



BUCKS UTC

September Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers. Welcome back to 2016/17.

A reminder of our start of term arrangements:

Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd September – Students joining our sixth form provision from other institutions are invited to drop in between **09:00-13:00** for pre-registration.

Monday 5th September – All students report for registration at 09:00.

Plus a reminder of our **Key Dates for 2016-17** can be found in the July Newsletter or on our [website](#).

Students are expected to be on the college site from **08:30**.

Students finish at **16:00 Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays** and at **15:00 on Wednesdays and Fridays**.

All students can continue their studies through to **17:00** in the Learning Centre.

In This Issue:

- 2016 Level 2 + 3 (GCSE, AS/A2 & BTEC) Results
- Staffing
- Parents' Evening on Wednesday 7th Sep
- Teaching & Learning



RESULTS

We begin the new academic year with our heads held high, knowing that the College is moving in the right direction. The results of our students in the summer have been positive in many respects as exemplified by:

- Success rates for our post-16 specialist subjects at **Level 3** were outstanding, and overall high grades (distinction/distinction*) at 57% - an increase on last year's strong results and some **20% above the published national average.**
- The pass rate at **Level 3** was 100% again, considerably above (up to 25%) the national averages.
- The students that completed **AS** examinations did very well – the pass rate of **90%** was in line with national averages and represented an increase of over 16% from 2015. At **A2** the overall pass rate was **100%.**
- At GCSE/Key Stage 4, the percentage of students achieving **5+ A-C grades improved by over 15%** to 45% with the percentage of students achieving an A*-C grade in English and/or Mathematics being virtually in line with national averages - a truly important step forward for our learners! We also know that the so-called League Tables will measure **progress**, and that English was virtually **at national averages**; the input of our support school, St. Clement Danes, made a real difference to our students.

Visit our [blog](#) to read more about our outstanding results!

At this juncture can I also thank staff for their phenomenal support and good will as we distributed Key Stage 4 and 16+ results this year – every colleague attended one or the other (or both) and their support to students and families was exemplary!

STAFFING

We have said farewell to a number of colleagues including:

Said Aghari, Computing;
George Besas, English C + B studies;
Judith Glover, Science;
Felix Okafor, Computing;
Lisa Taylor, Admin Support, and
Rosemary Clarke (My own temporary P.A.).

We thank all the above for their work in the past year and wish them every possible success in their new positions. For September we are joined by two new colleagues:

Adrian Adolphus, Science, and
Mark Thompson, English plus Lead Professional on our core curriculum.

We have one or two final administrative aspects to resolve in the coming two weeks, but we begin with a full complement of well-qualified, professional staff and look forward to working with you and to build upon our progress in the coming months.

PARENTS' EVENING - WEDNESDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER, 19:00: 'SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS' LEARNING AND PROGRESS'

I hope you can join us for the above when we will outline our work with a nationally acclaimed company, Elevate, as well as our own plans and practice to improve the experiences, learning and progress of our students in the year ahead.

We will outline the workshops which will begin with students shortly to support and improve their learning styles, as well as our proposals to improve their experiences in the college. I anticipate the evening finishing around 20:20-30 and it would help our planning if you could **e-mail the college to confirm your attendance.**

TEACHING & LEARNING

A host of new procedures come into effect with the start of the new academic year, reflecting the professional development programme we undertook in the summer term including:

- **Homework Policy + Practice**

- Literacy Policy
- Marking Policy
- Numeracy Policy
- Work Sampling Policy

All the above have been approved by the Governors and will be added to the policies section of our website for your perusal. All these inform our new Teaching and Learning Policy which awaits ratification at the Governors' Strategy Meeting in September; once the latter has been enacted, this too will be added to our website for your consideration.

A final addition in September to the above will be our [Development Plan for 2016/17](#) – a draft was considered by Governors last term at their aforementioned meeting and this will be finalised at their next meeting in September. If you have a comment about the draft, please contact myself in the first instance at twithell@buckinghamshireutc.co.uk

As we begin the new academic year I am conscious of our need both to work together to support the learning and progress of all our students and of the college's responsibility to enhance each student's overall "experiences" - this is a significant challenge and I assure you of our best endeavours to build upon the best aspects of the college and to enhance the breadth of each student's learning. If you can support our work-related programme in any way, please contact myself in the first instance. It promises to be a busy year, I look forward to working with you and wish every student success in the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Withell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the top.

A reminder that Key Dates for 2016/17 are available in both the July Newsletter and our [website](#).



Buckinghamshire UTC, Oxford Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP21 8PB
W: buckinghamshireutc.co.uk | E: info@buckinghamshireutc.co.uk | T: 01296 388688

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.