



# UTC CHAT!

**September— October 2021**



**Halloween's Coming! Page 4.**



**Women in Engineering Day. Page 6.**



**Poetry Corner. Page 5**

**All the latest news and information!**

## A Warm Welcome.

Hello and welcome to the first edition of UTC Chat, a termly publication put together by the staff and students of UTC! In the next few pages, you will find all the latest news from college, though-provoking articles and creative writing from some of our young people. We hope you enjoy it!

### What's been going on.

It's been a busy few weeks at UTC. We've hosted two fantastic **open events** where students in Y9 and Y11 visited the college, along with their parents / carers. Year 10 took part in a **STEM Engineering day**, whilst our senior cadets had the opportunity to work with the **75 Engineer Regiment**. We've hosted a fundraising event run by Y10 in order to raise awareness for **Smile Train**—every child deserves the ability to smile.



**Molly, Harvey and Aleesha took part in a fundraising event and cake sale to help raise money for Smile Train whose vision is to give every child with a cleft the opportunity for a healthy, productive life. Well done, guys!**



**Ellie Hughes (Y11) saved the life of a 74-year old man who was pushed into the River Mersey by two laughing youths in April of this year. Ellie and her friend, Khloe Woods, created a "human chain" and pulled the man to safety. Well done, Ellie, we are all so proud of you!**



**Some of our senior cadets with Mr. Beggs. October 2021.**

It was a pleasure to welcome **Charlotte Nichols MP** to UTC Warrington, meeting our alumni students who have secured apprenticeships with **Sellafield**.



### **UTC Warrington Cadets.**

Great to see our new cadets taking pride in their uniform. If you would like to join our cadets, we meet every Tuesday at 3pm. See Mr. Beggs for more details.

# Samhain—31st October

**Samhain** (pronounced sow-wayne) is a traditional Pagan festival celebrated on the 31st October, marking the end of the harvest season and the start of the darker seasons. We now refer to it as Halloween or All Hallows Eve, dress up in costumes and take on the American tradition of trick or treat. One of the most prominent characters of Halloween is the witch, often depicted in a tall, pointed hat, green skin and clad on a broomstick. However, as Eli explains, the modern witch is much more than a fairy-tale.

## **ARE WITCHES REAL?**

By Eli Carr, Y11.

***The simple answer to this question is YES!***

Commonly, we are taught of witches with ugly warts and evil intentions, in plays like Macbeth and children's films such Snow White. We are taught of all their "evil" doings, when in reality modern day witches could look like you or me. The only difference is that they have a special connection with the universe that some off us "muggles" will never be able to understand.

### **What do witches do?**

In the witch community there are many types of witches who each have different ways of doing witchcraft. Here are a few examples of types of modern day witches and what their craft is:

*Cosmic Witch – a witch that works with astrology, zodiac signs, horoscopes and celestial energy.*

*Divination Witch – a witch that uses divination methods such as tarot cards, tea leaf reading and palmistry in order to connect with spirits to answer questions about the past, present and future.*

*Green Witch – a witch that works with natural herbs and spices and*



*oils to make their own remedies for any occasion.*

*Kitchen Witch – a witch that also uses herbs and spices but in cooking. They are also known working with cleansing/ protection magick.*

*Sea Witch – a witch known for using the magick found in the oceans, lakes and sea. They also work with lunar magick and weather magick.*

The common misconception that witches are "evil" comes from the dark magick in books and films that we read and watch. Just like anything else, there are good and bad witches, white and dark magick. I cannot speak on behalf of a worldwide collection of people, but I can say **NOT ALL WITCHES ARE "WICKED"**.

**Key words – "Magick" is a witch's term to describe magic produced by witches through spells and rituals, compared to "magic" which is the word used for magic shows and acts such as card tricks.**

# Poetry Corner



## ***'smitten' - a spoken word***

'Smitten'

He said,

'I told my friends, I'm smitten'.

The other night, as I called him half

Asleep, he asked to read to me

Some stupid book about penguins.

I couldn't tell you a word he said,

But I could feel so vividly how the vibrations

Of his voice soothed my soul.

How I slept more soundly that night than

Any other I ever have.

He calms me in a way I didn't

Think was possible.

I wrote him a card last week

For no particular reason.

I covered both inside pages

And my words accidentally spilled onto the back

He told me the second he got home

He put it in his book as a bookmark,

Read it three times that night before bed

And boasted to anyone who would listen

About who wrote it,

The girl who wrote him a card,

Just because.

He calls me beautiful at

Every chance he gets,

I tell him I love how he lights up

When he talks about his biggest passions.

He reminds me to eat

And makes sure I always get home safe.

I invite him to dinner with my family in the hopes

That they love him as much as I do.

'Smitten?' I asked him.

'I'm besotted.' He replied.

## **The Silent Minstrel**

*Hey wandering minstrel, won't you tell me your name?*

*Don't you know it?*

*Can't you say it?*

*Won't you tell me your name?*

Wandering minstrel, shadow of the night,

You sing the tales of the battles we fight.

Travelling along behind our great knights,

You sing the stories of our glorious plights.

Wandering minstrel, our silent one,

You find your voice with the setting of the sun.

Serenading all with a triumphant rhyme,

Silence befalls you on the morning sunrise.

Wandering minstrel, oh worthy soul,

Sing of our sagas for all to be told.

Praise and grace befall you once more,

Silent minstrel forever more.



# Women in Engineering Day



**The engineering team** ran a highly successful 'Women in Engineering' day on the 23rd September. Our girls and non-binary students were inspired by a number of employer presentations, a careers fair, have-a-go activities, and speed networking.

The day was attended by students from Liverpool UTC, Cardinal Newman, Lymm High School and Rudheath High School, as well as 59 of our own students.

## Famous Female Engineers.

**Martha Coston.** How did a 21-year-old widow with four children take care of her family and help win battles and save lives in the Civil War? By engineering a signal system so ships could light up their locations on both land and sea.

**Ellen Swallow-Richards.** It is no exaggeration to say that modern civilization wouldn't be thriving without good sanitation. Dating back well before the Romans started modernizing plumbing and sewage systems, mankind has had to tackle the issue of clean water and safe food. Ellen Henrietta Swallow Richards (1842-1911) was the first woman to graduate from MIT, and not just in her discipline, chemistry, but in the history of the institution. She served in public health, sanitary engineering, mining engineering and chemistry, but Richards is best known as the founder of home economics.



## Did you know?

Women make up 14.5% of all engineers. This represents a 25.7% increase in women in engineering occupations (compared to a 4.6% in the overall workforce) since 2016.



# Science News

**Mr. Mamwell gives us a brief report about what the science team are up to at UTC.**

**Year 10** have delved into the world of atoms! We have conducted experiments on **crystallisation**, which involves dissolving salt in water and heating it up with the Bunsen burners to evaporate all the water. We did a little competition between classes to see who can get the biggest salt crystals (results pending)!

**Year 11** performed very well in their end of unit assessments! After finding the chemistry topics hard - hydrocarbons, petrol and formulations, the year 11s smashed this!

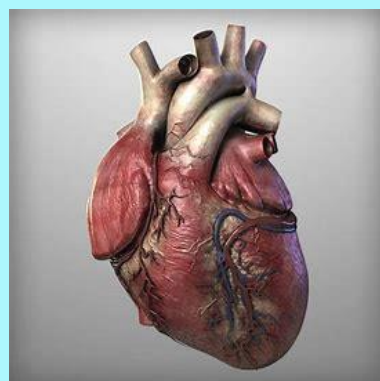
## **Cocurricular -**

Triple science 10 & 11 - We have been growing **agar** in the lab with our microbiology unit and are now heading into physics.

**STEM club** - We are building our hydroponics project with the help from Nutriculture. Hydroponics is all about growing plants in water, not soil! We are going to grow white striped chillies, tomatoes and corn on the cob. This takes place every **Wednesday at 3pm** on the third floor. All are welcome!

## **Not for the faint-hearted!**

Our sixth form students on the **health care pathway** performed a time lapse heart dissection. You can watch the full video on our Facebook page, just make sure you're not eating your tea at the same time!



# Hydroponics Horror

By Lee Kendall, Y11.

**Hydroponics is a way of plant growth** using no soil, only nutrient water, sharing only a few similarities with the classic style of farming. A perversion of something millennia old, say some!

It is much more efficient with water, using 330 litres less than intensive farming, meaning that it is much cheaper to supply water while providing a better yield and having less diseases that can normally spread through plants and soil, which can cause an epidemic in a farm. The increased survival chance can come from how easy it is to identify and fix problems with nutrients. By adding chemicals into the water mix and it will fix the deficiency.

However, many people have been calling out for their to be less chemicals in their food, and for all food to be all grown naturally.



A magnesium-deficient plant.



Food grown using hydroponics.

They are concerned that with all the contaminants and the chemicals in the food we eat, we are putting ourselves in danger.

Hydroponic lovers make the counter-argument that it takes up much less space than traditional farming, and with today's over population crisis, we need as much food over as little space as possible. It also takes less labour to produce food this way, it grows faster and will be able to provide more food for everyone, helping stop world hunger and save lives.

However, these crops vulnerable to water-borne diseases and require electricity to run. They require a lot of energy in indoor lighting which contributes too global warming and when there is a power cut, these plants will begin to die.

It seems there is an argument for both sides of this debate.

# What it's like to be non binary in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

By Eli Carr

We often use the fake statement: "It's the 21<sup>st</sup> century," as a way to say things are better now than they used to be. I don't want to be a Debbie Downer, but that's not completely true when we look at how non-binary people are treated in today's society. But before we get into that, what does identifying as "non binary" mean? Non binary is a term used to describe people who don't feel they fall into the categories male or female or into the gender binary, therefore identifying a non binary (not on the binary spectrum) to sustain a gender neutral identity by using they/ them pronouns.

In 2019, I came out as non binary, and luckily I had amazing support from my family. However, my family wasn't the issue, my peers and the teachers at my previous school were. Even strangers who merely glanced at me on the street questioned my appearance. I know now that they weren't paying any attention to my existence, and they were just carrying on with their every day lives, but at the time I'd question every feature of myself: my face, my body, even my posture and whether or not I looked too feminine or too masculine. It took me a little over a year to realise being non binary meant sitting outside both of these stereotyped boxes we call male and female. Also, it wasn't just about sitting outside the boxes, it was about sitting **comfortably** outside them.



Each non-binary person is different and that's why it's so perfect. You can't stereotype something that no one but us non binaries can understand. However, being non binary does have its unfortunate downfalls. The amount of times I've been disrespected because of my gender is astonishing. I've been asked inappropriate and quite frankly, horrifying questions, such as "What's in your pants?" Who asks questions like that?

*Continues on the next page.*

If people can, they use my old name, my “dead” name. I ask for people to use my preferred pronouns they/them, but I always get the excuse that it’s “too hard” to remember. In actual fact, it’s not hard at all. People can be lazy and rude. I would love for people to make a conscious effort to respect my feelings. It’s not going to hurt anyone to ask to be referred to as they or them. It’s hardly going to cause World War III is it? It’s quite simple really. I don’t mind people making the odd mistake, but others, whose minds are smaller than a peanut, simply refuse? Why? I’m not hurting anyone.

The worst thing is when people use the extremely derogatory word “tranny”. They don’t realise that being transgender is a completely different thing all together. This is when a person identifies as the opposite gender of which they were assigned at birth. The worst part is that these comments and plain rude questions come from my peers, students of my own age who are simply uneducated. There’s many things I don’t understand in the world, but I would ask to be educated about them, rather than remain ignorant.



Being non binary is a struggle, even in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We still have a long way to go before everyone who lives in our world feels accepted and understood. It’s very easy to help, here are some tips on how:

**Respect they/them pronouns.** Try your hardest to use them and if you do mess up, apologise and correct yourself. It may be hard at first, especially if you’ve known the person for a long time, but it will get easier the more you do it.

If you don’t know someone’s pronouns don’t **ask them if they identify as male or female**, simply ask for their pronouns. This way you avoid upsetting anyone who is non-binary or trans. You can make that person feel more comfortable and accepted.

Finally, **put yourself in our shoes.** If you were nonbinary or trans, and someone asked you any off those questions I listed earlier, how that would make you feel? Quite simply, don’t ask questions you wouldn’t want to be asked.

Thank you for reading. Your local nonbinary peer, Eli Carr, Y11.

# Shout Outs



**Art:** a huge shout out to Ethan Taylor! A fantastic artist in the making.

## Engineering excellence

Y12: Jamie Cooper-Holmes and Jessica Eley.

Y13: Connor-Jack Pritchard.

## Construction high-flyers -

Y10: Fin Cumberbirch, Chloe Roberts

Y11: Callum Mackie, Balint Beck

Y12: Poliina Bondareva

Y13: Jake McCoy and Cameron Haine.

## Geography grafters:

Y10: Anna-Mai Larkin, Alfie Glover.

Y11: Amelia Mockler, Carlo Driver.

**Maths shout outs:** Ms Rice and Mr Skelland wish to thank all students for their hard work in maths this term. Special mention goes to Ellie Hughes, Robbie Rathbone, Lillie-Jo Hill, Tom Allen and Carlo Driver. Well done, all!



## Y10 English shout

**outs:** Abi Pearson, James Pearson, Alfie Glover, Harvey Brown, Mark Ward, Ashton Fisher.

## Y11 English shout

**outs:** Robin Middlehurst, Eli Car, Balint Beck, Levente Grund, Lee Kendall, Lillie-Jo Hill Peter Wild, Tristan Hugo.

## Science stars.

Y10: Luke Dack, Aleesha Parr, Isaac Dillon, Joel Flavil, Molly Llewellyn, Sean Moss, Charlotte Harrison, Agne Jaksiogaite.

Y11: Josh Ashton, Sophie Fisher, Deimante Masiukaite, Brad Price, Kris Suto.

## Computer science:

Max Danby, Dom Nefliu, Levente Grund, Ethan Fuller.

**IT:** Louis Hayes-Worsley, Balint Beck, Carlo Driver.



# English Language

As part of their English Language Paper 2 exam, students are asked to write a piece of non-fiction in the form of an argument or article. As a practice run, Y11 have been writing articles on a though-provoking topic of their choice. Below, Balint Beck chose a subject that he is passionate about, capitalism and how it affects out society. This is an example of a grade 9 piece of work.

## Capitalism

By Balint Beck, Y11.

This essay talks about capitalism. Before starting, I'd like to clarify that I am firmly against this economic system, and that the main purpose of this essay is primarily to show where this system has failed.

The definition of capitalism is a system where the means of productions are controlled through private ownership. The means of productions being the facilities, utilities and resources used for producing goods. Private ownership being individuals owning something.

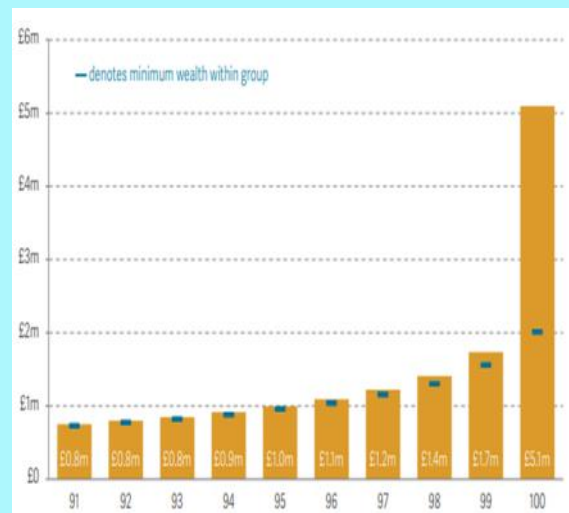
My main criticisms of this system are that its undemocratic and doesn't further the freedoms which our society supposedly values. Namely, the right to self-determination and to happiness and. This system fails to be truly meritocratic.

CEOs and shareholders in businesses exercise practically complete power over the running of their business. As many people rightly say, this creates risk for these people if they are ineffective. However, this argument in of itself misses two things.

Firstly, the worker also takes a big risk by working. During 2018-19 in the UK, there were a little over 650,000 reported work-place accidents. Many workers in dangerous fields risk life and limb to work for a wage which pales in comparison to the wealth a person with a stake in companies would make. According to the labour force survey during 2019-20, 1.6 million workers in the UK reported work-related ill health. 51% of these people said they experienced stress, depression and anxiety. 30% experienced musculoskeletal disorders. This is the type of freedom you experience in capitalism; you either work or starve.



In comparison, the worst type of risk that large business owners can experience is that they fall into the working class. According to the resolution foundation, the average net wealth per adult per family within each net wealth percentile for the wealthiest 10 per cent looked like this:



**The top 1%'s per adult wealth was £5.1 million. Keep in mind that we are looking at a graph of the top 10% of the population, the majority of the population is far below even the lowest values shown here.**

So, how do they make this sort of money? Well, according to the inequality briefing, 28% of personal wealth is inherited so it's clear that a lot of this wealth perpetuates itself.

Business owners engage in what's called 'surplus labour value exploitation'. Let's take a simple example:

A person opens a restaurant. They buy all the ingredients, pots, pans, etc. for a week of service. They also hire a chef because they don't have the skill or experience to actually prepare the dishes on the menu. The work of the owner can essentially end there with enough. They can hire chefs, waiters, an accountant, etc. to minimize the work they need to do in the running of the restaurant, yet they still earn the highest wages in the business!

Of course, the employees get paid, but this is factored into the costs of running the business. Any profit (the surplus of the value which the workers produce) is taken by the owner of the business. This happens all around the world in small businesses, local companies and multinational corporations. CEOs and shareholders profit the most from this system.



This restaurant example also shows another key problem with capitalism. The owner class and the working class have contradictory interests. The business owner's main goal is to maximize profits while minimizing the cost of running the business. The workers' interests are the exact opposite: they want to minimize profits (not necessarily the income of the business, just the share of the income that it counted as profit) while maximizing their wages (which normally factors into the running costs of a business).

What's worse is that this conflict isn't balanced at all. The owner class, as a result of profiting the most from capitalism, inevitably controls a majority (or at the very least, a disproportionate amount relative to their population) of the capital in a society. This fact means that class struggle is weighted towards the interests of the owner class.

# Summer Success!

**A huge congratulations to all of our Y11 and 13 students who achieved success in the summer of '21.**



# Meet the Team!

**University Technical College** Warrington was opened in 2016 and is home to some 211 students. UTC falls in the category of **STEM learning** – Science Technology Engineering and Maths, meaning our students focus on these key subject areas. We are proud to boast employment and **apprenticeship links** with a number of companies including Sellafield, Jacobs and Auto Desk. Students have the opportunity to study a number of subjects including science, engineering and health and social care. We are a warm and friendly team of staff who put the needs of our students first.

## Here are some of the team:

### Mr Chris Gee

Role at UTC: Associate Assistant Principal.

Place of birth: Croydon.

Favourite film: The Godfather

Favourite musical act: Oasis.

Favourite thing about working at UTC: the way our students throw themselves into the opportunities offered to them.

Did you know: Mr Gee competed in this year's Iron Man contest!



### Mrs Hannah Bradford.

Role at UTC: school liaison officer / student support worker.

Place of birth: Cheshire.

Favourite book: the Harry Potter series.

Favourite TV show: Friends.

Favourite thing about working at UTC: the many opportunities available for students.



### Mrs Debbie Owen.

Role at UTC: Associate Assistant Principal.

Place of birth: Liverpool.

Favourite book: Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy.

Favourite film: Star Wars— The Empire Strikes Back.

Favourite thing about working at UTC: helping students to gain apprenticeships.

Did you know– Mrs Owen is a twin! Her sister is called Linda. She runs a Chartered Surveying & LPA receivership business.

### Mr Chris Hatherall

Role at UTC: Head of College.

Place of birth: Gloucester.

Favourite book: A Short History of Everything by Bill Bryson.

Favourite thing about working at UTC: the students.

Did you know—Mr Hatherall comes from a long line of teachers. His parents, grandmother and great-grandmother were all teachers.

# Should We Reinstate the Death Penalty in England?

By Levente Grund, Y11.

Some people may argue for the reinstatement of the death penalty, whereas others may want to keep the laws as they are currently. Well I am here today to give an argument for both sides whilst remaining as unbiased as possible.

The death penalty may be used as a deterrent for criminals who are repeating offenders of severe crimes, or anybody who may be considering committing a crime. The use of this as a deterrent has a high likelihood of reducing the amount of major crimes committed within the UK.

In 2016, the UK had 8554 people serving a life sentence; this makes up more 10% of the total sentenced prison population. This percentage is higher than any other European country. This also means that there is higher spending on prisons, which could be used in other areas in the country. The death penalty would allow for this as it would free up space within prisons allowing some of the prisons to be closed. The amount spent on prisons in the UK in 2020/21 was £5.63 billion.



When we look at the other side of the argument, others believe that even though those people may have a life sentence they are still human, and they deserve to be allowed to live out their full life. Another argument may include the fact that there may not be enough evidence for a conviction, or the person may have been framed. In this instance, an innocent person would die wrongfully for the crimes of another.

In conclusion, I believe that the death penalty should be reinstated in Britain. However, without indisputable evidence that the crime had been committed by the suspect, or evidence that provides doubt about the suspect's guilt, should mean that the individual should not be executed. The death penalty should only be employed if the person is a repeating offender of a serious crime such as murder or assault. If these crimes have been committed by a person, then they are a threat to our society.

# Well-Being Check—It's okay to be not okay.

Whether you are feeling down, isolated or just want someone to talk to, please don't suffer alone. There are various organisations you can contact to discuss your mental health. Some of these are shown on this page. Alternatively, the **pastoral team** at UTC are ready to listen to you. These people include: Mr Rigby, Mr Skelland, Mr Johnson, Mrs Lee, Mr Albereto and Mrs Brown.

It's okay to not be okay.



## MENTAL HEALTH HELPLINES AND SUPPORT SERVICES GRASSROOTS PARTICIPANTS (CYP)

@BELIEVEPHQ

working with  
**mind**  
for better mental health

**MIND INFOLINE**  
call 0300 123 3393 or  
text 86463  
(9am to 6pm Monday to  
Friday)

**SAMARITANS**  
call 116 123  
(24 hours a day, 365  
days a year)

**SHOUT**  
text Shout to 85258  
(24 hours a day, 365  
days a year)

**YOUNG MINDS**  
Provides info for young  
people and parents. Call  
the Parent helpline on  
0808 802 5544  
(weekdays 9.30am to  
4pm)

**MIND**  
mind.org.uk provide  
mental health  
information and  
support including  
specific guidance for  
young people

**GP OR NHS 111**  
your local doctor is there  
to help you with your  
mental health.

**WHAT IF I AM FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO SEEK HELP?**  
Seeking help isn't always easy. But it's important to remember that you're not alone, and that you deserve support. If you're finding it difficult to access support, or you've already tried these options and aren't sure where to turn next, see Mind's [facing and overcoming barriers](#) webpage

**LOOKING AFTER YOUR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING**  
Self-care techniques and simple lifestyle changes may help to prevent or manage the symptoms of some mental health problems. See Mind's pages on [Looking after your wellbeing - for young people](#) webpage



# What's Coming Up



## Dates for your diary...

- Thursday 18th November—**Open Evening.**
- Week beginning 22nd November—Y11 **mock exams** begin.
- Tuesday 14th December—**Drop Down Day—**Relationships.
- Wednesday 15th December—Employer Sponsor **Assembly.**

## Co-curricular Timetable:

Monday PM:

- Art club with Mrs Pattullo
- Triple science with the science team

Tuesday PM:

- Cadets with D Beggs
- Running club with Mr Skelland
- D of E portfolio with Mr Gee
- Electronics with Mr Hatherall

Wednesday PM:

- Foundation maths with Ms Rice
- STEM learning with science
- KS5 CAD training with Mrs Owen

Thursday AM:

- English intervention with Mrs Brown

Thursday PM:

- School magazine with Mrs Brown
- Further maths with R Skelland
- KS4 CAD training with Mrs Owen
- Autodesk session with Miss Graham.



If you would like to contribute to UTC Chat, please let Mrs Brown know. She can be found inspiring young people in 2.02, or enjoying a bowl of alphabet spaghetti in the staffroom at lunchtime. Alternatively, drop her a message on Teams or an email to [lbrown@utcw.co.uk](mailto:lbrown@utcw.co.uk).

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