

Half Term Newsletter

December 2017



Engineer
Your
Future

Principal's Update

“ We have reached a milestone in reaching the festive season – this has been our longest term and I am confident in the work achieved by our students.

Our Student Leadership Team are well into their roles. I have met regularly with the Student Board of Directors who have provided honest and constructive feedback on how we can improve the college. Their thoughts on making the sixth form more exclusive has been invaluable in guiding our decision to create the UTC Warrington Sixth Form – Year 12 and Year 13 will have their own space from January.

Recently, Marina Gaze visited UTC Warrington to assess our teaching and learning. This review highlighted many positive outcomes – student behaviour was complimented as was their attitude to learning. Meeting with the student voice, feedback was that our cohort felt staff go above and beyond to help them achieve their goals and positive destinations.

It has been very humbling to see our students work with local community projects in Warrington. Year 10 have recently supported Women's Aid by donating gifts and toys; Year 12 and 13 have worked on their NCS projects, including donations to Warrington Hospital and raising funds for food for vulnerable people in Warrington. This is part of our commitment to ensuring students appreciate the work that happens in their local community, as well as developing their softer skills in teamwork, initiative and organisation.

Year 11 will receive their mock exam results on the first day back. This is an opportunity for students to experience the results day setup that we will have in August. Students will meet with tutors to discuss the potential opportunities if these were the real examinations. Again, it will allow us to identify areas of focus for future learning and teaching when our next term commences.

There has been much to celebrate – some of Year 13 have already received University and apprenticeship offers. Our recent apprenticeship engagement morning allowed students to meet with employers interested in recruiting degree-level apprentices from Summer onwards.

Going forward, we will be increasing our level of employer engagement from January. This includes the launch of UTC Hub – a unique platform that will allow all of our students to track what they need to achieve to reach a positive destination. The scheme will also allow students to build a skills profile for prospective employers; they will be able to connect directly with our employer network and those employers linked with other UTCs across the UK.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the staff and parents/carers for your continued dedication and support. There is much to look forward to in 2018; for now, I wish you all many festive wishes. Have a peaceful and safe Christmas.



Department of Education Visits UTC Warrington

In early December we were joined by Marina Gaze from the Department of Education, preparing us for a future Ofstead inspection. Meeting the staff and students during her visit, she commented that she was very impressed with students' attitude to learning and praised the staff she met. She also commented that we were very focused on school improvement and that we have a robust self-assessment procedure in identifying what we do and where we need to improve. Her feedback highlighted that we are in a good position to become a good school when it comes to our impending Ofstead inspection.

Fundraising

From Dress Down Days to collecting tins of beans, over the past term we've raised over £500 for different charities and made a difference in the local area with food and toy drives. It is important that students gain an awareness of local community projects and we are committed to supporting local charities in a way that gives our students the responsibility to organise and deliver charitable activities.

Over the half term, we organised two charity Dress Down Days where students across the college got involved and wore something spotty for Children in Need and popped on their Christmas Jumpers for Save the Children.

At the beginning of the term, three Year 12 groups participating in their NCS programme with Warrington Youth Club, raised money and collected items for different charities. One group collected and bought toys for children at Warrington Hospital, another group raised money for local veteran charity Blue Apple and the last group supported Warrington Youth Club's campaign to feed vulnerable families this Christmas.

This week, a Year 10 group collectively decided to support Women's Aid this Christmas by inviting parents, students and staff to support their campaign to make a difference by donating toys and gifts.

Outdoor Space

Over the past couple of months, contractors have been busy creating and landscaping our brand new outdoor space. Utilising the space behind the building, the outdoor extension will provide a recreational space for breaks and lunch, reaffirming our commitment to the health and wellbeing of our college. The designers have worked closely with our students, ensuring their creative ideas shape the future of their college. As shrubs are planted and light fixtures are put in place, the outdoor space will be open in the New Year.



Hands On Learning

Think, Drive, Survive

As our Sixth Form students begin to drive, we invited Cheshire Fire and Rescue to demonstrate the dangers of driving and how to drive safely. For part of the workshop, one of our students was cut free from a “crashed” car, showing onlookers how people are rescued after an accident.



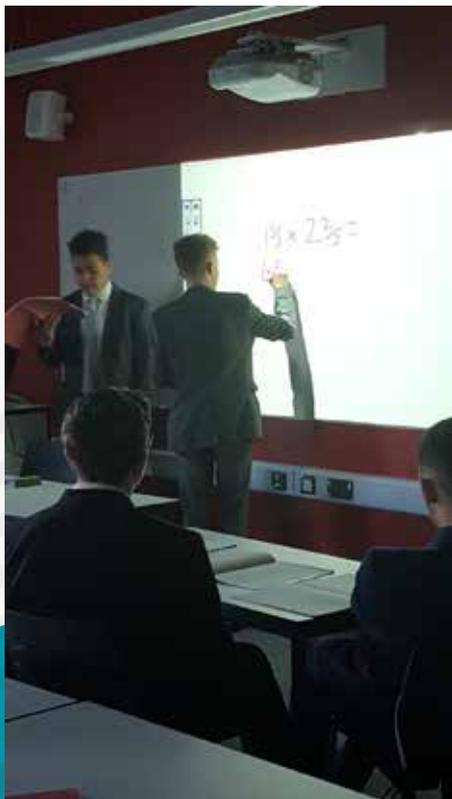
STEM Challenge

A group of Year 10 students spent two days working with Sellafield graduates to design and make a STEM Challenge for local Year 9 students. Splitting into smaller groups they got the chance to solve engineering problems, design a prototype and make it in the workshop.



When students become teachers

Encouraging students to learn in alternative ways, students took to the floor in maths to teach each other the multiplication of fractions. Can you work out the equation?



Meeting Dick Strawbridge at Sellafield

Setting their sights on the world of Science and Engineering, a group of budding Year 13s headed over to Birchwood to meet Scrapheap Challenge's Dick Strawbridge. The day consisted of meeting Sellafield teams and getting inspiration for their upcoming Big Bang competition in March.



Enrichment

Published Author

Putting pen to paper, Year 10 Beth Palmer has written a poem about Cyber Bullying during Creative Writing Enrichment. Submitting her work to this year's Young Writers' competition, the poem has been chosen for publication in a book showcasing North West verses. *The Poetry Games: Truth or Dare? - The North West Verses* will be published on 31st March 2018.



Congratulations Beth!

Sport Enrichment Days

As part of our Enrichment programme, Years 10 and 11 brushed up on their Ninja skills this term at Ninja Warrior. Clambering across obstacles and running up the infamous wall, students got the chance to blow off some steam and challenge themselves. For some, the trip also included the chance to fly at indoor sky diving centre iFly.



Combined Cadet Force

Attention! Partnering up with local regiment, 75 Engineers, students across the college have signed up to join our CCF group. Teaching students discipline, resilience and team work, they've also been learning how to parade and handle weapons safely.



NCS Graduation

After a week away in Wales and taking part in a Social Action Project, a group of Sixth Form students graduated the National Citizenship Service Programme at the Peace Centre.



Coming up next Half Term



If you know anyone interested in joining us in September 2018, our next Open Evening takes place on Thursday 1st February from 5.30pm. This is a great opportunity for prospective Year 10 and Sixth Form students and parents to learn more about UTC Warrington with tours, tasters and talks.

Mock Results Day

Over the past month, Year 11 students have been sitting through a series of Pre-Public Exams (Mocks). Practicing for their GCSEs in the summer, they have been developing their exam and revision skills. Returning after the Christmas holidays, they'll get the chance to experience their future results day. Inviting employers and local higher education providers, students will be able to discover what their results will enable them to do come the summer.



Wishing all of our students & their families a very Merry Christmas