



“Raising aspirations and transforming lives through Engineering and Technology.”

Parent Update – November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we start the second half of the term, there is much to update you with and look forward to, in the coming months. It has been a really promising start to the academic year and we are confident of students continuing their successes in gaining important qualifications and skills as well as developing much needed work-related qualities. Latest 2018 destination figures reinforce how successful our students have been, particularly for the first cohort of students who joined us in 2014 and completed 4 years with us:

- 92% of UTC Swindon Year 13 students progressed into apprenticeships/Higher Education or employment, compared to 87% of UTC students overall and 74% nationally.
- UTC Swindon had the highest proportion of students starting apprenticeships after Year 13 (75%) across all UTCs in 2018.

These are phenomenal statistics, but most importantly, it is individual students fulfilling their potential, allowing us to contribute to providing skilled young people into STEM-based careers, which can only be good news for the UK as we move into uncertain times.

Wellbeing Day

All students in Years 10-12 recently participated in a day of activities, led by employers and other organisations with a wide range of sessions that included resilience training, motivation, substance misuse, art and knitting. These proved to be extremely popular and allowed students to broaden their knowledge and experiences, with a group of Year 11 boys being particularly captivated by the knitting session!

UTC Pipeline Programme

The first activity day took place in October, with partners Fujitsu, Wiltshire Police, Network Rail and Honda leading activities with Sixth Form students, both on and off site. In addition, Intel have joined the programme and delivered the first session with twenty Year 10 students, who also benefitted from working with another highly successful organization. The next Pipeline Day is later this month.



Careers Fair

We host our annual Careers Fair on Tuesday 26th November and students will participate in different workshops to enhance work-based skills and qualities before being able to speak to a range of employers about career opportunities and the qualifications, skills and personal qualities required in order to secure employment. There is the opportunity for parents/carers to attend the **Careers Fair** between **3.00-4.00pm** on this day and students will be dismissed when the day ends at 4pm.

UTC Cyber Security Council

In collaboration with Fujitsu, nine other UTCs and fifteen companies, we have set up a Cyber Security Council with the aim of guiding students into the increasingly important discipline of cyber security. As the only current provider of an accredited cyber security qualification at Level 3 locally, we are at the forefront of meeting this growing need as more organisations identify how they intend to tackle this worldwide threat to industrial and personal security.

Read the full coverage from one of the partners Alphr.com.

World War 1 Replica Field Gun visit

On Wednesday 24th October, a full-sized replica WW1 8inch Howitzer Field Gun hit the streets of Swindon, hauled by a steam traction engine, driven by Year 13 student Luke Crowther. His driving skills were seriously challenged in the visit to UTC Swindon, due to the tight entrance, but eventually students were able to look at these wonderful feats of classic engineering and the WW1 war effort in Swindon.



This type of gun was built just over a hundred years ago at the famous GWR locomotive works in Swindon, part of which is now home to UTC Swindon. The object of the tour is to raise awareness of the importance of this year's 100th anniversary of the end of WW1, with opportunities for people to donate to SSAFA – the Armed

Forces charity, which has been helping servicemen and women since the Great War (www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/swindon-great-war).



Royal Navy Challenge 2019

Teams are in the process of planning entries for this year's competition, which we won in the U16 age group in March of this year. The added incentive of being reigning champions has inspired several potential teams to take up the challenge and we hope to have all make it through the judging phase later in November.

Once plans have been approved, teams develop their ideas further before finalists are selected to compete in the climax of the competition at HMS Sultan, Gosport in March 2019.

Academic Monitoring

Students in all year groups have been taking subject tests and assessments during this term, with Year 11 having just completed Pre Public Exams (PPEs). There will be an opportunity for Year 11 and 13 parents/carers and students to discuss progress at the Academic Review morning on Friday 21st December, when reports will be issued and subject staff available for more detailed feedback. Reports will be sent home for students in Years 10 and 12 at the end of term, with Academic Review later in the year.

Year 11 students will receive their PPE results on Monday 19th November, with a chance to review progress against targets.

Open Day – Saturday 1st December (10.00am-1.00pm)

We are holding our next Open Day of the year in a couple of weeks, which is a great opportunity to show off our fantastic facilities, meet with staff and partner employers and for student ambassadors to guide prospective new students around the site.

If you would like to attend, or know of potential students who might be interested in finding out more about UTC Swindon and STEM-based careers, please complete registration via [this link](#).

Social Media

We regularly add news items on our Facebook and Twitter accounts and we would like to achieve 10,000 'likes' on Facebook by Christmas so that we can share the achievements and profile of UTC Swindon. Your help in this would be much appreciated and you can view posts via the following links:

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/pg/UTCSwindon/about/>

https://twitter.com/utcswindon?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor

Bicycle Security

To make students' bikes as secure as possible, we recommend using a decent D-lock type padlock, which will make attempts to steal bikes more difficult. The Police have offered to security code students' bikes free of charge, which can make the recovery of stolen property possible and we will notify students of when this is planned.

With winter weather approaching and the dark mornings and evenings, we would ask that students ensure that their bikes are regularly maintained, that appropriate clothing is worn to make them more visible, which should also include helmets, and that effective lights are fitted.

It is also important that students ride safely and responsibly and we appreciate your support in reinforcing this with your child.

Key Dates

November

Thursday 22nd

Monday 26th

6th Form/Year 10 Pipeline Day

UTC Careers Day

(open to parents/carers 3.00-4.00pm)

December

Saturday 1st (10am-1pm)

Thursday 20th (6pm)

UTC Open Day

Ex-Year 11/13 Presentation Evening

Year 10 and 12 end of term (4.30pm)

Year 11 and 13 Academic Review

Friday 21st (8am-1pm)

January 2019

Tuesday 8th (8.30am)

Monday 14th – Friday 25th

Start of Spring term (all students)

Year 12 Work Experience

February

Monday 18th – Friday 22nd

Half-term break

March

Monday 11th – Friday 15th

Tuesday 26th

Year 11/13 Exam week

6th Form/Year 10 Pipeline Day

April

Wednesday 3rd (1.30-5.30pm)

Year 10/12 Academic Review

(Year 11/13 dismissed at 12.50pm)

End of term

Friday 5th (12.50pm)

Wednesday 24th (8.30am)

Start of Summer term (all students)

Other dates, including holidays, are shown on our website (www.utcswindon.co.uk).

With all best wishes,



Jon Oliver

Principal



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