



Lincoln UTC
A college for science
and engineering

Newsletter

February 2021



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Vice Principal's Foreword

As we reach the end of this term, I have been reflecting on all that we have achieved over the past six weeks. Being away from the UTC, and unable to continue with our 'normal' routine is difficult for all members of the UTC community. Our staff thoroughly enjoy working at the UTC and are passionate about providing the very best possible opportunities for our students, allowing them to succeed. Whilst this may be more challenging under the current circumstances, we are extremely proud of the strength of our online learning provision.

As the Vice Principal, I am a member of every Google Classroom as a 'student' so that I can view the lessons from a student's perspective. This gives me a valuable insight into the online learning experience of a student. Our students really do deserve to be congratulated for their continued efforts. They have demonstrated resilience, organisation, motivation and independence throughout the past few weeks. We continue to be proud of each and every one of them.

We have been delighted by the positive feedback from parents regarding our remote learning provision. All of our students in year 10 and around 50% of our students in year 12 were at different schools during the last lockdown, and many have commented on the contrast in the quality and standard of our remote learning.

It is hard to believe that already, we have reached the halfway point of the academic year. We hope that all members of our UTC community find some time to enjoy themselves this half term. Online lessons resume on Monday 22nd February and we look forward to seeing our students (virtually) then.

Take care and stay safe!

Stuart Hamer

Vice Principal

Remote Learning at Lincoln UTC

“We have lived all over the UK and experienced a wealth of different schools. I have to say Lincoln UTC is, by far, the best school our son has been to.”

There is no doubt that the pandemic has forced schools to radically change their approach to education. Just days before secondary students were expected to return to their classrooms for the January term, schools were again informed that they must close and resume remote learning.

At Lincoln UTC we were in a strong position to immediately initiate a full timetable of live lessons for all students. During a virtual school day, UTC students have eight periods and the opportunity to interact with their teachers live during every lesson.

UTC Principal, John Morrison, said: “Studying from home is very different from studying at school and for many students, school closures throughout the past year have been their first experience of organising their own learning. At the UTC we place an explicit focus on skill development and studying from home is an ideal opportunity to put resilience, organisation, motivation, and independence into practice.

During the past month attendance and engagement in our timetable of live lessons from UTC students has been excellent. We are so proud of our students for adapting so quickly.

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A year 10 parent said: “I have a younger daughter still at secondary and my elder daughter at the UTC, and this has highlighted the enormous difference in the quality of online work provided and how much more care and support the UTC staff provide.

When staff take pride, care, and promote positivity our young people reflect that - and that is what makes the difference between what a school needs to do to meet the guidelines and what makes a school stand out as going above and beyond. Thank you to the UTC staff for making such a difference and giving our young people the best chances possible through these hard times.”

In September 2020 we welcomed the largest cohort we have ever had. We took the decision to reduce the college’s admissions number and have set a maximum number of 120 in each year group to maintain smaller class sizes than most ‘ordinary’ schools. There are still a few places left in year 10 and year 12 for September 2021. To find out more or to apply online visit www.lincolnutc.co.uk.

Study From Home Guide

Accepting that there will be more distractions at home in comparison to school is important as students can then factor this into their approach and effectively manage these distractions. Students should prioritise creating a workspace that is quiet and comfortable to ensure that they can separate studying from their ordinary home life.

Following our organised timetable that covers a variety of subjects will provide a similar structure to the school day and allow students to follow a normal routine. Setting achievable goals every morning and ticking them off throughout the day will ensure that students can demonstrate their progress and feel proud about what they have accomplished.

Using social media is an easy way to procrastinate therefore students should try and limit time spent using their phone during study hours and use it as a reward. It is still important to schedule regular breaks to take time away from learning and relax as students would during an ordinary school day.

Regular exercise can help you sleep better, concentrate for longer periods of time and improve your mental health. Researchers have found that a minimum of at least 20 minutes a day of any physical activity can help to create a positive attitude and boost productivity. Students should schedule this into their working day.

Studying alone for long periods of time can be a difficult learning curve. Students should give themselves time to get used to their new routine and keep in touch with their peers in the same situation. Remember that teachers are still available to provide help and advice as and when it is needed.



Student Support Advice

Being out of school and away from friends and a normal routine is likely to be difficult for many students. School work provides challenges and in the current climate it may feel even more stressful as many students will be working in a different way.

As part of our online timetable, UTC students attend a 'wellbeing' session every week. We value mental health as much as physical health, and we want to ensure students are taking care of their mental wellbeing during this strange time.

Our wellbeing lessons are centred around providing students with information and tools that may benefit them now, in the future, or help them to support friends and family that are struggling.

During the past term we have covered the importance of self care, mindfulness, how to stay mentally well during lockdown, tips on staying motivated when studying remotely, sleep hygiene and tackling anxiety.

Students should remember that stress and anxiety in such an unusual and unpredictable time is normal. Everyone reacts differently to stress and that's okay – we are here to help with managing that stress. Here are a few of our top tips:

- Keep in touch. You might not be able to see your friends face-to-face, but you can still speak to them. The same applies to your teachers too, keep in touch with them and carry on learning.
- Exercise. Break up your day by keeping active. Something as simple as a short walk can clear your head, but if you would rather stay home look online for exercise videos.
- Food and drink. Try to follow a healthy diet with some fruit and vegetables and drink plenty of water.
- Get enough sleep. Despite not having to wake up so early to get to school, a regular sleep pattern is still important. Wind down before bed by avoiding using your phone, tablet, computer or TV for an hour before bedtime.
- Stay calm. Mindfulness, meditation or yoga may help you to feel calm. Your app store will have lots of apps for you to download that can help with this. Try the "smiling mind" or "calm" app as a start.
- Reduce access to rolling news. There is extensive news coverage about the Coronavirus outbreak. If you find that the news is causing you stress, it's important to find a balance. It's best that you don't avoid all news and that you keep informing and educating yourself - but limit your news intake if it is bothering you.

Girls in Science Virtual Quiz

Thursday 11th February is the International Day of Women and Girls in Science and Lincoln UTC will celebrate with a live quiz event featuring a panel of female scientists.

The event is based on the popular quiz show QI and Head of Science, Kirsty Hickling, will take on the role of Sandy Toksvig as host. A team of female science teachers will go head-to-head with a group of A Level scientists and there will be plenty of opportunity for audience involvement. Questions are themed around women in science.

The event is free to attend and open to all. The panellists hope to utilise the UTC platform to inspire and engage girls in science, in line with their goal of encouraging more girls to join the college.

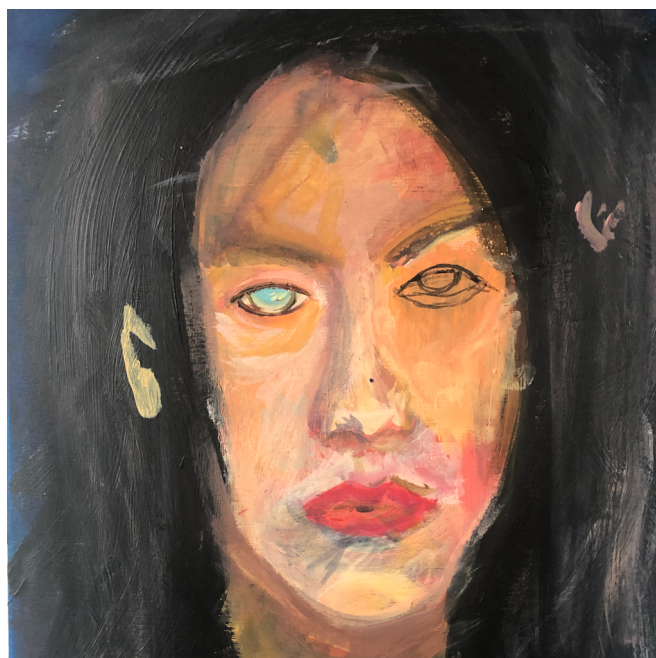
Data published in 2019 by the Department of Education highlighted that schoolgirls in England are substantially less likely to consider taking STEM subjects at A Level in comparison to boys. The UTC plays a fundamental role in challenging this stereotype by providing the opportunity for girls to study a specialist curriculum based around science, technology, engineering and maths.

Overall 30% of the current UTC student population is female. This figure has been rising year on year and we are predicted to accept their largest intake of girls yet in September 2021. A limited number of places are still available in year 10 and year 12. For more information visit www.lincolnutc.co.uk or email admissions@lincolnutc.co.uk.



Art at Lincoln UTC

For the first time this year, students in Key Stage 4 have the opportunity to study art & design as their optional subject choice. Mr Allen studied both a BA and an MA degree in Fine Art at the University of Lincoln, and has since worked as a sculptural assistant for a local artist. Here is some of the work our students have produced in their lessons with him so far.



Y13 Next Steps

We would like to say a big congratulations to Eloise, a Y13 engineer, for securing full sponsorship from Clyde Marine Training to begin her Engineering Officer Training with the Merchant Navy in August 2021.

Eloise has studied at Lincoln UTC for the past four years, and we are absolutely thrilled that she has secured her next steps following the completion of her Level 3 Extended Diploma in Engineering.

Eloise said: “Clyde Marine Training is the UK’s largest Maritime Training Organisation and I am over the moon that I have been offered a full sponsorship to start my Engineer Officer Training within the Merchant Navy.

Being part of the Merchant Navy can lead to many career paths and I am looking forward to learning as much as I can. In August 2021 I will begin my training at the City of Glasgow College to complete my First Certificate of Competency and Professional Diploma in Marine Engineering. During my training I will spend some time on shore and also at sea, travelling and working on a multitude of ships with an established Merchant Navy company, which will be amazing.

I am very excited for this life changing opportunity and would like to thank everyone at Lincoln UTC for their encouragement and support in this process.”



We are also incredibly proud to say that our Y13 student Rudi has been accepted and offered a place at the University of Cambridge to study an engineering degree starting in September 2021.

Rudi has studied at the UTC for past four years, and is currently completing A Levels in maths, physics and further maths.

Rudi said: “I am very happy to get an offer from Cambridge. It will be a great opportunity, and I am grateful to everyone at the UTC that helped me to achieve this.”

Term Dates 2021/22

Term 1

6th September - 15th October

Staff Training Days: 2nd & 3rd September

Holiday: 18th October - 29th October

Term 2

1st November - 17th December

Holiday: 20th December - 4th January

Staff Training Days: 4th January

Term 3

5th January - 11th February

Holiday: 14th February - 18th February

Term 4

21st February - 1st April

Holiday: 4th April - 18th April

Term 5

19th April - 27th May

Bank Holiday: 2nd May

Holiday: 30th May - 3rd June

Term 6

6th June - 20th July

Staff Training Days: 21st & 22nd July

Holiday: 21st July - 31st August