

ARe/JWa

12 December 2016

Dear Parents/Carer

### **Christmas End of Term Letter from UTC Sheffield City**

As we come to the end of a very successful term, I would like to share some key highlights.

We have just completed mock examinations and these will help to inform on the position of all students as we plan careful interventions to ensure they are on the track to success.

A further very special highlight recently gained national recognition: The UTC attended and competed in its third WorldSkillsUK competition from the 16-19 November 2016 at the Skills Show at the NEC in Birmingham. This year the UTC had five teams competing across three different competitions. The competitions were industrial control, mechatronics (higher) and mechatronics (advanced).

The UTCs success in the skills competitions has continued this year. The results are as follows:

- Industrial Control – Jake Stuchbury-Wass and Daniel Pickering – GOLD
- Industrial Control – Owen Schofield and Michal Krol – Silver
- Mechatronics (advanced) – Tom Spires and Hannah Frost – Silver
- Mechatronics (higher) – Will Davis and Kamil Zmich – Bronze

This ranks the UTC as the fifth highest provider in the WorldSkillsUK medal tables for the whole of the UK and joint first placed provider for England.

Three students are through to the final interview stage for Cambridge University engineering degrees, having made successful applications and passed the entry test, they will undertake their interviews in early December. We wish them every success.

Four Y13 maths students have competed in the UK Maths challenge for 16 to 18 year olds. This is a competition aimed at the top 25% of maths students nationally. The students were immensely successful achieving the following prizes:

- Jake Stuchbury-Wass - Gold
- Oliver Smith - Silver
- Daniel Pickering - Bronze
- Mitchell Duncan – Bronze

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, from January, 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. Please could I also take this opportunity to remind you that full business dress, including black shoes, not trainers, is expected for ALL students.

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This Christmas, Ms Crowther is leaving us - I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brigidin for her special contribution to the UTC - firstly in the year before we opened, she was working on the innovative curriculum design and bringing to us many employers and as our Assistant Principal she has contributed significantly to our success in our fourth year of opening. She is now moving on to other projects and creative opportunities - we wish her well. We hope we may be working on exciting employer and university projects with her in the future.

Could I please remind you that mobile phones/electronic devices are not allowed out during lessons or project time. They should be switched off and in bags apart from break and lunchtimes. 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.

We will also be focusing on punctuality in the New Year, can I please ask you to support this by ensuring all students arrive at the UTC by **8.25am** ready for registration. We have made allowances for those arriving on trains very close to this time by informing tutors. All other students should arrive promptly to avoid missing vital learning time. Please also avoid booking holidays during term time, our evidence shows this does have a real impact on achievement and can also clash with the many examination dates throughout the year (January to July).

Y11 and Y13 students are planning their future pathways with deadlines for both UCAS University and Post-16 applications approaching. Please make sure your child has made the appropriate applications and seeks our support as necessary. We will continue to provide information and guidance for students relating to apprenticeships and further education routes throughout the spring term.

We are gaining very high levels of interest for Post-16 places next year, please remember our Y11 students have the advantage of a guaranteed place here at Post-16, provided they apply by **31 January** deadline and achieve 5 x GCSEs A\*- C including grades 4 or above in English & Maths (including a C or above in Science for the Engineering course) (or equivalent).

As we move into winter to prepare for the possibility of bad weather and heavy snow, I would like to let you know that information about possible UTC closures would 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 (BBC Radio Sheffield, Hallam FM, TRAX FM) and on their websites, as with other schools in the Sheffield region.

To support local charities, we have a non-uniform festive clothing or jumper day on our last day of term on Friday 16 December, voluntary contribution £1.00 per student. Also on **Friday 16 December we will finish at 2.20pm.** Any student who has transport issues can stay at the UTC till 3.55pm with Senior Leaders if required.

Thinking ahead to spring term starting on **Wednesday 4 January 2017:**

- Progress Tracker 2 Parental Consultation Evening will take place on **Wednesday 11 January**. To book an appointment to see your child's tutor please use the following link <https://utcsheffield.parentseveningsystem.co.uk> Log in using your child's name and date of birth.
- A UTC staff training day (closed to students) will take place on Friday 17 February 2017 (prior to February ½ term holiday)

Finally, wherever possible, please could you keep us up to date regarding your contact details. We constantly have to send information through electronically, so an up to date email address is helpful. Please contact [admin@utcsheffield.org.uk](mailto:admin@utcsheffield.org.uk) to update your information.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



**Alex Reynolds**  
Principal

