

February 12, 2021

### **Year 12 Newsletter**

Dear parents and carers

#### **Review of this half-term**

As John F. Kennedy once said: "Change is the law of life." Those words certainly ring true at the moment, and it's to the credit of our Year 12s that they have adapted so well to online learning. They have shown a lot of resilience and self-motivation this term; they are to be congratulated on their attendance and on sustaining high levels of engagement with their education. That said, we are very much looking forward to seeing them back at UTCN in person.

Obviously, we are conscious of the risk of students losing ground, so we'd ask that students keep their attendance levels high and continue to meet work deadlines. Any students struggling with work for any reason can contact their subject teachers about it rather than let problems fester. Although not on-site together, we are still available to help in the usual way.

This newsletter is also a good chance to remind students to attend assemblies and Find Your Future sessions in the usual way, as these are obligatory when in school. Assemblies are used to provide key information about upcoming events to do with apprenticeships or university applications, Find Your Future employer projects are very much running as usual. Here is a reminder of the dates and times:

**Assemblies - Tuesdays 9.00-9.15**

**Find Your Future Sessions - Wednesdays 9.15-11.15**

#### **When will normal school resume?**

It appears likely that normal physical school will resume in the week commencing March 8. Although, this is still subject to confirmation on February 22.

#### **Half-Term**

This half-term will end at 3.00pm on Friday, February 12. Term will recommence for Year 12 at 9.15am on Monday, February 22.

#### **Year 12 Progress Evening**

After some consideration, we have decided that the Y12 Progress Evening (Parents' Evening) - scheduled for March - would be more beneficial to hold once schools are back properly. We haven't settled on a new date yet, but it will be at some point in the summer term. We will keep you informed as soon as the new date is determined. However, a shot Progress Report will be sent to all parents at the end of this term.

#### **Find Your Future**

Well done to all of you who are actively participating with Find Your Future activities, the standard of presentation for the Anglian Water project was high, congratulations to Daniel, Jacob, John, Andrew and Sam for being chosen as the winners. A £15 shopping voucher will soon be emailed to you.

The Morgan Sindall carbon reduction project has seen students meet with Morgan Sindall's head of design, an architect from Chaplin Farrant and structural engineer from Clancy Consulting. Our next speaker is a pre-construction manager. Students will have had the ideal opportunity to explore a number of aspects of a growth sector.

There was a lot of interest in the virtual work experience with Morgan Sindall, many students have got a place. If you missed out this time or are interested in finding out more there is another opportunity in the Easter holiday. You can apply here:

<https://www.s4snextgen.org/Opportunities/View/id/1110>

Register for a speakers for schools account then follow the link above to apply.

Computer science students have just had a project launch designing code to solve a real world problem with the Managing Director of NetMatters. They are a fast growing business in Wymondham.

Those interested in Cyber Security can look forward to meeting with Craig Rice from Aviva, a cyber expert after half term.

I'm delighted to share we are continuing to work with Vattenfall to explore renewable energy off the east coast, there are virtual internships planned with a number of businesses in the offshore wind supply chain. Sophie Skipp will keep you updated on this.

We hope engineering students enjoyed speakers exploring corporate social responsibility and KLM sharing the external factors on their maintenance business. KLM are advertising 8 apprenticeships to UTCN students this year, could this be you in 2022?

If you're feeling lost with your career aspirations make sure you book an appointment with Mrs Walton, you can do this by contacting Mrs Settle and Miss Johnson. Sophie Skipp is keen to support you to work with organisations which interest you.

### **Working with Employers Online**

We have published a short guide to get the most out of online interactions with employers please see the attached document.

### **University Applications**

Many universities are now offering Virtual Open Days (to replace the traditional 'in-person' Open Days) to give prospective students insights into university life. These often include: Virtual Campus Tours, Q & A Sessions with Admissions Staff and Student Ambassadors, plus information about specific courses etc. Students considering university should now be researching possible courses and attending Virtual Open Days to gain more information.

One useful website for students to register with it:  
[www.ukuniversitysearch.com](http://www.ukuniversitysearch.com)

This website has details of universities, courses offered, upcoming virtual open days plus details of apprenticeships too.

### **UNIFROG**

All Year 12 students are now set up with login details for Unifrog. Unifrog is an incredibly useful platform to help Sixth Form students prepare for their next step. Students can use it to research universities, apprenticeship opportunities and work experience placements, amongst other things. Students can also keep records of their own experiences which can then be used to help them build CVs and Personal Statements when the time comes.

I would urge all Year 12 students at this stage to be making regular use of this excellent platform to record their experiences and to research their next steps.

### **Careers Advice**

Any students who need careers advice and guidance can still obtain this from UTCN, Mrs Walton, our Careers Adviser, is available for video calls. Please contact Mrs Settle or Miss Johnson to set up an appointment:  
[beth.settle@utcn.org.uk](mailto:beth.settle@utcn.org.uk) or [emily.johnson@utcn.org.uk](mailto:emily.johnson@utcn.org.uk)

### **Other News**

**SCHOLAR'S PROGRAMME:** For twelve of our students, our spring term Scholar's Programme has now begun. This programme broadens students' horizons by moving them outside of their subject specialisms and focuses on cultivating university-level skills, such as critical thinking, data analysis, written structure and public speaking. From what I have heard, our 'Scholars' have made a good start to the programme which concludes after half term.

**UTCN DEBATE TEAM:** Four of our students competed in an online debate competition against other Sixth Form colleges from across the country. All four of our debates were praised by the judges for their ability to think on their feet. Hopefully, this successful experience will encourage wider participation in future.

**LOCKDOWN LEGENDS:** to recognise the effort and engagement of students who have made a particular success of their studies during lockdown, we have introduced a weekly "Lockdown Legends" award. Each week, subject teachers will nominate a student who has demonstrated great effort and engagement within their subject. The nominated students are then entered into a prize draw.

Congratulations to all students nominated this week...a great achievement to be recognised so individually.

#### **WORTH KNOWING ABOUT...EXTERNAL EVENTS/DATES:**

- **Cambridge for Beginners** – Webinar 25/02/21, 16.00

Sign up here: <https://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/open-days-prospective-applicants>

- **SUTTON TRUST** Summer Schools (University Residential Summer Schools...all costs paid)

Sign up here: <https://summerschools.suttontrust.com/>

- **UK University and Apprenticeship Search** – VIRTUAL FAIR:  
Wednesday 17th March, 12.00-18.00

Sign up here: <https://ukunisearch.vfairs.com/>

#### **Free School Meal Vouchers**

For those who normally receive the free school meal vouchers the next voucher code will be sent to you via email on Monday February 15 to cover the week of half term.

#### **Free Access to Library Resources - e-Media Library Membership**

*If you would like your child to be able to read eBooks, and use information books online, simply complete the joining form below. The form will take less than 5 minutes to complete and there are no hidden costs or charges.*

**Joining Form** *In a few days the student will be sent a library card number and welcome email that will tell you / them how to start downloading and reading online.*

*Watch our YouTube video introducing our eBooks and other eMedia here -*  
<https://youtu.be/TG-e4CpCG0g>

*Did you know?*

- *Using the library to borrow books and use computers is free for everyone*
- *With eBooks there are no overdue charges, and no books to keep at home or need to return to a library as they are all stored electronically and automatically returned*
- *Reading at home makes a big difference to how well children get on at school and after school – children who read more succeed more!*
- *Your child can download eBooks, and eAudio titles from the library, and get access to online Encyclopaedias, Dictionaries, Fact Books and magazines to help them enjoy learning at home*

*If your student already has a library card, please accept our apologies for sending this letter / email and please encourage your child to get online with the library service at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/librariesinformation](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/librariesinformation).*

*If you need help using online library services, you can email [libraries.icconnect@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:libraries.icconnect@norfolk.gov.uk) or telephone 01603 774777 Monday – Friday 10am – 6pm, Saturday 10am – 4pm.*

*Further details about how to use eBooks can be found on our website -*  
[Norfolk Libraries - eBooks](#)

#### **Who to Contact**

During this period of school closure, we are unable to staff our Reception, so please email any queries, as follows:

For any subject related queries, please email your child's teacher. Staff email addresses follow the pattern of: [firstname.surname@utcn.org.uk](mailto:firstname.surname@utcn.org.uk)

For queries about the welfare of your son/daughter, please email:

Mr Whitlam (Year 10 Lead): [keith.whitelam@utcn.org.uk](mailto:keith.whitelam@utcn.org.uk)

Mr Piggott (Year 11 Lead): [aaron.piggott@utcn.org.uk](mailto:aaron.piggott@utcn.org.uk)

Mr Doheny (Year 12 Lead): [lowell.doheny@utcn.org.uk](mailto:lowell.doheny@utcn.org.uk)

Mr Everett (Year 13 Lead): [james.everett@utcn.org.uk](mailto:james.everett@utcn.org.uk)

If the matter relates to a child protection or safeguarding matter, please contact Mrs Atkins, our Designated Safeguarding Lead: [ellie.atkins@utcn.org.uk](mailto:ellie.atkins@utcn.org.uk) or telephone 0750 6481878.

If you have a concern about the quality of work set in a subject area, please contact the relevant faculty head:

English & Humanities (Miss Oliff): [claire.oliff@utcn.org.uk](mailto:claire.oliff@utcn.org.uk)

Mathematics and Computing (Mr Moyo): [edson.moyo@utcn.org.uk](mailto:edson.moyo@utcn.org.uk)

Engineering (Mr Attwell): [david.attwell@utcn.org.uk](mailto:david.attwell@utcn.org.uk)

Science (Mr Vinters): [mark.vinters@utcn.org.uk](mailto:mark.vinters@utcn.org.uk)

For any IT related issues, please contact our IT Technician:  
[phillip.long@utcn.org.uk](mailto:phillip.long@utcn.org.uk)

If you have any general queries about online learning, please contact Mrs Palik:  
[emma.palik@utcn.org.uk](mailto:emma.palik@utcn.org.uk)

Careers enquiries should be directed to: [beth.settle@utcn.org.uk](mailto:beth.settle@utcn.org.uk) or  
[emily.johnson@utcn.org.uk](mailto:emily.johnson@utcn.org.uk)

For any other queries, please contact: [office@utcn.org.uk](mailto:office@utcn.org.uk)

Kind regards  
Alex Hayes  
Headteacher

#### Dates for your diary

February Half Term - February 15 to February 19, 2021  
Online lessons recommence - Monday February 22, 2021

UTCN  
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Norwich  
NR4 6FF



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