

ARE/JWA

11 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

End of Term Letter from UTC Sheffield, City Centre

I would like to thank students and Parents/ Carers for their continued support for the UTC as we come to the end of a very busy and unprecedented term.

Last Day of Term - Friday 18 December 2020

I am certain you will have heard Schools have been given new guidance from the Department for Education on when to finish for Christmas and what will be expected from leaders and teachers in helping to track and trace Covid contacts after term ends. This means we will have to continue to report positive coronavirus cases, identified and confirmed by a test and for relevant contacts in the school to be traced. Therefore, once we have broken up next Friday and up until 24 December 2020, if your child develops symptoms or tests positive for Covid-19, then please email admin@utcsheffield.org.uk, so that we are able to track and trace.

With this in mind, if your child is showing symptoms of Covid-19 or ill during next week, then please keep them at home, so they are not putting the rest of the school community at risk, particularly in the run up to Christmas, when people are wishing to see family that they may not have done for many months.

The last day of the Autumn term will be as originally planned, **Friday 18 December 2020**. This will be a Non-Uniform Day for students. A contribution of at least £1 is required for wearing non-uniform. Funds raised will be donated to Crisis and Mental Health, these have been chosen by our student council. Students will leave the building at **12.10pm**. If your child has free school meals, please contact admin@utcsheffield.org.uk if they would like a grab bag to take with them.

Year 13 – Applications to UCAS

Students applying to UCAS must complete their applications by Thursday 7 January 2021. Students will need to allow three weeks for a reference to be written and added to their application before it is sent off. Students should liaise with their form tutor, Mr Rigby or Miss Khan/Miss King with any questions or queries. Students applying directly into employment and/or for apprenticeships will also receive support from their tutor or Miss Khan. Miss Khan runs a careers drop in as and when required on a one to one basis.

Steel City Media – Post 16 zoom workshop

Joe Bowman is the talent behind the name steel city media. A resident of north Derbyshire, he began making films for extreme sports over a decade ago. Joe has worked all over the world for various brands including Santa Cruz, Monster, Volvo amongst others. He has created online docu series following fortunes of riders in the UCI MTB world cup, promotional films and most notably the 2018 long format film Gamble.

Joe will be sharing his expertise in film making with the Post 16 students ahead of their Unit 5 and 15 studies, highlighting the processes and practices that go into ensuring a film is made smoothly.

Parent & Student Surveys

It is really useful to us to receive feedback from both parent/carers, as well as students, with this in mind please could you follow the relevant link below and complete the short online survey:

Student – [UTC Sheffield - Student View \(google.com\)](#)

Parent - [UTC Sheffield - Parent View \(google.com\)](#)

Arrangements for Exams in January 2021

An exam timetable has been distributed to individual students, however we have provided the following overview: -

		EXAMINATION TIMETABLE JAN / FEB 2021					
Date	Year Group	Start	Length	Exam Board	Component Code	Component Title	
Monday 11 Jan	Y10 & Y11	13:30	01:15	OCR	R081/01	Creative Imedia: Preproduction Skills	
Monday 11 Jan	1 student resit	13:30	01:30	RSA	582401	FD Eng: Mathematics for Engineering	
Tuesday 12 Jan	Y11	09:00	01:00	OCR	R105/01	Engineering: Design Specs User Requirements	
Tuesday 12 Jan	Y11	13:30	01:00	OCR	R109/01	Engineering: Materials Processes and Production	
Tuesday 12 Jan	Y11	13:30	01:00	OCR	R113/01	Engineering: Electronic Principles	
Tuesday 12 Jan	Y12	13:30	02:00	RSA	584401/601	Media Products & Audiences	
Wednesday 13 Jan	1 student resit	09:00	01:30	RSA	582402	Science for Engineering	
Friday 15 Jan	Y12	13:30	02:00	RSA	584402/602	PRE-Production & Planning	
Tuesday 19 Jan	Y13 resit	09:00	01:30	RSA	584406/606	Social Media & Globalisation	
Thursday 4 Feb	Y10	09:00	01:30	EDEXL	21193L	BTEC Effective Digital Working Practices	

During the period of exams, students should continue to adhere to the UTC dress code.

Extreme Weather Protocol

I would like to let you know that information about possible UTC closures, which could result from extreme weather conditions over the winter period will be shown on the home page of our website from early in the morning. We will also update the website to indicate when we expect to re-open. Information will also be broadcast by local radio stations in line with their protocols (BBC Radio Sheffield and Hallam FM) and on their websites, as with other schools in the Sheffield region.

Mobile Devices

Please could I remind you that mobile phones/electronic devices/headphones **are not allowed out** during lessons or on the corridors, they should only be used in the canteen at break and lunchtimes. They should be switched off and in bags at **ALL** other times. If a student is found to have them out during lesson/project time, then they will be confiscated, only to be returned at the end of the day; which will invoke an SLT detention.

Business Dress

To maintain our excellent standards can I ask you to remind students they should **not** wear coats inside the UTC building. Following a term of constant gentle reminders, our staff will, after the Christmas break, take coats and hoodies from students if worn inside the building and insist they collect them at the end of the day. This will hopefully ensure all students reflect the 'professional ethos' of the UTC. We are also increasingly having to speak with students about wearing inappropriate footwear such as trainers. Shoes should be **black leather** for protection. School ties can be purchased via Squid for £7.95 and collected from reception. Please could I also take this opportunity to remind you that full business dress, including appropriate school trousers/skirts and black shoes is expected for ALL students. Students will be challenged regarding the above on return from the Christmas break. This also applies to Post 16 students, as we have noticed a decline in some student's 'business attire'.

Equipment

Please can we politely remind you that the GCSE maths course requires the regular use of a scientific calculator and students who turn up to lessons without one are putting themselves at a disadvantage. If your child does not have a working scientific calculator, we do have brand new ones, which can be purchased via Squid for £9.00; these will be available after the Christmas break from reception. Please could you ensure that your child comes to school prepared and ready to learn with the relevant equipment.

HeppSY

The UTC continues to work with a consortium, involving Sheffield Hallam University (Lead Partner), the University of Sheffield and South Yorkshire FE colleges through a programme HeppSY (Higher Education Progression Partnership South Yorkshire) to support young people to progress into higher education (HE). Children on this program will receive a subsidy for HeppSY related trips.

A question about Friday prayers

Through listening to our parents and in our effort to support the holistic wellbeing of all our students, we wanted to share that we have a safe space for quiet reflection and prayers at UTC for all students from all faiths.

Some of our Muslim students use this quiet space for prayers through the week, and these students wanted to ask if anyone wanted to join them for Friday (Juma) prayers during period 4 (permitted under Tier 3 rules).

Naturally, all Covid distancing rules will apply to avoid cross-bubble transmission if different year group attend, and mask wearing will be compulsory for all who take part.

Please ask your child to speak to Mr Cocken if they would like to know more, and depending on the level of interest, we will share the details on how to access the prayer/reflection space.

If you have any questions, please contact: mcocken@utcsheffield.org.uk

Free School Meals

Students that are entitled to FSM will receive a letter from Sheffield Local Authority, detailing how they can access their voucher.

Lateness

We have been relatively lenient with student lateness this year due to travel issues associated with the pandemic; however, it is becoming apparent that a minority of individuals are using it as an excuse to arrive late to the UTC. Please could we ask you to reiterate the importance of punctuality to your son/daughter to avoid sanctions from January 2021 onwards.

Y10 PE in January 2021

Due to exams taking place in the MPS, PE sessions will predominately take place on the MUGA, so please send your child with appropriate clothing. If the weather is really inclement, there will be study rooms made available, so that students can continue with their work.

Future Key Dates

Thinking ahead to the next half-term starting on **Monday 4 January 2021**

Trial Exams Results Day for Y11/Y12 & Y13 – Wednesday 6 January 2021. Copies of the results will be emailed to both students and parent/carer. (Students in Y10 that have sat the English Literature exam will find out their result in lesson during the first week back).

Virtual Showcase - We are gaining very high levels of interest for places next year, and will be holding a virtual Y9/Post-16 recruitment event on **Wednesday 13 January 2021**, which is advertised on our website. If you know anybody thinking of joining the UTC, please encourage them to book onto the event

Progress Tracker 2 virtual Parents Evening will take place on **Wednesday 27 January 2021** and is open to all year groups (feedback from PT1 will be shared by Mr Cocken at the end of term).

Term dates are also available on our Website.

Best wishes for a safe and restful Christmas and we look forward to welcoming students back in the New Year.



Mr A Reynolds
Principal

