

# Newsletter

18 October 2019



Dear Parents/Carers,

I've got lots of information to share with you this week about **INSET days, Year 11 options, UTC Open Days, and Project.**

## INSET days

This is a reminder that next week the school is closed to students on Thursday 24 and Friday 25 October as we have teacher training scheduled for those two days. As half-term follows immediately afterwards, students will not be back in school until Monday 4 November. Please note that we have another INSET day on Friday 6 December.

## Year 11 options/Post 16 courses

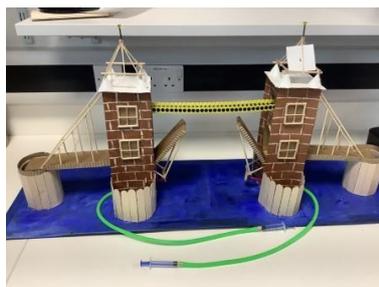
Now is the time when our year 11s are turning their minds to what they will do after their GCSEs. They will receive lots of information and advice during the coming weeks and every student will be offered independent and highly personalised careers advice.

When the UTC was opened, it was with a clear progression route for students from year 10 through to year 13, culminating in high quality examination results, professional skills and work experience. With that in mind, we hope that every one of our year 11 students will consider staying with us for two more years to build on the foundation already laid.

We will be working with students to make an application to join year 12, and we hope that parents will come to our next open day on Saturday 23 November to talk with our sixth form specialists about the options available.

As just mentioned, **our next open day** is on Saturday 23 November. If you have a younger child, a relative or friend who might be interested in our unique model of schooling, please encourage them to come along. The event runs from 10 - 1 and people can turn up at a time that suits them to talk with staff and students about what we can offer. We'd love to see you.

Finally, I'd like take a moment to share with you the **Project work** completed by students last week.



This term's project was to develop a sustainable way to transport students and commuters across the Severn between Lydney and Berkeley. The project had to take into account the tides, safety, the environment and be cost effective. The students had to produce a presentation, which could include a model, and only had 4 school hours in which to complete the task (although the vast majority did extra work outside of school). If they made a model it had to be made from recycled materials.

There was an extraordinary range of work on show and solutions included tunnels, bridges, hovercraft, specially adapted boats, zip lines and cable cars. The models developed included an augmented reality app, computer simulations, physical models (some electrically/hydraulically controlled) and custom animation.

The projects were judged by local employers, Peter Hall, Councillor for Berkeley Town Council and Aerospace Engineer and Peter Heather Director of Areten. Feedback from the employers was really positive and they were particularly impressed with the creativity of many of the designs. Senior staff had a great time discussing the various projects with students and we really enjoyed seeing the physical models.

Too many schools and too many young people come to believe that only exam results matter. Projects such as this one demonstrate the value of cross-curricular learning and being able to apply theory in a highly practical and employer-oriented way. Students developed skills such as teamwork, problem solving and research but most importantly they gained confidence when talking to people from the industries many of them are looking to join when they graduate from the UTC.

A big congratulation to the winners:

Year 10	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Matthew Gow, Jack Dryer, Milo Grant.
Joint 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kieran Morgan - Eesa Battiwala, Roman Hendy, Sophie Porter – Finlay Stanton, David Bowen - Rahim Ali, Logan Brain, Jaden Gumbs.
Joint 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Michael Rees, Xavier Lester, Aaron Bottomley - Kyle Mills, Trinity Rose.

Year 11	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Ethan Hunt, Ethan Keeper, Adam Tatham, Joe Riddle
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Will Baldwin, Charlie Cross
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dan Stacey, Ekraj Ingale, George Shepherd

Year 12	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Jacob Page, Rowan Ainsbury
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Chris Bermingham, Joe Forbes
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tom Biles. Savannah Fitch, Aidan Haines, Tom

Year 13	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Mike Winnett, Lewis Ridsdale, Ben Firth
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lewis Clifford, Adie Holder
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ed McDonald, Ben Sweeting

Enjoy your weekend.

With very best wishes,

Louise Davies

**Headteacher**