



Newsletter

Dear Parent(s)/ Carer(s),

In the last newsletter I wrote about the intensive examination period which was about to commence, we are part way through the second week of four intensive weeks of national examinations for both GCSE and Level 3 courses. In the main students are coping well with the pressure of examinations and we have a ready supply of water, fruit and tissues for those who might need it.

We look forward to welcoming students back for the final half term of this academic year on Monday 4th June at 8.30am

Key Dates for June-August

Monday 28 th May-Friday 1 st June	Half term break
Monday 4 th June	College resumes, students on site from 8:30am
Friday 15 th June	Year 11 students final exam and leaving date
Monday 25 th June	Year 10 mock exams commence
Friday 29 th June	Year 10 East West Rail Challenge
Thursday 12 th July	Student Achievement Awards
Wednesday 18 th July	Thorpe Park trip
Friday 20 th July	End of year reports for year 10 and year 12
Tuesday 24 th July	End of term 1.15pm
Thursday 16 th August	Year 13 Results Day
Thursday 23 rd August	Year 11 (and GCSE English& Maths Resit) Results Day

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Student News and Employer Activities

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

April 2018

- Year 12 students attended Rackspace for intern interviews
- Students worked with BCC with the cyber security project
- 4 students visited Phoenix Datacom to get an insight into their business
- Alcom came in to speak to students and support them in creating CV's and interview techniques.

May 2018

- Construction students met with Smoothflow to understand their business, work placement and full time opportunities
- BAM Construction work placements secured at St Michael's School, Aylesbury
- Year 13 students started their Rackspace work placements (6 weeks)
- Year 12 students are working with local company Acar2go to improve their soft skills, this will continue until end of June.
- Cameron McAnsh from kynetec.com came in to support our year 12 extended computing students with career/future choices and "What an employer expects".
- Year 12 and 13 students are attending Alcom for interviews for full time positions and degree level apprenticeships
- Computing students present their coding projects at McAfee

Year 12 Extended Computing: A Day at Pinewood Studios

By David Linaker

"Miss Money Penny "Have the new double O agents arrived at Pinewood yet?

That's what I was thinking as we arrived at Pinewood Studios. Home to some of the UK's finest Films including of course Star Wars.

It wasn't quite May the fourth but near enough. Our journey had been problematic some with heavy traffic but it allowed our in-school winning team of Harry Steer, Harry Andrews, Cameron Evans, James Codd and Thomas Parkhouse to put any last minute nerves a side as they practiced their presentation being held inside the famous Pinewood studios.

The Buckinghamshire Skills Hub had invited our school along with others within Buckinghamshire to enter their Sales Apprentice Challenge 2018.

The competition was to create a brilliant power-point based presentation to sell Buckinghamshire to young people, persuading them as to why it was the best county to live and work.



Harry Steer said...

Pinewood Studios gave me the opportunity to gain more confidence in public speaking, also the seats were comfy

Competition was fierce and we were delighted when our team got through to the final giving a very credible performance with all of them over coming any nerves when they realised that they would be on stage in front of the many visitors in the large “ John Barry Theatre “ delivering their pitch in front of the distinguished judges that included Allie Smith CEO of Creative Media Skills, Athol Henry Director of Marketing and Communications, Careers and Enterprise Company as well as Marina Jackson the Under 19 Skills Manager, Bucks Skills Hub.

The winning team and school were to receive an inspiring exclusive talk from Naomi Riches MBE the Paralympic Gold Medallist.

A proud moment indeed as they received their certificates as finalists, to what was a very high pedigree competition and with no shame Bucks UTC were worthy challengers.

Cameron Evans said...

Whilst the journey to the studio took longer than anticipated due to traffic, when we actually got inside we had a really good experience complete with rather comfortable furniture.

We didn't win, sadly, but we still enjoyed the day and got to visit the fabulous Pinewood Studios. It was good to learn from the other presentations, and it gave us an opportunity to look into our future rather than just treating it as a competition; I know that Buckinghamshire is a good place to live for young people. Thanks to David for taking us there and for being with us throughout the competition.



Harry Andrews said...

The Buckinghamshire Sales Challenge was a good trip. I enjoyed learning a lot about Bucks and watching the other schools presentation. The seats were very comfy and were a great part of the trip. I would definitely do it again if I ever get the chance. Unfortunately we didn't win the challenge, but it was a great and helpful trip anyway as I learnt a lot.

Thomas Parkhouse said...

The trip to pinewood was great, I enjoyed most of it. I learnt a lot of new facts about bucks. Pinewood studios was really quite pretty, and I liked the location.

James Codd said...

I found Pinewood a really interesting experience and it helped my confidence as I had to perform in front of so many people stood on stage.

You can read more at:

<https://www.bucksherald.co.uk/news/business/students-from-buckinghamshire-schools-take-part-in-sales-apprentice-challenge-1-8487536>

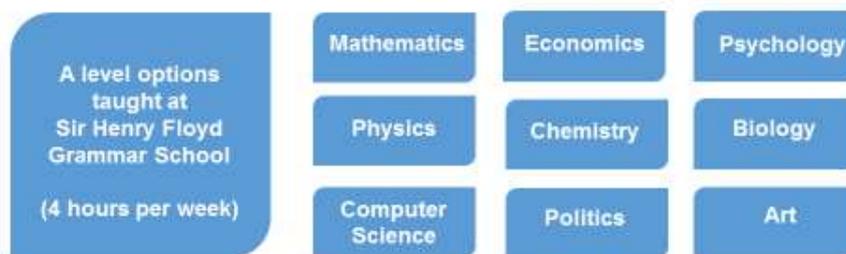
<https://www.mix96.co.uk/news/local/2570011/eight-bucks-schools-go-head-to-head-in-apprentice-challenge/>

(New) Sixth form A Level provision for Sept 2018

As part of our ongoing development, the UTC has been in discussions with the Insignis Multi Academy Trust (MAT) led by The Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School and we will be working more closely together from September 2018, to broaden the learning opportunities for students attending the UTC. The Grammar School is graded 'OUTSTANDING' by Ofsted (January 2016) in terms of the progress of all its students, and we are excited by the prospects of how the progress of our own students into both (Higher) Apprenticeships, Higher Education/ University and Employment will be enhanced in the years ahead. Bucks UTC students joining at year 12 in September 2018 will be able to access the following A Level programmes at Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School subject to meeting their subject based entry criteria.



Key Stage 5 Curriculum A Level Options



See the SHF website for entry criteria:

<https://www.sirhenryfloyd.bucks.sch.uk/curriculum/curriculum-key-stage/>

Term Time Leave: Family Holidays

In the past term we have seen a significant rise in requests for students to take leave during term time. This is to remind all parents and carers that as published in the parent handbook only the UTC may authorise leave of absence, it is not a parental right (Regulation 8 Education (Pupil Regulations) Regulation 1995). If a student goes on holiday without seeking permission from the Principal, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised and we are required to inform Bucks County Council Education Welfare Service Specialist Unit who may issue a penalty notice. For further information please see www.buckscc.gov.uk/education/schools/penalty-notice-scheme/

The UTC will not approve holidays that disrupt a students' education e.g. during examination periods.

Parents/carers should not take their children out of any lessons or work experience for holidays or any other planned event during term time as it seriously impacts on a student's education. Term dates are available on our website.

Student Use of Social Media



This is to alert you about some of the latest social media apps that young people are currently using, the visual below provides a quick and easy guide. It is often difficult to keep track in the ever changing world of technology what the current trends amongst our students are. Not all social media is bad and not all social media leads to cyberbullying. The appsolutelyapril.com website provides some nuts and bolts guidance in terms of privacy settings to support parents in monitoring the use of social media.

<https://appsolutelyapril.com/>

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 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.

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)

Male Students

Suit

A smart business suit – navy, black, charcoal grey or any other dark colour

or

Blazer

A blazer/ tailored jacket with co-ordinating trousers may also be worn

Shirt

Smart plain business shirt in pale colours

Tie

A smart business-like tie must be worn at all times

Jumper

A plain (no logo), V-neck jumper which co-ordinates with the jacket may also be worn. It must be a v-neck and the tie must be visible.

Shoes

Shoes must be formal, smart and dark in colour (no trainers)





Female Students

Suit

A smart business suit – navy, black, charcoal grey or any other dark colour,

or

Blazer

A blazer/ tailored jacket with co-ordinating trousers, skirt or dress may also be worn.

Blouse

Smart plain business blouse in pale or dark colours

Skirt/Dress/Trousers

Smart skirt/dress or trousers (skirts should be worn on or just above the knee)

Jumper

A plain (no logo), v-neck jumper which co-ordinates with the jacket may also be worn. It must be a v-neck.

Shoes

Shoes must be formal, smart and dark in colour - no trainers and if a heel is desired, it must be low.

Term dates for 2018/19

Autumn Term, 2018

Tuesday 4th September & Wednesday 5th September: Staff Training Days, College is closed to students

Thursday 6th September: Term starts, all students on site for 8.30am

Friday 19th October: College finishes for half term, 3.00pm

W/C Monday 22nd October: Half term

Monday 29th October Staff Training Day, College is closed to students

Tuesday 30th October College resumes, normal time

Tuesday 18th December: College terms ends, 1.15pm

Wednesday 19th December – Tuesday 1st January: Christmas closure

Spring Term 2019

Tuesday 2nd January: Staff Training Day, College is closed to students

Wednesday 3rd January: Term begins, students on site for 8.30am

Friday 15th February: College finishes for half term for half term – 3.00pm

W/C Monday 18th February: Half term

Monday 25th February: College resumes, normal time

Friday 5th April: College terms ends 3pm

Monday 8th April – Monday 22nd April – Easter closure

Summer Term 2019

Tuesday 23rd April: Staff Training Day, College is closed to students

Wednesday 24th April Term begins, students on site for 8.30am

Monday 6th May, Bank Holiday

Friday 24th May: College finishes for half term 3.00pm

W/C Monday 27th May: Half term

Monday 3rd June: College resumes, normal time

Wednesday 24th July: College year ends 1.15pm

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 for the final half term of this academic year on Monday 4th June at 8.30am.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Valentine

(Principal)