

Dear Parents/Carers

What a fantastic first term we have had at the college despite what has been happening around us. We have welcomed students back to college who have been more resilient than we ever thought during the pandemic. It's been lovely to see them settle quickly to all the new socially distanced systems we have in place and quickly settle back into learning. The volume of postcards delivered to students during assemblies has never been this high, students are really stepping up to the mark. Next half term we will have our first awards assembly of the year where we recognise those students who have been working hard to uphold our values, professional, responsible and loyal.

This half term the ground floor workshops have been buzzing with students quickly developing some core skills in practical engineering. Year 9 have started off on a varied curriculum involving manufacturing with metal, design with CAD/ CAM and Electronic Systems.

Y10 have started the term straight into their GCSE's in Manufacture and Systems. They are expanding on knowledge learnt last year to complete their first manufacturing coursework assignment. They are also all venturing into the world of Systems to learn the required exam theory while learning how to design and make working circuits that solve problems. Some Y10's are also now starting out on courses in Engineering Design and Construction. These courses are going to allow pupils to broaden their knowledge and skills in areas relating to engineering even further.

Y11 have set off on a challenge to type up their first set of Manufacturing coursework. This is the coursework which supports the practical that they did at the end of last year which was set and launched by Phillips 66. All pupils have raised to the challenge well and we are all well on the way to achieving this with excellent detail being included.

All year groups will be completing Innovation Challenges throughout the year in Engineering that have been set by our employer partners. These will give them chance to investigate problems and creatively find solutions.

It's all drama, all the time in English this term! Y9 have been reading the novel: 'Tomorrow, When the War Began,' an exciting story, in which a group of teenagers fight back against invading forces. Y10 began their first GCSE text: the play 'An Inspector Calls,' and have been debating ideas around class and social responsibility. Finally, our Y11s are revisiting their drama texts - and poetry and prose and busy revising in lessons.

As we come to the end of our first half term, I write to thank you for the support you have given your child and the college over the past two months. We have successfully balanced the challenges of keeping pupils and staff as safe as possible during a global pandemic, whilst ensuring that high quality teaching continues. This has not been achieved without significant compromises by staff and I am taking this opportunity to publicly thank them as they approach the Autumn break.

As we move into term 2 and the winter months, with the national COVID-19 situation worsening, I ask for your continued support with understanding the challenges the college will continue to face. Please support us by checking your child's equipment and replace anything outstanding so when we return, they can quickly settle back into college and learning.

### Enrichment clubs next half term

Next half term we will be starting enrichment clubs after college. These will be offered to bubbles of students and so will be slightly limited to what we would have initially planned to offer and will be limited in number. We will aim to offer all courses to all bubbles by the end of the year and will try to accommodate all students who want to participate. Please see below for the offer for term 2. This is not compulsory.

Year 9	Year 10
Tuesday evening from 3.30-4.30pm	Wednesday evening 3.30-4.30pm
Bench Project- a design and woodwork project for the local community	Volley ball
Knex- a physics related building session	F24- building a greenpower kit car
Vex- building and programming robots	
Singing/music/drama	
Mindfulness	
F24- building a greenpower kit car	

### Changes to the times of the college day

Since we have bubbled lunchtimes it has become clear students don't need the amount of time for lunch that we previously had planned. Next half term we will be shortening lunchtime by 10 minutes which will mean students will be finishing college 10 minutes earlier. This will help with some of the times of the bus's students need to catch but also welcomed with the darker night's drawing in. Please see below the end of the college day for each year group.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 9	14.30	15.30 Optional enrichment until 16.30	14.30	14.30	13.10
Year 10	15.20	15.20	15.20 Optional enrichment until 16.20	15.20	13.10
Year 11	15.30	15.30	15.30	16.30	13.10

We wish you all a lovely half term with family and friends.

Best wishes Anesta and the UTC Team