

5<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Updates, expectations and end of term arrangements**

### **Updates**

We are pleased to confirm two new full time teaching staff for September 2019, Mr Howard Freeman, Building Studies teacher and Mr Mario Santos, Computing: Creative Media teacher and a full time Intervention teacher, Mr Thlou Mlalazi.

Work commences on the roof terrace w/c 8<sup>th</sup> July to make this an appropriate and safe outside space for students, we are very pleased this work is finally started.

We have invested in some additional IT facilities and upgrades which will take place over the summer break.

### **Expectations**

As we head rapidly towards the end of the academic year it is important that standards and expectations are maintained. This is to ask for your support in the measures we are putting in place to address the following issues.

- Some students are deliberately missing registration and form time by walking at a snail's pace from their bus stop, consciously making the decision that even though they should already be in form or indeed a lesson that they have to go to Morrison's.

From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July, unless there is a genuine travel issue or alternative arrangement in place students that are late will make up the amount of time they are late by at the end of the same day, commencing at 16:05 Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and at 15:05 on Wednesdays and Fridays.

As a reminder, reporting non-attendance is the job of the parent/carer by 8.40am on every morning their child in any year group is absent. Proof of any appointments is also required. Just like in the work environment the UTC may make its own investigations.

- It is important that our students have a smart and business like appearance but we are also aware that building studies students will have to comply with health and safety regulations as well as wearing clothes that fit the environment they are working in, the dress code takes this into consideration We believe strongly 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.

Some students believe that the dress code does not apply to them. All students must adhere to the dress code <https://buckinghamshireutc.co.uk/about/dress-code/> Specific and persistent issues are:

- the wearing of trainers, hoodies, jumpers or sweatshirts emblazoned with huge logos.
- not wearing a tie
- wearing outside coats in lessons (yes, even whilst we've had the recent warm weather)
- female students wearing excessively short skirts/dresses or skin tight jeans.

Bucks UTC, Oxford Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP21 8PB | Principal: Sarah Valentine

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All of the above is unacceptable and cannot continue. When challenged students provide a variety of reasons/excuses as to why they are not abiding by the dress code, some students are rude to staff when they challenge the non-compliance and this also cannot continue.

Students will continue to be challenged and appropriate action for non-adherence to the dress code will be issued in line with the student disciplinary procedure.

If we can help in any way to support the purchase of appropriate attire, please contact the main reception.

- Energy drinks are not allowed in the UTC. In line with government thinking Bucks UTC has banned the on-site consumption of high energy drinks. Energy drinks contain high levels of sugar and caffeine and have been linked to obesity and other health issues. Many major retailers already refuse to sell to under 16s but the government intends to introduce a blanket ban under plans put out for consultation, with restrictions on either under 18s or under 16s being considered. It is our experience that high energy drinks contribute to poor behaviour in classrooms.

Students will continue to be challenged and appropriate action for non-adherence to this ruling will be issued in line with the student disciplinary procedure.

I trust we will have your full support to address these matters, to maintain standards and to meet expectations, further embedding the work readiness of your child.

### **End of term arrangements**

The last day of term for all students will be Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July with lessons finishing at 3pm, this is a change to the published date of Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July.

Year 10 and year 12 end of year student reports will be issued on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July.

We look forward to welcoming your child back on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 08:30. A summary of term dates for 2019/20 can be seen on our website at: <https://buckinghamshireutc.co.uk/parent-portal/parent-information/term-dates/>

Yours sincerely

Sarah Valentine  
Principal

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