

Scarborough UTC News Flash Friday 16th November 2018

INTRODUCTION

Dear parent/carer

The best schools have certain features in common which make them stand out. In all cases, a school culture focused on high expectations, hard work and excellent attitudes to learning typifies these institutions. The Scarborough UTC staff are working incredibly hard to develop this culture across the college. In all areas of college life and learning we strive to develop the good habits in our young people that will enable them to achieve in their learning and ultimately their examinations. This is not an easy or 'quick fix' but there are real signs that students are responding positively. In Pre Public Examinations (PPEs) this week attitudes from the vast majority of students have been excellent. They have been focused in exams, working harder than ever before and the early signs are that outcomes are improving. We will soon have the details of students' outcomes from these examinations and will communicate them to you through My Child at School. This data will allow us to analyse where interventions are required and we will develop and implement these interventions moving forward.

Following the introduction of tutor time in September, one of the activities introduced to the tutor time weekly schedule is reading time, which occurs one day each week. To support this activity we have sourced boxes of reading books for each tutor group. Some of these books are purchased and some have been donated by staff in order to provide a wide range of choice for students so that they will be able to choose a book that interests them. If your child reads for pleasure at home then we would ask that you encourage them to bring their current book in to college to read in tutor time.

The research evidence regarding the benefits of reading for pleasure is compelling and I have summarised some of the findings from a Department for Education report: *Research evidence on reading for pleasure, Education standards research team May 2012*, for your information, below:

'There is a growing body of evidence which illustrates the importance of reading for pleasure for both educational purposes as well as personal development (cited in Clark and Rumbold, 2006).

- Evidence suggests that there is a positive relationship between reading frequency, reading enjoyment and attainment (Clark 2011; Clark and Douglas 2011).
- Reading enjoyment has been reported as more important for children's educational success than their family's socio-economic status (OECD, 2002).
- There is a positive link between positive attitudes towards reading and scoring well on reading assessments (Twist et al, 2007).

- Regularly reading stories or novels outside of school is associated with higher scores in reading assessments (PIRLS, 2006; PISA, 2009).
- International evidence supports these findings; US research reports that independent reading is the best predictor of reading achievement (Anderson, Wilson and Fielding, 1988).
- Evidence suggests that reading for pleasure is an activity that has emotional and social consequences (Clark and Rumbold, 2006).
- Other benefits to reading for pleasure include: text comprehension and grammar, positive reading attitudes, pleasure in reading in later life, increased general knowledge'

'My test of a good novel is dreading to begin the last chapter.' - Thomas Helm

'There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all.' - Jacqueline Kennedy

Thank you for your support.

Mr Kilgour

IN ASSEMBLIES THIS WEEK

There have been no assemblies this week due to the Pre Public Examinations being held in the hall.

PROJECT DARE

This week saw the conclusion of the Project Dare initiative. We have been working in partnership with the University of York Outreach Project to provide opportunities for our year 12 girls to learn more about the career opportunities in the construction industry. Project Dare works in partnership with ARUP and Network Rail to facilitate a design project linked to the remodelling of the railway station in York. The girls have had opportunities to develop skills linked to construction project management including design, communication, time management and teamwork. Feedback on their attitudes and approach to the opportunity has been excellent.

T&L@SUTC

A student's ability to read and write effectively is essential to enable access to the world around them. At SUTC we are working hard across the curriculum to ensure that our young people have the literacy skills they need to succeed. Current literacy strategies include the use of word walls, vocabulary books, assessment and feedback methods, silent reading sessions and sharing teacher reading material, to name just a few. We would ask that you support us in developing your son/daughters literacy ability in encouraging them to read and write at home at every opportunity; in this digital age it is easy to lose valuable literacy skills through typing rather than handwriting and watching rather than reading.

TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE

Things are hotting up in engineering as the F1 In Schools teams are racing toward their regional heats! The teams have secured the sponsorship of Blue Raptor Design and Year Dot clothing and have been putting their finished designs through their paces with some 'computational fluid dynamics' (CFD) which is an advanced computer simulation that sees the cars placed in a mini wind tunnel and analysed to identify any problems with the design for air flow and aerodynamics – ensuring that the cars go as fast as they can! Initial results have been really encouraging.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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
INSET Day	Monday 7 th January 2019
First day of Spring Term	Tuesday 8 th January 2019