



UNIVERSITY
TECHNICAL COLLEGE BOLTON

Dear Parent/Carer

Term 1 2015 Update and Parental Engagement Evening -22nd October 2015

We are rapidly approaching the end of the first term and much has been achieved by students and staff in establishing personal learning journeys towards the promise of a university place, employment or further learning for every student successfully graduating.

Staff are in the process of setting targets with students on the basis of their performance in a range of cognitive ability tests. You may be aware that these are used to set interim targets until schools provide details of Key Stage 2 SAT results. As you can imagine not all schools are keen to cooperate in providing this information. Nevertheless, we will persist until we have all the necessary data to set challenging aspirational targets. Targets are always set in consultation with students. This provides those Year 10 students that have previously been set more challenging targets at another school the opportunity to engage in professional dialogue with staff. Equally, Year 12 students can share their career aspirations and Key Stage 4 GCSE performance.

Students are also being assessed in relation to the progress they have made over the last month. This data will feed into Parent's Evening on Thursday 22nd October from 15:00 until 19:00 and your child's first report or 'Progress Overview'. Your child will need to book a 10 minute appointment slot with their Academic Mentor – who will then provide you with a summary of their progress against targets, strengths as well as areas for development. Students should accompany their parent(s)/carer(s) and attend in uniform or business attire. Please find attached a reply slip for you to complete, as well as to provide feedback about your child's experience of the UTC to date. We will also provide more details of how you can support your child with homework, or more correctly independent learning challenges, in the evenings or at weekends whilst balancing the 9 to 5 working day.

Health Science students have been engaging well with our Explore and Discover Project Based Learning Programme on Cardiology. They have been set challenges by Dr Khan, Consultant Cardiologist with Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, focussed on acquiring specialist professional skills such as carrying out ECGs and investigating the causes of coronary heart disease. Engineering students have been exploring electronics in a project inspired by Warburtons.

Our latest Medical Series lecture provided by Professor Avijit Banerjee, Chair in Cariology & Operative Dentistry at King's College London Dental Institute at Guy's Hospital London, was well attended by students and parents. The Medical Series Lectures will continue following the half term break and will extend to focus on Engineering Technologies. These lectures provide students with the opportunity to explore future careers, as well as pose questions to experts in their academic fields. This follows best practice guidance as defined by OFSTED.

Students have also been benefitting from our enrichment programme by taking part in a wide variety of activities ranging from Latin for Medicine, Veterinary and Dentistry Students, through Football and Boxercise, to Medical Ethics. The range of activities provided also builds towards external accreditation such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Our Student Service Professionals have been working with Year 10 and Year 12 students to establish student leadership committees. The format of these leadership groups has been left totally for the students to devise in order to explore the advantages and disadvantages of different models of democracy. The last few assemblies this term having hosted 'hustings' for those students wishing to be elected into roles.

The Senior Leadership Team also completed a Learning Walk during the week beginning the 28th September in order to quality assure learning and teaching across the UTC. The behaviour of students was exemplary. Students were engaged in lessons, considerate, respectful and courteous. Clear routines were being followed in which student responded to the 'Every day is an Interview' behaviour management ethos.



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I look forward to welcoming you to the Parental Engagement Evening on the 22nd October 2015.

Best wishes

David Goddard
Principal