



## Berkeley Green UTC – Newsletter

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018

### Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Carers,

Since returning from the Easter holidays, students and staff have been fully focused on achieving the best possible outcomes especially in their specialist subjects. Last week, our trip to MACH 2018 at the NEC was a resounding success, enabling students to both learn about high tech manufacturing and engineering alongside gaining an insight into future careers. This week has been specialism week where, for 4 hours every day, Year 10 students have focused solely on their specialist subject to ensure the best outcome in exams this summer. Staff have been very impressed with the commitment and focus shown and many students have put themselves in a strong position to meet or exceed their target grade.

On Wednesday this week, we invited Sharon Houlton from the Infobuzz charity to lead workshops with our Year 10 students on drug and alcohol awareness. The emphasis was on helping young people become better informed by understanding the side effects of illegal and prescription drugs, to understand the law and where to go for help and advice. Please take the opportunity to talk to your child about the session.

We have been informed that young people locally are getting hold of prescription drugs such as Tramadol and Xanax. Tramadol is an opiate painkiller with similar effects to heroin. Xanax is the brand name of alprazolam, a prescription drug used to treat anxiety disorders and depression. If given to anyone for whom they have not been prescribed, they are classed as Class C drugs and supplying to others carries a significant prison sentence. The best place to go for drug advice in the first instance is the excellent FRANK website <http://www.talktofrank.com>.

Next week we will be back to a normal timetable for both Year 10 and Year 12. While the majority of students always meet our expectations for professional dress, a small minority have shown a drop in standards. Please remind students that black jeans are not appropriate and that a jacket is compulsory. We will be contacting parents next week where we have a uniform issue.

Thank you all for your continuing support. It has been fantastic to read some very positive social media comments over the last few weeks and to hear from parents of students joining next year about the personal recommendations that they have received from current parents.

Kind regards

*Paul Ramage*