



**Berkeley
Green
UTC**

**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
4-NOV-22**



Headteacher's Update

It has been great to see our students refreshed and ready to learn after a week off. We have seen lots of fantastic learning happening throughout the UTC and our new students are continuing to impress.

At this time of year students always feel the longer school day more than at other points in the year. The evenings are longer and colder and this can have an impact on the positivity of young people. The staff at the UTC are continuing to work hard to keep everyone feeling positive throughout the UTC, and we are hoping that as our students are so enthusiastic about their education that they show the resilience needed to remain positive.

As part of our relationship with the National Cyber Security Centre we have been trialing their new PSHE resources built around online safety. We are very lucky that our students are able to use resources before anyone else designed by some of the best cyber security analysts in the world.

Gareth Lister

Student Celebrations

This week we have had another success story with Matthew Billings in year 13. Matthew independently applied for work experience before Covid with Eurolink. Sadly when the pandemic hit, this fell through. However, with Matthew's amazing determination and his initiative to follow up the lead, he managed to engage in work experience with them in October this year. Following the success of this work experience he has been offered employment. Claire Maddox from Eurolink commented:

"Matt came to Eurolink at the beginning of October for his work experience. We were so impressed with his ambition and obvious ability that we were only too delighted to offer him an apprenticeship once he has finished his A levels, to help support his continued learning. We very much look forward to welcoming him to the team when the time comes."

Congratulations to Matthew for all of his hard work. We look forward to hearing more success stories from our students as the year progresses.

UK Senior Maths Challenge

Well done to all those who participated in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. Commendations to all who took part in this tricky competition but particular congratulations go to the following:

- Bronze certificates: Libby Edsall, Dante Milligan, Antoni Borkowski, Junior Lewis and Michael Rees.
- Silver certificates: Corey Thomas, Jack Dryer and Jakub Szalski
- Gold certificates: Jack Whitehorn and Blyth Moss who got top score in the school.

Jack and Blyth will be rewarded for their efforts by going through to an even harder round called the Kangaroo!! Best of luck to them.

Parents Evenings

A big thank you to all parents and carers of year 11 students who joined us for the first parents evening of the year. Over the next week teaching staff will be contacting any parents who were on waiting list for appointments. The year 13 parents evening will be next Thursday and the years 10 and 12 evenings will be later in the year. Year 13 parents and carers please use the link below to book your appointments.

<https://sgsberkeleygreen.schoolcloud.co.uk/>



Students learnt about Stress Awareness Day during assembly and tutor time.



Year 10 engineers developing their hand skills



Year 12 and 13 maths students who performed very well in the Senior UK Maths Challenge

Key Stage 4 Curriculum Update

This week the students in year 10 cyber security have been investigating different cyber threats and looking into the impact these have on society.

Sophia Elliott – Teacher of Digital Technologies

Eco Schools

Active Ecology have started mapping the locations and conditions of the saplings planted on site over the past two years along with the help of Ace Carver, one of our original Eco-Committee members), who has taken on the wonderfully titled role of Tree Guardian. We aim to identify saplings in need of attention, so as many of them can survive to maturity as possible; the odds are stacked against them with a survival rate of just 37%. Hollie Rendall and Juliette Boyd have been particularly instrumental in this venture so far. On Monday, we will be building a wormery to compost our food waste on site.

Year 10 Reading and Exam Assessments

Over the next week all of our year 10 students will be taking a reading and spelling test. We do this with our students at the beginning of year 10 to help us identify who needs additional help with their reading and put the appropriate support in place. These tests will take place during a scheduled English lesson and the English teachers will let the students know the details about when they are taking place.

We will also be running some preliminary tests on some year 10 students to check if they might need any exam concessions such as extra time, for their GCSEs. Students are selected for this process based on information from their previous school and observations from teachers here at the UTC. Following this, parents / carers of students identified as potentially meeting the need for exam concessions, will be contacted directly with further information. Should any parent / carer have any questions regarding the process, they can contact the SENCO, Penny Rolfe.

Cultural Capital Day

This year there are a large number of international sporting events taking place. One that draws larger headlines than most is the FIFA mens football world cup which this year is being hosted in Qatar. England play their first match of the tournament on the 21st of November against Iran and at the UTC we are using this day as an opportunity to educate our students on the moral, financial and environmental impact of hosting this tournament in Qatar. Students will be off timetable for the day taking part in workshops and hearing from speakers who have lived and worked in this part of the world.

Upcoming Dates

9th November – Swansea University visit for post 16 students

10th November – Year 13 parents evening

17th November – Year 11 parents progression meeting

21st November – Cultural capital day

25th November – MOOG employer project

26th November – UTC open event

28th November – INSET day. UTC closed for all students.

Key Stage 5 Curriculum Update

The Year 12 Digital 3 students had been exploring the use of subnets in both home and business networks. By using Cisco Packet Tracer, we were able to gain experience in building and configuring these networks.

Eddie Cheung – Teacher of Digital Technologies

Rights Respecting School – *written by Harvey Daniell, Year 11*

This week we have looked at Article 37- I have the right not to be punished in a cruel or hurtful way. This article focuses on the Inhumane treatment and detention of children stating that children must not be tortured, sentenced to the death penalty or suffer other cruel or degrading treatment or punishment. The Rights Respecting Student Council picked the right this week. The Rights Respecting Student Council felt it was important to discuss this one this week because, it is important to everyone at the UTC that children should be treated with fairness, have the right to be listened to, and also have their views respected. In VIP lessons we have discussed the law and punishment for children and how children need to be protected. We talked about keeping young people safe and how they should be treated with respect. Even if they need to be punished, they should still have access to their rights. Importantly we discussed how children need a chance to learn and change their lives even if they are guilty. Thanks for reading.

Geography Fieldtrip

What an exciting day we had in Bristol on Thursday. Students walked around 7 miles, had lunch in the rain, and saw the wonderful sights of Bristol. It was a successful day; students were able to experience human geography in action to draw conclusions on the regeneration of Bristol Temple Quays. We walked from the multi-use Paintworks area, to the derelict 'arena' area, spent a little time at the newly developed Engine Shed and then finished off with a tour around Glasswarf. Students were able to see different levels of regeneration, think about proposed new plans and summarise if these projects were successful.

We also enjoyed a quick stop at a brand new building that opened up only weeks ago in September- The Distillery. Built once on derelict land, this new building kept us dry and allowed students to have a real feel of what it is like to work in a vibrant city centre. Thank you to all the wonderful geographers. You were a credit to the UTC. I very much enjoyed the day and look forward to the next one!

Year 11 Parents Meeting

On Thursday 17th November from 17:00-18:00 we will be running an online meeting for parents and carers of students in year 11 to discuss the different options available at the end of the year. We will be discussing apprenticeships, college courses and explaining the curriculum offer that we have in year 12 at the UTC. A meeting link will be shared closer to the time.

