

LINCOLN UTC NEWSLETTER

JULY 2020

Assistant Principal Foreword

It has been 4 months since lockdown began and already, we are coming to the end of this academic year. It has certainly been a challenging time for everyone in the country and on behalf of Lincoln UTC, I hope you are safe and well.

Despite the difficult circumstances, we are immensely proud that teaching and learning has not stopped. Since the launch of 'live lessons' on Google Classroom, over 80% of our students have accessed the remote support provided by their teachers in all subject areas; from attending weekly live lessons to downloading and submitting work. In addition, over the past 5 weeks, we have provided our Y10 and Y12 students face-to-face lessons and it is a pleasure to see our students interacting with their peers and their teachers.

As we approach the summer break, we are making the final preparations for our return to full time education in September. I am sure you are aware, to begin with we will be running a timetable with a split start for all Key Stage 4 students, allowing us to reduce our already small class sizes further. This will enable us to socially distance within the UTC safely, whilst still providing you with a full curriculum.

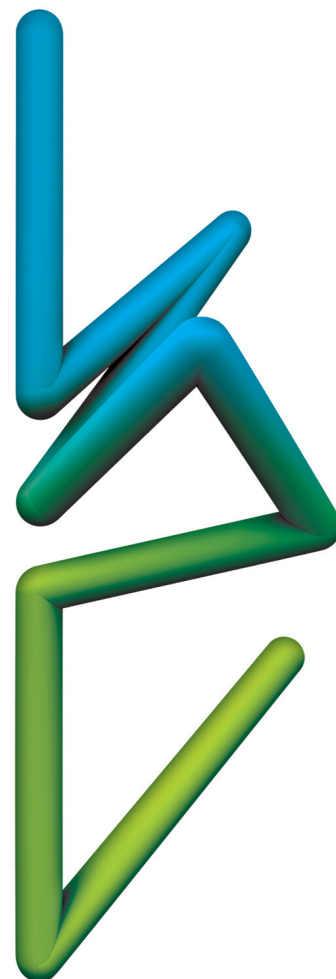
As our Principal John Morrison and Vice Principal Stuart Hamer suggested in previous newsletters, our advice to students is: 'Don't fritter away your free time. Keep busy. Do something that will be of some benefit to you in the future.' Make good use of the summer break, it's not too late to find a project.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents, students and the whole staffing team for their commitment and on-going support. Also, I would like to remind our A level and GCSE students that their results are available for collection at UTC from 8am onwards on the 13th and 20th of August respectively.

For all the students who will be joining us after summer, we are excited to get you back to the new 'normal' routine in September.

Have a lovely summer break. Take care and stay alert!

Daniel Chung
Assistant Principal



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SEPTEMBER PLANS

It has been great to see some of our students back in the UTC but we are keen to get back to a position where we can offer all students a full-time education. Our normal timetable with the longer day and eight lessons gives us the ability to offer students an experience and a level of support that they wouldn't get in other schools. We want to get back to this as soon as it is safe to do so but we have a plan for September that will allow students to return five days a week even if the Coronavirus restrictions and precautionary measures are still in place.

We are fortunate, compared to other schools, that we are a small college. Our average class size was already smaller than most other schools so we have less of a job to do in achieving social distancing. Almost every school classroom (ours and elsewhere) is furnished with classroom tables designed for two students sharing. In most schools there will be fifteen of these tables to allow class sizes of thirty. Our average class size was eighteen this year and the largest class was twenty-four. Most of our teaching rooms have twelve tables.

We can achieve distancing in classrooms providing the number in each class is kept low enough that students don't need to share a table. In most schools this puts a limit on the class size at fifteen. For us the limit is twelve. As soon as students have to share a table, they are literally shoulder to shoulder and there is absolutely no distancing. As you can see in the photograph below, we were able to achieve distancing of approximately 1.5 metres with twelve students (teachers) in the room.



We can't be certain what the situation will be in September but, at this moment in time, we think that the Coronavirus won't have gone away and that we will probably want to re-open with distancing and maximum class size of twelve. We would return to our normal timetable (and class sizes eighteen to twenty-four) as soon as it was safe to do so.

We have written two different timetables. The socially distanced timetable does have some unavoidable compromises and isn't quite what we would offer students in normal times but, we believe, it will still deliver a quality full time education.

In year 10 and year 11 we would need to have 7 or 8 teaching groups instead of the 4 or five that we would normally have. Most of the A Level classes have fewer than 12 students. There are a couple of classes in Post 16 that will have to be split. There are currently two year 12 engineering groups with 15 students. In September we will split them into three groups of 10.

We are fully staffed in all subject areas. No members of the teaching staff have left this year and we made four new appointments just before lockdown. Even with the full complement of staff we would struggle to have 16 key stage 4 teaching groups on at the same time as all the sixth form lessons. We will need to have a staggered approach to the day to be able to teach the increased number of small groups.

Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	Period 7	Period 8
8.45 9.40	9.40 10.35	10.35 11.30	11.30 12.15	12.15 1.00	1.00 1.55	1.55 2.50	2.50 3.45
55 mins	55 mins	55 mins	45 mins	45 mins	55 mins	55 mins	55 mins
Half of Y10 and half Y11 not in	Half of Y10 and half Y11 not in		Split lunch	Split lunch		Half of Y10 and half Y11 not in	Half of Y10 and half Y11 not in

Year 10 and year 11 (early start and early finish)

Lesson	Lesson	Lesson	LUNCH	Lesson	Lesson
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Year 10 and year 11 (later start and later finish)

Lesson	Lesson	LUNCH	Lesson	Lesson	Lesson
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Year 12 and year 13

		Independent study			Independent study		
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Post 16 teaching will be delivered throughout the day. Teachers will be available to support and teach Post 16 students during lessons 1, 2, 7 and 8 when half the year 10 and year 11 students are off-site and during lessons 4 and 5 when half the students are on a lunch break. Most Post 16 students will have independent study during lessons 3 and 6. There will be very few Post 16 lessons timetabled during these periods as all the year 10 and year 11 students will be in lessons (16 small groups). A Level students will have five lessons a week in each subject. Post 16 engineering students will have 17 taught lessons per week.

In this model the year 12 and year 13 students have the same amount of contact time as they would normally have. Year 10 and year 11 students would have five lessons a day, five days a week. This is broadly in line with what they would have had in most schools (before lockdown) ... even if it isn't quite what we would ideally do. The number of lessons in each subject area is shown in the table below.

In this interim timetable students have 25 lessons a week as opposed to the 36 lessons a week that our UTC timetable normally delivers. Inevitably this shorter day has reduced the contact time for most subjects. We are hopeful that this will not be necessary for long and that we can return to our 36 lesson week as soon as possible. Although this is a shorter day and a reduction in teaching time students will benefit from the smaller class sizes and the better teacher student ratios, for however long this interim timetable needs to be in place.

We will continue to monitor the situation and the advice from the government throughout the summer. It is possible that the situation may have improved to the point where we can adopt our normal timetable approach. Right now, we think it is more likely that we will start the term with the cautious, staggered timetable outlined above. We have the ability to switch between the two timetable models at any time during the year if the Covid-19 situation changes.

RECOVERY WILL STEM FROM KEY SKILLS

Over the last couple of months, the Coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the importance of STEM-related practical skills, in all their forms (science, technology, engineering and maths).

The pandemic has propelled scientists into the spotlight, as they expertly guide the government in formulating policy. Technology, as used in Zoom calls and Google Classroom, has enabled business life and education to continue during lockdown. Engineers from all over the country have used their ingenuity to repurpose equipment to meet NHS PPE requirements, and the mathematical modelling of the all-important 'R number' has been key to devising a safe path back to a 'new normal' way of living.

STEM practitioners in all four areas have kept our country going and are a perfect example of how a specialist education in science, technology, engineering and maths can lead to incredible things. Gillian Keegan MP, Minister for Skills, says that University Technical Colleges will be at the centre of building these skills following Covid-19:

"University Technical Colleges (UTCs) are well positioned to support the skills needs of local economies, placing employers at the heart of designing their specialist curriculum, mostly in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects such as engineering and digital technologies. There are over 500 employers involved in the 48 open UTCs, including leading names such as JCB, Network Rail, Toyota, Siemens and the Royal Navy, helping to create 30,000 opportunities for young people to train as the engineers, technicians and scientists of the future.

UTCs will continue to play a role in building the skills capabilities the country needs now and in the future following COVID-19. An immediate focus for UTCs will be to help this year's leavers use and build on their technical skills through becoming apprentices, as well as other paths to employment including progression to universities, or going straight into technical jobs."

Our business approach to education reflects the exciting challenges of the technical industries in which our students are immersed, and we are confident that this environment provides them with the best possible platform to progress into a successful career. Lincoln UTC graduates are the very best scientists and engineers their potential allows as they finish their schooling at 16 or 18, and we look forward to seeing them grow into the STEM heroes of the future.

We are still accepting applications to join year 10 and year 12 in September 2020. Apply now at <https://lincolnutc.applicaa.com/>.



WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY

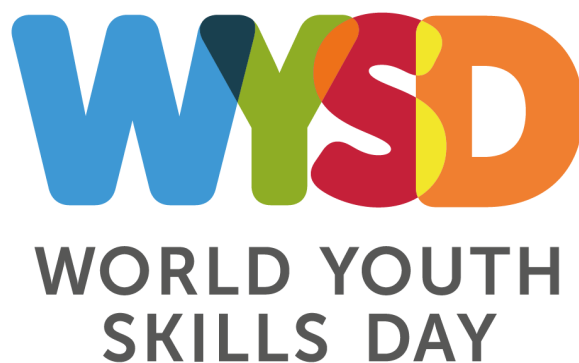
On the 15th of July the United Nations (UNESCO) celebrated World Youth Skills Day, a global celebration of the importance of equipping young people with skills.

Everything that we do at the UTC is focused on providing students with opportunities to acquire skills that will set them apart from other young people and enable them to succeed in industry and at university.

In order to achieve this, we place an explicit focus on skills development and the acquisition of the traits of the ideal learner. It pervades all that we do and the ways in which students are encouraged to learn.

To focus this strategy we promote the 10 traits of the ideal student with rewards cards reflecting the skills that we hope our students will develop throughout their time at the UTC.

- **CURIOUS:** The ideal student is curious. He wants to make sense of the world around him. He has the capacity for awe, wonder and amazement. He wants to understand everything.
- **MOTIVATED:** She knows what is important to her and 'what makes her tick'. She arrives at all lessons motivated and committed. She is an active participant in lessons. She does not rely on others (teachers) to provide her motivation.
- **ORGANISED:** He has high levels of personal organisation. He plans carefully and makes good use of his time, hitting all deadlines.
- **INDEPENDENT:** She is independent and does not regard herself as a hollow vessel waiting to be filled with the information necessary to pass her exams. She does not wait to be spoon fed. She wants to find things out for herself.
- **COLLABORATIVE:** He works well with others, listens to others and appreciates that he can learn most effectively when learning is a collaborative activity. He treats others with respect at all times.
- **ANALYTICAL:** She is analytical in her thinking, able to construct a convincing argument for her views and opinions. She always explains her thinking and justifies her reasoning.
- **BIG-PICTURE:** He always tries to connect his learning to work done before and work that he knows is coming. He tries to link all new learning to real life contexts, to his own life experience and to academic work in other subjects.
- **CREATIVE:** She is a creative thinker who is willing to 'think outside the box'. She is happy to take risks and try new things.
- **AMBITIOUS:** He sets ambitious targets for himself and is willing to do whatever it takes to realise these goals. He routinely reviews his progress towards these targets. He asks for feedback as part of this process.
- **RESILIENT:** She isn't afraid to get things wrong. She is resilient...always ready to 'get back on the horse' and try again. She learns from her mistakes, corrects all her work and responds positively to constructive criticism. She perseveres when things are tough and doesn't give up quickly or easily.



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DRESS CODE UPDATE

Please see the below update to our dress code that will be implemented from September onwards:

Workshop and laboratory-based activities

Personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn by students in all year groups when working in laboratories and workshops during science and engineering.

The UTC will provide:

- Ear protection

Students will provide:

- Composite or steel toe cap shoes/boots;
- A pair of safety glasses that are EN marked to a minimum of EN.166F and have the CE mark;
- A navy blue lab/warehouse coat. Our preferred supplier for students who would like the UTC branded lab/warehouse coat is Uniform Direct, who will be offering the item both at their store at the Pelham Centre, Lincoln and online at www.uniform-direct.co.uk.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Lincoln UTC has built relationships with other secondary schools across the world, including the Livorno School in Italy. We had hoped to run an exchange trip with our Y12 students in April, but due to the Covid-19 outbreak we were forced to postpone the trip to next year. In the meantime we have continued to speak with staff and students from the Livorno School to compare how we have dealt with delivering education remotely.

Italy went into lockdown on the 5th of March, and this lasted until the end of the school year on the 10th June. During this period the Livorno School delivered remote teaching through live lessons on Google Classroom, in exactly the same way that we have done at the UTC.

Working alongside Mrs Hickling, teachers from the Livorno School developed a project titled 'living at the time of coronavirus', and offered it to their youngest students as a space to express their feelings creatively and meet some international friends at the UTC.

Since the 17th June they have been back to school and have held shortened exams for their students in the Italian equivalent to year 11 and year 13.

During the next school year we hope to continue to build on our relationship with the Livorno School, and visit them when it is safe to do so.



Y12 UCAS APPLICATIONS

A reminder for Year 12 students who may be considering an application to university in the 2020-21 academic year that they need to register online using the Lincoln UTC buzzword:

SuccessatLincolnUTC

There has been a marked reduction in the availability of apprenticeships this summer, therefore if this trend continues next year a university application may be an appropriate back-up option.

Once registered on UCAS online students need to complete the following sections over the summer holidays: a) personal details b) additional Information and c) student finance.

Students should also complete a draft personal statement in readiness for completing their applications in the autumn term.

If you are thinking of applying to the University of Oxford or Cambridge or medical/vet/dentistry schools you need to meet the earlier deadline of the 15th of October. If this is applicable to you send me an email and let me know as there may be entry examinations i.e. UCAT for medicine and dentistry. The deadline for all other applications is the 15th of January 2021.

If you have any questions please email Mr Little at rlittle@lincolnutc.co.uk

EXAM RESULTS 2020

Exam results this year are published on the following dates in August:

AS/A2, EPQ & BTEC Level 3 Results Day: Thursday 13th August – 8.00am to 11.00am

GCSE, BTEC Level 2 & Cambridge National Level 2 Results Day: Thursday 20th August – 9.00am to 11.00am

The UTC will be open until 11am on both days for the collection of results.

There will be an opportunity on the day for students to discuss results with staff members and to receive advice on the next stage of their career.

If a student is not able to collect their results in person, please let the college know in writing who will be collecting them on their behalf. They will need to bring with them a letter from the student so we can confirm their identity and release results to them.

Should a student wish to have their results posted out please inform us by emailing hvincent@lincolnutc.co.uk.

Year 13 students who have applied to university should not be out of the country on the 13th August as they may need to contact the university directly about their place.

Students will be able to access the UCAS website, from 8.00am, at the UTC to check the status of their offers; however, they must remember to bring their access codes and passwords with them.

If you have any queries please contact us.

Mrs H Vincent
Exams Officer

