

January 5, 2021

Yesterday evening's announcements have left us with a number of unanswered questions but, for the moment, this is what is happening:

- UTCN is now closed to most students until half-term (February 12) and students will be taught remotely. We will be endeavouring to 'live' teach according to students' normal timetables using Microsoft Teams. Given the closure of primary schools, please be mindful that many of our teaching staff may have to juggle their own childcare commitments and this may mean that not all lessons will be 'live' for the full duration.
- UTCN will remain open for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers only. If your child has an EHCP or is vulnerable or you are a critical worker and you need childcare, please contact sarah.jarvis@utcn.org.uk. Students in school will follow the curriculum on Teams in exactly the same way that other students at home will.
- IT: we have a small number of laptops available for students who do not have access to their own equipment. If you would like to put your name down for one, please contact ellie.atkins@utcn.org.uk and we will try to meet your need.
- External examinations scheduled to take place in January will proceed. This currently only applies to Sixth Form Cybersecurity students.
- The virtual Year 11 Progress Evening scheduled for next week (January 13 & 14) will proceed as expected. Further details will be published later this week.
- Regarding summer exams for Year 11 and 13, the government line is: *'In these circumstances, we do not think it is possible for exams to go ahead fairly this summer. The Secretary of State for Education will be asking Ofqual to consult rapidly on an approach for alternative arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly.'* However, our opinion is that this 'alternative arrangement' will involve some sort of final assessment or a single test in each subject. Therefore, we would strongly encourage **all students to continue to work as normal** towards their summer exams. We will update you as we learn more.

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

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

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

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

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

Mr Everett (Year 13 Lead): 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 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

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

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

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

For any IT related issues, please contact our IT Technician:

phillip.long@utcn.org.uk

If you have any general queries about online learning, please contact Mrs Palik:

emma.palik@utcn.org.uk

Careers enquiries should be directed to: beth.settle@utcn.org.uk or emily.johnson@utcn.org.uk

For any other queries, please contact: office@utcn.org.uk

Kind regards

Alex Hayes
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Online lessons commence - Tuesday January 5, 2021
February Half Term - February 15 to February 19, 2021

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