



A SCIENCE & ENGINEERING ACADEMY  
& SIXTH FORM

University Technical College Warrington,  
Dallam Lane, Warrington, WA2 7NG

**Telephone:** 01925 737067

**E-mail:** info@utcw.co.uk

**Website:** www.utcw.co.uk

**Principal & Chief Executive:** Mr L M Barber

13/10/2020

## UTCW Full re-opening - Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we look to reopen school fully for all year groups, students and staff on Thursday we have been working hard to further improve our existing procedures to ensure that we can keep UTCW open and fully operational in the future. As our existing policy is robust, our recent amendments are simply a series of reinforcements and adjustments, rather than wholesale changes. An updated version of this can now be found on our UTC website: <https://utcw.co.uk/coronavirus-update/>

We will experience further cases of coronavirus, but we look to you our families and our students to support us in achieving our core aim: to keep the UTC open for as many students as possible.

We have continued to develop our remote learning approach and capacity and I am proud of the resilience and engagement of all of our students who have been learning online from home; attendance to online lessons has been good and continues to improve. All lesson tasks are now available on Microsoft Teams for any student that is self-isolating. These lessons/tasks cover the same content of knowledge, skills and understanding that students would cover across the curriculum if they were in the UTC. Our aim is to ensure that no student will be left behind if they engage and use the support available to them. Teachers and Pastoral Team members will also be available online to support students during any period of self-isolation.

The detailed risk assessment of our reopening can be found online at the link stated above. However, please find below a summary of the key actions we are taking to further reduce risks and reopen the school fully on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October:

### **1. Reinforce student bubbles and make changes to classroom arrangements**

The bubble within which your son/daughter operates in school will be reiterated to them; they must not break this by having contact with any other students whilst in or out of school. Staff will be maintaining a 2-metre distance from students in lessons wherever possible and if class size prohibits this then some changes to their rooming may be made. This might mean that some lessons take place in a different room or workspace for your son/daughter than they did before.

### **2. Consistent Seating Plans**

Students will be expected to stick to a seating plan that will be maintained in all lessons. This will ensure we can operate a more focused track and trace system to reduce the number of students self-isolating when we have further positive cases of coronavirus in the UTC.

### **3. Hand Washing and Sanitising workplaces**

Students will need to follow hygiene protocols and be supported with following them any times they move classrooms even within their year group bubble. This includes hand sanitising and the sanitising of desks/equipment.

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#### 4. Operational Changes for Staff

Further changes to the way staff operate and meet with each other have been implemented. Some staff meetings will be held online using Microsoft Teams; this should reduce the risk of close contact between the staff so that we will hopefully not be in a position again where staffing issues prevent the running of the curriculum in person. However, any staff who are isolating but asymptomatic will continue to teach lessons online for students, who will remain in the UTC wherever possible.

#### 5. Facemasks and Coverings

As has been the case since the start of term at UTCW, we will be reinforcing for all students, staff and visitors the requirement to wear a face mask in all communal areas and when moving around the building. Teachers will proactively enforce the wearing of masks when students leave classrooms and move around the UTC. We ask students and parents to support us with this by ensuring your son/daughter brings their own mask to the UTC every day.

#### 6. Getting To and From School and Using Public Transport

We do not operate UTC transport but appreciate that a lot of our students use public transport to get to and from the UTC. Face coverings are mandatory on public transport so we ask that all students adhere to this rule as well as maintaining a 2-metre social distance from anyone who is not in their bubble at the UTC. Local lockdown measures are now in force and this prevents the mixing of any students from different households outside of the UTC. Whilst we cannot police this on all public transport, we ask that you discuss the importance of this with your son/daughter and help us to reinforce this message, so that the measures we have put in place once in the UTC remain valuable and effective.

#### 7. Remote Learning

If students are absent for any reason then they need to catch up. All lesson tasks will now be posted in Microsoft Teams. There is now better provision than ever online for all students to work from home if they are absent for Covid-19 related reasons or are self-isolating. It is worth noting that if students are not engaging and failing to show their best efforts, they will be disadvantaged if a centre assessed grading system is introduced (we still do not know if this will be the case in the future) to support examination outcomes, as the evidence teachers will have will be indicative of low-level gradings.

If any students are having issues with access to remote learning could they please contact, Mr Rigby for KS4 and Mr Hatherall for KS5.

#### 8. Student Responsibility

Our UTC motto is 'Excellence and Kindness' and I would like to reiterate again how impressed I have been by the positive attitude and approach taken by the majority of our students during this period of change and adjustment. We would ask very simply that students continue to follow this ethos and ensure that in all aspects of UTC life they display:

**"Excellence"**: all students continue to work hard and do their best in all circumstances

**"Kindness"**: all students are respectful of others, they follow the rules, wear their face mask, wash their hands and make sensible choices.

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Further information regarding the rules for local lockdown and Covid-19 can be found here:

UK Government guidance:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Local Authority guidance:

<https://www.warrington.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-warrington>

If you require any further information or support from staff please use the email contacts below:

<b>Safeguarding</b>	Mrs Chilton	JChilton@UTCW.co.uk
<b>Reporting Attendance</b>	Mr Rigby	Attendance@UTCW.co.uk
<b>Pastoral Team</b>	Mr Johnson	AJohnson@UTCW.co.uk
<b>SEND</b>	Mrs Lee	SLee@UTCW.co.uk
<b>Remote Learning assistance</b>	KS4 – Mr Rigby K45 – Mr Hatherall	prigby@utcw.co.uk chatherall@utcw.co.uk
<b>General enquiries</b>	Business support team	parentenquiries@utcw.co.uk

Our approach is a subtle development rather than a total overhaul of what we were doing before. However, it will require a significant amount of adjustment for teachers and students to ensure its success.

I would like to thank you once again for your support in reinforcing these developments so that we can keep our UTC open and moving forward.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Downing  
Associate Principal  
UTC Warrington