

UTC
WARRINGTON

INSPIRING
TECHNICAL CAREERS

Excellence & Kindness

WEEKLY
THURSDAY 7TH MAY
BULLETIN

INSPIRATIONAL TALKS & GUIDANCE

With schools closed and regular lessons stalled, it’s more important than ever that students receive the high quality careers education they need.

Below are links to a series of free talks and lessons from inspirational speakers who are experts in their fields. The topics range from career stories to advice and employability skills.



30 minute virtual talks take place everyday Monday - Friday at 10.30am and 14.30pm. [Click here to view all the talks and register to watch them.](#) Don’t worry if you can’t watch live, all of the talks will be available to watch back.



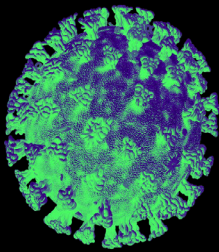
The SFS VTalks programme will consist of a timetable of curated content that will be livestreamed to young people studying at home and those still attending school. For the remainder of this academic year, SFS will curate 2 talks per day that young people can access and engage with speakers by asking questions – talks will take place at 10.00am and 14.00pm, Monday to Friday. These talks will be available on Microsoft Teams and students can take part in a live Q&A. [Click here to view the timetable of talks.](#)



BBC Bitesize has launched a a wide range of daily lessons for GCSE and Post-16 courses. This includes video content and extensive course material. There are daily lessons which begin at 9.00am and students can access resources online by [clicking here.](#)



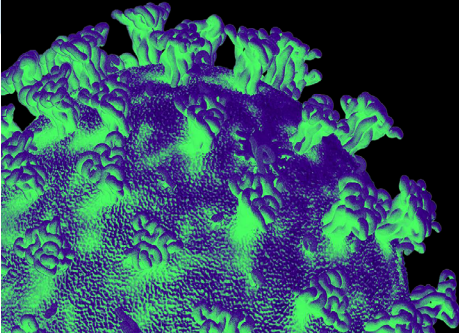
CORONAVIRUS
STAY AT HOME
SAVE LIVES



Anyone can spread Coronavirus.

The only reasons to leave home are:

- ✔ To shop for basic necessities or pick up medicine
- ✔ To travel to work when you absolutely cannot work from home
- ✔ To exercise once a day, alone or with members of your household
- ✗ Do not meet others, even friends or family



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.](#)



THE IMPORTANCE OF STEM SKILLS NOW

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) is everywhere we look. Careers in these sectors are varied, with excellent opportunity and potential. In 2014, UK universities recorded a record high of students applying to study STEM degrees, up 18% on the previous decade. However, there is still a skills shortage that faces industry across the UK and globe.

A 2018 report that surveyed 400 HR directors and decision makers across relevant businesses found 90 per cent of employers are struggling to recruit staff with the desired skill base. So why is there a shortage?

- Those already working in STEM choose to take early retirement;
- In typical secondary schools and colleges, there is not enough guidance around STEM and the importance of industry;
- New talent are not equipped with the employability skills that companies are seeking.

Now, more than ever, STEM skills are in high demand. The importance of STEM has propelled itself into the limelight, owing to current situation in regard to Covid-19, and national lockdown. As scientists, healthcare professionals, and manufacturers work tirelessly to not only find a vaccine for the virus, but to meet the demand for PPE and other medical equipment, the importance of these industries massively heighten.

How can the skills shortage be solved? As a University Technical College, we are already ahead of the game in working with employers to deliver our unique and industry-led curriculum. The practical and technical skills that students acquire at the UTC are well suited to the world of work.

The goal, through employer partners working with UTC Warrington, is to help young understand how much potential exists within STEM and not only what they can offer the industry, but what the industry can offer them.



WARRINGTON SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP
The Warrington School Games Programme mission is to help more children and young people with the opportunity to compete and achieve their Personal Best. Each week, during the Summer term, the programme will be inspiring students to take part in a range of challenges, including learning skills in sports such as golf, basketball, tennis and gymnastics.

Please click here to visit the WASP page to view all activities and challenges. These are updated on a weekly basis for students to take part in.


If you want to share your personal challenges, please use #SGChallenge and tag @YourSchoolGames and @SGWarrington into any social media posts.

WARRINGTON SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

LIFE SKILLS GUIDES

Higher Horizons+ are an organisation we work closely with at UTC Warrington, to help students understand their higher education opportunities after leaving college. They have put together a number of resources to help students prepare for the next steps in their life, as well as developing skills and knowledge during the lockdown. Please see links below for more information:

- [Guide to Student Finance](#)
- [Healthy Eating for Healthy Minds](#)
- [English Skills](#)
- [Interview Skills](#)
- [Learning from Home](#)
- [Be University Ready](#)



Higher Horizons

UTC EDUCATION OPENS DOORS TO THE WORLD OF WORK

What are employers looking for when recruiting young people into their companies? There are plenty of surveys, reports and opinions available on this topic, but the answer is almost always the same: while academic knowledge and technical skills are important to get through the initial application process, personal attributes and transferrable skills matter more in the final decision.

Character and ‘work ready’ attitudes such as a positive approach to a role, punctuality, professional communication skills, and resilience are high priorities for all employers. However, they are not as common as you might think. A recent survey by Pearson, the education company, found that two in five employers were dissatisfied by the attitude of their interviewees.

Equally important to employers are transferrable skills such as problem-solving, teamworking, leadership, the ability to think creatively, and analytical thinking. These matter in almost all jobs; 90% of employers ranked them as a high, or very high, priority in the interview process, in a comprehensive survey by Nesta, the innovation foundation,

last year. Sadly, despite their importance to employers, our education system places little emphasis on nurturing and enhancing these attitudes and transferrable skills. This is why we started University Technical Colleges (UTCs) ten years ago: we kept hearing from employers all over the country that the education system wasn’t giving them what they needed from their young talent.

Through project-based learning, student mentoring, work experience, and helping to shape the technical aspects of the curriculum, employers play a very active role in all UTCs. As a result, our students see first-hand what employers need, and understand better the requirements of the various careers within these organisations. This, in turn, serves to cultivate the attitudes and aptitudes necessary for UTC students to succeed in their careers.

And our students literally stand out to employers. The opportunities they get from placements and working alongside our partner businesses means they’re well ahead of the queue when it comes to jobs and apprenticeships. Employers know their names. They know they’re work ready.

It is therefore no surprise that employers value UTC students. The feedback from a Managing Director of Siemens, Europe’s largest manufacturing company, echoes what we hear from many UTC employer partners:

“Today’s employer is looking for tomorrow’s innovation: our UTC provides an excellent opportunity for students to be prepared for that challenge, so that they can join employers such as Siemens as skilled technicians or as university graduates with a more informed understanding of business and industry in the vital fields of science and engineering.”

Across the UTC programme, the preparation young people receive for the world of work is reflected in the outstanding destinations of our student leavers. Last year, about one quarter of UTC leavers started an apprenticeship, more than twice the national average. More importantly, over half of our students who started apprenticeships did so at a higher or degree level, which is five times the national average! That really is standing out from the crowd.

WHAT TRUSTED ADULTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT: SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

Social Media is often scrutinised as having a negative impact on children’s mental health. Children and young people are now growing up in a technology dominated world, and social media plays a major role in their social lives. This balanced guide focuses on both the positive and negative impacts that social media can bring to young people and their mental health.

POSITIVE IMPACTS

EASY ACCESS TO SUPPORT AND HELP

Due to delays in young people getting help for their mental health, such as experiencing low mood, or suffering from anxiety, they may sometimes reach out to access support from others online. Sharing problems or issues with friends, peers and broader social networks can be met with positive reaction, with nearly 7 in 10 teens reporting to receive support on social media during tough or challenging times. Where there are moderated communities which offer support and guidance, children can be provided with a great source of support.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS

SELF-ESTEEM & BODY IMAGE

There are 10 million new photographs uploaded to Facebook alone every hour, providing an almost endless potential for young people to be drawn into appearance-based comparisons whilst online. No one is the same as how they portray themselves online as we tend to only show the best part of ourselves. The pressure to fit-in and conform is huge, which can become a driving force for children to replicate what they see from friends, celebrities and sponsored adverts. This pressure may contribute to anxiety, low mood and a feeling of inadequacy. As a result, it can lead to a feeling of low satisfaction with their own lives.

FAKE NEWS

HARMFUL ADVICE

The online world provides the opportunity for anybody to upload and share photoshopped pictures, edited video, fake news and even unvetted advice. Children may stumble upon this, which could potentially encourage them make wrong decisions and not get the help that they need. It’s important that you teach your child to differentiate between what is true and useful information and what is fake.

SUSTAINING FRIENDSHIPS AND MAKING CONNECTIONS

There is evidence to suggest that strong adolescent friendships can be enhanced by social media interaction, allowing children to create stronger bonds with people they already know. Online relationships can actually make children more relationship-oriented, thoughtful, and empathic. By sharing comments on pictures, videos and posts, it can create long-term friendships as they can continually keep in touch, even with a distance between them.

A SENSE OF BELONGING

Support can be found in various places online; sometimes this is known as “finding your tribe”. Online platforms and groups can provide a wonderful sense of belonging for children. They can find peers with similar interests and circumstances which can sometimes be difficult to find in real-life. As a result, this can create stronger connections and help to build confidence.

ADDICTION AND COMPULSIVE CHECKING

Social media addiction is thought to affect around 5% of teenagers. The Office for National Statistics found that children who spend more than 3 hours a day on social media are more than twice as likely to support poor mental health. Furthermore, compulsive checking due to ‘Fear Of Missing Out’ has been linked to poor and disturbed sleep, as well as difficulty to relax during evenings. One in five young people say they wake up during the night to check messages on social media, leading them to be three times as more likely to feel constantly tired at school than their classmates who don’t use social media during the night.

CYBERBULLYING

One recent large-scale UK study showed that cyberbullying is one of the biggest challenges for young people. Other studies suggest that cyberbullying has a bigger effect on wellbeing and mental health than other types of bullying. 7 in 10 young people have experienced cyberbullying, with 37% of young people saying they experience cyberbullying on a high-frequency basis. Young people are twice as likely to be bullied on Facebook than on any other social network.

WHY CHOOSE A UTC?

Facebook.com/UTColeges



Free, safe and anonymous online counselling and support



"I don't think I could've spoken to someone face-to-face."



Chat to our friendly counsellors



Read articles written by young people



Join live moderated forums



kooth
www.kooth.com

UTC PREPARE FRESH IDEAS FOR STUDENTS

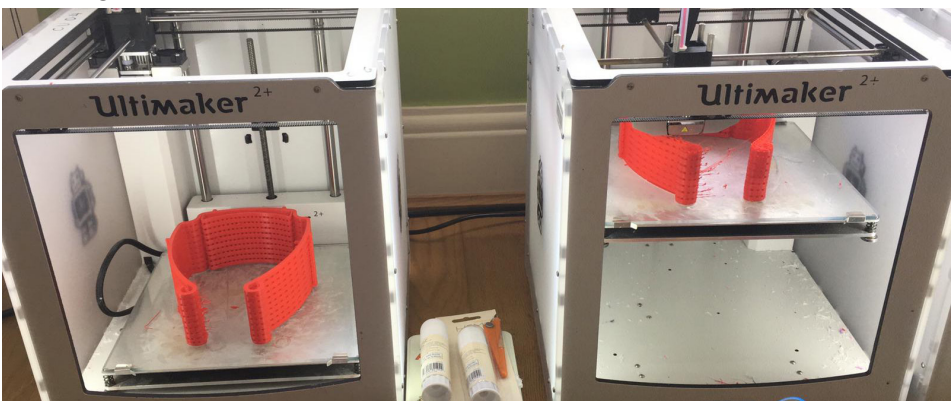
During the lockdown, staff have been working hard to come up with new ways of engaging students. Mr Hatherall has been demonstrating his juggling techniques, whilst online resources to network and engage with employers have proven to be popular.

Mrs Owen has been presenting to the Baker Dearing Trust engineering network meeting to make links with other UTCs and to share ideas explaining how we work with local companies for educational purposes and to develop career engagement.

After lock down, the engineering department are hoping to offer an enrichment project to UTC learners to design and manufacture PPE in case there is a second wave of Covid-19 in the Autumn.

Whilst front line workers still fight against Coronavirus, we would like to thank the many UTC families who have contacted the UTC to ask for PPE to help nurses and care workers across Warrington and beyond. We are hoping to continue supporting them whilst on lock down by making pieces from home using 3D printers.

We've also had some exciting news. A new initiative for BTEC Engineering students - The Engineer of the Year Award - has been launched. Teachers have been asked to submit portfolio evidence to the BTEC awarding body who have recieved thousands of entries from across the UK. This award will be a fantastic opportunity for all students to ensure work is to a high standard that can be nationally recognised. Even better, we may even have some winners from UTC Warrington! More news on this will follow!




VIRTUAL CYBER SCHOOL

Whether you're already a white-hat hacker in training or you've never touched a keyboard before, you can join the Cyber Discovery online Virtual Cyber School.

You'll be able to explore and have a go at over 200 online cyber security challenges. Learn how to crack codes, find security flaws and dissect criminals' digital trails whilst playing as a cyber agent in our Cyber Protection Agency. You will learn the essential concepts and ideas cyber agents apply when dealing with the aftermath of real cyber attacks.

For more information, please use the links in Microsoft Teams or contact Mr Gee.



UTC WARRINGTON TIMETABLES

We are aware that individual circumstances – illness, parental commitments, sharing resources with siblings – may prevent students from following their typical UTC timetable. We have, therefore, produced a streamlined timetable for students in each year group to access work and contact teachers. You will also find these timetables and supporting subject plans in attachments on the UTC website.

[Please click here to access the timetables.](#)

The current situation is challenging, but we are delighted with the effort being made by all of our students to adapt to the 'new normal'. Our teachers are proud of all of our students; they will be telephoning all students throughout this term on a fortnightly basis to keep in touch and check on how they are doing. If you need any support or guidance, please get in touch.



WE'RE STILL HERE FOR YOU

Student Support

Jemma Chilton, Safeguarding - jchilton@utcw.co.uk
Andy Johnson, Pastoral - ajohnson@utcw.co.uk
Samantha Lee, SENDCO - slee@utcw.co.uk
Hannah Bradford, Student Support - hbradford@utcw.co.uk
Davide Alboreto, Student Support - dalboreto@utcw.co.uk



PARENTS OF UTC WARRINGTON STUDENTS



Join our Parents Facebook group here:
www.facebook.com/groups/utcwparents