

November 3, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

**UPDATE ON THE FIRST HALF TERM FOR YEAR 12**

The first half of the Autumn term was an exciting one for our new cohort of Year 12 students; I am pleased to report that they have responded with great enthusiasm and professionalism to being back in education after a long period away from school. They have been asked to hit the ground running and I believe they have succeeded in doing so.

Students have noticed that there is a shift in emphasis in sixth form; qualifications are still a strong focus but there is also a necessity for students to broaden the scope of their horizons and start considering their longer-term futures: this process has already begun. This academic year, UTCN has already welcomed a variety of employers and industries, not least via the Wednesday morning Find Your Future programme. Employer visits have included representatives from Warren Services and Mr. Jon Barnard, the Director of Greyfriars Project Management, to name but two. There have also been assembly presentations, including one from a former UTCN student, now employed at Seajacks, who returned to UTCN to talk to our students about his company's work with self-propelled jack-up vessels. Students were very interested to hear about his industry and to hear his thoughts on the world of work more generally. He was also able to give them some good insight into how the skills learned at UTCN have benefitted him in the workplace.

In addition to employer visits, students are also now being advised to start considering university applications. Although it is still early days, we are now regularly advising students of various Open Days, Programmes and Events being organised by a variety of universities in connection with a variety of topics. Information is generally being delivered via assemblies, tutors, Microsoft Teams, and in certain instances via direct emails to parents.

We also have added to Year 12 enrichment opportunities this year, including a Debate Club which is now taking place every Monday lunchtime. The number of attendees started low but has been growing and there is the exciting prospect of an online debate competition to look forward to in the New Year, when Debate Club students should get the chance to test their speaking skills against students from other sixth form institutions.

More opportunities for students will continue to present themselves in the second half of the Autumn term. It just remains for me to extend my congratulations to the Year 12 cohort for the excellent start to the academic year that they have made. I am sure that they will keep up this professional and positive approach in the second half of the term.

Mr L Doheny  
Year 12 Lead

UTCN  
Old Hall Road  
Norwich  
NR4 6FF



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