

UTC CHAT!

November — December 2021

'Tis the season to be jolly!



Poetry Corner— page 4.



**Urban
Planning
Event—
page 7**

**All the latest news and information! From UTC
Warrington.**

A Warm Welcome.

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

What's been going on.

It's been another busy term here at UTC. We've hosted another fantastic **open evening** where students in Y9 and Y11 visited the college, along with their parents / carers. Year 11 took part in a **careers fair**, whilst our civil engineers and geographers experienced a day of **urban planning**. We've hosted a fundraising event run by Mr. Mamwell — **Christmas Jumper Day** — in order to raise money for **Save the Children** charity.



Christmas Jumper Day 2021



Remembrance Day 2021



Cadets weekend away. Massive congratulations to Elliott Walsh, Robin Middlehurst and Luke Eaves and for their promotion to Corporal.

Remembrance Day 2021

They shall grow not old, as we
that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor
the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun
and in the morning

We will remember them.

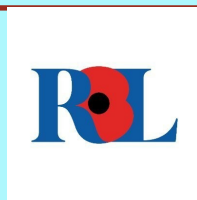
"For the Fallen" by Robert Laurence Binyon

As part of our homage to all those soldiers who have given their lives for our freedom, our cadet team sold poppies in a local supermarket in order to raise money for the Royal British Legion. Well done everyone, we raised a massive **£2597.84**.

The British Legion was founded in 1921 as a voice for the ex-service community as a bringing together of four organisations: the Comrades of the Great War, the National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers and the National Federation of Discharged and Demobilized Sailors and Soldiers, and incorporated the fundraising department of the Officers' Association.

Field Marshal The 1st Earl Haig (1861–1928), British commander at the Battle of the Somme and Passchendaele, was one of the founders of the Legion. Lord Haig served as the president of the British Legion until his death in 1928.

The RBL provides lifelong support to serving and ex-serving personnel and their families. Support starts after one day of service and continues through life, long after service is over, providing expert advice and guidance to recovery and rehabilitation.



UTC Warrington Cadets.

If you would like to join our cadets, we meet every Tuesday at 3pm. See Mr. Beggs for more details.

Poetry Corner

Grown

Kids wanted to be astronauts,
They wanted to be in NASA.
They had the biggest dreams.
They wanted to grow up,
But now their lives are changed.
Phones were invented,
Nicotine was introduced to them.
Their favourite TV shows went off air



And turned into adult ones.
Parents stopped giving them attention.
Instead of $2+2$,
It's now $y=12+7$.
Instead of learning the ABC,
They now write five-page essays.
Parents do not understand
And never will understand.
Their children develop depression,
Anxiety,
Eating disorders,
The worst possible things anyone could think of.
They need help,
But there is no one to help.
They wished they'd never grown up.

By Lillie-Jo Hill.

Immigration

By Anonymous

Well, this is a bit ironic in all fairness; they asked the foreigner to talk about immigration! (Note: I am a legal immigrant living in England. I was born in Hungary in 2006 and moved to England when I was seven.) I want to write about the stigma that has become attached to immigrants in this country.

Immigrants do not always come here as asylum seekers, sometimes they come here looking to improve their quality of life. People who are immigrants are sometimes harder workers than those who were born in this country. This can sometimes be assimilated to the fact that they have come here to get a better life, look for work, or something just as simple as to earn a better wage. The person who you work with may be an immigrant; it does not mean that they are worth any less than you are.

Within the UK, 14% of the population were born abroad, which is not a massive amount in the grand scheme of things. If you have any fears that the "foreigners" are going to take over England, then you need to get your head out of the clouds. However, if they did all decide to up and leave then the economy would crash, as most of the menial tasks at large companies are done by people who were not born in the UK. Nearly all people who have immigrated to the UK have jobs or are looking for work; they are trying to work their way up from nothing. This is because they wish to achieve more than they could have within their home countries.



These people are the bearers of those stories that are not reported in the media. A couple of years ago, you may remember hearing a story about the refugees who tried to cross the Mediterranean Sea in a rubber dinghy and sadly drowned. Those stories were heard, but there are people like me whose tale has never been told. This is because it is not a tragedy or anything too overly interesting. I am just another person who wanted a better life.

When Brexit happened, the UK economy "crashed" due to the fact that a lot of the foreign workers went back "home". This resulted in menial tasks, which the UK born people saw as being below them, being left vacant. The people with this mentality are those who sit around all day, claim benefits and don't do anything to contribute to society. Immigrants aren't after a free ride, they want to work for their money. I'd say that was fair, wouldn't you?



Engineering Update



The engineering team ran a highly successful Stem Saturday event last month. Students took part in “casting”, which is the process of liquefying metal under extreme temperatures.



This term saw our **BTEC year 13 engineers** developing Unit 24, Maintenance of Mechanical Systems, as part of their level 3 extended diploma. They learnt how to maintain the lathe coolant system and the milling machine pulley system and pillar and how to drill drive belts safely and sustainably. They are also developing Unit 7 Calculus, Unit 6 Microcontrollers for their external examination and Unit 25 Mechanical Behaviour of Metallic Materials. Well done, guys—not long to go!

BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma year12 engineers have been developing Unit 10 CAD. They have learnt how to use Fusion 360 for two large parts of the unit and are about to learn AutoCAD.



Key stage 4 Engineers have been developing Component 3 for their BTEC Level 2 TECH Award, focusing on design for disassembly, understanding materials and components and planning and undertaking manufacture of a hammer.

Science News

Hydroponics



Our plants are nearly ready to be transferred to our hydroponics set up. There are chillies and tomatoes - our plan is to make some curry sauces with them when they're all grown!

Hydroponics is a way of plant growth using no soil, only nutrient water, sharing only a few similarities with the classic style of farming.

Manchester University Talks

Dr. Jose Puello from the University of Manchester shared some information on university courses to years 10—13. He spoke to health and social students about careers in healthcare, and years 10, 11 on careers in biosciences.

Dr. Puello conducted extremely informative sessions on what kind of career paths students could follow after they have completed their studies here at the UTC and what kind of jobs this would lead to.



Geography Joy

By Mrs. Rigby.

Another exciting term, broadening our horizons!

This term, Year 10 students have been examining various hard and soft coastal engineering strategies and evaluating their effectiveness. We have also been examining real life career opportunities in this sector with the Environment Agency. Well done to Efren Smith for outstanding achievement in the latest assessment.

Some Year 10 and 12 students took part in a **Urban planning project** with the Urban Land Institute. Working in teams as property development companies, students had to regenerate an area of land, meeting the specified requirements for the community and also make some profit. The teams then planned and prepared a presentation and had to pitch their regeneration idea. The industry experts were very impressed with how well the students performed. It was a great opportunity for the students to participate in.

Year 11 have been examining the global issue of climate change, investigating the causes, impacts and most importantly, engineering strategies that can help us mitigate and adapt to our changing climate.

Year 11 have also been working hard in preparation for their mock exams. Huge shout out to Balint Beck and Tom Allen for superb achievement, but also to Harley Dale for superb resilience and outstanding progress.

Urban Planning Event



Anti-Bullying

Anti-Bullying Week is an annual UK event, held in the third week in November, which aims to raise awareness of bullying of children and young people, in schools and elsewhere, and to highlight ways of preventing and responding to it. It started in 2002 and has since grown to become a significant event in the calendars of children, families and schools with an estimated 80% of schools and colleges taking part, reaching more than 7.5 million young people.

How to help someone being bullied

People who are being bullied can feel really distressed and it can have a serious impact on their life and health. Below is some things you can do if you are worried that a friend is experiencing bullying at school.

- If you are at school, let a teacher know what you suspect
- If you are in a workplace, maybe let your colleague know that you are there for them
- Go with the person being bullied and back up what they say to the teacher
- Tell the person being bullied that you'll can help them to tell their parents
- Tell your parents or an adult you trust
- Agree with your friends that you will all make it clear to the person doing the bullying that you don't like what they're doing
- Keep a diary of what you see going on so that you can give a reliable account of what has been happening



Bullying can take many forms including:

- physical assault
- social bullying
- threatening behaviour
- name calling
- cyberbullying
- sexualised bullying.

Bullying UK

Helpline: 0808 800 2222

ICT

During Anti-Bullying week, Year 10 students took part in a task where they had to design their own social media platform where bullying wasn't present. Students worked in groups to create a presentation to look at ways social media could be used in a positive way to promote good behaviour.

We take bullying very seriously here at UTC. If you are being bullied either in school, at home or online, please tell a member of staff. You are not alone.

Creative Writing

The radio crackled on the kitchen counter, announcing the long anticipated return of the British soldiers.

Alice glanced down at her promise ring from George and remembered the moment she received it: a minute before his train left at the crack of dawn, six months ago. She remembered the love that engulfed her when she held his face in her hands. His beautiful smile, which once warmed her heart, now caused her emerald green eyes to tear up. Alice watched the black ink diffuse under her salty tear drop; she crumpled up the tenth draft of her letter and threw it on the floor. Her head turned to the sound of knocking on the front door and her heart dropped, just like it did every time the postman came. She was always ready for the news of his death – just like every young girl whose sweetheart was in the war. Every time a letter arrived, she was hit with sudden fear.



After what only seemed like minutes, the gentle ticking of the clock reminded Alice that she has been staring at the browning envelope for over an hour. Picking off the red wax seal, she took a deep breath and forced her worries out along with the air she pushed out. Scanning over the page, blacked-out words jumped out like a lion on its prey. His cursive writing reminded her of the first time she received a note from him – she hoped this letter would include the same declaration of love and the endless plans he made for their future. But she knew that this was not going to be the reality. Despite the constant hopes and promises coming from the generals, George has never mentioned coming home (probably because he didn't want to break her heart when he didn't). She was struck with disbelief when she re-read the sentence she had longed to see for over six months: "I'm coming home", that was the last line of the letter. Nothing else. His brassy voice echoed in her head as she imagined him saying it, but she wasn't happy, she wasn't filled with excitement like she expected to be. Alice was spiralling, overthinking, worrying that he was sent home because of an injury. Maybe he failed a mission. Maybe he disobeyed an order. Maybe he was just coming home and the radio was right for once.

Not knowing is probably the worst. She didn't know when he was coming back, or why he was coming back, but she forced herself to be optimistic. After all, he was her sweetheart. Her sweetheart was coming home. The conversations about marriage and future plans came flooding back to her and a smile grew on her face, for the first time in half a year, her heart didn't ache.

A week passed. No letter. No announcement. No news. Nothing.

Another week slipped away - her optimism along with it.

The grey skies finally gave in and the forceful tapping of the rain woke Alice. Reaching for the candle on her bedside table, she waited for the single flame to provide some sense of warmth and comfort. That hope was quickly eradicated when she heard the squeak of car tires outside her window. She opened the front door and the cold air hugged her, as if trying its best to prepare her for what was to come. Her eyes strained and body shivered as she allowed herself to be hit with realisation. He wasn't coming home. The car door opened and every step the man took towards her was a step closer to her receiving the news, news which would cause her the pain she has been preparing for since the moment that train left the station six months ago. What came next was an automatic reaction- she reached out to accept the envelope from the slender man with the green uniform whose face gave it all away (that apologetic look which appears when someone doesn't know how to help).

Private George O'Mally: Killed In Action.

Nausea, hysteria, disbelief, Alice was hit with a tsunami of emotions which caused her to collapse. The wall she fell against became her only support as her body gave up on her and the heart-wrenching pain paralyzed her. Tears raced down her face and screams of agony drained her as she imagined his death. Her rapid breaths blew out the candle which filled the room with darkness. She was alone.

By Poliina Bondareva, Y12



In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

English Language

As part of their English Language Paper 1 exam, students are asked to write a piece of fiction in the form of a description or a narrative. Here are some extracts from year 11 student responses to the recent mock exams.

Amelia Mockler

He was one of the wisest old birds that walked upon the planet. His face wrinkled with memory and experience. The walk along his childhood street brought floods of memories back, so much so, that a tear gently glided down his face. Playful voices of what seemed like an ancient past danced upon the wind. It blew through his aging beard of white. He closed his eyes to savour the moment, letting his old spirit caress the memories.

Tom Owens

Kyle lived in solitary confinement in a jail-cell sized apartment, sandwiched between an abandoned Victorian warehouse and a gigantic mental box with no apparent use. The icy air clenched onto the windows and crawled through the maze of cracks in the old brick walls which stood between Kyle and the vicious, biting winter cold, infiltrating the apartment, and defeating any ounce of heat which slipped out of the old, rusted radiator.



Tom Allen

The sunken sockets of the deep blue eyes staring, gazing along the horizon. The reminiscence of modern warfare causing his eyes to hide, seek cover behind the unkempt whisker-like eyebrows. Bags collecting under the eyes, as if they are weighed down by the dog tags of fallen friends.

Shrivelled skin covered him, enclosing him. Creating crevasses where memories remain, trapped, encaged by the sheer walls of the wrinkled visage. A soulless face staring whiter than a ghost. Wishing. Wishing for the freedom of speech, holding it back by years of unjust treatment. The thin white and grey bars surrounding it, covered what he fought solely for.

Protruding cheeks towering over the face, looking down upon the features below like a tyrant looking down upon its loyal subjects. The animalistic instinct of survival of the fittest forcing its dominance upon the face, circling the mouth like a pack of hyenas.

The deep pores clogged with guilt and gunpowder sternly providing over watch upon the decrepit profile. The unwilling remorse scared it, masking the soft undertone of happiness covered in guilt for the unjust lives taken...



Parliament Week



Some of our year 11 students had the opportunity to speak to Andy Carter MP for Warrington South as part of UK Parliament Week. They asked some gruelling questions and responded with maturity to Andy's answers.



Some of the questions we posed to Andy Carter MP:

- What do you think are the biggest issues in Warrington and what do you plan to do about them?
- What do you plan to do about the gangs of youths who gather in the town centre, seeking to cause trouble?
- How can you create more jobs in Warrington?
- There is a high demand for social housing in Warrington – how do you plan to tackle this issue?
- What do you plan to do about the number of people accessing food banks?

Many thanks to: Tom Allen, Tom Owens, Eli Carr, Angeliza Robinson, Robbie Rathbone, Ethan Fuller, Ciaran Card, Amelia Mockler, Lilli-Jo Hill, Krisz Suto, Jack Dyson, Seb Nolan, Levente Grund and Balint Beck.

Christmas Jumper Day 2021.

On Friday 19th December, UTC took part in Christmas Jumper Day where students and staff came dressed in Christmas jumpers in order to raise money for Save The Children charity. Mr Mamwell led a jumper decorating event with some of our students. We raised a fantastic £106.34 for Save The Children. Well done, everyone!



Shout Outs



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: Phelim O'Neill and Dom Whittles.

Geography grafters:

Y10: Efran Smith

Y11: Balint Beck, Tom Allen, Harley Dale.

Y10 English shout

outs: Finley Cumberbirch, JP Fowell, Caiden Gill, Ethan Darwin, Abi Pearson

Science stars: a huge shout out to Matt Cooper-Holmes and JP Fowell for helping the science team out on open evening.

Y10: Anna-Mai Larkin, Ewan Cross, Louis Hayes-Worsley, Alfie Glover, Ethan Darwin, Lucie Watson.

Y11: Tom Allen, Deimante Masiukaite, Domonic Whittles, Angeliza Robinson, Lee Kendall, Jack Dyson, Luke Henshaw.



Y11 English shout

outs: Ethan Fuller, Callum Mackie, Ethan Taylor, Tom Allen, Carlo Driver, Ameila Mockler, Bethany Cutler, Robbie Rathbone.

Construction high-flyers -

Levente Trinkl and Chloe Roberts—Y10.

Civil Engineering:

Sonny Cassidy, Y13.

Computer science:

Well done to the following in Computer Science for being top of the leaderboard in Immersive Labs in their respective classes.

6th Form – Alex Lepa – 3280 points

Year 11 – Tom Allen – 840 points

Year 10 – Alfie Glover – 660 points.

Engineering excellence

Owen Brown has tried very hard in BTEC L3 Engineering for his CAD work attending STEM Saturdays to develop his understanding of Fusion 360 (yr12).

Josh Crehan has excelled in BTEC L3 Engineering course, striving to attain higher grades as well as learning new skills in the workshop during STEM Saturdays.

Poliina Bondareva has really pushed and motivated Industrial Cadets Work Experience peers to get started on their project brief. The brief requires learners to redesign a solution for a pedestrian footbridge that crosses the River Mersey, giving access to the development. The project is being funded by ARUP Liverpool and is a 20 week project. Learners involved in the project are: Poliina Bondareva, Alistaire Gordon, Jakub Wlazinski, Blue Kinson, Sammi Hughes and Harvey Braddish.

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 construction, 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:

Mrs Joanna Rigby

Role at UTC: Teaching and Learning Coordinator and geography subject lead.

Family: married to Mr Rigby (vice principal). We have three children, Max 9, Luca 7 and Florence 5.

Favourite Film- Shawshank Redemption

Favourite artist- Alanis Morissette

What I enjoy about working at the UTC—I love helping students develop knowledge of the world's biggest global challenges.

Favourite thing about Christmas: enjoying quality time with my family. Oh and food, food and more food!

An interesting fact: I once went to a party at Justin Timberlake's house!

Mr Lewis Mamwell

Role at UTC: teacher of science and art

Family: mum, dad, sister and brother (both younger)

Favourite music acts: Black Honey and Lady Gaga

Favourite thing about Christmas: Everything! - wrapping presents, Christmas music, mulled wine, the Christmas cheer!

What I enjoy about working at the UTC: the students and the staff!

An interesting fact: I am trained in Thai kick boxing.

Mr Ian Evans:

Role at UTC: Catering Manager

Family members: my close family are my Mum Sue, my brother Scott and 5 horses!

Favourite film: Harry Potter (although the books are far better)!

Favourite band / artist: One of my Favourite bands is The 1975 and my favourite artist is Sam Fender

What I enjoy about working at UTC: Working with a great team of people.

Favourite thing about Christmas: mulled wine and mince pies!

An interesting fact: I used to be a groom for an international show jumper!

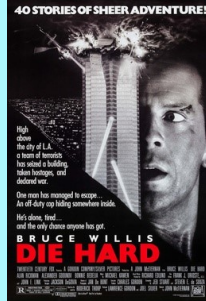


Christmas Viewing!

It's time to break open the chocolates, grab a Baileys (if you're old enough), and curl up in front of the fire with a good film.

Here are some of our favourite Christmas films:

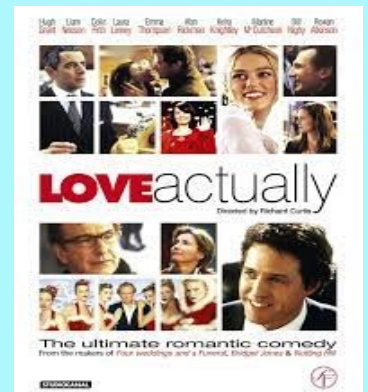
Die Hard—Mr Gee and Mr Twist



A Muppet's Christmas Carol—Mr Mamwell.



It's a Wonderful Life—Mrs Rimmer and secretly, Mr Gee!



Love Actually—Mrs Skaife



Elf—Mrs Lewis.

Miracle on 34th Street—Mr Varey

A Christmas Carol—Mrs Owens.



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
0800 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.



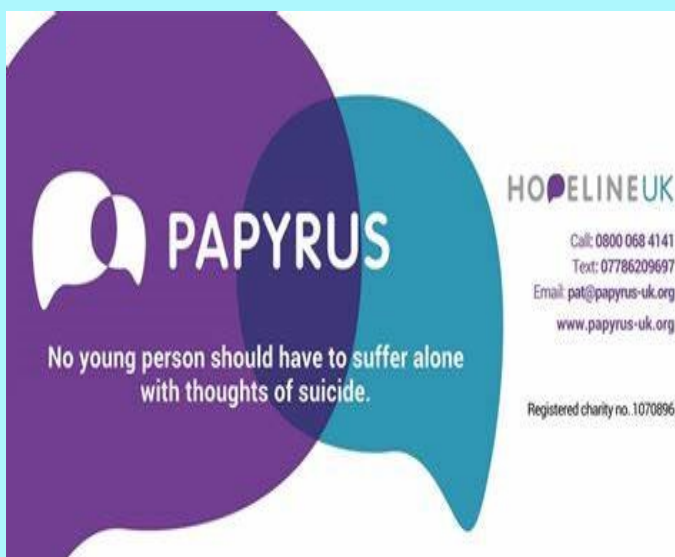
WHAT IF I AM FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO SEEK HELP?

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 13 January — **Open Evening.**
- Week beginning January 3rd —Y10 **mock exams** begin.
- Wednesday 16th February—Y11 parents' evening.

Goodbye and good luck to Mr Johnson, Mr Evans, Mrs Rimmer and Mrs Pattullo.



Co-curricular Timetable:

Monday PM:

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

Tuesday AM:

- Science with the science team

Tuesday PM:

- Cadets with D Beggs
- Running club with Mr Skelland
- i media with Mr Gee
- CNC machining with Mr Hatherall

Wednesday AM:

- Science with the science team

Wednesday PM:

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

Thursday AM:

- English intervention with Mrs Brown

Thursday PM:

- English intervention with Mrs Brown
- Further maths with Mr Skelland
- KS4 CAD training with Mrs Owen
- Revit session with Miss Graham

Friday PM:

- Geography intervention with Mrs Rigby.

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 alphabetti spaghetti in the staffroom at lunchtime. Alternatively, drop her a message on Teams or an email to lbrown@utcw.co.uk.