

18 December 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

This is a long letter with lots of important information. Please take the time to read it through carefully. It will be available on the UTC website.

### Thank You

Christmas is a time for counting blessings and, here at the UTC, there are many things to be grateful for. We've had a tough old year and lots of obstacles to overcome, but we've done it. It's the last day of term, all the staff are in, student attendance remains high and the mood here is calm and positive. As a community, Covid has brought us closer together and forced us to reflect on what really matters. As a team, we are stronger and more resilient than ever.

I'd like to start this week's letter therefore with the biggest of THANK YOUs, to:

- our amazing staff who have worked their socks off to deliver a safe and high-quality student experience with a smile;
- our students who have had to cope with endless change, disruption and uncertainty but have risen to the challenge brilliantly;
- our employer partners who remain committed to what we do and have found ways to contribute in the most trying of times, and
- our parents and carers whose kind words and behind-the-scenes support have given us a boost when most needed.



### Important News regarding the start of term

In true DfE style, we heard late yesterday that the start of term will be staggered for students. The powers-that-be have decreed that:

- **Students in Years 11 and 13** will return as planned on **Tuesday 5 January** (see INSET details below). A normal timetable will be in place for these students.
- **Students in Years 10 and 12** will not return to the UTC until **Monday 11 January**. **For week commencing Tuesday 5 January (see INSET details below), they will be following an online curriculum.** A small number of students in years 10 and 12 may be asked to study at the UTC and we will be in touch directly with the parents and carers of those students.
- As we did during periods of self-isolation, teachers will host lessons via Teams and students will follow their usual timetable. Homework will continue to be set via Show My Homework.

At the end of this letter, you will find details of [expectations for online learning](#). Please take the time to read this thoroughly.

### INSET day - Monday 4 January

This is a reminder that the first day of January is an INSET day and that students in years 11 and 13 will therefore return to the UTC on Tuesday 5 January.

### Covid Testing

You may have seen in the media that there are plans for schools to carry out Covid testing on site. We have not yet been given the full details of how this will work. Once we do, we will put in place detailed plans and share them with you. At that time, we will ask whether you consent to any testing that will take place.

Please note however that during week commencing 4 January, we currently have **no plans** to test UTC students.

| <b>What to do if your child develops Covid symptoms during the holidays</b>   |   |  |   |
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| <b>on</b><br><b>Friday 18th</b><br><b>December,</b><br><b>Saturday</b><br><b>19th or</b><br><b>Sunday 20th</b><br><b>December</b> | <b>You must contact us</b> , even if you have not yet been tested or received the results of a test.<br><br>email <a href="mailto:office@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk">office@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk</a><br><br>or contact Stephen Miles, the DCEO on 07977 222562.<br><br>In that eventuality, your child should get a test immediately and your household must all self-isolate until results are known.<br><br>We will ask you to let us know the results (positive or negative) as above as soon as you know so that we can take any necessary action regarding self-isolation of other children and staff. | <b>from</b><br><b>Monday</b><br><b>21st</b><br><b>December</b> | If your child subsequently tests positive, please let us know for information via <a href="mailto:office@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk">office@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk</a><br><br>We will not need to contact other families however as your child will not have been with their class while infectious (in the preceding 48 hours).<br><br> |

### Thursday afternoons

For the time being, and while the Covid situation remains critical, we will continue with Thursday afternoons as an early finish. All students will be told which work they should be doing during these afternoons as our expectation is that the time gained will be used for private study or online teaching. Thursday afternoons are not 'time off'.

## Year 11

We have developed an exciting and comprehensive plan for year 11 revision and exam preparation. This includes a 100 day plan that helps students plan revision for individual topics in every subject. We will be rolling this out in the new year and details will follow.

Mock exams will take place at the end of February and all year 11 students should take some time during the Christmas holidays to make sure that they are up-to-date with all their homework and that their work is well-organised.

### English during the holidays

The English team would like to remind all students that work has been set on Show My Homework. For year 11, there is a practice paper and short activities to support paper 1. For year 10, there is some context homework to help prepare for their next text.



### SchoolCloud

Thanks to everybody who replied to the SchoolCloud online parents' evening software survey. Your feedback has been very informative and will help shape what we do in the future.

### Dress Code

The VIP team have asked me to remind you that all students should be wearing clothing that adheres to our professional dress code. In particular, we would like to emphasise that trousers should not look like jeans or be made of denim or canvas materials. If in any doubt about the appropriateness of an item, please don't hesitate to contact the VIP team. We'd like to start the new year with everybody taking pride in their appearance.

### Student Successes



Our students continue to do us proud in externally organised events.

Well done to all those who participated in the UKMT National Maths Challenge - this is a very tricky maths and problem-solving style quiz.

Special praise goes to Luke Cheskin and Amy Young who got a Bronze certificate and to Ashley Rowles and Dan Saunders who also got a Bronze (only narrowly missing Silver) and got joint Best in School. Well done also to Tom Salman and Charlotte Cartwright for their efforts.

### CyberVibe Competition

A few weeks ago Cygenta, a Cheltenham based cyber security consultancy company run by renowned cyber duo Dr Jessica Barker and FC (\_FreakyClown\_), launched a cyber security writing competition for students across Gloucestershire. They were asked to write about what cyber security means to them.



There were over 600 entries. In the Legends (KS4) category, our very own Torri Carver was judged as the winner, with Charlie Wilcox highly commended by the judges. In the Masters (KS5) category, Jacob Page was placed as runner up and Ashley Rowles was highly commended.



Our congratulations go to all students. Torri will receive a signed copy of Dr Jessica’s book ‘Confident Cyber Security’ (<https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B08HJ8MXS2>).

**FC has just posted a new competition for students** to attempt. The entry deadline and questions to answer can be found on the Cygenta blog page: <https://blog.cygenta.co.uk/cysec-foundations-ch1/>

| <b>Online learning - key information</b>   |  |
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| <b>What will my timetable be?</b>  | We have not changed your current timetable. Your lessons will take place at the normal timetabled times.   |
| <b>How will I access my lessons?</b>   | From Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January until Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> January, all lessons will be delivered in Teams.<br>Students should log on and go to their Tutor Team at 9am every day.  |
| <b>Will there be homework?</b>   | Yes. Staff will continue to set assignments and homework as usual. Please log on to Show My Homework (SMHW) every day to check what work has been set. If you can’t access SMHW, contact <a href="mailto:office@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk">office@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk</a> 0800 470 1516 for help.  |
| <b>Do I need to have my camera on?</b>   | Please keep your camera <u>ON</u> during all Teams lessons unless your teacher directs you to turn it off. You will be able to blur out your background and so on.<br>Please remember the high standards of professional behaviour that we expect of you.  |
| <b>What shall I wear?</b>  | We want to maintain a professional approach to learning throughout this self-isolation period so you should dress appropriately.   |
| <b>I have problems with technology or the internet at home – what should I do?</b> | It is really important that we understand the needs of our students in respect of technology and the internet. Please get in touch with the office on 0800 470 1516 if you have technical difficulties or problems accessing the work.   |
| <b>Will ALL my lessons be happening?</b>   | Almost all your lessons will go ahead as planned. Please note however: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Private Study – you can use this time to work independently. You do not need to join a Team. Instead, you can decide which subject to work on.</li> <li>- PSHE – Please assume that these are happening but they may look a little different from usual...</li> <li>- Please use PE with Joe Wicks or any other online resources to help you get some exercise at home.</li> </ul> |

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| <p><b>I am feeling really anxious and stressed. Is there somebody I can talk to?</b></p> | <p>It is perfectly natural to have some worries when something like this is happening. Try to stay in touch with friends and class-mates where possible, and look after each other. We want to help too! Please contact the VIP team if you are feeling very anxious and they will be able to support you through this time and signpost you to useful sources of help.</p> <p>Contact details are via Reception on 0800 470 1516:</p> <p><a href="mailto:Kerry.Annett@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk">Kerry.Annett@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:Nicola.Cretney@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk">Nicola.Cretney@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:Graham.Withers@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk">Graham.Withers@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk</a></p> |
| <p><b>How can I contact teachers?</b></p>  | <p>Students can contact their individual teachers via Teams. There is also a list of staff on our website with email details. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need any help or advice.</p>   |

I'd like to remind students of **our professional values** at this time:

- We expect your conduct during online lessons to be respectful, polite, and inclusive.
- We expect you to attend all your lessons and arrive punctually, dressed appropriately.
- This way, you will develop independence and maturity.



#### Food Bank appeal

Thank you to everybody who donated food or contributed to Christmas jumper day. Students set a target of 300 items and, for the second year in a row, we have smashed that target.

And thanks too for the Christmas decorations, a small selection of which are gracing this letter. The digital team even resorted to using ethernet cables as 21<sup>st</sup> century tinsel!



Finally, this Christmas especially, our best wishes go out to all those who have struggled with ill-health, poor mental well-being or the loss of a loved one this year. You are in our thoughts.

From all at the UTC, we wish you peace, happiness and good health in 2021.

Louise

Louise Davies  
Headteacher // [SGS Berkeley Green UTC](#)