

Parents' Newsletter - May 20, 2020

I hope that this newsletter finds you and your family well.

Online Learning Survey

Now that we have all begun to adjust to online learning, we wanted to have your opinion on what is working and what could be improved. We would be very grateful if you could complete this very quick survey by 5pm on Friday :

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YRKZJTZ>

There will also be a separate survey for students.

Half-Term is May 25 to May 29

Online lessons will resume on **Monday, June 1.**

Online Lesson Timetable

This can be found [here](#) (the last document on the page)

Message from Mr Piggott for Year 10

Hopefully you enjoyed the staff video last week and Mr Everett has assured us there will be a part 2..... pending!

I thought that I would add to the videos and challenges going out by offering a regular fitness challenge that students (and parents) can give a go. The first one is called 7-to-1 which is explained in the video.

Please do get involved and feel free to let me know if you advance higher than 7.

Also, it is great to see the attendance rise as we continue to offer online lessons and hopefully the timetable - will now help students manage their time.

Have a good half term!

PE Challenge - for all

Mr Piggott has put together details of a physical challenge and produced a youtube video to explain it. Please participate! <https://youtu.be/KP7Vr8j-evo>

When will school return for Year 10 and Year 12?

To clarify: normal school will not return on June 1.

As we mentioned last week, the government position is:

'From the week commencing 1 June 2020 at the earliest, we will be asking primary schools to welcome back children in Nursery, Reception, year 1 and year 6, alongside priority groups. We will ask secondary schools, sixth form and further education colleges to offer some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 and year 12 students who are due to take key exams next year.'

'This will not be a return to full timetables or pupils back in school or college full time, rather some support to supplement pupils' remote education. In line with implementing protective measures and reducing contacts, schools and colleges should limit the attendance of the year 10 and 12 cohort in the setting at any one time and to keep students in small groups as set out in our guidance.'

The re-opening of schools has been much discussed in the media and, at UTCN, we are working towards organising this face-to-face support for later this term. Realistically, this is likely to be towards the end of June at the earliest. However, there are various pieces of the jigsaw that need to fall into place before a concrete decision can be made:

Government guidance. We are expecting a secondary planning guide, similar to the one published for primary schools last week, to be released later this week. We anticipate that this will include much more detail on what is meant by 'some face-to-face contact with Year 10 and Year 12 students.' It should also outline the necessary safety measures, PPE etc. that will be required for a safe return in a secondary school environment. It is also worth noting that a final government decision for primary schools to return for some year groups has not actually been made yet!

Availability of teaching staff. Our teaching staff are working hard to deliver online provision but many of them have childcare and other commitments which they are juggling with their professional responsibilities. We also have a number of staff who are currently shielding and would, currently, be unable to return to work. We have a chicken and egg scenario: if the children of our staff are able to return to school, our staff will be able to return to school!

Student participation. From welfare calls, we know that whilst some students and their parents are extremely keen to return to school, a significant number of parents and students are reluctant to return for many good reasons, especially given the significant travel involved for many in attending UTCN.

Availability of bus transport. The vast majority of our students travel to us by public transport. We are in discussions with First Buses (who supply our contract bus) about when bus services might resume but they have no firm date. Additionally, to maintain social distancing on public transport, the following guidelines have been suggested which present obvious problems for us and other schools who rely on contract bus services:

- 9-13 passengers per 53 seats (normal size coach or single deck bus) depending on layout of vehicle
- 18 passengers per 70 seats (double-decker)

I hope this overview of our thinking is helpful. The situation is developing rapidly and we will look to canvass your views in the near future so that we can establish a safe plan to return to school in some capacity. As always, we will keep you fully informed as we know more.

Weekly Careers Bulletin

Please look out for our regular Careers Bulletin.

Safeguarding Arrangements for Video-Call

- To keep everyone safe, the following guidelines will apply to video-calls:
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the ho
- Any computer/phones used should be in communal areas, not in bedrooms or bathrooms
- Live classes will involve teaching to small groups of students for up to 30 minutes.
- Staff will record the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held.
- 1:1 sessions will only be used for the purpose of careers or personal advice.
- Normal classrooms rules and protocols will apply.

Welfare Calls - Year 10 and Year 12

The Pastoral Team are working hard to check in with all Year 10 and 12 families during this time of uncertainty and will continue to do so on a regular basis. These calls will come from a withheld number from the same member of staff each time.

As well as this, there will be a weekly well-being announcement made on Show My Homework every Monday. This will signpost students to any additional support that they may need, and there may even be a few challenges coming up, so please look out for those too!

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 Piggott (Year 10 Lead): **aaron.piggott@utcn.org.uk**

Mr Hankinson (Year 11 Lead): **sam.hankinson@utcn.org.uk**

Mr Everett (Year 12 Lead): **james.everett@utcn.org.uk**

Ms Veale (Year 13 Lead): **hannah.veale@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 (Mr Moralee): luke.moralee@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

If you have any queries about Show My Homework and its usage, please contact Mrs Palik: emma.palik@utcn.org.uk

Careers enquiries should be directed to Mrs Settle (Careers Facilitator): beth.settle@utcn.org.uk

If you have a concern about the way your query has been handled or are not satisfied with the outcome, please contact Mrs Sarah Jarvis, Assistant Headteacher: sarah.jarvis@utcn.org.uk

To make a complaint to the Headteacher, Alex Hayes, please write to alison.howes@utcn.org.uk

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

Regards
Alex Hayes
Headteacher

Social Media

Please follow us on Twitter @utcnorfolk for quick information about the whole school and @UTCNKS4 for Key Stage 4 information.

Also, follow us on Instagram @utc_norfolk for UTCN updates.

Dates for your Diary

Please look on the UTCN webpage for the Parents Calendar which is updated regularly. <https://utcn.org.uk/calendar>

May 25 to 29 - Half Term
July 20 - School closes for the summer holiday

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