

Parents' Newsletter - April 3, 2020

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

GCSEs and A Levels - Year 11 and Year 13

After much deliberation, OFQUAL have now released a statement to students about grading [here](#).

The essence of this is:

- Teachers will say what grade each candidate would likely have achieved in the summer, taking into account as much evidence as possible.
- For each subject, every candidate being suggested a grade has to then be ranked against all other students being suggested for the same grade (e.g. for your students you submit a 5 for in maths, rank each of them with the most secure 5 at the top down to the least secure / closest to a 4 at the bottom).
- Centres will have to submit this by 29 May.
- Ofqual are still working on a formula to award final grades. This will take account of the teacher assessment, normal grade distribution, as well as the prior attainment of the cohort, and recent results of your school. There is little detail about this yet.
- Schools must not reveal the teacher assessed grades to students or parents.
- Results will be out at least by the normal date, if not slightly earlier.
- Students will be able to appeal and will be able to sit the exams at their earliest possibility if they're unhappy with the grade given.

There are still some unanswered questions, particularly in relation to coursework, however, we can assure you that we will be aiming to achieve the best possible outcomes in any estimated allocation of grades for our students.

Set Work - Year 11 and Year 13 Students

Thank you to all Year 13 and Year 11 students who have continued with their studies and regularly submitted work to their teachers. We have advised teaching staff to only offer written feedback on the work rather than any grade estimations.

Set Work - Year 10 and Year 12 Students

Thank you to all the Year 12 and Year 10 students who are submitting work to their teachers. It has been great to see so many students continuing to engage with their studies. We continue to upload all homework on to show my homework for students and parents to see. Could parents, where possible, please ensure that their child is completing all the work set for every subject they are studying at UTCN. It is imperative that they do not miss deadlines and subsequently fall behind in their studies as this will have a detrimental effect on their actual results in the summer 2021.

Teaching in the Summer Term

Whilst we appreciate students' efforts in completing set work, I think we can all see the need to make the 'teaching' process more interactive and various on-line systems have been trialled by staff over the last fortnight. After the break, we hope to roll-out some video-conferencing approaches to help keep students motivated and continuing to learn.

Mock Exams

Having discussed this with the Head of Faculties, we believe that it will be beneficial to hold mock exams for Year 10 and Year 12 towards the end of June. Either these exams will take place as normal because we will be back at school or we will need to arrange the delivery of paper copies for students to complete at home.

Providing students with an aiming point of Summer Term exams should help motivate them and give us all something to strive towards. It will also identify any gaps in learning so that we can hit the ground running in September.

Student OneDrive accounts

A small number of students are using OneDrive from their Office365 UTCN account to store documents. We are in the process of transferring to a new IT provider and this means that this data could be lost. We have sent instructions on how to save this data to all students, however, please could you remind your son/daughter to download any files that they need.

This does not affect the data that students have stored on the school network or the school pool drive.

Family support links

At this challenging time the Norwich Opportunity Area have collated a list of links to websites and agencies that families may find useful:

<https://norwichopportunityarea.co.uk/> Select Coronavirus info - support for families.

Free school meals - E-vouchers

The government have now formalised a national system for supporting children who are eligible for free school meals during this period of school closures. If your child is eligible for free school meals you will receive an e-voucher code via the email address we have registered for you on our system. This e-voucher will then contain instructions on how to redeem the voucher. The government have increased the value of daily free school meals during this period and your child will receive a £15 voucher weekly. This scheme starts after the Easter holidays, week commencing Monday 20th April. If you do not receive your e-voucher after the Easter holidays please contact Sarah Jarvis on sarah.jarvis@utcn.org.uk

For further information regarding this scheme please see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools>

We are also aware that during this time period some families may find they become eligible for free school meals when previously they may not have been. If you think your son or daughter may have become eligible for free school meals please apply online on the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Digital Magazines

New content is being regularly added to the UTCN library website, including a fantastic offer of free access to the back catalogues of ten digital magazines. Titles include Chemistry World, BBC History Magazine, Geographical, The Biologist and New Internationalist. For login details visit the UTCN library page: <https://uk.accessit.online/unv04/#!dashboard>

Weekly personal development activities on Show my Homework

As part of our balanced curriculum at UTCN students usually complete a weekly personal development activity in form time - this takes the form of a debate question with resources designed to support students to explore both sides of the argument and developed an informed viewpoint of their own. In order to continue to support this part of our curriculum at home we are posting this activity weekly on the "Announcements" section of Show my homework.

Please check this section weekly for the personal development activity alongside Careers updates and wellbeing posts. Click "view more announcements" to allow you to see the full calendar of posts.

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!

Destinations for Year 11 and Year 13

Please check the announcements section of the school Show My homework page where we are sharing careers links, personal development tasks and wellbeing activities.

Telephone calls to Year 11 and Year 13 students will be made over the coming weeks to check that their next step for September is secure.

Weekly Careers Bulletin

Please look out for our regular Careers Bulletin.

Aside from Set Work, what else could students be doing?

Some activities that don't directly involve screens include:

Cooking

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/> is a good start and bread making is fun
<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/videos/techniques/how-make-bread>

Gardening.

The Royal Horticultural Society and the BBC have some tips for getting started with gardening at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/beginners-guide>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/basics/techniques/>

You can find out more about the birds in your garden here:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/identify-a-bird/>

Read a book.

Listen to a book. Audible has released free copies of a number of its audio books aimed at young people <https://stories.audible.com/discovery> and Soundcloud has lots of free readings of audiobooks as well.

Stargazing. Here is some information for beginning astronomy from the BBC magazine

Sky at Night:

<https://www.skyatnightmagazine.com/tag/astronomyforbeginners/>

When will normal school resume?

There are two schools of thought:

- June 1 (after half term)
- September

We will see!

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

FREE PACKED LUNCHES

Easter Holiday

We are providing free packed lunches during the April Easter Holidays on:

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--------|---------|-----------|----------|-----------------------|
| | | | | 3 rd April |
| 6th | 7th | 8th | 9th | EASTER |
| EASTER | 14th | 15th | 16th | 17th |

All pupils accompanied by a parent are welcome. **We do not ask questions only hand out the food.** The packed lunches can be collected between 12 pm and 1-30 pm from the Phoenix Centre on Mile Cross Road (100 metres before it meets Aylsham Road).

Each packed lunch consists of:

- ✓ A filled roll - meat or fish or vegetarian
- ✓ A fruit juice
- ✓ A piece of fruit, usually a banana or apple
- ✓ A yoghurt drink
- ✓ And a treat
- ✓ In addition, we also collect left over food from the supermarkets which you can take home.

Our Motto is "Solidarity not Charity"
we campaign to scrap Universal Credit.



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>

April 6 to 17 - Easter Holidays

May 8 - Bank Holiday

May 25 to 29 - Half Term

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Old Hall Road
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