

Newsletter



4 October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been a very busy ten days here at the UTC. The big excitement of the week was the press conference for the Bloodhound LSR project. It was held here at the UTC and was attended by a number of students whose contribution was very much valued. Press from national TV and newspapers were there and we learned a great deal about the challenges the project faces while carrying out trials in South Africa. For example, strapping a big rocket to a car and getting it to go fast is apparently not that difficult. It's stopping and not running out of track that are two of the biggest hurdles to overcome.

Not running out of track is a pretty good metaphor for something we are starting to talk to students in years 11 and 13 about. It may feel like ages until summer exams (an endless road ahead), but they creep up on us very quickly. The students who do best are not those with natural aptitude or those who've always sailed through their studies, but those who think about the road ahead and start to plan for their exams early. That doesn't mean working 12 hour days to cram in information, but using private study time wisely and committing information to memory at home, preferably in small chunks. We've got an event coming up shortly called 'Making the Most of Year 11'. It takes place on Wednesday 16 October at 6 - 7.30 pm. We hope parents of year 11 students will join us to hear more about GCSE exams and how you can support your son or daughter during this time.

Something else the Bloodhound reminds us of is the importance of our links with employers. The regular interactions we enjoy with the Bloodhound team allow students an insight not only into the worlds of engineering and computer modelling, but also teamwork and creativity. Too often in education the activities that don't result in exam certificates are overlooked. Here at Berkeley Green, we take them very seriously. On that note, we have seen some amazing work produced by students ready for the Project presentations next week. Students have been asked to devise a way of linking Berkeley with Lydney and to model their ideas. You would not believe what some young people can achieve with discarded cardboard and some sticky stuff.

On that note, I am off to get ready for our first open morning of the year which takes place at 10am tomorrow. If you know anybody even remotely thinking about the UTC as an option for year 10 or year 12, we'd be grateful if you could let them know.

If you get the chance, do take a few minutes to watch the BBC coverage of the Bloodhound event. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eu0W345dZhE>

With best wishes for an enjoyable and dry weekend.

Louise Davies

Headteacher // SGS Berkeley Green UTC