage birds such as Nightingales and Warblers, and butterflies such as Dingy Skippers and Hairstreaks. Our students had a great time and asked when they were able to come back again.

Our second trip out was to Desborough Castle in High Wycombe where our Year 10 students undertook a day of litter picking on the site of Iron Age Hill fort that unfortunately was absolutely full with litter and fly-tipped materials. There were many interesting finds throughout the day including car tyres and a swing set. By the end of the day the castle was clear and there was a mound of rubbish taller than some of our students and they were able to see the positive impact of their work on this area.

Both trips were a great success and showed each of our students how taking a small amount of time out of their regular routine, can have such a large positive impact on nature and communities, and reinforced the ethos of many of our employer partners and their desired industries; that a portion of time should be given to volunteering and community work.



Training and Recruitment for September 2017

At the time of writing we have offered a record number of places to prospective Year 10 students for September 2017 – this is clearly good news!

We have costed a morning bus service from High Wycombe to the College, in response to (new) parents' requests. This would leave the station around 7.30am and stop in West Wycombe and then Princes Risborough. We are obviously in a 'chicken and egg situation', i.e. we need to be secure that both new and existing parents/students will use the service before we commit considerable finance to this.

So I would ask parents to respond to Bob Carvey, our Business Services Manager, at rcarvey@buckinghamshireutc.co.uk or **01296 388454** ideally before the May Day Bank Holiday.

If this service is to run, it has to be cost effective for all parties and we have a cut off point in late May as to whether we commit to this - **your response is required** if this is of interest to your son/daughter, and this applies to **all** students in the UTC in September 2017.

Study 'Arrangements', Summer Term

Sarah Newall will be writing to all parents/carers of Year 11-13 students to outline our arrangements for the coming examination season. For our Key Stage 4 students it is important that we provide structured revision to support their preparation for examinations, while for Years 12-13, the 'signing off' of all work due in the specialist area is obviously imperative.

I wish all our students every possible success in the coming weeks - this can be a 'pressurised' time of year for many students and we are here to support each of them!

Staffing (and Finance) for September 2017

We have been busy in the recent weeks securing new staff for the academic year beginning in September 2017. It has been important to advertise and to seek to make appointments 'early', for truly there is a staffing shortage within the profession, and I would suggest this particularly applies to the south of the country. I will outline our appointments in my next newsletter and perhaps it might be helpful to reassure parents (and students) that we are much more financially secure than was the case a year ago. We have secured transitional funding, which recognises that we are "new" in many respects, from the Education Funding Agency - so we have every reason to face 2017-18 with real optimism! We are now working on finalising the calendar for 2017-18 and I will publish all key dates in May, for I know that early notification does help families plan the year ahead.

To conclude, the Easter season is a time of rebirth and renewal and I hope that all parts of our College can look forward to the coming summer in the knowledge that we are heading in the right direction in many, many ways. Let us hope the weather is kind, for this is important to our

'wellbeing'.

Tony Widdell

A reminder that Key Dates for 2016-17 are available on our [website](#).



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Bucks UTC offers specialist courses in Computing and Construction. It brings together Bucks New University, Aylesbury College and major local employers including Taylor Wimpey, Cisco and Intel in equal partnership, offering students the right skills and motivational, work-related learning experience to improve their employability within the Computing and Construction sectors.