

Newsletter

Dear Parent(s)/ Carer(s)

It's been a busy first half term of 2018/19 here at Bucks UTC for students and staff alike!

In the main students have settled in well and new year 10 and year 12 students are beginning to see the importance of the UTC values and expectations. Students are reminded of these weekly in the 8.40am Monday morning whole UTC briefing, see below.



Your support both for your son/ daughter **and** our endeavours **is** important and we would especially welcome interest in the opportunity to join our Governing Body as a parent governor.

Key Dates for October- December 2018

Friday 19th October:

W/C Monday 22nd October:

Monday 29th October:

Tuesday 30th October:

Tuesday 30th October:

Thursday 29th November:

Tuesday 4th December:

Friday 14th December:

Wednesday 2nd January:

Thursday 3rd January:

Colleges Closes for Half Term – 3pm

Half Term

Inset Day, College Staff only

College resumes, Students on site from 8:30am

Year 10 Parent and Students' Consultation Evening (Letter to follow)

Year 11 Computing Parent and Students' Consultation Evening (Letter to follow)

Year 11 Building Studies Parent and Students' Consultation Evening (Letter to follow)

College term finishes 3:00pm

Inset Day College Staff only

College resumes, students on site from 8:30am

In this Newsletter

- Student News and Employer Activities
- Attendance
- Parent Governor
- Dress Code
- Assessment Calendar 2018/19

Student News and Employer Activities

The first half term has been a busy time for students settling into a new academic year, getting involved in community and employer projects, below is just a snapshot:

September 2018

- Year 12 started the year long Inspiration Programme
- Year 12/13 students visited EGX
- e-Savvy project
- Rackspace takeover day for all computing students
- Biffa Project launch for all year 10 students

October 2018

- National Film and Television School Challenge
- e-Savvy project continues
- Building Studies students HS2/Align visit
- Building Studies students attend Construction Week and Grand Designs at the NEC, Birmingham
- Year 10 Talk the Talk
- Year 12/13 Building Studies - Hill Management
- Bucks Skills Show 12th October 2018
- BA flight simulator 16th October
- Taylor Wimpey filming 16th October

UK CONSTRUCTION WEEK | 2018



9-11 OCTOBER | NEC | BIRMINGHAM



It's always good to hear from a potential employer that your students have been well behaved. Well done to these Year 11 Building Studies students.

*"Some of your boys who visited our stand at the NEC. A credit to your college.
Regards
Billy"*

<http://www.zepeurope.com/gb/>

Talk The Talk

CONFIDENT COMMUNICATION FOR LIFE

Example year 10 feedback

Today at first I was scared, nervous, but as the day progressed I was 100% confident, I found the workshop very helpful and helped me with my social skills. I was proud of what I did and the feedback I got.

Today we had a Talk the Talk presentation and a man called Tim came in and taught us how to be more confident with public speaking.

At the start of the day I was very nervous knowing that I had to talk in front of the class but towards the end I became more and more confident.

I felt like my presentation could have gone better because I forgot what I was saying but then I remembered, I tried to look at everyone as I was performing because it would have looked bad if I looked at the floor the whole time.

Doing the presentation was not as bad as what I thought it would be and I actually quite enjoyed it, I felt really proud of myself when I got a certificate at the end because it was like I achieved something because at the start of the day I thought I really don't want to stand up in front of everyone and perform this because I thought it would be rubbish and I'd forget everything and even though I did forget some of what I wrote down it still turned out pretty well.



"At the start of the day, I wasn't very confident on what we were doing today. On the scale of 1-10 I was about on a 4. With all of the activities, I gained more confidence by talking to people more and standing up and doing presentations in groups. When the day went on, I felt more relaxed and I was enjoying myself than being shy. The last presentation, I felt more confident than I was at the start.

Half way through, I was reading my final presentation, I felt that I was looking around the room more and starting to let myself free, instead of standing still and not talking. At the end of the presentation, I felt much better on my confidence, I rated my confidence to an 8! Tim helped me improve my confidence and everyone watching me. I think today will help me thought apprenticeships or big talks."

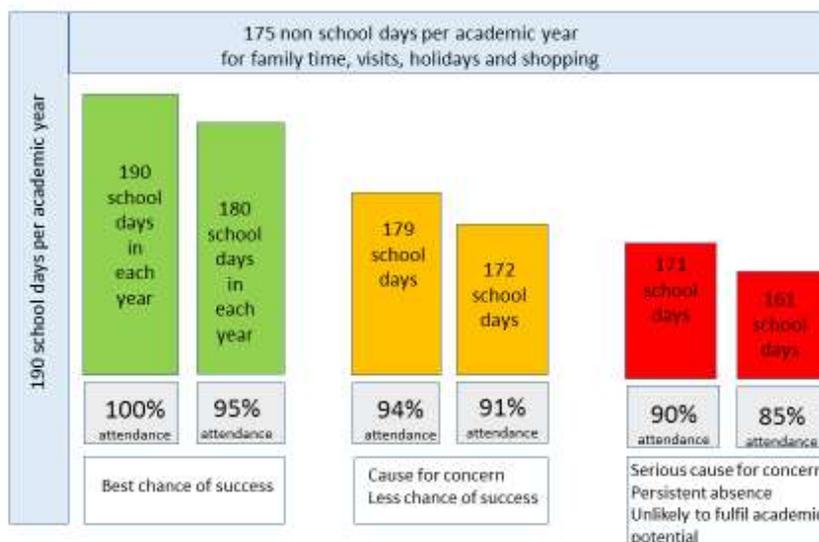


Attendance

All students must strive for good attendance. In the course of the past two years, attendance across the UTC has improved by over 2.3% 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.

Good attendance means Being in the UTC at least 95% of the time (between 180 and 190 days)



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

The above data **is** stark! It is imperative that we work together to help every student to make the most of their opportunities in the UTC. Please support your child to strive for good attendance.

Parent Governor

A vacancy remains on the Governing Body and any parent or carer whose son/daughter attends the UTC is entitled to submit a self-nomination for this role: a proposer/ seconder is not initially required. If an election becomes necessary, all parent(s)/ Carer(s) are then entitled to vote.

If you are interested in becoming a Parent Governor, please contact **Bob Carvey**, Our Business Services Director in the first instance (Tel: 01296 388 454, email rcarvey@buckinghamshireutc.co.uk) Further information is available on our website at <http://buckinghamshireutc.co.uk/about/governance/>

Note: 'Parent' is defined as including 'any individual who has, or has had parental responsibility for, or carers, or has cared for, a child or young person under the age of 18. This includes a person who the child lives with and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their relationships is with the child.

Dress Code

Professional and appropriate attire for all students

I have written before about the importance of adhering to the dress code and asked for your support with this matter. Form tutors will be rigorously checking adherence to the dress code and we would appreciate your support in ensuring that your child arrives at the UTC each morning wearing the appropriate attire as per the UTC dress code which can be seen in the parent handbook and on the UTC website. Students that persist in flouting the dress code will be disciplined accordingly. We regularly remind students almost daily about abiding by the UTC dress code.

Particular issues occurring continue to be students wearing trainers, wearing jeans, wearing excessively short skirts/dresses or excessively tight trousers/leggings. None of which are part of the published dress code. To avoid any doubt the details can be found below:

At Bucks UTC it is important that our students have a smart and business like appearance but we are also aware that construction students will have to comply with health and safety regulations as well as wearing clothes that fit the environment they are working in.

The following dress code takes the above into consideration but also allows students to show a level of individuality and the need to effectively represent the Bucks UTC in the local community and workplace. <http://buckinghamshireutc.co.uk/about/dress-code/>

We believe that all students should take pride in their appearance. Smart dressing conveys positive feelings in terms of commitment and attitude to work and it also enables students to show that they fully embrace the UTC's ethos. This dress code will allow you to choose clothing from a wide range of retail outlets rather than confining you to a uniform shop. If we can help in any way to support the purchase of appropriate attire, please contact us [reception@ buckinghamshireutc.co.uk](mailto:reception@buckinghamshireutc.co.uk)

Assessment Calendar 2018/19

Critical assessment dates during the next half term and early in January 2018 are listed below.

Friday 19th October 2018

B4L/A4L grade sheet and interim report issued for all
For year 11 & 13 this will also include working at and predicted grades.

Behaviour for learning (B4L) and Attitude for Learning (A4L) are formally reported on 3 times per year and each student is graded by subject as follows:

Grade	Attitude for Learning	Behaviour for Learning
4	Completes all the work set and to a good standard. Is highly motivated and looks for more challenging work. Listens attentively and makes good contributions. Works independently. Works well with others – offering support and help.	Responds immediately to instructions and there is no disruptive behaviour. Their behaviour consistently helps themselves and others to learn. They treat all staff and other students with consideration and respect.
3	Completes the work. Shows interest most of the time. Listens attentively and follows the instructions. Is well equipped for most lessons. Able to do some work independently. Works well with others.	Sets consistently high standards for themselves, responds quickly and well when given guidance about how they conduct themselves. Their behaviour helps themselves and others to learn. They treat all staff and other students with consideration and respect.
2	Is focused for some of the activities. Completes some work but to a poor standard. Very little interest shown. Doesn't always listen to instructions. Often has to be reminded to keep on task. Fails to work with others in the group/can disrupt others when working as part of a team.	Requires frequent reminders in order to correct behaviour and focus on learning. Their poor or inappropriate behaviour has on a number of occasions inhibited progress. They may be impolite and show a lack of consideration and respect for others.
1	Completes very little/no work. Not motivated. Fails to listen or get on with work. Doesn't keep on task – even when supported. Disrupts others learning. Forgets equipment regularly.	Behaviour is regularly unacceptable and causes disruption, preventing themselves and others from learning. They often fail to follow instructions. They may show a complete lack of respect for others.
0	Student has not attended sufficient classes for an attitude to learning grade to be given.	Student has not attended sufficient classes for a behaviour for learning grade to be given.

Tuesday 30th November 2018

Year 10 Parents Consultation Evening

Monday 19th November 2018

Assessment week 2/Year 11 GCSE mocks commence

Thursday 29th November 2018

Year 11 (Computing) Parents Consultation Evening

Thursday 4th December 2018

Year 11 (Building Studies) Parents Consultation Evening

Friday 14th December 2018

End of Term reports issued to all students

Spring Term

Tuesday 15th January 2019

Year 12/13 Parents Consultation Evening

Monday 28th January 2019

Assessment week 3 commences

Friday 15th February 2019

Reports issued

Please note all Parents Consultation Evenings run from 4pm-7pm. On these dates **all students finish lessons at 3pm.**

A summary of term dates for 2018/19 can be seen on our website at:

http://buckinghamshireutc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Bucks-UTC-term-dates-2017_2018.xls-Approved-Bucks-2017-2018.pdf

We hope you have a good break and we look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 30th October 2018 at 8.30am.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Valentine". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Sarah Valentine

Principal