

Scarborough UTC News Flash Friday 8th October 2021

INTRODUCTION

Dear parent/carer

I write this week as we reflect on the news that nationally there has been a significant rise in the number of COVID-19 cases in secondary schools. Thankfully, the number of cases at the UTC have been quite low thus far, however in order to try and maintain this position I wanted to remind you of the current mitigation measures recommended by government.

The main mitigation measures are vaccination of students and regular testing.

We are still awaiting a date for the Immunisation Service to attend Scarborough UTC to carry out vaccinations for our 14 and 15 year olds and we will be in touch as soon as this date is confirmed. Students aged 16 and over can of course get vaccinated through the vaccination centres.

Regular lateral flow testing will also help to identify individuals with COVID-19 who are not displaying symptoms. All students and their parents and people they live with are strongly encouraged to continue to test themselves twice a week using lateral flow tests, and to stay at home and request a PCR test should the result come back positive. I have issued a letter setting out more details on testing which you can access here: <https://www.scarboroughutc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Letter-Measures-to-prevent-the-spread-of-Covid-19.pdf>

Young people in England can currently choose between three types of Level 3 qualification at the age of 16: academic qualifications such as A levels, technical qualifications that lead to a specific occupation, and applied general qualifications such as BTECs and OCR Technicals (used at the UTC) that combine the development of practical skills with academic learning.

In July 2021, the Department for Education confirmed plans to replace this three-route model with a two-route model of A levels and T levels (a new suite of technical qualifications), where most young people pursue one of these qualifications at the age of 16. As a result, funding for the majority of BTEC and OCR Technicals qualifications will be removed.

The #ProtectStudentChoice campaign coalition of 18 organisations that represent and support staff and students in schools, colleges and universities is deeply concerned about this plan. Scarborough UTC shares this concern and in our view it is far too simplistic, and many young people will continue to be better served studying a BTEC or OCR Technical rather than an A level or T level-only study programme. By supporting this petition, we hope to influence and thus ensure that applied general qualifications continue to play a major role in the future qualifications landscape. You can read the #ProtectStudentChoice campaign joint position statement [here](#) and their joint letter to the Secretary of State for Education [here](#).

The petition to parliament can be found here, <https://www.protectstudentchoice.org> and needs 100 000 signatures to be heard in parliament. I hope you will be able to sign up and hopefully help to preserve this educational offer.

Thank you for your support.

Mr Kilgour
Principal

This week the teaching team at Scarborough UTC have received information and guidance with respect to Communication and Mathematical Skills, and how to ensure that they are considered within every aspect of the curriculum. Staff teams will consolidate and embed this knowledge involving a range of strategies being trialled and reviewed. Effective communication and mathematical skill is vital for our students to succeed and, with our focused team approach, we will ensure that our students leave Scarborough UTC with the essential skills they need for their next steps in life.

ASSESSMENT AND CURRICULUM

All Years

All assessment information, Attendance, Professional values, behaviour and target information is published on the My Child at schools app. This is a secure and personal portal that allows you to assess the progress of your child at any time. Invites for the portal have been issued. If there are any issues accessing the app, please report this to enquiries@scarboroughutc.co.uk for further assistance.

Behaviour and Safety

It is important to continue the highest standards of business dress policy and ensure that equipment, stationary and scientific calculators are checked regularly.

Maintaining 100% attendance is important to ensure we can continue to support progress effectively. Students are supported through tutor time with attendance challenges. Attendance will be an important focus for all students to ensure we can support attainment throughout the Autumn term.

Curriculum and Assessment

Year 10

Interim formative assessment begun the week commenced 27th September – this information is used to provide feedback on settling in Evening.

Settling in Evening – 21st October

Venue: Scarborough UTC

Time 4:30 to 6:30pm

Year 11

It is vital that revision plans are in place and students make a strong start to prepare for forthcoming assessments and to ensure coursework is completed to a very good standard. Engineering offer evening catch up sessions to assist with coursework expectations. The assessment period begins on 1st November 2021. Formal pre-public exams begin on the 8th of November.

Year 12

Interim formative assessment begun week commencing 27th September – this information is used to provide feedback on settling in Evening.

Settling in Evening – 21st October

Venue: Scarborough UTC

Time 4:30 to 6:30pm

Year 13

It is vital that revision plans are in place and students make a strong start to prepare for forthcoming assessments and to ensure coursework is completed to a very good standard. Engineering offer evening catch up sessions to assist with coursework expectations. The assessment period begins on 1st November 2021. Formal pre-public exams begin on the 8th of November.

SIXTH FORM

Congratulations to all of the Sixth Form achievers this week. Libby Atkin and Serhii Popov have both gained Arkwright Scholarship places. The F1 Team Avidity Racing have also done fantastic work in the F1 National Finals and as I write are in second place from their racing. It has been a great and proud week for us at the UTC.

Year 13 students have submitted drafts of their university personal statements and have all been given feedback that they should address to improve their statements further.

Students looking to do an apprenticeship in the future have been advised to register with ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk and apprenticeships.gov.uk to search for apprenticeship opportunities.

Students applying to university should continue to use UCAS Hub to research University places.

Year 13 Mock exams take place on the week of 8th November and all students should be revising hard for these by establishing a revision timetable.

CAREERS

Careers Officer Neil Forster was in college this week interviewing sixth form students and giving them information advice and guidance about their futures. He recommends that all students take the National Careers Skills test to help guide them with their future choices: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/skills-assessment>

Work Experience takes place for Year 11 and Year 13 from 18th – 22nd October. This means students will not be in college but will be on a work placement. Well done to all who have returned their forms and secured their own placements.

Information letters with all key detail will be sent home next week.

ETHOS

Our theme of the week has been Black History. This is part of a national celebration to:

1. **Promote** knowledge and understanding of Black History and **culture**, both nationally and locally
2. **Acknowledge** and **celebrate** the contributions made by Black people to the cultural and economic development of the UK
3. **Disseminate information** on positive Black contributions to Society
4. **Heighten the confidence and awareness** of Black people to their cultural heritage

Students have learnt about this in their assembly with Miss Griffiths. They have also focused on the quote from Marcus Garvey that a people without knowledge of their history are like a tree without roots. In the world of work diversity and inclusion are important values.

Our student leaders met for the first time this week with our presidents and discussed college issues. They have decided that our charity of the year will be Young Minds. This charity work with young people to support with their mental wellbeing and were chosen because of the impact of the pandemic on young people's lives. Look at their resources here: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

Year 10 had their assembly with NHS Wellbeing in Mind Team this week who explained their work and how they would like to support students here at the UTC.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Autumn half term:	Monday 25 th October to Friday 29 th October 2021
Professional development training day:	Friday 3 th December 2021
Christmas holiday:	Monday 20 th December 2021 to Monday 3 rd January 2022
Professional development training day:	Tuesday 4 th January 2022
First day of spring term for students:	Wednesday 5 th January 2022
Spring Half term:	Monday 21 st February to Friday 25 th February 2022
Easter holiday:	Monday 11 th April to Friday 22 nd April 2022
Professional development training day:	Monday 25 th April 2022
First day of summer term for students:	Tuesday 26 th April 2022
Bank holiday:	Monday 2 nd May 2022
Summer Half term:	Monday 30 th May to Friday 3 th June 2022
Term ends:	Tuesday 26 th July 2022