

Newsletter

Dear Parent(s) / Carer(s)

The end of a very busy autumn term is fast approaching, students have taken part in a wide variety of events and activities with our employer and education partners to support their future careers. We know that students and staff are looking forward to a well-earned break and we look forward to welcoming them back in January 2020!

Sixth form students, on the whole, have worked hard during the autumn term. Please note the amended end of term date of **Monday 16th December at 4pm** to recognise the majority of students' hard work and effort this term.

It is imperative **that all students attend up to the end of the term on 16th December**. Students still have assignments to hand in.

Key Dates for December 2019- April 2020

Wednesday 11 th December 2019	Year 11 parent consultation evening Lessons finish at 3pm
Monday 16 th December 2019	Colleges closes Christmas break at 4pm
Wednesday 18 th December 2019	End of term reports issued for all students
Monday 6 th January 2020	Inset Day, College Staff only
Tuesday 7 th January 2020	College resumes, students on site from 8:30am
Tuesday 21 st January 2020	Year 12/13 Parent and Students' Consultation Evening (Letter to follow)
Monday 3 rd February 2020	Year 11 GCSE mocks commence
Monday 17 th February-Friday 21 st February	Half term break
Monday 24 th February 2020	College resumes, students on site from 8:30am
Monday 9 th March 2020	Assessment week 3 commences
Friday 3 rd April 2020	End of term reports issued. Year 10/12: grades only Year 11/13: full report
Friday 3 rd April 2020	Colleges Closes for Easter break 3pm
Monday 20 th April 2020	Inset Day, College Staff only
Tuesday 21 st April	College resumes, students on site from 8:30am

A summary of term dates for 2019/2020 can be seen on our website at:

<https://buckinghamshireutc.co.uk/parent-portal/parent-information/term-dates/>

In this Newsletter

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Employer Activities

It has been a busy term for all of things that make us a UTC, below is a short summary.

Trips & Visits

Autumn Term 2019

- Pinewood trip, Yr 10/11 building studies
- Rackspace trip, Yr 10/11 computing
- Camelot trip, Yr 13 computing
- NCS Programme, Yr 12/13 computing and building studies
- Inland Homes site visits, Yr 10/11/12 building studies
- Microsoft trip, Yr 11 computing and building studies
- Bucks Skill show trip, all year groups
- World Skills show trip, Yr 11 computing and building studies
- College Lakes trip, Yr 10 computing and building studies
- EGX trip, Yr 12/13 computing and building studies
- Inland Homes Trip HQ, Yr 10/11 building studies
- Beijing trip, Yr 13 computing and building studies



Projects, competitions & volunteering

Projects

- McAfee Project, Yrs10/11/12 computing
- Inland Homes Project, Yr 10/11
- Biffa Project, Yr 10 computing and building studies
- Planter Project Mandeville, Yr 10/11 building studies

Competitions

- NFTS competition, Yr 12 computing
- Project 24 competition

Volunteering

- Student media team working for Mario, using the following social media:- Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Youtube.
- Student voice newsletter for students by students
- Student Council
- WheelPower



Training & Development



Autumn Term

- Mentor Training
- Being safe online
- Motivation Workshop
- Rackspace takeover day
- Exam Techniques with Study Higher
- UCAS support workshop
- Mix 96 introduction (Media and reporting)
- Remembrance event
- Inland Homes company introduction
- NCC Cyber Security Workshop
- McAfee company introduction
- Anti Bullying
- World Mental Health Day
- Self Esteem
- cyberutc workshop with NCC
- Immersive Labs Digital Cyber Academy <http://www.digitalecyberacademy.com/>



We look forward to reporting back on the activities below next term

- Morgan Sindall Placements
- Morgan Sindall Site Visits
- Master classes in trades (Morgan Sindall and Inland Homes)
- Inland Homes Yr 12 Project
- Rackspace Yr 12 apprenticeship programme
- Rackspace Yr 12 visit
- Cisco Yr 13 apprenticeship programme

- SAE site visit - Oxford
- CV workshops
- Interview workshops
- Taylor Wimpey site visits and placements
- Cisco visits
- Cisco Media placements
- Gemini7 web analytics placement
- BNU visits and other University visits/workshops

Spring Term Examinations

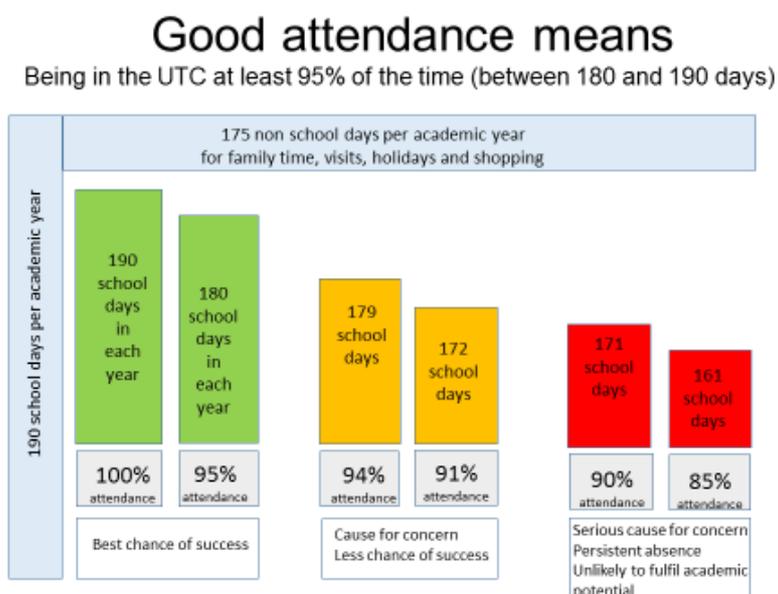
Students across years 11,12 and 13 will be undertaking the following examinations which they have been preparing for in class. Individual examination entry communications have been sent out from our examinations office this week. The timetable can be seen below:

Date	Exam Board	Subject	Component	Student Groups
Thursday 09/01/2020	Pearson	LEVEL 3 BTEC COMPUTING	Unit 3: Part A Planning and Management of Computing Projects	Year 13 resit (1 student)
Thursday 09/01/2020 and Friday 10/01/2020	Pearson	L3 DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION (3 hours supervised assessment per day)	UNIT8: Responding to a Commission	Year 13
Tuesday 14/01/2020	Pearson	L3 CONSTRUCTION	Unit 1: Construction Principles	Year 13
Wednesday 15/01/2020	Pearson	L3 DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION (2 hours supervised assessment)	Unit 1: Media Representations	Year 13
Thursday 16/01/2020	Pearson	LEVEL 3 BTEC COMPUTING	Unit 3: Part B Planning and Management of Computing Projects	Year 13 resit (1 student)
Thursday 16/01/2020	Pearson	LEVEL 3 BTEC IT 13:00-16:00	Unit 2: Part A Creating systems to manage information	Year 12 Year 13
Friday 17/01/2020	Pearson	LEVEL 3 BTEC IT 09:30-11:30	Unit 2: Part B Creating systems to manage information	Year 12 Year 13
Friday 17/01/2020	Pearson	LEVEL 3 BTEC COMPUTING 13:00-16:00	Unit 1: Principles of Computer Science	Year 13 resit
Monday 20/01/20	Pearson	LEVEL 3 BTEC IT 09:30-11:30	Unit 1: Information Technology Systems	Year 12 Year 13 resit
Tuesday 21/01/20	Pearson	LEVEL 3 BTEC COMPUTING 09:30-11:15	Fundamentals of Computer Systems	Year 13 resit (6 students)
Monday 03/02/2020	Pearson	LEVEL 2 BTEC ENTERPRISE 09:30-11:30	Component 3: Promotion and Finance for Enterprise	Year 11

Attendance

We have written to parents previously for support with attendance and we speak with students almost daily about the imperative of good attendance. This is to ask again for your support. The full attendance policy can be seen in the parent portal <https://buckinghamshireutc.co.uk/parent-portal/in-school-2/attendance/> 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 the UTC promptly if your child is absent. Parents must notify the school on the first day of an unplanned absence – for example, if their child is unable to attend due to ill health – by 8.20am or as soon as practically possible (see also section 6). Parents should email to reception@buckinghamshireutc.co.uk or telephone 01296 388459 (a message may be left)
- 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

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. Form tutors will closely monitor all student attendance.

Staffing

We have welcomed Kirk Wheaton, full time building studies teacher during this half term and we look forward to Alex Hinge join the UTC building studies team as a permanent member of staff in the new year. We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thankyou to Nick Han who leaves us at the end of this term and this came through by email this week from a former student who is now applying to university and I think it says it all:

"Thank you Nick, Thank you for everything. You was a big part of the change I made and I am sorry for the student that started out with you but I hope one day you'll be proud of the man I become. You were a great tutor and as much as I hated it at the time your discipline did help guide me into thinking what I actually want to do and the career I need to focus on. Once again thank you for everything and I hope you enjoy the next chapter in your life. Daniel

As we rapidly approach the end of the first term, your support both for your son/ daughter and our endeavours is important and we look forward to working in partnership with you this academic year. We hope you have a restful break and enjoy time with your family and friends.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Valentine".

Sarah Valentine

Principal