



**Berkeley
Green
UTC**

**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
13-JAN-23**



Headteacher's Update

After almost two and a half weeks away from the UTC it is great to see the students returning full of energy and enthusiasm for the remaining 7 months of the academic year. Students have been telling us about their holidays and discussing some of the fantastic things they have been doing to keep themselves busy.

We are entering an important stage of the academic year for students in year 11, 12 and 13. The end of year exams are now in sight, and plans for next steps are starting to take shape. We have seen the first few university offers coming in and many of our year 13 students have been having apprenticeship interviews with a range of employers.

At this time of year we often see young people becoming quite anxious about exams and coursework deadlines. With this email you will see a flyer explaining how students can best prepare for exams, and [YoungMinds](#) and [On Your Mind Gloucestershire](#) provide good information for parents and carers to support their young person with any growing anxiety. We will also be adding some useful information onto the UTC website inside the parents sections on how you can help.

Finally, a huge thank you for your flexibility, understanding and patience with our unexpected closure this week. We are speaking with National Highways about how they can help prevent this from happening again.

Gareth

Student Celebrations

We have been really impressed with the students dedication to attending during the winter weeks. The UTC attendance is a beacon in the Gloucestershire and we have an average attendance above local and national benchmarks. Last week we had 215 people with 100% attendance, and compared to the weeks building up to Christmas this is a great increase.

We currently have 10 Waterman Aspen leading the way with 98.0% attendance across the tutor group. As you well know attendance is very important at the UTC and we always like to celebrate our successes, and this week the Choco Lotto winners we Liam Boyes, George Berry, Dan Matysek and Xan Kemp.

As ever our students take great pride in displaying our values, here are the students who have been leading the way this week.

- Robin Salisbury
- Finley Gardiner
- Harvey Palmer
- Lucas Turner
- Timur Dent
- Georgia Etheridge
- Kerris Hall
- Elijah Dewick
- Ben Shelton
- Xan Kemp

Thank you for supporting your young people with their attendance and continued monitoring of their progress with the UTC values.

Job Opportunities

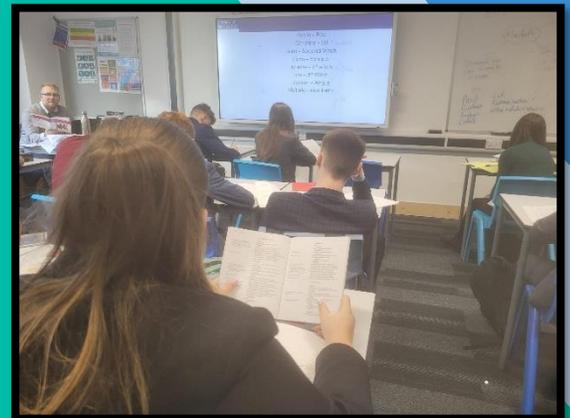
We are currently recruiting for a new member of our office team. If you, or anyone you know would be interested in working with us at the UTC then please visit the ['current vacancies'](#) section of the UTC website for more information. We will also shortly be advertising for a minibus driver to bring students to the UTC in the mornings and drop them home in the evenings. More details to follow, but if you or anyone you know would be interested then please get in touch.



Year 13 engineering students have been creating radio-controlled cars as part of their course.



Year 11 have been developing their understanding of the difference between white hat and grey hat hacking



Year 10 have been reading and analysing Macbeth

Key Stage 4 Curriculum Update

Year 10 English students have started their work on Macbeth and have been analysing act 1.

Darren Laban – Teacher of English

Rights Respecting Schools Update

Thank you to all students who donated to the Gloucester Foodbank in exchange for a Christmas Jumper Day. The Rights Respecting Schools Student Council took over 80 items to the foodbank on the last day of term. Our donation will be directly used to support local families this winter, helping to ensure that Article 27 is upheld in Gloucestershire. Article 27 looks at ensuring that all children have access to adequate food. With donations like ours, children's rights can be supported in the local area.

The Student Council are looking at more ways to raise awareness of children's rights and donate money to good causes. This term we are going to raise money for UNICEF; to support their effort to ensure children have rights across the globe. Look out for more details later this term.

North Tower Consulting

On Wednesday 18th January North Tower Consulting – a cyber security firm from Cheltenham – will be visiting us and they will be working with our digital students on a scenario exercise looking at how organisation deal with real life cyber security events. This is from both a technical and business point of view, for example how do you deal with the media in the event of a malicious attack on your organisation and a potential data breach.

They will be returning to run a full day event on Friday 17th February, with the chance for students to achieve work placements.

Eco Schools

In the news this week, scientists have announced that the hole in the ozone layer, caused by the release of carbonylfluorocarbons (CFCs) into the atmosphere, should have recovered in most parts of the world by 2040. CFCs were used widely in the 1980s as refrigerants and solvents. When their appalling impact on the ozone layer was discovered, a famous international agreement known as the Montreal Protocol, banned the use of these chemicals. Since then, the ozone layer has slowly been healing. This monumental act of global cooperation is often regarded as the most successful environmental treaty in history and many in the scientific community hope it has set a precedent for global action on climate change.

Upcoming Dates

2nd February – Year 10 parents evening

9th February – Year 12 parents evening

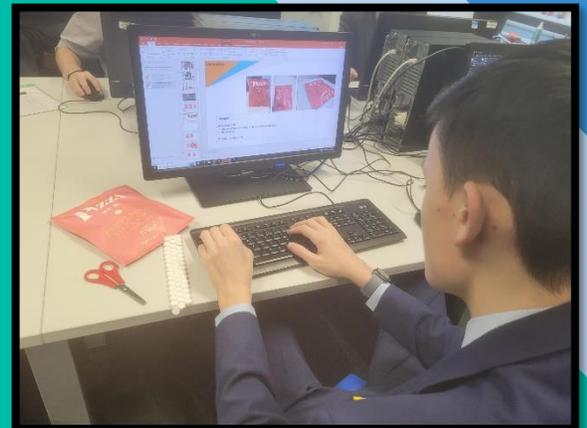
16th February – Online parents meeting about exam readiness

17th February – Kohler Mira engineering project and North Tower cyber project

w/c 27th February – Year 11 and year 13 mocks



Year 10 cyber security students have been discussing the different motivations behind hacking.



Year 11 Graphics students are finishing off their final designs for their projects.

Key Stage 5 Curriculum Update

In year 12 Digital students have been exploring smart technologies and analysing the impact these would have on our lives

Sophia Elliott – Teacher of Digital Technologies

Mock Interviews

On the 14th March, the UTC will be holding mock interviews for Years 10 and 12 during school hours. This is an opportunity for students to learn how to answer challenging questions, develop interview strategies, and prepare for job interviews when they leave the UTC. The interviews will be approximately 15 minutes long and conducted by volunteer professionals from both within and outside of the UTC community. Please be advised that some useful resources for how to prepare will be shared with all students in January.

If you are a parent or carer working within a STEM-related industry and would like to volunteer for these interviews, please contact nextsteps@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk. Your time will be hugely appreciated. Likewise, if you have any questions about the event, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Year 10 Maths

We are delighted to let you know that Y10 students will now be completing their maths homework with Sparx Maths. Sparx is an exciting online platform that offers every student a personalised maths homework.

Sparx personalises each child's homework, creating a weekly set of questions tailored to their level of understanding and learning pace. The questions are designed to be achievable whilst offering the stretch that learners need to make progress.

Each week, topics are set by your child's maths teacher and will make up the majority of the homework questions. Questions from previous topics will also be included in the homework so that students can keep practising the skills they have learned.

We appreciate that you will of course want to support your child with their home learning but please try not to help them with a question until they've had a go first! It is really important that they complete their homework independently, and that questions are marked as correct. They can watch the support video if they need to. This way, Sparx can make sure your child continues to see homework that's at the right level for them.

Sparx Homework is deliberately designed to help students really get to grips with and understand the concepts and skills they are learning by ensuring they cover the essential building blocks needed to make progress in maths. Sparx' research (sparx.co.uk/evidence) has shown that an average of 60 minutes a week of this type of personalised maths home learning leads to clear progress. It is therefore advised that students do their homework as early as possible, so they have the time to have a go themselves and seek help from their teacher if needed. Homework is not marked as complete until all of the compulsory questions have been answered correctly, so starting early is key to finishing before hand-in time.

You can keep track of your child's homework completion in the weekly email you will receive from Sparx.

We hope you agree that Sparx will play an exciting and important role in helping your child's understanding, success and confidence in maths to grow.

If you have any questions, please contact deb.vollborth@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk or click this [link](#) to watch a video.