

Scarborough UTC News Flash
Friday 14th September 2018

INTRODUCTION

Dear parent/carers

I write to you this week to provide information on Scarborough UTC's approach to the grouping of students in Key Stage 4. At the heart of our approach is that students should be grouped on their current attainment, in other words 'what they can do right now'. Clearly in year 11 we have the Pre Public Examination results from last term and teacher assessments to determine groupings and in Year 10 we have used a combination of the Cognitive Ability Tests, GL Progress Tests and KS2 data.

Equally important is that we have made the grouping of students as subject specific as possible. In core subjects there are currently three groups; one stretch and two mixed ability and in engineering there are 4 smaller sized mixed-ability groups to enable us to meet health and safety requirements in the workshop. This approach draws upon the latest research into student groupings. Students in the stretch group for English may be different to the students in the stretch group for mathematics, for example.

I referenced 'current attainment' earlier, and as students' complete interim assessments though the academic year their attainment will be captured and decisions will be made regarding whether they are still well placed in their ability group. We will of course inform you whenever these moves are necessary.

Finally, and as importantly, our setting system ensures that all students have access to the same rich curriculum and will benefit from exciting subject knowledge and a wide range of activities. Additionally our expectations for learning opportunities, curriculum, behaviour and homework are consistent and high across all sets.

Enrichment for year 10 and 11 got underway this week. The range of activities available is exceptional and students entered into their chosen activities with much enthusiasm. Enrichment activities available are F1 in Schools Challenge, STEM Club including 4 x 4 Engineering Challenge and Rocket Challenge, media, Russian, basketball, table tennis, hockey, Combined Cadet Force, Duke of Edinburgh, engineering workshop and science.

Thank you for your support.

Mr Kilgour

YEAR 10 SCIENCE INDEPENDENT STUDY

In Biology this week year 10 students were asked to conduct an independent study into the structure and functions of organelles in either an animal or plant cell and present this information creatively!

The students have produced some of the most fabulous models, showing the structure of these organelles, so much so that we have uploaded some photographs of the student's excellent work onto social media.

IN ASSEMBLIES THIS WEEK

Assemblies this week were delivered by Mr Kilgour and Mr Connell, on the topic of Kindness. The culture and ethos at Scarborough UTC is built on tolerance, equality and valuing diversity. The assembly considered the value to everyone's wellbeing from demonstrating kindness and how carrying out random acts of kindness can make a real difference to the college community.

TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE

With over 20 hours of teaching in our state of the art engineering workshops it has been a busy week for our engineering department!

We've been doing activities in Systems, Manufacture and Design with our new Year 10s to start the process of building their engineering skillset, teaching them technical drawing and soldering for example. This combined with the launch of our new 'Passport for Engineering' initiative, which sets out a series of practical projects aimed at developing this skillset further, means there has been lots of really engaging and productive hands on learning taking place, which is wonderful so early in the academic year for our new starters.

Our new Technical Skills programme for Years 10 & 12 has also seen the students begin to master welding and computer aided design (CAD) as part of their project to design a heat exchanger for a nuclear submarine – no other schools can boast this level of engineering study and hands on experience within their curriculum. It has been great to hear such positive feedback from the students too.

As ever huge thank you to our employer partners at Unison for their support with CAD masterclasses this week. Local employers giving up their staff's time to support our students is something that we are very lucky to have within our school.

Teaching and Learning

We have a new approach to lesson starts at SUTC this September that students are settling into well. Students enter the classroom after a meet and greet by their teacher then stand behind chairs and get equipment out before being invited to sit down, getting straight into completion of their 'Do It Now!' lesson engagement task. This simple technique is working well to settle classes and get them straight into learning activities. We will continue to develop lesson techniques to ensure that our students are engaged and active in lessons from the moment they enter the classroom.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Work Experience week for year 11 and 13	22 nd – 26 th October
Autumn Half Term	29 th October – 2 nd November
INSET Day	Friday 7 th December
End of Autumn Term	Friday 21 st December