



End of Week Update
Thursday 13th February 2025

Dear all

I apologise for the change in communication today, but unfortunately I cannot use Sway as usual, so have decided on an end of week letter instead.

I want to thank each and every member of our community for their hard work, resilience and professionalism this half term – it has certainly been a busy one!

Wishing you all a restful break and looking forward to seeing students on Monday 24th February after half term.

Very best wishes,

Jennie Thomson

Headteacher

Key dates

Week commencing 24th February - PPE Exams Year 11 and 13 (lasts for two weeks)

Wednesday 26th March - Year 11 Parents Evening

Wednesday 2nd April - Year 13 Parents Evening

Friday 4th April - End of term (early finish at 12:20pm)

Farewell to staff leaving us

Today, we say a fond farewell to Julie Hooper, our attendance and admissions coordinator. Julie has worked for UTC Reading since 2017 and has been part of the fabric of the admin team since then. Julie is well known to many of our community as she will have been your main point of contact when you applied to UTC Reading, and a huge part of our front of house team too. We wish Julie the very best in her new role, and we know she will be sorely missed from the staff and student teams. Good luck Julie!

PPE instructions for Year 11 and 13

Year 11 students

Will attend school from 8:40am every day and attend all exams.

If a student does not have an afternoon exam, they can leave school at 1:20pm and revise from home, or they can stay in school and revise here.

If a student has no morning exam, they are expected to come in and study at school for the whole morning.

On Fridays, if there is no afternoon exam, students can leave at 12:20pm.

Year 13 students

A Level only students

Will attend school for their scheduled examinations and can choose to revise in school or at home around these times

A level students who also study a BTEC single qualification

Will attend school for their scheduled exams, and check in with their BTEC teacher if they are required to do any face to face learning and support around this on an individual basis, they can then revise around these times at home or at school

BTEC only students

Will attend school for their normal timetabled lessons and will have drop down activities and assignment support sessions to ensure that they are up to date with their assessment plans

Safeguarding Update

This week we have observed Safer Internet Day and marked this with a whole school assembly to explain to students how we monitor and filter their internet usage at school.

Our school's filtering and monitoring system is designed to keep your child safe while using the internet at school. The system blocks access to inappropriate content, such as harmful websites, explicit material, and online threats, ensuring a secure learning environment.

Additionally, real-time monitoring allows school staff to detect and address any potential risks, such as cyberbullying, self-harm concerns, or unsafe online behavior. By using advanced technology, we can promote responsible internet use while protecting students from digital dangers.

This system works alongside our PPD programme to ensure students are educated on safe online use and behaviours ready for their futures.

If we have any concerns about your child's online usage we will contact you directly to discuss this.

If you would like further help and support on how to keep your child safe online at home you can use ChildNet, Internet Watch Foundation and NSPCC websites for further details.

Key Contacts

Senior Leadership Team

Headteacher – Jennie Thomson (jennie.thomson@utcreading.org.uk)

Assistant Principal (Behaviour, Attitudes and Attendance) – Lee Reynolds
(lee.reynolds@utcreading.org.uk)

Assistant Principal (Quality of Education) – Richa Pareek (richa.pareek@utcreading.org.uk)

Interim Executive Director of SEND - Geraldine Mendonca
(geraldine.mendonca@utcreading.org.uk)

Safeguarding Team

Designated Safeguarding Lead – Lee Reynolds

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads – Jennie Thomson, Charlotte Tennant, Julie Hooper

SEN Team

Interim Director of SEND - Geraldine Mendonca

SEN Administrator– Siua Abnett

Curriculum Leadership Team

Director of Maths – Richa Pareek

Director of English – Thomas Trayers

Director of Science - Jennie Thomson

Director of Design, Engineering and Technology and Computing – Jamie Chandler