



Berkeley Green UTC – Weekly News

Friday 20th October 2017

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Having reached the end of our first term at SGS Berkeley Green UTC, we have much to celebrate and to look forward to. This week has seen the culmination of our first Employer Projects and the launch of our Fujitsu hub. All students now have their personal devices and we have our IT provider in over half term to change the set up so that they will be able to access the internet at home.

Students in English have been debating the future and as part of this have had the opportunity to reflect on the proud history of the site upon which we stand. It is therefore fitting to finish the term with this article from Stephen Miles, our Head of English.

Can I wish all parents and students a safe and restful half term.

Kind Regards

Paul Ramage

Principal – SGS Berkeley Green UTC

At Berkeley Green we aim to provide students with cutting-edge experience of industry and technology, and prepare them for employment both through our specialist curriculum and our employer links.

A recent debate in an English session, however, led to the interesting observation from some students that ‘We don’t know what the future will be like, so how we can prepare for it?’



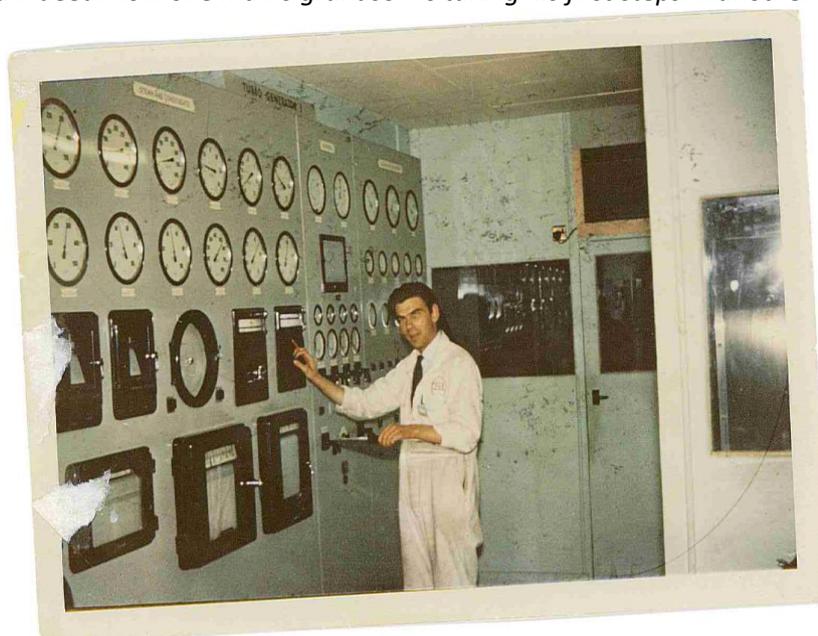
And whilst it's true that we can't see into the future, we can look at the past and the present and see what that teaches us.

In a delightful example of this, Charlie Hatten in Year 10 shared with us two wonderful mementoes of a time gone by at Berkeley Green. He showed us a beautiful 'Souvenir of the Inauguration of Berkeley Nuclear Power Station' from April 1963. This handsomely-presented book was full of calligraphy – 'font design' in a pre-digital age – and monochrome photographs, along with information about the nuclear industry and the technology being unveiled.

Charlie also shared with us a great photograph of his grandfather in the control room of the site soon after.

'Electricity cannot be stored, so when the housewife switches on a fire...' reads the opening page, in an age when the British coal industry was at its peak. This was just 54 years ago but the world is now a very different place indeed – and it was only 27 years later that the site stopped producing electricity.

The first workers at Berkeley were joining an industry that was almost brand new and yet that souvenir book seems very dated indeed: now one man's grandson is taking his first steps in another new venture at Berkeley – our UTC. What we learn from this story is that while technology continues to change our lives in ways we can never predict, the world will still need skilled, adaptable and open-minded individuals ready to meet the future when it comes. And here at Berkeley we hope to play a big part in that.



Celebrations

This week saw the conclusion of the first engineering and digital Employer Projects, which ended in some fantastic student presentations in Engineering and a great opportunity for Digital students to meet with influential figures from the world of IT. The student of the week in Year 10 is Leon Coles and in Year 12 for the second time is Fin Cottle.