



UTC
WARRINGTON

INSPIRING
TECHNICAL CAREERS

Excellence & Kindness



WEEKLY

FRIDAY 22ND MAY

BULLETIN

SCHOOL REOPENING UPDATE

The Department for Education has released some information about schools potentially reopening, in a phased way, for some students in June. This guidance states that: *“For pupils in Year 10 and 12, we are asking schools and colleges to supplement remote education with some face to face support for these year groups from 1st June.”*

The government has also released some details for parents and carers. [Please click here to access this information.](#)

As you can appreciate, this guidance raises many questions for us as a team at UTC Warrington, particularly around how we might approach any limited or phased return for our students and staff in a safe manner. **There are many options and implications that we need to consider and consult upon.**

Earlier this week, we sent a survey via Parent Mail to parents of Year 10 and Year 12 students. This is to help us identify how many parents intend for their son/daughter to return to school, so that we can prepare and plan for a potential reopening in June. **Please log in to Parent Mail to access and complete this survey as soon as possible.**

We will write to you in due course with further information and details of our plans for Year 10 and Year 12 students.



CORONAVIRUS
STAY ALERT
TO STAY SAFE

- ✔ Keep a safe distance from others
- ✔ Stay home as much as possible
- ✔ Keep washing your hands regularly

STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES

APPLICATION
UPDATE

Year 10 & 12 Places

We know that all students have worked hard to secure the highest grades for the best possible course at college.

Therefore, no student will be disadvantaged and all applicants will have a place to study at UTC Warrington.

We will work with you and your family to ensure you are on the right course at the right level.

[Click here to read more.](#)



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YEAR 13 APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITY

Mrs Owen, Head of Engineering, has been engaging with local engineering companies to help support students with their next steps by identifying if they may have any potential apprenticeship opportunities.

DATS, a local Computer Aided Design (CAD) company based in Warrington, may have some apprenticeship opportunities and have requested students in Year 13 who would like to explore a career in CAD to apply.

Students will need to apply via email with a cover letter, CV and portfolio of work to display their CAD skills. Should you wish to apply please contact Mrs Owen for further information: dowen@utcw.co.uk



Who are DATS?

DATS produce all kinds of 2D designs, for all kinds of projects. Using the latest CAD software packages, they create high quality, 2D CAD from original sketches, paper copies or red-line mark ups.

From site plans, planning applications and building elevations, to process and instrumentation drawings. And from product design to British Standards electrical works and service drawings; our experienced team has an outstanding reputation, for delivering accurate and aesthetically pleasing 2D projects for their clients.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

UTCs WORKING WITH EMPLOYERS AND UNIVERSITIES FOR STUDENT CAREERS

We work closely with employers and universities, so that young people can make an informed choice about their career path after they finish school.

For some students, the prospect of their time at school finishing can't come soon enough; for others, it is filled with anxiety over choosing the right next step. How do learners get the best advice about what to do when their time at school comes to an end?

Of course, providing young people with structured and relevant careers guidance is, quite rightly, a legal requirement for all schools. As well as offering a comprehensive careers programme with high quality information about future study and job options, it is vital that all young people have sufficient opportunities to meet prospective employers; to experience the workplace; and to have access to further and higher education providers. There is no substitute for learning from the real practitioners.

This is especially important at the current time: while headline school leaver destinations at age 18 into university, work, etc. are broadly unchanged in percentage terms over the

past decade, university course and career path preferences have changed materially. For example, degrees in history, modern languages, and education have seen big declines, while those in biological and other sciences have witnessed large increases. At the same time, degree apprenticeships are on the rise, as are careers where strong digital qualifications and creative skills are required.

The dynamic nature of school leaver preferences is one of the many reasons why employers and universities are an integral part of UTCs. Employers themselves engage students through project-based learning; this brings real-life workplace challenges into the classroom as part of the curriculum. They also offer mentoring and provide work experience to UTC students. Equally importantly, the profound and regular level of employer engagement provided by a broad range of companies ensures that student understanding of possible career paths, and the qualifications required, remains up-to-date. The same is also true of teachers! Of course, by spending a significant amount of time with different employers, UTC students gain an appreciation of a wide variety of jobs, as well as the poise to interact with adults, many of whom are senior professionals at the organisations they represent.

University engagement works in a similar

way, often with departments collaborating with UTCs on aspects of research to aid student understanding of, and confidence in, experimental science. This provides an important introduction to the approach to learning which is expected of all students in higher education.

As Tiffany, a UTC alumna from Oxfordshire, says: "The whole UTC is set up in a very work-based way; we wore formal dress, worked working hours and learnt how to communicate with employers, focusing on tasks and projects set by them. It got me ready for where I wanted to go. I applied for work experience with Williams and was accepted. After 3 months there, I got my 'foot in the door', building good relationships. At the end of my work experience, my head teacher got in touch with Williams, who offered me a four-year apprenticeship."

Tiffany's experience is typical of that of many UTCs students. Through close collaboration with employer and university partners, our leavers are very often at the 'front of the queue' for a popular university course, or for a competitive apprenticeship place.



WHY CHOOSE A UTC?

THANK A TEACHER DAY

May 20th marked National Thank A Teacher Day. It was an opportunity, as a nation, to come together to say thank you to teachers across the country who are making a difference not only now during these unprecedented times, but every day of the year.

Thank you to the many parents who contacted us via social media to express their thanks for UTC Warrington members of staff who have helped them and their son/daughter during their time at the UTC. Here's just a few of them...



"Mr Alboreto has been amazing by sorting stuff out for Charlie, particularly around accessing work on the iPad. He has been checking in on him weekly, not to just to discuss school work but also how he's coping himself. Thank you."

- UTC Warrington Parent



"I would like to thank Mrs Garrett. From the day my son started, she was fantastic with him and me as a parent!! Mrs Garrett helped me even when I needed advice with him outside of school. A lovely person who is brilliant with the children and I can't thank her enough for the support she had for us as a family."

- UTC Warrington Parent



"I would like to say thank you to Mr Varey who not only rang us in the first few weeks of lockdown but also came out to drop things off at our home for us, which really was going above and beyond."

- UTC Warrington Parent



"I'd like to thank all the staff at UTC. To take your child out of mainstream school is a big deal for most families, but I can honestly say it's the best thing we ever did for Ciaran. All the teachers are so helpful and knowledgeable....too many to thank, but some names that spring to mind: Mr Varey, Mr & Mrs Rigby, Ms Rice, Mr Gee, Mrs Pattullo, Mrs Garrett, Mrs Lee always looking out for Ciaran when he struggles. Christine on Reception always greets you with a smile and is more than helpful. Jack Jevons always replies to your Facebook or email queries..Mr Beggs!!!! Keeping those Cadets in line..... Thank you UTC staff for everything you have done."

- UTC Warrington Parent



"I would like to thank all of his teachers: Mr Gee, Mr Tunney, Mr Varey, Mr Twist, Mrs Okeya, Mrs Burge, Mrs Pattullo, Mrs Lee, Mr Beggs (Begsy for keeping him in line and kicking his butt when needed at cadets) who have all supported and accepted Callum for who he is and all his quirky ways and for helping him to become the amazing young man he is."

- UTC Warrington Parent





YOUTH CABINET APPLICATIONS

A youth cabinet including ambitious youngsters hoping to be Warrington’s future councillors has been formed.

It was set up in February and aims to mirror Warrington Borough Council’s cabinet, as well as to reflect the work taking place from officers, although it is not a council body.

Now, young people from across Warrington can get involved. This is an opportunity for anyone age 11 to 18 to actively take part in making decisions, advising on Local Government Policy and taking action on issues important to young people in Warrington. The youth cabinet website is <https://www.warringtonyouthcabinet.com> and here you can find more out about who they are and what they do.

For pupils who would like to contact the youth cabinet directly about joining can email: warringtonyouthcabinet@gmail.com.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH CERTIFICATION

Young people across the UK have been working hard all year to complete their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections. Since the Covid-19 outbreak young people have had to adapt rapidly, taking the initiative, changing their activities and keeping going with their programmes despite the challenges of staying at home and social distancing. DofE want young people to be recognised for their amazing efforts and achievements even if it’s not possible for them to do an expedition, and therefore achieve their Award, this year.

To this end, they will be launching a new accolade that recognises the fantastic accomplishments of these young people – the ‘2020 DofE Certificate of Achievement’.For this year only, certificates will be issued to all participants who have completed their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections at Bronze, Silver or Gold level, but haven’t been able to do their expedition because of the pandemic. The accolade will be a formal recognition, by the DofE, of their dedication to their programmes and everything they’ve achieved through these three sections, as well as their resilience in coping with the unprecedented events of this year.

Who is eligible for a certificate?

2020 DofE Certificates of Achievement will be granted to Bronze, Silver and Gold participants who started in summer 2019 or later, have completed their Physical, Skills and Volunteering sections (but not their Expedition section) and have had them approved by their Leader in eDofE by the end of the year.

Can participants who receive this certificate still go on to achieve their DofE Award?

Yes. The expedition is a hugely valuable experience that develops vital skills and character, and we hope that most participants will still have the opportunity to achieve their DofE Award when it is safe to do so. All young people who complete their Skills, Physical and Volunteering sections will receive the 2020 DofE Certificate of Achievement and, if they go on to complete their Expedition section at a later date, they will also achieve their DofE Award.

If you have any questions, please speak to Mr Gee.



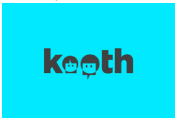
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK 2020

‘Mental health is a state of well-being in which every individual realises his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community. (World Health Organisation)’

At UTC Warrington, we aim to promote positive mental health and wellbeing for every student our college. In addition to promoting positive mental health and wellbeing, we aim work with other organisations to tackle mental health issues. Around 75% of mental health disorders are diagnosed in adolescence. Below are some organisations that offer support to anybody:

Kooth - www.kooth.com

XenZone is a provider of online mental health services for children, young people and adults. Kooth, from XenZone, is an online counselling and emotional well-being platform for children and young people, accessible through mobile, tablet and desktop and free at the point of use.



PAPYRUS

PAPYRUS is the UK Charity dedicated to the prevention of young suicide. We know that suicide is the biggest killer of young people – male and female – under 35 in the UK. Our vision is for a society which speaks openly about suicide and has the resources to help young people who may have suicidal thoughts.

HOPELINEUK contact information
Call: 0800 068 4141
Text: 07860 039967
Email: pat@papyrus-uk.org



Happy? Ok? Sad?

www.happyoksad.org.uk is a mental health site for people who live or work in Warrington. The site has links to information about looking after your mental wellbeing, as well as directories of local and national mental health support services.

