

Head of School Weekly Update



Dear UTC Community,

Welcome to this week's end of week update.

This has been somewhat of a busy week for UTC and we have had lots of events happening, including those unexpected on Wednesday!

I hope that you find the information shared today useful, and I wish you all a fantastic weekend.

Visit from Marina Gaze – Ofsted HMI Consultant

As promised from last week I would like to share with you some feedback from the visit we had last week. It is really pleasing to be able to share that Marina saw clear improvement across the school. She met with groups of students, visited lessons, observed break times, corridors and the start and end of the day.

Her feedback showed clear improvements in behaviour and culture across the school. A key positive piece of feedback was that she feels that safeguarding across the UTC is effective which is a huge success and a very clear improvement since the inspection in February.

Volunteers for open evening – Wednesday 11th October

UTC Reading is holding its first Open Evening on Wednesday 11th October from 5:30pm – 7:30pm.

We would love lots of student volunteers to help us represent the school in both departments and to give tours to prospective students and parents. Those students who do stay will be provided with a full dinner and will have a briefing about expectations Wednesday too.

We expect these students to embody the UTC Reading ethos of Ready, Respectful and Relentless, be dressed in their smart, business dress and to show that they are able to demonstrate the UTC Reading attributes. If we have an overwhelming response for volunteers, we will need to make a selection and in this case it may be that your son or daughter is selected next time.

If your son or daughter would like to sign up, please ask them to do so on this form by 4pm on Wednesday 4th October. <https://forms.office.com/e/ZwCGL7wi90>

Year 12 Cognitive Ability Tests

Year 12 students will have their main cognitive ability testing on Tuesday 3rd October from 8:45am. All year 12 students are required to be in UTC ready for an 8:45am start for these assessments



Lockdown – Wednesday this week

As you will have heard from me earlier this week, we went into lockdown this week. This has been picked up by the local and national news, and we are pleased that it has been recognised that we acted swiftly and ensured the safety of our whole community.

I would like to thank you again for your support with this process.

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.

I understand that a number of illnesses are currently circulating, and I wanted to remind you about how to inform us of student absence.

Absences can be reported by telephone on 0118 938 1020 or the ParentMail app. Any absence should be reported before 8:45am, and you need to continue to inform us of absence on every day that your child is off school.

If we have no information, you should be expecting us to contact you if your child is absent from school.

Student Executive Board

A reminder that our Student Executive Board applications close on Monday 2nd October at 9am. Please ensure all paper or electronic applications are submitted to Stephanie Mitchell by this time to be considered.

We look forward to the next stage of the application process!

Opportunities at Cisco and Dyson for Year 13

Year 13 students have been emailed this week regarding two insight day opportunities and both Cisco and Dyson, specifically aimed at those wanting an apprenticeship in these fields. The emails contain all the details and how to apply, so please do check through this, if it is of interest.

Career Opportunities

To support students in preparing for the world of work, we often get lots of opportunities through from our partners. Rather than emailing out each time about these, we will be regularly updating the UTC Reading Careers and Futures padlet, which is an electronic dashboard made up of all the opportunities.

Please do peruse this at your own leisure and we will keep it updated regularly throughout the academic year with useful websites and resources. It is your one-stop shop for Careers!

https://padlet.com/UTCReadingCAF/careers_futures_2023_2024



Respectful behaviours

I wanted to remind all members of our community about our respectful behaviours manifesto. This applies to everyone, all the time and I would like to encourage all students, staff and parents to Speak Up and Speak Out if they are aware of anyone not showing respectful behaviours at UTC Reading.

Respectful Behaviour Manifesto Mission Statement

At UTC Reading our aim is to have a culture of mutual respect between staff and students, a community that celebrates differences and diversity. That our curriculum and particularly PSHE will teach us about acceptance with regards to all different aspects of our college community. That the environment will be calm, supportive, respectful, structured, quiet, peaceful, purposeful and professional. If there are concerns about behaviour we will see clarity of the rules, effective use of restorative conversations, fair treatment, consistent approaches to dealing with behaviour, clear student and staff boundaries.

Contact with UTC Reading

I wanted to provide clarity on contact with UTC Reading Staff. It is my expectation that staff are not responding to emails or calls outside of their core working hours of 8:15-5:15 Monday to Friday.

If you telephone or email the school, our response time is expected to be 48 hours, unless there is an emergency safeguarding issue.

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 – Sua Abnett

I wish you all a relaxing weekend and I hope that everyone is able to take a break and rest and recuperate ready for the week ahead.

Kind regards,

J.A. Thomson

Jennie Thomson

Acting Head of School