

Head of School Weekly Update

Happy Friday to our whole community!

My update this week is based around information and process sharing. I will be covering the new parent app, attendance and behaviour expectations.

I am pleased to see that our students have settled back into the new term and are starting their courses with high levels of motivation.

Over the next week we will be focusing clearly on classroom practice and engagement in learning with visits to lessons and feedback to students and I will update you on this next week.



UTC
READING

New information system and apps for parents

Please read this communication carefully and save it in your inbox for future reference; it contains important information.

With any new school there is often lots of new information and procedures to become accustomed to. At UTC Reading many of our systems are digitally based online for ease of access. *The information contained in the sway link below provides all the details that parents/guardians require to access our online systems*, including how to pay for school lunches and trips.

[CLICK LINK HERE](#) to access the sway. Ed:Gen and ParentMail user guides are also attached (both are available to download as Apps on android and iPhone as well)

Training and Development

We are really excited to have so many fantastic opportunities on offer for the students and our first training and development sessions went ahead this week.

We had excellent feedback from the employer partners about student engagement and we are looking forward to seeing these sessions develop over the next few weeks.

UCAS Talk for Year 13

We are pleased to be joined by an external partner next week to help our year 13 students create their personal statements for UCAS. This will take place in PPD next week for Year 13 students.

Meet the Tutor Event

We would like to remind all of our new families in Year 10 and Year 12 to attend our meet the tutor evening on Tuesday 19th September from 5:30-7:00pm.

You will have a chance to meet your child's tutor and get to know the key information about UTC Reading. Please join us if you can!



Baseline assessments

Next week we will have our first cognitive ability tests and reading tests for students in Year 10 and 12.

These will be held in class time and students will complete them on a laptop. Any student who doesn't have a laptop will be provided with one to use for the assessments.

Attendance

I would like to remind all parents that we expect at least 95% attendance to school for all students across the course of the year.

Absence should be reported to reception on the first day of sickness, and every day after. Planned absences should be avoided where possible, but for urgent medical appointments, please inform reception and your child's form tutor.

I would also like to share the NHS guidance on absence from school to support you in making a decision if your child is well enough to attend or should stay at home.

The guidance can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Key Contact details

Senior Leadership Team

Executive Principal – Wayne Edwards
Acting Head of School – Jennie Thomson
Assistant Head of School – Stephanie Mitchell
Acting Assistant Head of School – Anderson Ramdeen

Safeguarding Team

Designated Safeguarding Lead – Jennie Thomson
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads – Anderson Ramdeen, Jackie Wynter, Wayne Edwards, Stephanie Mitchell

SEN Team

Trust Lead for SEN and Safeguarding – Linda Stevens
SEN Coordinator – Siua Abnett

I wish everyone a safe weekend and I am looking forward to seeing students again on Monday for another busy week!

Kind regards,

J.A. Thomson

Jennie Thomson
Acting Head of School