# Newsletter!

**BUCKS UTC**

Dear Parent(s)/ Carer(s)

The end of a very busy autumn term is fast approaching, the busiest yet with more students in the UTC than ever before.  We know that students and staff are looking forward to a well-earned break and we look forward to welcoming them back in January 2018!

We **are** continuing to build upon the areas of real progress outlined in the September and October Newsletters and there **is** a real sense of the UTC moving in the right direction.

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- **Spotlight on Science**
- **Computing Examinations**
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- **Student News**

## Key Dates for January – March

| | |
|---|---|
| Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December | End of term report issued |
| Tuesday 19th December | College term finishes 1:15pm |
| Wednesday 20th December to Tuesday 2nd January | Christmas Closure |
| Wednesday 3rd January | Inset Day College Staff only |
| Thursday 4th January | College resumes, students on site from 8:30am |
| Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January | Year 11 Parents Evening 4-7pm |
| Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January | Year 10 Employer Activity Day |
| Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January | Years 12 / 13 Parents Evening 4-7pm |
| Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January | Assessment week for all students<br>Year 11 mock examination week |
| Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January | Year 11 Employer Activity Day |
| Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February | Open Morning 10:00-11:30 for Prospective Yr 10 & Yr 12 students for September 2018 |
| Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February | Year 12 Sales Challenge |
| Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February | Year 11 Employer Activity Day |
| Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February-Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February | Half term break |
| Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February | Inset Day  College Staff only |

## Spotlight on Science

The new Assistant Principal and Head of Science, Joe Dunckley, is rapidly heading towards the end of his first term and is really engaging our year 10 and 11 students in science.

Parents can support their children by encouraging them to complete past paper questions, which can be found on the AQA website, also BBC bitesize has some fantastic revision activities https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zrkw2hv, as does the Doc Brown website http://www.docbrown.info/

Year 10 are working on:

- Biology - Students are working on photosynthesis topic
- Chemistry - Students are working on relative formula masses, moles and balancing equations
- Physics - Students are working on electricity and power, soon to move onto the particle model of matter

Year 11 are working on:

- Biology- Just finishing evolution, moving onto ecology topic
- Chemistry - Students are working on hydrocarbons topic
- Physics - Waves topic

## Computing Examinations

Computing students in years 10, 11 and 12 will be undertaking the following examinations which they have been preparing for in class.  Individual examination entry communications and timetables were posted from our examinations office on 7th December.  The timetable can be seen below:

| Date | Exam Board | Subject | Component | Room | Student Groups |
|------|-----------|---------|-----------|------|----------------|
| Tuesday 09/01/2018 | Pearson | BTEC Creative Digital Media Production | 21526E - Unit 1: Digital Media Sectors and Audiences | HALL | Year 10 Computing Year 11 Computing resits Year 12 Diploma Computing |
| Tuesday 09/01/2018 | OCR | Cambridge National | R061: Introduction to Business | HALL | Year 11 Computing |
| Tuesday 16/01/2018 | Pearson Onscreen | BTEC in ICT | Unit 1: The Online World | Large IT Room | Year 11 Computing resits |
| Friday 19/01/2018 | Pearson | BTEC EXT Computing | 31768H Computing - Unit 1: Principles of Computer Science | HALL | Year 12 Extended Computing |

# Cyberbullying

During **13-17 November 2017** the UTC took part in the anti-bullying campaign by involving pupils in discussions/debates informing them of the high increase in bullying and cyberbullying. We also offered guidance and tips on how to stay safe.

Technology means that bullying is no longer limited to schoolyards or street corners. Cyberbullying Cyber bullying occur anywhere, can happen 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and it can go viral very fast. The recent national bullying survey,

56% of young people said they have seen others be bullied online and 42% have felt unsafe online.

Sonia Hothi, Assistant Principal and SENDCO shares this:

## What is cyber bullying?

Cyber bullying is any form of bullying which takes place online or through smartphones and tablets. Social networking sites, messaging apps, gaming sites and chat rooms such as Facebook, XBox Live, Instagram, YouTube, Snapchat and other chat rooms can be great fun and a positive experience. But what do you do when things go wrong?

## Types of cyberbullying

There are many ways of bullying someone online and for some it can take shape in more ways than one. Some of the types of cyber bullying are:

**Harassment** - This is the act of sending offensive, rude, and insulting messages and being abusive. Nasty or humiliating comments on posts, photos and in chat rooms. Being explicitly offensive on gaming sites.

**Denigration** – This is when someone may send information about another person that is fake, damaging and untrue. Sharing photos of someone for the purpose to ridicule, spreading fake rumours and gossip. This can be on any site online or on apps. We even hear about people altering photos of others and posting in online for the purpose of bullying.

**Flaming** – This is when someone is purposely using really extreme and offensive language and getting into online arguments and fights. They do this to cause reactions and enjoy the fact it causes someone to get distressed.

**Impersonation** – This is when someone will hack into someone's email or social networking account and use the person's online identity to send or post vicious or embarrassing material to/about others. The making up of fake profiles on social network sites, apps and online are common place and it can be really difficult to get them closed down.

**Outing and Trickery** – This is when someone may share personal information about another or trick someone into revealing secrets and forward it to others. They may also do this with private images and videos too.

**Cyber Stalking** – This is the act of repeatedly sending messages that include threats of harm, harassment, intimidating messages, or engaging in other online activities that make a person afraid for his or her safety. The actions may be illegal too depending on what they are doing.

**Exclusion** – This is when others intentionally leave someone out of a group such as group messages, online apps, gaming sites and other online engagement. This is also a form of social bullying and a very common.

## Bullying by spreading rumours and gossip

The worst thing about social networking sites and messaging apps is that anything nasty posted about you can be seen by lots of people and these posts can go viral very fast and be shared by so many people within minutes in some cases.

From what we have heard from people who have been bullied online, the most vicious gossip and rumours are often spread by people who were once your best friends so it's best to keep secrets and personal information to yourself.

Only tell people things if it wouldn't embarrass you if other people found out about them. Posting false and malicious things about people on the internet can be classed as harassment.

## Threatening behaviour

Anyone who makes threats to you on the internet could be committing a criminal offence. It's against the law in the UK to use the phone system, which includes the internet, to cause alarm or distress. It could also be against the 1997 Harassment Act. If threats are made against you then it's essential you confide in your parents, or someone you trust so that they can make a complaint to the police. If you can't print out the threats use the "print screen" button or snipping tool to take a snapshot of the computer screen and then save that somewhere safe. Or if you have a phone or tablet, use the screenshot function and keep these images safe.

## Blackmail and grooming

There has been an increase of complaints from young people that new "friends" online have tried to pressure them into taking their clothes off and filming or taking images of themselves. Threats have been made that their parent will be told embarrassing things if they don't take part or they will send the images to everyone they know if they do not do it.

This is an offence called "grooming" in the UK and people who have been found guilty of "grooming" have been jailed. Everyone you meet on the internet is a stranger and you need to keep personal things personal to you, don't share your secrets with other people and if anyone asks you to do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable then don't do it.

Equally, we hear of people in relationships trying to make their boyfriend or girlfriend send sexting images of themselves to prove they love them or want to be with them. It is against the law for anyone under the age of 18 to take, send or redistribute pictures of anyone under the age of 18. CEOP is The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre and they investigate cases of sexual abuse and grooming on the internet. You can report incidents by clicking the **red button** on the top right hand corner of the CEOP website. It is helpful if you don't delete anything until the police have decided whether they need it as evidence.

## When comments gets abusive

There are quite a few instant messaging apps including Snapchat, WhatsApp, Secret, Whisper and Instagram.  They are a great way of sharing things with friends and having fun. But if things turn nasty you can block people from seeing you are on line and you can save abusive conversations or print them out as evidence.

## Inappropriate images

It's easy to save any pictures of anyone on any site and upload them to the internet. You need the person's permission to take a picture and are happy for people to see it on the internet. Be wary of tagging and hashtags as this will send the picture out to a wider audience then you may have originally intended.

## Innocent bystander

If you have seen someone being bullied online, you can report it to the online site or app. Most sites now have a report button which is something you can do and this will send the bullying comments to the site to investigate.

## Tips and advice

- If you post abuse about anyone else online or if you send threats, you can be traced by the police without any difficulty. Every time you visit a website or make a posting, your internet service provider, Sky, BT or Virgin, has an electronic note of your activity. Even if you create an anonymous email address like Gmail, Hotmail or Yahoo, you can still be traced.
- Keep safe by using unusual passwords. Use a combination of letters, lowercase, uppercase, symbols and numbers. Don't use any part of your name or email address and don't use your birth date either because that's easy for people who know you to guess. Don't let anyone see you signing in and if they do, change the password as soon as you can.

- If you are using a public computer such as one in a library, computer shop, or even a shared family computer, be sure to sign out of any web service you are using before leaving the computer so that you can protect your privacy.

Think twice before you post anything online because once it's out there you can't take it back.

**USEFUL TIPS**

**What should your Child Do?**

**1.** Don't respond to any online or text messages sent by cyberbullies.
**2.** Don't be an accomplice by forwarding any of the messages to others kids.
**3.** Save and print out all the messages as proof and evidence of cyberbullying.
**4.** If you are being bullied, tell an adult immediately to get help solving the problem.

**What can you do as a Parent?**

**1**. Keep the computer in a common area of the home. Monitor their online usage.
**2**. Learn how various social networking websites work. Become familiar with Facebook, MySpace, snapchat and Twitter. Ask your child if they will show you their profile pages.
**3**. Talk regularly and specifically with your child about online issues. Let them know they can come to you for help if anything is inappropriate, upsetting, or dangerous.
**4.** Tell your child not to respond to any cyberbullying threats or comments online. However, do not delete any of the messages. Instead, print out all the messages, including the e-mail addresses or online screen names of the cyberbully. You will need the messages to verify and prove there is cyberbullying.
**5. Don't overreact** by blaming your child. If they are being bullied, be supportive and understanding. Find out how long the bullying has been going on and ensure that you'll work together to find a solution. Let your children know they are not to blame for being bullied.
**6. Don't underreact** by telling your children to "shrug it off" or just deal with the bullying. The emotional pain of being bullied is very real and can have long-lasting effects. Don't tease them about it or respond with a "kids will be kids" attitude.
**7**. Talk to the UTC so they can keep an eye out for bullying during the school day.
**8.** If there are threats of physical violence or the bullying continues to escalate, contact the police.
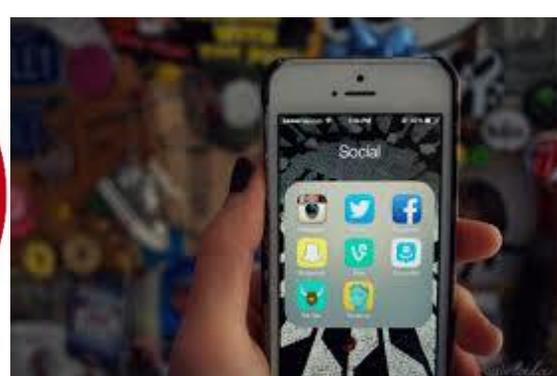
## Student News

Students have been busy this term getting involved in community and employer projects, below is just a snapshot.

### The Skills Show
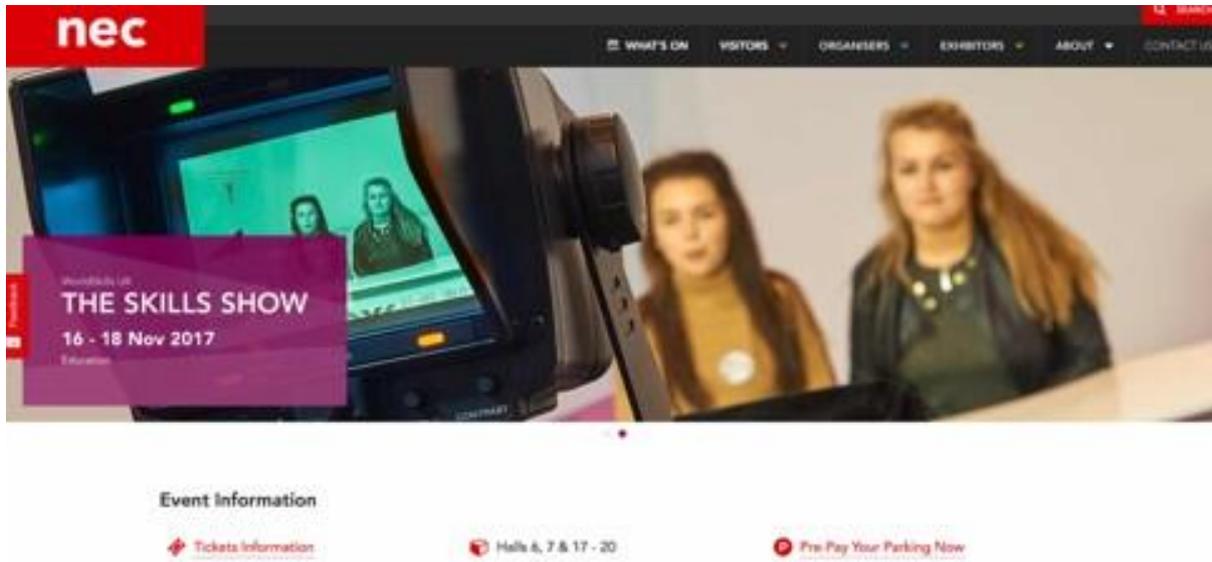


Skills… at Bucks UTC that's something we are always working on, whether it's for our students or indeed our staff we recognise just how important s kills are.

The NEC hosts the largest FREE show dedicated to skills and careers and that is something we just couldn't let slip past without our students getting in on the act.

The centrepiece of the show is the WorldSkills UK Competitions finals where almost 600 trainees and apprentices compete in public to win a coveted place representing the UK on the international stage. Add to that spotlight talks from industry experts as well as brilliant independent careers advisers it's a place that a young person can gain some very valuable free knowledge.

HAVE A GO experiences to inspire and even the British Army rocking and rolling as their personnel performed some brilliant renditions of great musical hits kept the buzz inside the great halls vibrant.

Whatever sort of career you might like to dream about somebody was on hand to tell you how your dream could become reality. There was every conceivable type of work covered be it catering, construction or computing you name it, it was there.

Whether you wanted to present a TV show, read the news or be a weather presenter it all was waiting for you to take part. Even if you wanted to see the inside of a police car you could do it without 'one's collar being felt' much to the relief of Jack one of our year 12 students!

The drive back on the coach was full of excited chatter from our students relaying their days experiences with some speaking of potential changes of direction after talking with such fantastic experts in career guidance.

The Skills Show trip for 2018 is already in the calendar. https://www.worldskillsuk.org/directions/our-events/the-skills-show

# Chiltern Rangers

David Linaker and Linda Newman took a group of year 12 and 13 students to take part in a community project with Chiltern Rangers, this is their review:

## A cut above the rest!



"Wednesday dawned and appropriate lumber jacket was pulled out of the wardrobe dusted and placed upon my shoulders…Today I was mainly going to be a lumberjack. The Monty Python song echoing in my ears I rushed off to work to gather up our UTC students.

Our mission was just the right side of secret hush hush… Having been invited back for a second year by Steph Rodgers of Chiltern Rangers our mission was to be dropped behind lines into a military establishment, where apparently those 'Hereford Chaps' train?

The coach arrived and took us to our destination, deep in the Buckingham countryside where upon a strapping big Sargent directed us into the large barb-wired compound surrounded by forest. We yomped to a clearing in the woods where a large fire was already burning.

Steph Rodgers of the Chiltern Rangers explained why our students had been invited back to St Georges Barracks, Bicester.

The camp apparently is an absolute hive of not only soldiers but also all manner of wildlife including herds of deer. She also told why we needed to clear 'the enemy' by cutting down the overgrown trees and bushes so that the ecological balance of power could be restored in favour of the little guys, mainly the small invertebrate. Instructions given, our task now was to clear a vital 100 metres of territory by the disused rail line!

The day flew by and before long our mission was complete. The overgrown was overthrown and a new order was established.

We took pride in restoring the right environment required for the nature in the camp so that it could continue to flourish, as well as having a really good team building day.

Heading back to our compound, tall tales were told about who had chopped down the biggest trees and pulled up the most bushes.

Surprisingly the journey back was rather quiet all around… 'I think we were all rather bushed!'

# National Film and Television School Challenge

**NFTS** | **NATIONAL FILM AND TELEVISION SCHOOL**

In the October newsletter we wrote to you about a number of year 12 students taking part in a competition run by NFTS.

Bucks UTC students have won this competitive challenge which presented the small teams with an opportunity to tell the world what is special and unique about their school. They have won a "*hands on workshop at the world's best film school!*" Both the students and David Linaker the teacher that led this work are excited to go to Pinewood Studios on 3rd January 2018!

In conclusion, it has been an extremely busy first term for students and staff. There are lots of exciting employer partnerships developing to engage and motivate the students in 2018. We genuinely thank students and staff for their contributions to the UTC this term, even when they've been very challenging!

Assuring you of our best endeavours as the first term of 2017/18 draws to a close…. We hope you have a restful break and enjoy time with your loved ones.

Yours sincerely

Tony Withell                                    Sarah Newall

(Executive Principal)                       (Principal)