



## Berkeley Green UTC – Newsletter

### Friday 5th January 2018

#### Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you and your families had a peaceful and relaxing break over the Christmas period. Students have, in general, returned positive and refreshed, ready to start the new term.

We have a few changes to announce, firstly that we have implemented new tutor teams so that Year 10 and Year 12 students meet together more regularly. Younger students will have more mature role models and conversely our older students will be able to further develop their leadership skills. A further benefit is that the change results in smaller groups of Year 10 students so that we can provide more personalised mentoring. Please ask your son or daughter who their tutor is and use these email addresses to contact them directly:

UTC1 - Rob Morgan                      [robert.morgan@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk](mailto:robert.morgan@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk)

UTC2 - Rich Williams                      [rich.williams@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk](mailto:rich.williams@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk)

UTC3 - Ruth Eades                      [ruth.eades@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk](mailto:ruth.eades@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk)

UTC4 – Jo Green                      [jo.green@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk](mailto:jo.green@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk)

(Except Thursday)

and Kevin Brown                      [kevin.brown@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk](mailto:kevin.brown@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk)

(Thursday only)

UTC5 - Jennie Pierce                      [jennifer.pierce@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk](mailto:jennifer.pierce@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk)

UTC6 - Graham Withers                      [graham.withers@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk](mailto:graham.withers@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk)

(Monday, Wednesday, Thursday)

and Kerry Annett                      [kerry.annett@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk](mailto:kerry.annett@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk)

(Tuesday and Friday)



Secondly, I am pleased to announce that Mrs Julie Hewer has joined our learning support team in order to provide additional support to students in English lessons as well as literacy interventions to small groups of Year 10 students.

We have also changed the way in which we support Year 10 students in their independent private study. This week we have published, in advance, the 30 hours of independent work that our students must complete during the next 5 weeks of the term. This is made up of 15 hours of study time during the UTC day, leaving 15 hours to complete at home, an average of three hours a week. Although homework is rarely popular with students, we have a duty to support them in developing their independent study and revision skills in preparation for external exams. Next week we will ensure that parents have access to the work set so that you can support and encourage.

The English Department have launched an exciting new program named Achieve 3000. The program is designed to allow students to independently develop their comprehension skills. It focuses on students reading a range of, reading level appropriate, non-fiction articles. For best results, students should ensure they are reading two articles a week: an article in private study and an article at home.

GCSE students sat formal examinations in English and maths before Christmas and have spent time this week evaluating their progress. Parents will receive progress reports on Friday 26th January. Parents' consultation evenings are on 26th February (Year 12) and 8th May (Year 10).

Over the next few months, students will working on employer projects in conjunction with AllCooper and BAE Systems. In addition, we have a visit from Schneider to talk about employment opportunities in the energy industry.

From this point forwards we will be formally communicating home on a fortnightly rather than a weekly basis. As always, please contact the office if you have any concerns.

Kind Regards

*Paul Ramage*

Principal