UTC
WARRINGTON

INSPIRING
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WEEKLY
FRIDAY 19TH JUNE
BULLETIN

SCHOOL REOPENING UPDATE

This week has been the start of our phased reopening to students in Year 10 and Year 12. We have safety procedures in place and we are delighted that feedback from students, parents and staff as been positive.

Secondary schools in Warrington opened on Monday 15th June. Warrington Borough Council has helped coordinate the phased reopening, so the experience for all students across the town is consistent and safe.

We are continiously reviewing the UTCW risk assessment in order to provide a safe learning environment for our students and teachers. The number of students and teachers on site at any one time will be limited. Therefore, students in Year 10 and Year 12 will be split into small groups of no more than 8 and both year groups will be in school on separate days. It is thought that by limiting the number of pupils on the site, we can reduce class sizes, allowing us to put **protective measures in place to reduce risks**.

Year 10:

Students will be split into four groups. Two groups will be in school on Monday and two groups will be in school on Tuesday.

Year 12:

Students will be split into four groups. Two groups will be in school on Thursday and two groups will be in school on Friday.

We have already contacted parents and we are aware of students who will be attending and those who will not. This has helped us put these protective plans in place.

Guidance from the DfE and Public Health England tells us that it is very important to reduce contact between people as much as possible. Amongst the measures we have put in place to address this are:

- Frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices in line with Public Health England Guidance.
- Regular cleaning of all areas in school.
- Minimising contact and mixing, with students being placed in small groups or 'bubbles' that they remain in at all times – maximum of 8.
- Groups, rooms, and allocated staff will be consistent.
- Redesigned classrooms to ensure that pupils work at individual desks that are at least 2m apart with personalised resources.
- Shorter day, with staggered breaks and lunch being phased in gradually.
- Students will only be allowed to enter and leave the building at the start and finish of each timetabled day.
- Removed the need for lots of pupils to use corridors and communal areas.
- Parents will be asked to remain in their vehicles if dropping children at the school and not to enter the school premises. This is to further minimise the risk of transmission.
- No visitors will be allowed onto the school premises and parents/visitors should contact the school remotely.
- Uniform should only be worn one day at school and then washed. As blazers/jackets and ties are washed less frequently we are asking that students just wear their standard trousers and school shirt or a plain white shirt with school shoes. This is very important to minimise the risk of spreading infection.

We know that it is important that students due to sit exams next year receive some face-to-face contact before the summer break. With this in mind, we are trialling some different approaches in the delivery of lessons during this half term, including the recording of live lessons via Microsoft Teams.

The timetable for Year 10 and Year 12 students remains unchanged throughout the week and teachers will be available on Microsoft Teams during the following times:

Year 10

	9am - 11am	11am - 1pm	1pm - 3pm
Monday	Maths	Science	Geography/ Computer Science
Tuesday	English	IT/Art	Engineering/ Construction
Wednesday	English	Science	IT/Art
Thursday	Maths	Science	Engineering/ Construction
Friday	PSHE	Geography/ Computer Science	

Year 12

	9am - 11am	1am - 1pm	1pm - 3pm
Monday	BTEC Engineering BTEC Computing GCSE - Resit English	BTEC Civil Engineering	BTEC Applied Science
Tuesday		A Level Maths	BTEC Civil Engineering
Wednesday	BTEC Civil Engineering GCSE - Resit Maths	BTEC Applied Science	BTEC Engineering
Thursday	A Level Maths		
Friday	BTEC Applied Science BTEC Computing	A Level Maths	

If you have any questions about student timetables or what your son/daughter should be doing, please email their subject teachers or parentenquiries@utcw. co.uk and your message will be forwarded to the relevant member of staff.

PARENT TRUSTEE/GOVERNOR VACANCY

UTC Warrington currently have a vacancy for a Parent Trustee/Governor. As a Single Academy Trust, the Department for Education requests that we appoint two parents of students attending the college as members of our Trust Board. Anyone who has a son or daughter on roll at UTCW at the time of the election is eligible to stand (and you do not have to resign if your child leaves during your term of office). A term of office is four years.

Each Trust Board member must be appointed as a Director with Companies House, and is required to oblige with company, charity and education laws. The Trust Board, along with the Principal & Chief Executive, has overall responsibility for the running of the college and has three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the Principal to account for the educational performance of the college and its students.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the college and making sure its money is well spent.

No special qualifications are needed and the most important thing is to have a keen interest in the college and be prepared to play an active part in the Trust Board's work. Training is available for all Trustees/Governors and the Trust Board has an expectation that those new to being a Trustee/Governor attend induction training. Annex A, enclosed with this letter summarises the circumstances under which someone cannot serve as a Trustee.

The Trust Board meets once a term, i.e. six times per year and the meetings usually run from 3pm until 5pm. In addition to these meetings, there may be a link-governor responsibility which requires visits to college over the course of the year. These visits usually focus on an aspect of college development.

If you would like to stand for election please read the attached letter on our website and return to the contact address supplied.

Click here for more information.

FUTURE STUDENTS

Year 10

Usernames and passwords have been sent out for students to access Microsoft Teams from Monday 22nd June to try out some online activities.

A starter pack will be sent out closer to the summer break with detailed information about joining the UTC.

Year 12

Usernames and passwords will be sent out in the coming weeks for new students to access online activities.

A starter pack will also be sent out closer to the summer break with details about enrolment to UTCW.

UTC WARRINGTON
A SCIENCE & ENGINEERING ACADEMY & SIXTH FORM

Ofsted
Good
Provider

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Supported by...
Manchester Metropolitan University

WHY DO UTCs SPECIALISE IN STEM?

It's difficult to study STEM, like design and engineering, in mainstream schools. UTCs excel in providing technical education.

Last week, whilst teachers across England were busily providing the grades and rankings for all GCSE and A Level students, the exams' regulator helpfully released a summary of the total number of entries this summer. The conclusions which can be drawn from this summary make very interesting reading, for two main reasons.

Firstly, a clear contrast appears to be emerging between government policy and student choice. It is well-known that government policy has pushed many secondary schools towards delivering subjects which meet the Ebacc accountability measure. The Ebacc includes the requirement for all GCSE students to take either geography or history. As a consequence, over the past four years, exam entries in these subjects have risen by mid-teen percentages; they are now the most popular subjects after maths, English and combined science.

However, at A Level, for which there is no equivalent EBacc requirement and students choose courses for themselves, the opposite is happening. Both history and geography exams have witnessed mid-teen percentage declines over the same period. Is this a clear sign that young people are looking more closely at the jobs market when selecting A Level choices? A recent government study showed that humanities graduates are forecast to experience amongst the lowest employment rates and salaries of any degree subjects over the next ten years.

The second noteworthy observation from this year's summer exam entries is the continued decline in the number of students studying certain areas of STEM. Whilst computer science has seen a rise in recent years, this has partly resulted from the government discontinuing the Information and Communications Technology

(ICT) GCSE in 2018. Indeed, when combined with ICT, computer science has seen a 44% decrease in entries over the past four years, and the total number of GCSE computer science entries in 2020 is less than one-third of those in religious studies. Worse still, the design and technology GCSE (in all its forms) has seen entries halve over the same period. The irony is that these precipitous declines have occurred during a period of rising demand and forecast need in the jobs market; as a consequence, the same government study which placed humanities graduates at one end of the salary league table, put engineers, for example, close to the top at the other end.

Fortunately, University Technical Colleges (UTCs) are free of Ebacc accountability measures. They can choose which courses to run: unsurprisingly, they offer those courses which enhance young people's employability the most. Three-quarters of UTCs provide at least one qualification in an engineering subject for 14 to 16-year olds (compared with just 15% of mainstream schools), and nearly all deliver GCSE computer sciences. As we begin to emerge from the Covid-19 crisis (in which many STEM practitioners have been the 'heroes of the hour'), and focus on the skills required in an increasingly digital economy, UTCs have never been more relevant in building the capabilities this country needs.

WHY CHOOSE A UTC?

BAE SYSTEMS FLY AHEAD WITH RECORD APPRENTICE INTAKE

When defence industry giant BAE Systems advertised for 800 apprenticeship roles in February, a record 9,000 people applied.

Despite the pandemic, the group which has two North West sites in Lancashire where it builds and tests fighter jets, has pressed ahead with plans to recruit young talent with 2,000 people shortlisted for interviews.

Its CEO Charles Woodburn said getting people back to work and creating new jobs, especially for younger people "is a national priority and we're pleased to play our part in supporting the UK's economic recovery."

While BAE has gone ahead with its plans, there has been growing concerns from business organisations about the impact of the pandemic on young people.

Steve Rotherham, Mayor of Liverpool City Region, said: *"It is vital that we put measures in place that specifically support the generation of young people who are about to enter the world of work.*

"Apprenticeships have to be at the heart of the effort to enable young people to develop the skills they need to thrive in a post-COVID economy."

Back at BAE Systems successful applicants will begin their careers on one of more than 25 apprenticeship training programmes in its air, maritime and electronic systems divisions, with the rest joining from September to January.