Berkeley Green UTC – Newsletter
Tuesday 15th May 2018

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

As summer arrives, then so does the examination season. As I write, our Year 10 digital students are sitting their first GCSE exam. They have all been expertly supported and have worked hard to ensure success, but that does little to calm the pre-exam nerves. Numerous other exams (mostly Year 12) follow in the next few weeks and I thank in advance our students for being considerate of others at this important time.

I would like to draw your attention to four items:

- Arrangements for the final two weeks of the summer term
- Work Experience
- Change of UTC working week consultation
- Parent governor elections

End of Term arrangements

Catch up days - For students who are fully up to date on their coursework in Digital, Engineering, Geography, Sport and Product Design, our two catch up days (Friday 13th and Friday 20th July) will be a rewarding day off. A minority of students who have got behind due to absence or lack of effort will be required to attend to ensure that they finish off the year in a strong position.

Employer Celebration Day (Wednesday 18th July) – all our employer partners will be visiting the UTC to celebrate the great work achieved by our students in their first year. There will be a formal prize giving and a BBQ. Parents of prize winners will be invited to attend in the afternoon.

Activity Day (Thursday 19th July) – Sport and e-sports competitions in the morning followed by a social activity in the afternoon

In summary, our final two weeks will be as shown below.

Date	Year 10
Mon 9th July	Normal timetable
Tue 10th July	Normal timetable
Wed 11th July	Normal timetable (WEx /work from home for Yr12)
Thur 12th July	Normal timetable
Fri 13th July	Catch up day

Mon 16th July	Normal timetable
Tue 17th July	Normal timetable
Wed 18th July	**Employer Celebration Day**
Thur 19th July	**Activity Day**
Fri 20th July	**Catch up day**

Work Experience

Despite our best efforts it has not been possible to find the quality of work experience placements for all our Year 10 students in our first year of operation. I have therefore made the decision to delay work experience for the majority until the week before half term in October of Year 11. This will have the added benefit of not clashing with the work experience programmes of our local schools. We have successfully arranged work experience for about 15 students and these placements will go ahead this summer. We will let these students know the details before the May half term.

Change of working week Consultation

I would like your views on our proposal to implement a minor change to the UTC working week to be introduced from September 2018. Currently our day runs from 9am to 16:20pm – significantly longer than a standard school day, allowing us to deliver 30 hours of contact time per week. The proposal is to introduce an early, 1.30pm finish on a Friday, reducing contact time to 28 hours. We can achieve the proposed change to the UTC week without any reduction in teaching time for examination subjects and employer projects. Students will have reduced time for supervised private study during the UTC week and as such will be required to complete some of their independent study work at home.

The consultation letter is attached to the email and from next week will be available on the website. We would like to hear your views by completing the attached slip, or via email by the deadline of Friday 15th June.

Parent Governor Elections

Nominations for the role are welcomed from parents and carers of students at the UTC who are passionate about education and would like to be a part of a dynamic Governing Body. The Governing Body aims to support myself and the Senior Leadership Team at the UTC to achieve outstanding education for young people who will contribute significantly towards the future workforce of the region within the areas of engineering, cyber and digital.

Details of what the role entails and a nomination form are attached to this email.

Kind regards

Paul Ramage