

## Scarborough UTC News Flash Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

### INTRODUCTION

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach PPEs in w/c 7<sup>th</sup> February and we move ever closer to full GCSE and A level examinations (just 12 working weeks from Monday), it is essential that your son/daughter has a structured approach to their revision. Cramming until late at night is not the answer.

So How much to revise? And when?

Under the pressure of looming exams, there is an understandable urge to work harder and harder. It seems to make sense to us that the more we revise, the more knowledge we will cram into our brains and the better we will perform in an exam.

The key to effective revision is not hours of cramming in the final few weeks/days before an exam, but regular, concentrated but shorter periods of revision. Revision sessions should be little and often.

Students' revision sessions should therefore target regular deliberate practice; that is, every day.

We know, from over a century of studying the human brain, and our flawed memory, that we need a little forgetting to learn. Cognitive scientists call it "spacing". We also know that we should aim for "interleaving".

This fancy term describes the practice of mixing up revision topics, so that the brain is forced to remember and sort the learned material. Our students are prone to the easy approach of blocking – spending all day on one subject or topic.

We need to ensure that we support students to interleave and space out their revision.

We don't need students to be spending every waking hour revising – we just need them to be revising better for shorter periods. By focusing on quality, we may see a welcome reduction in quantity – easing the stress of students – and strike the right balance for our students to achieve exam success.

A tool to help with this process is to create a revision timetable which plans out your son/daughter's weekly schedule to include clubs, sports and social activities and breaks alongside regular short revision sessions every day. If this is done on computer it can be handily printed out and displayed around the house and can be a helpful focus and reminder for parents and child of the expectations for revision. It can also help to reduce tension, stress and the difficult conversations as to why they are not revising.

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022 we are holding our second open evening of the academic year. This is a fantastic opportunity for the UTC staff and students to showcase our unique work and the exciting opportunities we provide in technical education.

Student application numbers to join us this September are looking really good at the moment and many of the applications have arisen through word of mouth. You are all obviously doing a great job of selling the benefits of attending the UTC. Once again we value your support in raising awareness of the open evening next month amongst friends, family and colleagues. A reminder that this September we are admitting students into year 9 for the first time.

You will be aware that on Wednesday in parliament, the government made the decision that from Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January face coverings were no longer needed to be worn by students in classrooms.

I am fully aware that the use of face coverings in schools is an emotive issue and Scarborough UTC continues to do its very best to balance providing education in the best way possible with the management of COVID guidance.

In view of this, we will no longer insist that students wear face coverings in classrooms, however should parents wish their child to continue to do so, then of course we will support families in making this decision. Students should however continue to wear face coverings in communal areas until Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January. We will also follow any guidance from North Yorkshire County Council regarding local infection rates.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support and understanding as we continue to manage COVID issues, but more importantly our total focus on providing the best possible education for your children.

Thank you for your support.

**Mr. Kilgour**  
**Principal**

#### T&L@SUTC

Our quality assurance policy at Scarborough UTC ensures that our students receive consistently good teaching in order to give them the opportunity for optimum learning within lessons. Directors of Subject and the Senior Leadership Team will be visiting all lessons for review this half term, in this way ensuring that standards of education at Scarborough UTC are always at their highest. This also allows us to see best practice within lessons that can be shared across the staff team.

Outcomes from lesson observations, work sampling activities, student voice and data analysis combined give us a valuable insight into areas of success and areas of development that can be acted upon and directly impact our student experience.

#### TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE

Year 13 Electrical pathway students have been taking a pause with their circuit testing to investigate the technical and operating principles of a range of input, process and output devices. This is to show their understanding that there are sensors for measuring pressure, flow, mass, temperature, rotation angle and speed, light which are available in a range of packages depending on the situation in which they would be deployed - for example operating voltage, range of expected values, environment in which it would be used. Manufacturer's

data sheets are the source for this information - and it is good practice to consult the data sheet before finalising component choices in a circuit.

Year 12 electrical and electronic design students have submitted their work on Power Factor this week - about how voltage and current can be out of sync, and this causes inefficiencies without using components to bring them back in sync again - I'm looking forward to reviewing those, and we have investigated power sources during the lesson - such as cells, batteries and solar cells, as well as looking at a range of semiconductor devices involved with power supplies - such as diodes for creating a DC supply from an alternating current, voltage regulators for creating a steady supply at a set voltage, and capacitors used to remove 'bumps' or 'ripples' in the supply - called capacitor smoothing. It's great to explore these using an oscilloscope to see the voltage signal at each stage.

Our Y10 students have again had an excellent week - with nearly 100% of students submitting a CAD file for their sensor and transistor circuits - a big well done to all - especially as they had to log their progress with screen grabs and describe what they had done - we are seeing some strong design skills coming through which is very encouraging to see.

With Year 11 students - we have completed the time for our R114 unit, and are starting the final unit R116 next week. As well as having weekly independent study students have been given access to all the themed papers and mark schemes in our R113 classroom (Electronic Principles) and are strongly encouraged to spend in the region of 90 minutes per week practising and making notes using their knowledge organiser. The February exams are getting nearer, and I would love students to be able to reflect with a sense of maturity that their improved marks were due in large part to their own efforts taking responsibility for their overall progress. Anyone struggling with revising - at any level - is encouraged to pop along and see me for help.

Have a great weekend, from Mr Brown

## ASSESSMENT AND CURRICULUM

**All Years:** All assessment information, Attendance, Professional values, behaviour and target information is published on the "My Child at school" app. This is a secure and personal portal that allows you to assess the progress of your child at anytime. Invites for the portal have been issued. If there are any issues accessing the app, please report this to [enquiries@scarboroughutc.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@scarboroughutc.co.uk) for further assistance. Registering for the APP is vital as this is the primary method of regular communication to parents.

### Behaviour and Safety

It is important to continue the highest standards of business dress policy, with masks worn in communal areas. Please check and ensure that equipment, stationary and **scientific calculators** are in good working order.

Maintaining 100% attendance is important to ensure we can continue to support progress effectively. Students are supported through tutor time with attendance challenges. Attendance is a very important focus for all students to ensure we can support attainment throughout the Spring term. A hard working environment is vital to ensure students feel safe and make continued progress.

Firstly, structures are in place to guarantee that all students gain best opportunity to meet high standards and are recognised for hard work in areas identified by **Professional Values and Employability Skills (PVES)**, these positive points are identified on your MCAS parental account. By tracking this information regularly you will be able to identify areas of strength and development for your child

### **Curriculum, Feedback and Assessment**

#### **Year 10 & 12**

The next assessment cycle for Y10 and 12 closes on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January. MCAS data will be updated by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February and ongoing progress will be visible on the student assessment sheet.

#### **Year 11 & Y13**

Students are now working towards Pre – Public exams which commence on the 10<sup>th</sup> February. The schedule for the pre-public exams has been issued and the information sent out Via MCAS email includes copies of the presentation and the revision materials. Paper copies, can be picked up on reception.

### **Forthcoming Attainment Assessment and feedback dates**

#### **Year 10/12**

The assessment process at SUTC uses live assessment sheets, this means that assessment grade sheets are continually open. This allows staff to amend data and attitude to learning grades following each data capture and respond to formative assessment used within the classroom.

#### **Year 11/13**

Assessment Data Analysis for the scheduled PPE's will take place W/C 7<sup>th</sup> March and reporting information will be published on MCAS w/c 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

## **SIXTH FORM**

We have had a busy week in the sixth form with students having talks from Leeds University in Year 12. They have an excellent access to Leeds scheme for year 12 to apply for that gives them a lower offer if completed. A full calendar of these is on our Sixth Form Google classroom. Other sixth form news includes:

- Year 13 have continued the MyTutor sessions online in STEM subject offering 1:1 support.
- Exam preparation resources have been given to students and are on our website and Sixth Form google classroom. These include their PPE timetable for February exams that start on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February and their summer exam dates for all external exams in June.
- We recommend that all students wear masks in college to reduce infection and test themselves twice weekly with the LFT's provided.
- Congratulations all year 13 student who have university offers.

## **ETHOS AND CAREERS**

Our theme of the week has been Civil Rights and students have learnt about that movement and its links with democracy. Our assemblies were led by James Koppert from Scarborough Youth Council who discussed the national youth elections and how important it is for young people to be involved in politics. Student Leaders then created their own polling station in the hall on Friday and led an election, Students across the college got to vote for one Youth MP candidate to represent North Yorkshire. They also voted for one issue that they felt was most important to them for action to be taken on. Out student presidents then counted the votes and the winning issues were: Free university education, followed by increased mental health services for young people, ending child poverty and action on ending plastic pollution. The winning candidate was one who pledged to campaign to improve mental health services for young people in the region. If your child would like to get involved in the Scarborough Youth council they can do so by contacting James Koppert

: [James.Koppert@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:James.Koppert@northyorks.gov.uk) or finding further details on the  
Website <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/ny-voice-be-change/>  
Twitter <https://twitter.com/YouthYorkshire>  
Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/nyccyouthvoice/>

Faith Friday Fortnights have started for Year 10 and 11 students and this week the focus has been on Sikhism.

## CAREERS

Students have been learning about their personal brand in tutor sessions this week as part of their employability skills. They have been challenged to think about what is unique about them and what is communicated to others about them.

- Mr Forster, our careers officer has been working with our students this week in Year 10 and 12.
- Unison have been working with our Year 12 and 13 engineering, teaching CAD
- Students are working well in the enrichment project with UNISON
- There have been more offers for our Year 13's who are securing offers from universities – more have come in this week from York, Durham, Manchester, Hull and Leeds universities. Some are reduced offers due to the good quality of their personal statements.
- Students looking for apprenticeship should ensure that they register on [apprenticeships.gov.uk](http://apprenticeships.gov.uk) and [ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk](http://ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk)
- Our F1 team will be partaking in work experience with Alpine F1 Team in July.
- We advise students to visit universities for open days or applicant days after receiving an offer to help them make an informed decision about their final choices.

## GCSEPOD

**gcsepod**  
education on demand

It is great to see an increase in usage this week our top three in year 11 are

Xavier, Ionee and Matt

Each month we will award a £30 amazon voucher for the most pods watched so keep up the GCSE Podding and improve your grades.

The toolkit also includes a folder full of certificates you can use to reward your child for their progress.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Spring Half term:	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> February to Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
Easter holiday:	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> April to Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2022
First day of summer term for students:	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
Bank holiday:	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2022
Summer Half term:	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 3 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Term ends:	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022