

December 18, 2020

Dear parents and carers

UPDATE ON THE WINTER TERM FOR YEAR 12

As the winter term draws to a close, I wish to congratulate our new year 12 cohort on the excellent start they have made; both progression students and new joiners are now fully settled in. Everyone has adapted well to working with Microsoft Teams and the term in general has been a very full and action-packed one, in both academic terms and in respect of links with employers.

On that note, we pride ourselves at UTCN on the strong links we have forged with employers in recent years, and despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, we have successfully sustained our strong links with employers across diverse industries and sectors. In fact, students have already spent 1,001 hours with employers this term. This time has included: a coronavirus related project with Warren Services, working with Greyfriars Project Management, Royal Navy Boat design and Anglian Water sewage project.

Next term also promises to be an exciting one with plenty more opportunities to work with different employers becoming available. Some of our sixth form students have already conducted work experience (with Anglia Water) and in the spring term, Morgan Sindall (a major construction firm in the region) have offered UTCN some places for their virtual work experience programme. This is a fantastic opportunity in an organisation with a track record of developing apprentices. Year 12 students have just been notified about it and we are keen for students to apply for this opportunity. We are also looking forward to seeing the Warren Services work experience teams do their final presentations on Friday 8th January. Next term will also see year 12s begin to map out plans for their summer work experience week in earnest.

As the term has gone on, year 12 students have gradually heard more about university. Many universities are offering virtual open days and taster programmes to help prospective students get a feel for university life. Students are notified about these different opportunities through assemblies and via Microsoft Teams notifications. I would encourage any students considering university courses to start attending some of the virtual open days to get an early feel for what university life will entail.

Next term, twelve of our students will start participating in The Scholar's Programme, working with a PhD student to research and present a university graded assignment. This prestigious programme has been shown to have a great impact in developing university-readiness and in improving aspirations of students in attending high-ranked universities. An exciting programme, which starts in January.

Finally, four of our students will form the UTCN debate team, competing against other sixth form colleges in an online debating competition organised by 'Debating Matters'. During the debates, teams will be rewarded for detailed research and logical coherent arguments. We wish them well in their preparations.

The new term starts again on 5th January 2021. We wish all of our year 12 students a very well-deserved break.

Warmest regards
Mr Doheny
Year 12 Lead

Dates for your diary

Last day of Term: December 18 school closes at 3pm
Christmas holidays - December 21 to Jan 4

School reopens - Tuesday January 5, 2021 - subject to change
February Half Term - February 15 to February 19, 2021

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