



## Parent Update – March 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

With the Easter holidays fast approaching and students nearing the summer exam season, it is a good time to update you on what has been happening and what is scheduled at UTC Swindon in the coming weeks.

It is an absolute pleasure to be able to report some wonderful news regarding the **Royal Navy Challenge**. This is the first time that UTC Swindon has entered this prestigious national competition and we had a team from Year 10, “Extracting Compass”, who qualified for this week’s finals at HMS Sultan, Gosport. As part of the event, students experienced staying overnight on HMS Bristol in Portsmouth Harbour and after 5.30am reveille and breakfast in the Junior Ranks’ Mess, completed Exercise Clean Sweep along with dozens of other



teams at U16, U19 and Apprentice levels.

The challenge had the objective of building a remote controlled vessel, capable of recovering hazardous objects from Portsmouth Harbour and placing them on the quayside, in preparation for the visit of HMS Prince of Wales. This simulated activity involved a range of skills, teamwork and leadership and our students excelled, even overcoming a snapped line when attempting to lift an obstruction from the ‘harbour’ floor! The team had the presence of mind to carry out running repairs with the clock ticking and still managed to complete the task. Out of the 27 teams in the U16 competition, our team were overall winners and in addition to a splendid trophy, team members won £200 of



Amazon vouchers.

This is an amazing achievement and congratulations to Connor Browne, Antony Moran, Harry Povey, Malachi Willis and Josh Clarkson, who demonstrated excellent project management skills, resilience and pure dedication. You have set the bar high and expectations will be great for 2019! Thanks to Tony Jordan, Engineering Subject Leader, for his tireless support during the whole project.

This achievement demonstrates the qualities that we aim to inspire as part of the UTC programme and encapsulates our vision to “**Raise aspirations and transform lives in Engineering and Technology.**” We have also reviewed our core values and have challenged our community to:

- Show resilience
- Be kind to others
- Show respect

- Be the best we can in all that we do

In living these values, we will continue to grow as a community and our young people will develop into reliable citizens, making valuable contributions to society.

### Year 12 Work Experience

This was a great success for all students during the two-week placements and, as usual, feedback from employer partners was extremely positive. With recruitment of young people into STEM-related careers being a national priority, such opportunities are important to demonstrate the quality of UTC students to prospective employers.

All of Year 10 will on placements for two weeks at the beginning of July.

### Year 11 Exams

Students in Year 11 recently sat Spring Mock exams as a final opportunity to prepare and perform under exam conditions and expectations. This is a vital experience to identify areas that require extra focus in each subject and intervention support is underway to support targeted groups of students in class, lunchtimes and at after-college sessions.

Results for the Spring Mocks have been issued to students in the same way as the Summer results and students discussed their performance with senior staff to ensure a plan is put in place to address weaknesses in time for next term's exams.

Information on how to support your child has been circulated and a reminder that there are some excellent on-line resources that can be used to extend their learning, including **GCSEpod** (<https://www.gcsepod.com/>) and **Kerboodle** (<https://www.kerboodle.com/users/login>). These reinforce current understanding or boost revision in key topics.



**Year 11 Easter Revision** – details of sessions available to students were sent out last week, including booster sessions here and at New College for English and Maths. An overview of sessions at UTC are shown below:

Date	Subject/Time	Focus
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	<b>English Literature</b> – 9am – 3pm	Paper 2
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>English Literature</b> – 9am – 12.30pm	Paper 1
	<b>Science</b> – 12.30pm – 3pm	Chemistry/Biology
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Science</b> – 9am – 3pm	Physics/Chemistry
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Science</b> – 9am – 3pm	Biology/Physics
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Business</b> - 9am – 12pm	Units 1 and 3
	<b>Geography</b> – 12.30pm – 3pm	Walking-Talking Mock (Unit 1)
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Maths</b> - 9am – 3pm	Higher paper
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Maths</b> – 9am – 3pm	Foundation paper
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Computer science</b> (set 1) – 9am -3pm	Paper 1 (Computer systems)
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Computer Science</b> (set 1) – 9am -3pm	Paper 2 (computational thinking)

### Changes to the working day

After the initial shock of reduced breaktimes and a more concentrated afternoon timetable, students have adapted really well and the routine has become embedded. The additional time at the end of the day has allowed us to provide targeted intervention for Year 11 and 13 students and has significantly improved punctuality with same-day late detentions being set for those who do not arrive on time without good reason.

## College closure arrangements

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that students are able to attend college, there may be exceptional circumstances that require the UTC to close early or not be opened.

A reminder that in such circumstances, information about a closure can be found on the UTC Swindon website ([www.utcswindon.co.uk](http://www.utcswindon.co.uk)), social media (email, Twitter and Facebook) and Swindon Borough Council.

## Expectations

Our partner employers constantly tell us that they are looking for highly skilled, motivated and reliable workers and we aim to develop these qualities in our students. It is important that all students arrive in good time, with the correct uniform and equipment to maximize their learning. Your support in upholding these expectations is much appreciated.

<b>Key Dates</b>	
<b>March</b>	
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	End of term for students (12.30pm)
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Staff Training Day
<b>April</b>	
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Start of Summer Term (8.30am)
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Year 10 Academic Review (4.00-7.30pm)
<b>May</b>	
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 11 GCSE exams start
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Half-term break
<b>June</b>	
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Final GCSE exam (German)
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 10 Exam Week
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 11 Thorpe Park trip
<b>July</b>	
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July – Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 10 Work Experience
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	New Year 10 Taster Days New Year 12 Taster Day (Tuesday)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	End of term for students (12.30pm)
<b>August</b>	
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> August	A Level Results Day
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> August	GCSE Results day
<b>September</b>	
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	New Year 10 Induction Day
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	New Year 10 Induction Day
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 11 and Year 13 start of term

Have a lovely Easter break.



**Jon Oliver**

Principal

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