



Newsletter

Dear Parent(s)/ Carer(s)

The end of the first half term for 2018 is here and in the 27 days that students have been on site a lot of work has been undertaken including a visit from Ofsted. The report is not yet in the public domain, but we will ensure you are made aware once the report has been released. We **are** continuing to build upon the areas of real progress outlined in the September, October and December Newsletters and there **is** a real sense of the UTC moving in the right direction.

There are just six weeks in the next half term which for year 11 students and for the sixth form students retaking GCSE English and maths will be a critical focus on consolidating their gaps in learning, whilst keeping a strong focus on revision.

We know that students and staff are looking forward to a well-earned break and we look forward to welcoming the students back on Tuesday 20th February, following the Inset Day for staff on Monday 19th February.

Key Dates for February - April

Monday 12 th February-Friday 16 th February	Half term break
Monday 19 th February	Inset Day college staff only
Tuesday 20 th February	College resumes, students on site from 8:30am
Thursday 22 nd February	Year 11 statement of mock results issued
Monday 5 th March	Assessment week – all students
Friday 23 rd March	Year 10 employer activity day
Monday 26 th March	End of term grade sheet issued
Thursday 29 th March	College term finishes, 4pm
Friday 30 th March- Friday 13 th April	Easter closure
Monday 16 th April	College resumes, students on site from 8:30am

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Spotlight on English

Talk The Talk

CONFIDENT COMMUNICATION FOR LIFE

On 6th February, Year 10 and Year 11 students worked with expert trainers from the education charity **Talk The Talk**.

Talk The Talk's mission is to improve students' communication skills to enable positive interaction in all life situations.

Talk The Talk has trained over 15,000 students in the past twelve months in England and Wales and nearly 75,000 since they first started - using a programme developed over the past six years.

Talk About Communication is an exciting and engaging master-class in essential speaking and listening skills within a creative classroom environment teaching students how to use persuasive language techniques to get 'their message' across without the need for shouting The day highlights and nurtures employability skills, interview techniques and key presentation skills. Via numerous speaking opportunities, students are coached and supported throughout the day to deliver a structured two-minute presentation, on a topic for which they have a genuine passion, to their peers.

Teaching staff across the UTC supported these sessions throughout the day to give them the opportunity to work with students in a different learning environment.

"There is no doubt that grades open the door to opportunity for our students. But when they walk through that door – it is a completely different set of skills. We are striving to ensure that all young people are suitably equipped with the essential tools and skills to communicate confidently in a variety of situations – both within school and in their lives beyond.

Young people are reluctant to stand up and speak out. They are reticent in voicing their thoughts and opinions due to the fear of being wrong or being ridiculed by their peers. One of the keys to the success of the Talk The Talk programme is breaking down these barriers by creating an environment of mutual respect with a supportive ethos within the classroom. When students stand up and voice their opinions, share their thoughts and present their ideas – they are applauded by their peers and congratulated by their workshop leader and school staff alike. We demonstrate that speaking out is not a 'life or death' experience – but one that we CAN do – and one that is no way near as daunting as we might think."

Richard Hull – Director – Talk The Talk

Summer 2018 Examinations

The intensive examination period commences 14th May 2018. In line with many Buckinghamshire schools we are not releasing students on formal examination leave. All parents/students completing examinations will be written to individually regarding the examination and revision timetable which will commence 16th April 2018.

We have already sent out the examination timetable as part of the Year 11 revision guide following parents evening in January 2018. A reminder that there are year 11 revision and intervention classes which run throughout the week after lessons have finished and most lunchtimes. If you need

another copy of this, please contact the main reception by telephone 02196 388688 or by email reception@buckinghamshireutc.co.uk. Please support your child as they enter this next important phase of their young lives.

Year 11 students are able to leave and go onto Summer break once they have completed their specialist qualifications in construction or computing. For most year 11 students this will be by 30th June.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish your son or daughter the very best of luck during this often very stressful examination season.

Attendance and Punctuality

We wrote about attendance and punctuality in the October 2017 newsletter and explained that in the course of the past two years, attendance across the UTC has improved by over 2% and we **are** grateful for your support in terms of:

- Making dental/ doctors' appointments outside the College day
- Making sure your child arrives promptly at the college (for 08:30am) and is safe.
- Contacting ourselves promptly if your child is absent.
- Ensuring that 'contact details' are up to date (with emergency contact details)
- Supporting our drive for 'work-like experiences' - i.e., missing the odd day would not be acceptable in any organisation.

Underpinning the above is our knowledge that regular attendance has a real impact upon every students' success and progress and our own data for the past two years illustrates this:

Attendance above 96 %	—————>	80% + achieve 9-4 English and Maths at GCSE
Attendance between 90 % and 95 %	—————>	75 % achieve 9-4 English and Maths at GCSE
Attendance below 90%	—————>	Less than 50 % of students achieve 9-4 English and Maths at GCSE

Some of you will receive a mandatory letter to remind you of the importance of regular attendance where your child is not meeting the required attendance target. We make every effort to support students and if you feel your child is experiencing significant difficulties that may impact upon their attendance please contact us to discuss the matter further. It is imperative that we work together to help every student to make the most of their opportunities in the UTC.

Mobile Devices

Mobiles devices – a reminder – as set out in the parent/student handbook, Bucks UTC recognises the power of mobile technology in the 21st century and its responsible and acceptable use. We do not ban mobile phones from the UTC. However, our policy is that they should be switched off in lesson time and only used in communal areas during break and lunchtime, unless the teacher has permitted

the use of mobile phones in lessons as the curriculum requires, for example to record details of homework.

If students do not follow these simple rules, the mobile phone or other mobile device including portable/Bluetooth speaker will be confiscated and will be stored securely in reception where parents can collect them. Headphones should not be visible at any point during lesson time and these can also be confiscated.

If a student refuses to handover an item for confiscation an incident slip will be completed and passed to an Assistant Principal/Duty Manager. Students bring in any mobile devices at their own risk.

If mobile phones are not really needed our advice is that students should leave them at home. The use of smart phones to take and transmit photographs of people without their permission is illegal.

We would appreciate your support in reminding your child about the appropriate use of mobile phones.

Student News

This half term has been busy with students getting involved in community and employer projects, below is just a snapshot:

- McAfee Interns met with computing students from all year groups to plan coding and programming workshops
- SAE Institute visit
- Inspire the Future, a workshop for students to gain understanding that apprenticeships are a really credible route in to the world of work, with the opportunity to gain up to a degree level qualification alongside gaining on-the-job experience with an employer.
- Cisco Degree Apprenticeships launch
- Biffa Takeover Day
- Year 12 Sales Challenge
- CV and interview workshops with SNL Consulting have started for all year 12/13 students
- Chiltern Rangers volunteering for year 11

SAE Institute



On Thursday 25th January a group of our students got the chance to listen to Leroy Kincaide. Our partnering creative media institute SAE Oxford had invited VIPs to hear Leroy give an inspiring talk about his experiences both as an actor as well as writing, filming and directing. The lecture was mainly about how a director handles his team. David Linaker, who led this visit said:

Leroy Kincaide delivered a funny but very thought provoking talk that not only was informative for the film making process but equally at home for life itself.

His story from WWE Smackdown wrestler, him winning a world record, his time as an extra and his more recent exploits with his award winning short movie Max Payne Retribution had our students transfixed.

Keen to make a big impact with his first project under 'Nocturnal Pictures' Leroy tapped into the popular trend of the 'Fan Film' and set about developing a short film based on the hit video game Max Payne. Max Payne Retribution is a 43 minute short film that won the Oniros Film Awards being hailed by critics. Taking some two years to make Leroy spoke about his determination to succeed explaining how young film makers should always be aware that this is a very collaborative industry, no one is better than anyone else as on any film set, we are all in it together. It's important to follow ones dreams...

With much chat on our way back to UTC we all agreed it had been a very inspiring day and we all know we are going to see some brilliant movies from this man.

So watch this space!

<http://www.sae.edu/gbr/school-partners>



The 'Big Bucks' Sales Apprentice Challenge 2018

"Everybody sells something to somebody every day, whether it's a product, a service or just a case of making sure that they get their own way."

— Chris Murray

Sales skills are a core competency that everyone needs for career and life. The best way to learn how to be effective and have impact is through experience.

In the second year of running, twelve entrepreneurial businesses in Bucks have come together to deliver an exciting opportunity for year 12 to help them develop real sales skills and gain real experience.

This opportunity was open to twelve schools where each of the businesses will team up with a school to compete in this CV-enhancing competition. Bucks UTC took this opportunity and have been partnered with [Lucy Electric](#), a multi-national electrical engineering company based in Thame. During this challenge, students use and develop the following skills:

- Teamwork
- Leadership
- Project management and planning
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Decision making
- Research skills
- Creativity
- Presentation skills

The winning team from the sales challenge day go on to spend a day with the company in Thame, learning more about the company, the selling environment and preparing for the final to be held on April 25th at Pinewood Studios.

The winning team could also win work placement opportunities – plus the participating companies are on the lookout for real apprentices – our students could get HIRED!

Year 11 YouTube Success

In December 2017, Year 11 Computing student Zac Bartley was awarded a silver play button by YouTube, the video-sharing website after his channel 'Just Cool Stuff' hit the 100,000 subscriber landmark.

When we spoke with Zac about this he said

When I first saw that I reached 100,000 subscribers I was ecstatic! I checked my YouTube channel dashboard for a notification and there it was. A congratulations for surpassed 100,000 subscribers and how to claim my reward!"

I uploaded a video to the newly created channel and forgot about it, then when I came across it 2 months later it had 10,000 views. It kept on doubling every day and now it's at 21 million and counting!

It was great to hear Zac presenting about his YouTube channel in the Talk the Talk event on Tuesday this week!

See coverage in the Bucks Herald at:

<https://www.bucksherald.co.uk/news/watch-the-oddly-satisfying-videos-that-have-got-aylesbury-student-80-million-youtube-views-1-8309051>

Staffing

We are delighted that Anila Khan, maths teacher, is returning from maternity leave early in March, we say good bye and thank you to Tristan Tahan from science and maths who is moving onto pastures new and we say welcome to Mohammed Mushtaq who joins the Science Dept after February half tem.

In conclusion, it has been an extremely busy first half term of 2018 for students and staff. Each half term is providing great opportunities to further establish the technical and vocational curriculum in partnership with employers which ultimately provides a better experience for our students.

We continue to genuinely thank students and staff for their contributions to the UTC this half term, even when they've been particularly challenging!

We hope you have a good break and look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 20th February at 8.30am

Yours sincerely



Tony Withell
(Executive Principal)



Sarah Newall
(Principal)