



**Berkeley  
Green  
UTC**

**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER  
7-OCT-22**



### **Headteacher's Update**

At the end of last week I spent a day visiting London Design and Engineering UTC where I met with other UTC Headteachers. One of the things we discussed was how to encourage more female and non-binary students into the world of STEM as there is still the stereotype in society that STEM is a something that only males do. This is something that we as a STEM college work hard to change and we are delighted that our female population is growing year on year.

The Baker Dearing Trust (the group that run all UTCs around the country) have launched a group called the 'Founding 20'. This will be a group of 20 female and non-binary students from around the country who will work on a national level at changing this stereotype. To be considered for a place in this group students needed to write to me to explain what they would most like to see changed about the UTC network.

I have received lots of submissions that I will send off to the BDT today for consideration. Reading through these submissions I felt incredibly proud of the young female and non-binary STEM ambassadors we have at the UTC. We are very lucky to have these young people driving forward inclusivity in the world of STEM.

Gareth Lister

## CERN Trip

On Thursday this week our year 13 physics students flew off to Switzerland to visit CERN. This trip gives our students the opportunity to not only visit one of the most magnificent scientific centres in the world, but also to experience a different culture to the one they are used to. We look forward to sharing some more information on the trip and some images with you next week.

## Maths Challenge

Some intrepid year 12's and 13's took on the Senior UK Maths Challenge - a 'fun' problem solving national competition. It is a competition that encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. Results to follow!

## Student Celebrations

Our students have had another strong week displaying the UTC values. It was a good week for our Versarian sponsored tutor groups with 11 Versarian heading the KS4 table and 13 Versarian leading the KS5 table. The individual weekly winners were:

### Year 10

- Tadi Zvomuya – 12

### Year 11

- Evan Dutfield – 11

### Year 12

- Xan Kemp – 5

### Year 13

- Toby Hodges – 5

## Eco-schools

This week, KS4 Active Ecology had their first enrichment session, where we immediately got our hands dirty by taking cuttings or potting up some of the plants from the biology lab. Whilst we worked, we talked about the reproductive strategies of some of them, for example the “mother of thousands” reproduces asexually, producing many genetically identical offspring.

Our digital students took to researching the preferred conditions for the different species of plants, before distributing the plants and their care instructions to each tutor group for them to look after. As well as purifying the air, nurturing house plants has been shown to reduce stress levels.

Sophie Whipp – Eco-schools Lead



*Year 13 physics students have arrived safely in Geneva.*



*We had a whole UTC assembly learning about black pioneers in STEM to kick off our Black History Month work.*



*Year 12 Physics students hard at work.*

## Key Stage 4 Curriculum Update

*The year 11 biology students have been learning about the role of the pancreas and insulin in regulating blood glucose, as well as establishing the differences between the causes and treatments for type 1 and type 2 diabetes.*

*Sophie Whipp – Teacher of Biology*

## Rights Respecting School

Black History Month takes place in October every year and is a celebration of key figures and events in Black history. Having begun in the USA, it has been celebrated in the UK since 1987, with the emphasis on celebrating particularly the history and contributions to society of people with an African or Caribbean heritage.

There is a different theme every year, for example in 2021 the theme 'Proud to Be', aimed to recognise the achievements and contributions that Black people make to the UK every day. The 2022 theme, Time for Change: Action Not Words highlights the importance of being an ally and coming together around shared common goals to achieve a better world for everyone.

For all of October our Right of the Week will focus on Black History. This week we have looked at Article 30- every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, regardless of whether these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live. Students have had tutor sessions and VIP lessons on Black History this week and we have linked why this article is of particular importance.

Students have also met with Jo and Kim this week to discuss Black History Month and been involved with the planning of topics to be taught around this. Students have come up with some fantastic ideas that promote positive Black history and we are embedding these lessons all year. Black History Month is an awareness month and it is important that we use October to celebrate this too. Students have had opportunities to learn about famous, incredible Black people as well as the origins of Black history in the UK. Moving forward, Black history will feature consistently, throughout the year in VIP lessons, with a strong focus on student voice.

Jo Brown – RRSA Lead



Years 10 and 11 started their enrichment programme this week

## Upcoming Dates

**15<sup>th</sup> October** – UTC open event for new students

**19<sup>th</sup> October** – MS Teams meeting with the leadership team

**21<sup>st</sup> October** – Rolls Royce employer project

**21<sup>st</sup> October** – Last day of term

**3<sup>rd</sup> November** – Year 11 parents evening

**10<sup>th</sup> November** – Year 13 parents evening

## Apprenticeships

[Engineering Apprenticeship](#) – Degree – Dowty Propellers - Gloucester

[Engineering Apprenticeship](#) – Degree – GE Aviation – Cheltenham

If you feel your young person needs any assistance with their CV, cover letters or application forms please ask them to book an appointment with Siobhan Williams [Siobhan.williams@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk](mailto:Siobhan.williams@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk)

## Key Stage 5 Curriculum Update

*This week in A Level Maths year 13's were introduced to the concept of radians.*

*The radian is a unit of measure for angles used mainly in trigonometry. It is used instead of degrees. Whereas a full circle is 360 degrees, a full circle is just over 6 radians.*

*Deb Vollborth – Teacher of Maths*