

September 28, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 10 and 12 Work Experience Summer 2021

I am writing to update you regarding our planned summer work experience opportunity for students in Year 10 and 12. Careers education and experiences of the workplace are a fundamental part of our commitment to achieving our mission at UTCN and a key part of our curriculum. However, due to the reduced curriculum time many of our Year 10 and 12 students would have experienced during the Covid-19 school closures of Summer 2020, we have decided to prioritise gaining classroom time by reducing our work experience programme this Summer from our usual two weeks to one week. This will allow us more time to ensure students are fully prepared for their end of year examinations.

Work experience for Year 10 and 12 students will, therefore, now run during the week of **Monday 12th July, 2021 to Friday 16th July, 2021.**

We are also aware that gaining work experience in a workplace may be more challenging than previously for students in the current and uncertain times. We therefore anticipate that many companies will be offering virtual work experience opportunities in the future. We were very lucky to have a number of UTCN students partake in a highly successful and innovative virtual work experience programme with Morgan Sindall in July 2020 and the students have spoken very highly about the opportunity, with one student now pursuing a post-18 apprenticeship with them. We are currently working with many of our employer partners to develop similar programmes that can be delivered to UTCN students.

This means that Summer 2021 work experience may take many forms, including; traditional on-site workplace experience organised by the student, virtual work experience organised by the student and some exclusive virtual work experience programmes for UTCN students. It is, therefore, important to be aware that your son/daughter may complete their work experience virtually whilst based at home.

We would usually encourage all Year 10 and 12 students to start to contact businesses now to ask for work experience, however, we know from working with our Industry Liaison Group that many employers will currently be focusing on their Covid-19 recovery plans and may not be open to committing to work experience placements at this stage. This said, we would still encourage students to build links with employers and, if they already have a connection with an employer likely to offer them work experience, to pursue this. However, we will not be launching our usual 'Seeking work experience' assemblies and guidance until the Spring term.

We are positive that in these changing times UTCN students will still be able to gain meaningful and valuable workplace experiences. If you have any questions regarding work experience please contact me on sarah.jarvis@utcن.орг.uk.

Kind Regards

Mrs Sarah Jarvis
Assistant Headteacher

UTCN
Old Hall Road
Norwich
NR4 6FF



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