

ARE/JWA

24 March 2020

Dear Student/Parent/Carer

In these unprecedented times we just wanted to send our best wishes to you and your families. The final day for students was a deeply moving one, and we wanted to congratulate everyone for their success and achievements this year, especially those in Y11 and Y13.

Students will continue to be set work by staff so long as the closure continues. Students should continue to use 'Show My Homework' as their first source of work. Some parents and students have reported that it can be slow at times, but please be persistent as they are experiencing higher volumes of usage than usual. Please check emails sent from the school regarding login details for parents and students can login using their school Office 365 account and school login details.

As the government apply greater pressure on all of us in England to apply social distancing measures we just wanted to thank parents for keeping students at home where they are safest.

As you may be aware our latest OFSTED report was published on 17 March 2020 which reinforces the quality of education provided by the UTC:
<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50149110> . We are immensely proud of our students and staff for this success and we continue to look forward to even greater success in the future.

The UTC is also pleased to announce it has been successful in a bid to the Sheffield City Region Growth Fund for a project worth approximately a million pounds to support advanced skills development in automation, composites and machining. We have already spent over £300,000 of this money in updating our 'Mini-Factory' where a new automated centre for mobile phone manufacturing can now be used as a teaching tool to support our students. Further equipment will be installed in the near future.



We have been working hard to set students up with access to online resources in all subjects for the period when students are going to be working from home. Please note the following details:

Maths:

Your maths teacher or Mr Musgrove will direct you with regular tasks through **Show My Homework**. These tasks are likely to be directions to use one of the following websites:

1. **Mathswatch:** Our students are all familiar with using this site already. It offers instant feedback and help videos. If the instruction on SMH is to "watch the video" before doing a certain set of questions, then please make sure you do! You might also like to explore some of the other options under the "videos" tab for extra work. Your teacher will be able to see how you're doing and offer feedback on questions if you're stuck. You can also leave a comment for your teacher, like "I'm stuck on Q7, please can you give me some help?"
www.mathswatch.co.uk username: <first initial><surname>@utcsheffieldcc password: circle
2. **Pearson Active Learn:** This is the online version of the textbooks that we use in school. Students haven't used this online version before, as we've only today set this up, but they are familiar with the books. The first time students log on they have to enter some security details, it's also possible that you may have to enable popups in your browser settings. We are likely to set work such as "Read the notes on Page 412 then attempt Questions 1-5". We will then post the answers a bit later on.
www.pearsonactivelearn.com username: <your school email address> password: Square149
3. **TT Rockstars:** We've also signed students in 9X2, 9Y2 and 10Y2 up to this hugely popular "Times Table" practice website. It's primarily aimed at KS2/3 students but it's really good fun and great practice for those crucial times tables. On the site students should do the "studio" challenges so that the website finds their level. They can also challenge their friends and the teachers to "slams". Mastery of times tables is so important for further progression in mathematics so if you know that you're a bit weak with them then using some of this home time to get them sharpened up would be incredibly beneficial. If students in other classes also want to get involved then please just email Mr Musgrove and he will add you to the system.
www.ttrockstars.com username: <first three letters of first name + first three letters of surname> password: 3 random letters - these will be given out to students in school today and tomorrow. If your child is not in school, please email me for them.
4. **Email communication.** You can email your teacher with any questions and they will try to help you.
5. **Microsoft Teams.** Within our school Microsoft account is the facility to set up class teams and do video messaging. There are complications but we are exploring this with our Y13 groups and may try extending it to KS4 if the school closures go on for a long time. We'll update with more details if we do go ahead with this.
6. **Social Media groups** For reasons of data security and safeguarding, staff are not allowed to engage in social media groups with students. However, there's nothing to stop groups of friends within classes setting up their own help groups specific to each subject. Students could request help and support each other when doing work.

Obviously we're working this out as we go along and we may have other or better ideas in the weeks ahead. We'll keep you informed throughout and please don't hesitate to email me if you have any questions or suggestions.

The recent email about Y9 & Y10 assessments after Easter should now be ignored.

As one final point to students - although we understand that learning is going to be disrupted to some degree, we do expect our students to engage with the work we provide and try their best to complete it!

Creative, Digital Media:

Adobe access:

To help support learners with practical assignments, Adobe Creative Suite are offering students free access via their UTC Sheffield email, to access software that is used in lessons. The length of time that students will have access is not yet confirmed, but some reports have suggested May. We will notify all students via Show My Homework so that parents and carers can be notified too if this is made available. In the meantime, learners are expected to upload any software files (Photoshop, InDesign, Audition, Premiere) to OneDrive so that they can access and work on these files at home.

University offers:

A number of Y13 students have been notified by prospective universities to say that owing to the current Covid-19 situation their conditional offer is now an unconditional one. This is great news at this time. However, students still need a final grade for their subjects for an unconditional offer. Also future employers will ask for A Level grades too. Therefore, it is vital that students continue with work at home until further notice as this work may be asked to evidence and support final grades and can also be used as part of portfolios of work for future employers.

PROM

Y11/Y13 Prom – We will endeavour to ensure that we give our Y11 and Y13 students the send-off they deserve. We are looking into the possibility of arranging a prom around Christmas, so that if you have gone off to university etc. you would still be able to attend.

Health & Well-Being

Psychologists across the world are in communication with each other in relation to responding to the growing anxiety in children and adults and sharing resources and ideas – we have been provided with the link below, which we hope you will find useful:

[https://iscainfo.com/resources/ISCA%20Coronavirus%20Suggestions%20to%20Parents%20\(1\).pdf](https://iscainfo.com/resources/ISCA%20Coronavirus%20Suggestions%20to%20Parents%20(1).pdf)

We will endeavour to keep you up to date as things progress. Please continue to check our website for all the latest news. As soon as we know any information regarding the awarding of grades this summer we will send out more information.

Many thanks for your support and understanding.

Kind regards



Mr Alex Reynolds
Principal

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