



New Parent/Student Update – May 2016

We are getting ever closer to the new journey you and your child will be starting with UTC Reading and therefore I have included a number of important information items that you will need as you prepare to join us.

As I have previously mentioned, a number of items are repeated from previous months but it is important that these are received by all as this may be the first update for some parents and students; repeat items will be marked as such.

Newsletter

If you are receiving this monthly Parent Update, you should also be receiving our monthly Newsletter, which looks back at the previous month and gives a flavour for our activities. If you have not received a newsletter yet please [click here](#) to subscribe and view our previous Newsletters.

References

Immediately after May Half term we shall be contacting all schools to ask for a reference for your child. This information will be used to help us better prepare for the start of the Autumn Term.

I would strongly recommend that you inform your child's current school of the intended move to UTC Reading prior to the references being sent out, if you have not already done so.

Special Educational Needs

During the information sessions, Joe Noyes (SENCO) made himself available to discuss any special needs your child may have in relation to their learning. If for any reason you did not manage to speak to Joe or you would like a follow up conversation please contact Joe via email joe.noyes@utcreading.org.uk.

Induction Day (*Repeat item*)

We shall be running an induction day for all Year 10 students on Monday 4th July.

[Click here](#) to book your place.

The day will run from 9.00am to 4.00pm. Students should dress as close to the UTC Dress Code as possible. We appreciate that you may not be buying their actual UTC clothing until later in the summer.

Please inform your child's current school that they will be attending the UTC for an Induction.

Bus Passes (*Repeat item*)

We have negotiated a good price with Reading buses for bus passes. In a later update we shall ask if you wish to purchase a bus pass. If you decide to purchase this via the UTC we shall order this for you and ask for payment at a later date via ParentPay. Details of the passes for 2015/2016 can be found [here](#); please note bus pass prices are likely to rise slightly in the new academic year and routes are subject to change.

If you would like to order a bus pass via the UTC please complete the form found [here](#).

Bus passes will be ordered by the UTC, delivered to you directly and payment requested after the start of term. Please note that whilst we arrange this for students at a negotiated reduced rate any issues with the pass once delivered will need to be dealt with directly with Reading Buses.

Dress Code/Uniform Orders (*Repeat item*)

UTC Reading operate a Business Dress Code rather than a uniform; details can be found [here](#). Please note all Year 10 students (and all Post 16 students using the gym or taking part in sports during enrichment) must purchase a navy blue UTC Reading Polo shirt (details available during information evenings).

If you wish to purchase any UTC Reading clothing please complete the form found [here](#). We will request payment via ParentPay during the Autumn Term.

Laptops (*Repeat item*)

At UTC Reading all students need access to a laptop at all times. You will need to decide if you would like to Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) or opt in to our ELearning Scheme. If you decide to join the ELearning Scheme you will be asked for a donation of £400; paid in one payment or by direct debit across the two years.

If you wish to join the ELearning scheme you will be required to opt in prior to the end of May 2016. In order to do so, please complete the form [here](#).

If you do not complete the form, we will assume that you will be providing a laptop for your child independently (BYOD). If this is the case, you should note the following minimum technical requirements needed for the laptop to perform suitably in our learning environment:

E-Learning vs BYOD for 2016-2017

<u>E-Learning Scheme</u>	<u>BYOD</u>
Fujitsu A555 c/w carry case, i3 processor, 128GB SSD, dual band wifi	Student may use any Windows 10 laptop with i3 processor and dual band wifi.
Office 365 and any required specialist software installed by UTC Reading	Office 365 installed via the Office 365 licence by students (guidance will be given during the first few days in September) and any specialist software installed by UTC Reading
Insurance against accidental damage or theft is covered within the ELearning Scheme	Parents are responsible for all insurance and warranty for device
Temporary device is provided by UTC Reading whilst laptop is being repaired	Parent must provide replacement laptop in the event of damage
UTC Reading Security: network-based firewall, web filtering, and careful control over accessible software	UTC Reading security: a client will be installed on your child's laptop to ensure that they follow the acceptable use policy, and their activities will be controlled in exactly the same way as ELearning devices
Full automatic back up of student's work when saved on OneDrive for Business	Full automatic back up of student's work when saved on OneDrive for Business

Student may keep their device following the 2-year ELearning Scheme period at UTC	Not applicable
Safeguarding: monitoring software is used to safeguard students while using the Internet and other resources	Safeguarding: monitoring software is used to safeguard students while using the Internet and other resources
Students must use their device responsibly within the terms of the Acceptable Usage Policy or face disciplinary measures from UTC	Students must use their device responsibly within the terms of the Acceptable Usage Policy or face disciplinary measures from UTC

Dates for your diaries:

Year 10 Induction Day – Monday 4th July 2016

Post 16 Induction Day – Friday 8th July 2016

Post 16 Enrolment – Tuesday 30th August to Friday 2nd September 2016

Start of Term Year 10 – Monday 5th September 2016, 8.30am

Start of Tern Year 12 – Tuesday 6th September 2016,8.30am

Term dates can be found on our website, [click here](#).

Kind regards,

Joanne

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