

18th October 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

End of Term 1 letter

Let me begin by introducing myself! My name is Anesta McCullagh and I am the Head of School. I joined the UTC in September along with our new year 9 and year 10 students. I am thrilled to welcome you to the 2019-2020 school year and it was lovely to meet many parents on our Parental Evenings we held this half term. For those of you who have not met me, I was an Associate Principal in Manchester for 3 years and previous to that a Deputy Principal in Grimsby.

This year was the first year we have taken a year 9 cohort. As the UTC continues to grow in student numbers, so do the staffing team and I would like to introduce to you other members of staff who have joined the team this year. The Engineering team have worked closely with one of our industry partners Tronox and we are lucky to have secured Mark Booth an Engineer on sabbatical from them. Zoe Hennchen, a science specialist and passionate engineering teacher, completes the new staffing in Engineering this year. In Maths we have the addition of Laura Thomspson, who leads the department and has a history of middle and senior leadership experience and great evidence of impact.

This academic year has seen a number of exciting experiences for students, with a lot more still to come for this academic year! The year was launched with a brilliant Raising Aspirations day at the UTC which involved 32 volunteers from industry, supporting the UTC and sharing their experiences and opportunities with students. The day culminated in an inspirational key note speech from Adam Corbally, former Apprentice star and entrepreneur, who shared his motivational story with students, promoting resilience and launching a challenge for students.

Following this, a whole school visit took place for students, including a great chance for year 10 to get to know each other better through team building exercises and the chance to develop their employability skills! Year 9 students visited the STEM and Industry Museum in Manchester and had the opportunity to find out about the history of industry in the area. Year 11 students had a fantastic trip to Jaguar Landrover, where every 30 seconds a full completed vehicle is sent off the end of the production line! Local industry visits took place for our year 12 and 13 students, where they could find out about opportunities at the Amazon Distribution Centre and Stylex, a local company who have just started working with the UTC.

Further trips include a visit to the Phillips 66 refinery for our year 12 students, supporting with mentoring at their Education Engineering Kids day and Women into Manufacturing and Engineering to promote the STEM industry to our female students. Activities within school have included a tooling demonstration from CEF to our sixth form students and also a space activity led by our very own Shanen in year 13.

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The next academic half term will include a number of exciting opportunities, including the introduction of our business mentoring to students, impartial careers advice and guidance interviews for our year 11 and 13 students and a number of additional trips for all year groups. Year 11 and 13 students will be attending Workskills UK Live, the largest apprenticeships and careers event in the UK. All year 9 students will be visiting RAF Scampton which will (fingers crossed!) include a visit from the Red Arrows! Year 12 will be invited to the National Space Academy and year 13 have been invited to a Post 16 masterclass at the University of Hull... just to name a few!

Half term one seems to have gone by so fast. I've spent a lot of time absorbing myself in your children's lessons and have seen some exciting Engineering projects from the design stage all the way through to making items such as drill drifts, bottle openers and drill gauges. 'Robot Wars' are happening to furniture design and science lessons filled with practicals. It's been an exciting half term. You must come and see!

To this end, I would like to invite Parents of our year 9 and 10 students to our first Engineering showcase opportunity which will give parents a chance to see what projects students are completing with industry and we can't wait! Please complete the return slip below to indicate which session you can attend.

Students will be returning back from the half term on Thursday October 31st. During the first week back we will be having our celebration assemblies with each year group recognizing students who have completed their 'culture passports', 100% and 95% attendance and have displayed the 3 core values of the UTC; professional, responsible and loyal.

In the meanwhile have a lovely half term break and we look forward to see the students on their return.

Anesta McCullagh

My son/daughter's name is _____
(Please delete as appropriate)

I would like to attend the **year 9/year 10** Engineering Showcase coffee morning on Wednesday 6th November at 9.30am

I would like to attend the **year 9/year 10** Engineering Showcase coffee morning on Thursday 7th November at 9.30am

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