

Scarborough UTC News Flash Friday 18th September 2020

INTRODUCTION

Dear Parent/Carer

At the end of our first full week I write with a very positive message. Despite all of the challenges and uncertainties presented by the coronavirus situation I have been absolutely delighted with our start to this academic year. This might be viewed as a time when it would be easy to become distracted from our core purpose but I am pleased to report that this week has been anything but.

All of our students, in all four year groups, have returned with a strong desire to focus and get on with their learning. Equally my staff have been really focused on finding out where students are in their learning and then teaching carefully to close any gaps in lost learning since March and ensure students are able to make good progress moving forward. There has been a real air of purposeful teaching and learning in the building, despite everything we are having to do to keep everyone safe. This presents us with a really strong foundation on which to build as we move forward through this term.

It seems that the news currently remains dominated by the coronavirus situation and we have been preparing for various scenarios should individuals or groups need to self-isolate at home. Where a student(s) is required to self-isolate then we are able to continue to provide learning for them through Google Classroom and this process is set out in our Student Remote Learning Policy (found in the COVID section of our website). All students have classroom codes for subject classrooms in Google and our new students have received introductions to the software and will receive further training next week. Where members of staff are required to self-isolate we will respond on a case by case basis; circumstances may require that we cover lessons with other staff, adjust groups in year group zones or in worst case scenarios we may have to send groups of students home. In all circumstances we will be guided by the specialist advice provided by both the DfE and the local Health Protection Team.

Our unique ethos at Scarborough UTC is built on an approach that reflects the world of industry and therefore helps to develop important employability skills in our students. We work hard at developing trusting and mature relationships with all our students that enables all students to succeed.

Our ethos is underpinned by a recognition and rewards system built on our Professional Values and Employability Skills, which you can see here in more detail <https://www.scarboroughutc.co.uk/about/vision-values/> . The development of these values and skills in all of our students is an integral part of our curriculum and is planned for in teaching and learning, enrichment and social and community aspects of college life. All students will gain points and will be rewarded for these, alongside the knowledge that they are demonstrating a particular value or employability skill.

The UTC is a unique type of college in this region in that we do not have a catchment area and therefore any student wishing to join the UTC has to make a conscious choice to do so and apply. To support and encourage this process, as many of you will be aware, we hold a range of events to enable prospective students and their parents find out more about the opportunities at the UTC. The first events of this academic year are:

The Sixth Form Open Event held on Thursday 1st October 2020

The Year 10 Open Event held on Thursday 15th October 2020

Our parent surveys inform us that the vast majority of our parents are very happy with their child's experience and opportunities at the UTC. I would therefore like to ask for your support and urge you to promote the open events to friends, family, work colleagues and neighbours. We really do rely on word of mouth and your support is appreciated.

Thank you for your support

Mr Kilgour
Principal

T&L@SUTC

At Scarborough UTC we are focussing on curriculum with our students this year, and curriculum sequencing. It is essential that all students are aware of not just what they are being taught in lessons and how to complete those tasks, but why they are completing that work and how it fits into the big picture of their course curriculum. All lessons start with a presentation that communicates this and students have trackers and posters to further reinforce the 'Why?' of their studies. In addition, Directors of Subject have worked hard to ensure that, where common skills are taught in different subjects, these are aligned across the key stage. Knowledge organisers will be introduced soon – watch this space!

ASSESSMENT AND CURRICULUM

Behaviour and Safety

Students have continued the return to college in a very mature manner with excellent business dress, conduct and attendance. We have introduced mandatory masks on corridors and social areas and the students are using the new handwashing facilities and establishing good habitual hygiene regimes.

An additional reminder that it is vital that each student continues to only use own personal equipment in line with the list on the website, this includes stationery, maths set, earphones and scientific calculator.

Students have now been set in their Friday enrichment groups. There are a wide variety of study areas available from surfing, local history, reading club, Band/music, F1 in schools, fabrication and many more. This gives an opportunity for students to develop team work,

take part in projects and develop important skills. The local History group will make their first educational visit to the Rotunda Museum on Friday 18th September.

Curriculum and Assessment

Year 10

Initial student assessment data has been used to inform the set groups and timetables and option subject changes have been finalised. To do this we used GL assessments in Maths and English, CAT 4 and NGRT reading tests combined with teacher assessment data. Y10 students will collect their finalised timetable which commences on Monday 21st September.

Year 11

The formative assessment process has commenced and students should expect some in class testing. They have completed NGRT reading tests and GL CAT 4 tests for year 11 will commence next week, this data will be used to assess progress against previous targets and provide an assessment baseline.

Year 12

Year 12 have completed KS5 GL CAT 4 gold tests. This data will be used alongside student GCSE grades for analysis to set progress targets and provide an assessment baseline.

Year 13

Formative assessment has commenced for year 13.

Key dates for the first assessment cycles are Year 10 and 12 - week commencing September 28th 2020 and Year 11 and 13 week commencing – 2nd November 2020. All assessment information, Attendance, Professional values, behaviour and target information is published on the My Child at school apps. This is a secure and personal portal that allows you to assess the progress of your child at any time.

SIXTH FORM

Our student presidents from Year 13 this year are Calista Allen and George Brown. They presented about student leadership in assembly this week and have been busy ensuring that refreshments in the common room are sorted for all. They will be recruiting for the leadership team in the wider college next week. This is open to all students who want to make a positive difference. Lessons are continuing with pace and we are delighted that our pre-apprenticeship programme has been successfully launched. This one-year programme involves lots of practical activity and skills development in our engineering workshop. Our new A Levels in Product Design and Environmental Science have had positive responses from students.

All students in the Sixth Form should use our google classroom and access their independent study booklet. It is important that students put in the extra hours to their study time in order to ensure their success.

CAREERS

Students at Scarborough UTC have access to the careers platform Grofar. They can log on with their school user name and email. This gives access to lots of resources and careers advice.

ETHOS

Our theme of the week has been Heroes and we have been delighted to welcome Sue Jenkinson from St. Catherine's Hospice to our assemblies this week. St. Catherine's will be our link charity this year and we will be leading some creative fundraising this year to offer support to this local charity who do such incredible work. One of our core values as a UTC is teamwork and kindness is a key part of this. Heroes in the everyday world are not like Marvel figures with super powers, they are everyday people who put others first and try to make a positive difference. Mrs Fearnough led assemblies speaking of the inspirational figure of Captain Tom who aged 99 raised over £30 M for the NHS. We encourage all members of the UTC community to be an everyday hero.

Students of the week are:

Year 10: Blade Noble and Finlay Cornwall

Year 11: Rocco Anderson and Reece Baker

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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| Sixth Form Open Evening | Thursday 1 st October 2020 |
| Professional development training day: | Friday 9 th October 2020 |
| Year 10 Open Evening: | Thursday 15 th October 2020 |
| Year 10/12 Settling-In Evening: | Thursday 22 nd October 2020 |
| Autumn half term: | Monday 26 th October to Friday 30 th October 2020 |
| Sixth Form Taster Day: | Thursday 26 th November 2020 |
| Year 11/13 Progress Evening: | Thursday 3 rd December 2020 |
| Professional development training day: | Friday 4 th December 2020 |
| Celebration Evening: | Thursday 17 th December 2020 |

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| Christmas holiday: | Monday 21 st December 2020 to Friday 1 January 2021 |
| Professional development training day: | Monday 4 th January 2021 |
| First day of spring term for students: | Tuesday 5 th January 2021 |
| Spring Half term: | Monday 15 th February 2021 to 19 th February 2021 |
| Easter holiday: | Monday 29 th March 2021 to Friday 9 th April 2021 |
| Professional development training day: | Monday 12 th April 2021 |
| First day of summer term for students: | Tuesday 13 th April 2021 |
| Bank holiday: | Monday 3 rd May 2021 |
| Summer Half term: | Monday 31 st May 2021 to Friday 4 th June 2021 |
| Term ends: | Friday 23 rd July 2021 |