

Scarborough UTC News Flash Friday 5th October 2018

INTRODUCTION

Dear parent/carer

By developing our students' employability skills they will improve their chances of getting a job, securing an apprenticeship and thriving in their career. In order to develop these skills they will need to understand more about them.

Employability is best understood as a set of attributes, skills and knowledge that all labour market participants should possess, to ensure they have the capability of being effective in the workplace – to the benefit of themselves, their employer and the wider economy.

What do employers mean when they talk about employability skills?

Different employers talk about similar skills in different ways. If you read or hear about other employability skills, they will probably fit into one of the definitions used here.

Scarborough UTC **Professional Values and employability skills** are:

S – Self management including organisational skills and hard work, good manners, Using initiative and being self motivated, Working under pressure and to deadlines, Ability to learn and adapt, respect and honesty

U – Understanding including problem-solving, enquiry and analysis, Numeracy and IT skills

T – Teamwork, Valuing diversity and difference, Communication, literacy and interpersonal skills, Negotiation skills including collaboration, kindness and resilience

C – Creativity including curiosity, imagination and ingenuity

You may hear employers talk about these employability skills as being 'transferable' skills, as you can apply these skills in different situations and jobs. Because these skills are transferable, they are valuable regardless of which job you end up doing.

The most important characteristic that employers look for is having a positive attitude. Whatever job we end up doing (and especially if we end up being self-employed) we will need to be willing to take part and be open to new activities and ideas, as well as having a desire to achieve results.

Why employers value these skills?

Some employers and some job roles will require someone who has a specific set of technical skills.

There are certain skills however, that will be valuable to every employer, no matter what the job role; these are called transferable skills. Transferrable skills can also be known as soft skills, attitudes / behaviours or employability skills. This is because they are the behaviours that make people employable and they are transferable from one job to the next.

Our employer partners consistently tell us that they would prefer to recruit someone who has the right soft skills or attitude and train them for the technical skills than recruit someone who had the technical skills but lacked the soft skills or had a bad attitude. Even if you're not sure what career you're interested in, it's important to work towards developing these skills.

The world of work is changing so fast and it is hard to predict how the world of work might look in the future, but it is safe to say that these skills will be valued by employers no matter how the world changes.

How students can develop employability skills and evidence them?

If students can evidence and talk about their employability skills they will stand out from other applicants when it comes to applying for a job. Employers often say that qualifications might get you through the door for an interview, but it will be the ability to evidence employability skills that will secure the job.

At Scarborough UTC, we have developed our **Professional Values and Employability Skills** to support our students in identifying, developing and evidencing their employability skills. They will be encouraged in lessons to demonstrate these values and skills and when they do teachers will recognise and record them in our computer system. This will build a profile for each student of strengths and areas for development, which they can use to further develop their employability and use it as a reference in applying for jobs. We will provide reports to parents on how your child is progressing throughout the academic year.

Thank you for your support.

Mr Kilgour

IN ASSEMBLIES THIS WEEK

Assemblies this week were delivered by Mr Connell on the thought for the week:

Every artist was first an amateur.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

The assemblies discussed the importance of developing skills and also the process which we as humans go through to develop those skills. These are:

- Cognitive phase - Identification and development of the component parts of the skill - involves the formation of a mental picture of the skill
- Associative phase - Linking the component parts into a smooth action - involves practicing the skill and using feedback to perfect the skill
- Autonomous phase - Developing the learned skill so that it becomes automatic - involves little or no conscious thought or attention whilst performing the skill - not all performers reach this stage.

Moving through these phases requires practice, lots of practice. In most cases over 10 000 hours of continuous practice. This applies whether the skills is walking for the first time, surfing, painting or learning elements of maths, English or science.

LEXIA LITERACY INTERVENTION

This academic year at Scarborough UTC, we have started a new literacy programme, Lexia. A computer based literacy programme that adapts to the learners needs. Students work through different units on key literacy and reading skills with the aim of closing the reading gap and enabling the students to master essential reading skills. Students are placed on the programme for 10 weeks at a time and the progress monitored and the impact analysed with the aim of students improving literacy skills.

T&L@SUTC

Being prepared and equipped for the task at hand is an essential requirement for employees of any engineering discipline, and any workplace. In the same way, we need our students to reflect that business environment at Scarborough UTC through the provision of basic equipment every lesson. The lack of simple pieces of equipment such as a pencil and ruler can have a major effect on a student's progress on a day where graphs and charts have to be drawn in Mathematics and isometric projection drawings have to be drawn in Engineering Design, for example. Please do support us by ensuring that your son/daughter possesses the necessary equipment, and brings it to college each day, in order to maximise their progress across the curriculum.

TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE

This week in engineering our Year 10 students completed their first project and have taken it home. They have designed and manufactured a coat hook, which whilst it may sound fairly straightforward in reality it has seen them using skills and knowledge that a few weeks ago they didn't possess such as hand fabrication techniques and assessing technical specifications and measurements to ensure the end product is fit for purpose – well done everybody!

Also this week has seen our 3 F1 In Schools teams finalise their marketing strategy and begin their social media campaigns. Next week we'll provide some more information on this and

how you can follow their progress across these platforms and our website. They've also been doing some excellent work on aerodynamics, as well researching and completing their draft racing designs.

ASSESSMENT REPORTING & RECORDING FOR ATTAINMENT

Assessments provide an opportunity to review Student Progress to date, to discuss strengths and weaknesses, areas for improvement and set targets for the future that work towards or go beyond College targets. They are a key aspect of the Scarborough University Technical College improvement process. It is important that each student knows where they are aiming, where they are now and what they need to do to achieve their target.

Assessment Methodology:

Scarborough UTC operate a system which highlights whether students are 'on track' to achieve their targets. The on track assessment system works through all assessments from Year 10 through to 13. This model is constructed so that the underlying principles are the same in each academic year

Forthcoming dates to note:

The data cycle for the following year groups is a reminder that students are required to prepare and study for assessments.

Autumn Assessment cycle	8th October Year 11	22nd October Year 12	12th November Year 10	12th November Year 13
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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
Scarborough UTC Open Event	Thursday 22 nd November 6.00 - 8.00pm
INSET Day	Friday 7 th December
End of Autumn Term	Friday 21 st December