



Head of School Weekly Update

Welcome to this week's end of week update.

The focus this week is around information sharing and operational updates for the next few weeks.

As always, I hope that you find this useful!

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

We will be hosting our Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day on Wednesday 13th December.

Students are invited to wear their most festive jumpers to school with their usual business dress underneath. We will be collecting a donation of £1 per student for this and all donations will be given to Save the Children.

Our Christmas Lunch menu will be a full roast with all the trimmings, a pudding and a bottle of water for £5. On this day, no other lunch items will be available for purchase apart from sandwiches and fruit.

Christmas lunch orders must be made in advance by completing this form, no later than 4pm on Monday 4th December.

[Christmas Lunch Order Form](#)

Unfortunately, this meal is not available to purchase on the day and must be booked in advance. Students in receipt of free school meals are not required to pay for their lunch, but must still order using the form above.

Attendance challenge

To encourage some healthy competition and celebration at the end of the term, we are running an attendance challenge for all students and staff. Prizes will be awarded daily, along with prizes in the end of term celebration event.

A festive graphic with a teal background decorated with white stars, snowflakes, holly leaves, a snowman, a gift box, and a Christmas stocking. A large white cloud shape is centered on the page, containing the following text:

Attendance Challenge

To reward attendance in the final 12 days of the year – there will be prizes available every day from **Monday 4th – Wednesday 20th December.**

All you have to do is be here and be on time for a chance to win!

Prizes include: selection boxes, gift vouchers, free lunch, free hot chocolate for break time and many more...

Personal and Professional Development Sessions

Key Stage 4 students participated in a workshop with the Storyy Group this week where we had a guest speaker who spoke to them about knife crime, drug use and making informed life choices.

The speaker shared his lived experience of knife crime with the students and provided advice and guidance on how to understand these choices and how to report concerns about people being involved in criminal activity, and how to keep themselves safe.

I would like to thank all of the students for their continued engagement in the session and I hope that they found it really useful.

Safeguarding – The Prevent strategy

This week students have been learning about the Prevent strategy in schools and how we work together to protect members of our community from extremist beliefs and radicalisation.

Our students have been reminded about the signs of radicalisation and what to do if they have worries about themselves or others.

I have also attached a link to a parent and carer guide to the prevent strategy and how parents can support and what they should do if they have any concerns or need more information.

The information can be found here: [Parent guide to Prevent](#)

If you do need support or have any worries for any safeguarding issues, not just prevent, then we are always happy to help and support, so please do contact a member of the safeguarding team.

Whole School Project Day – Tuesday 5th December

On Tuesday 5th December, we are excited to be having our first whole-school Community Project Day at UTC Reading. We run an event of this type every year, where we take all students off timetable, to work in small groups to create a solution to a live project brief.

For our Community Project Day, we work with a chosen charity in the local area, to raise money and awareness of what they do. For this year's Community Project Day, we will be working with the charity "Safe" who are based in Reading and provide support for young people affected by Youth Crime. For more information, please visit their website here: <https://www.safeproject.org.uk/>

To support the students with their project ideas, we will have over 20 employers onsite from companies such as SSE, Thames Water and Cisco, who will be helping the students to develop key employability skills such as presentation, as well as crowning their group winners.

To raise money for The Safe Project, we are also holding a Bake Sale at UTC Reading on Monday 4th December at break and lunchtime. All cakes will cost £1, it is cash only, and all proceeds will go to our chosen charity.

Further information about the day, and student groupings has been sent out this week from Stephanie Mitchell.

A reminder that the day finishes at 3pm and students will be released from UTCR to go home at this time.

Key Contact Details

Senior Leadership Team

Executive Principal – Wayne Edwards

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, Charlotte Tennant, Julie Hooper

SEN Team

Trust Lead for SEN and Safeguarding – Linda Stevens

SEN Coordinator – Siua Abnett

Curriculum Leadership Team

Director of Maths – Lewis Hart

Director of English – Thomas Trayers

Acting Director of Science – Carly Gale

Director of Design, Engineering and Technology – Jamie Chandler

Director of Computing – Ian Scott

Finally, a reminder of key dates coming up. We have a full school INSET day on **Friday 8th December** and we break up for the end of term at **12:30pm on Wednesday 20th December**.

Students return to UTC Reading on Wednesday 10th January for an 8:45am start.

Wishing everyone in the community a restful weekend.

Kind regards



Jennie Thomson

Head of School