

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2024 | MODULE 1

# THE LEIGH UTC

The Modular Newsletter of The Leigh UTC and Inspiration Academy



WHAT'S INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE:

**Key Visits**

**Messages from  
Head of  
College**

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**Student Voice**

**Wellbeing**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Remembrance Day - 11th November 2024

Y11 Mocks - 11th - 22nd November 2024

LBC Day - 15th November 2024

Cross Country Competition - 19th November  
2024

UTC Awards Evening - 20th November 2024

German Market Trip - 27th - 30th November  
2024

## TERM DATES

### HALF TERM

18th October 2024 - 5th November  
2024

### INSET DAY

4th November 2024

### NEXT TERM - MODULE 2

Start: 5th November 2024

Ends: 20th December 2024

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# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Students, Parents, Staff and our wider community,

Welcome back to another exciting academic year at Leigh UTC! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break and are ready for the opportunities that the new year brings. A special welcome goes out to our new Year 7 students and their families, who are joining our school community for the first time. We are thrilled to have you with us, and we are confident that you will quickly settle in and feel at home.

At Leigh UTC, we are committed to providing an outstanding education that not only challenges and inspires but also prepares our students for the future. This year promises to be full of exciting developments, innovative projects, and personal growth for everyone. Whether you're starting your journey with us or returning for another year, I encourage you to make the most of every opportunity, embrace new challenges, and support one another.

Together, we are greater than the sum of our parts!

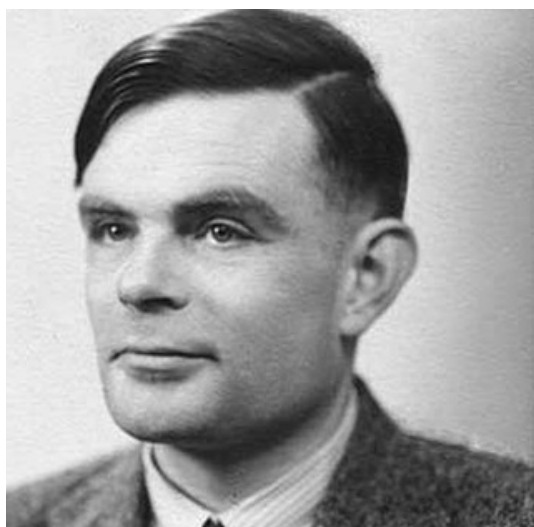
Best wishes for the year ahead,

Kind regards,

Kevin Watson  
Principal, The Leigh UTC



## MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF COLLEGE



“SOMETIMES IT IS THE PEOPLE NO ONE CAN IMAGINE ANYTHING OF, WHO DO THE THINGS NO ONE CAN IMAGINE” - ALAN MATHISON TURING

### ALAN MATHISON TURING - COMPUTER SCIENTIST

Dear Turing College,

As Head of Turing College I am incredibly proud of our students' achievements and the positive start we have made to this academic year. Building upon the successes of the previous year. We are committed to providing a thriving learning environment that fosters growth, innovation, and a sense of community.

Our students' dedication and hard work have set a high standard for the current academic year. We are inspired by their achievements and look forward to witnessing their continued success.

The autumn term brings new opportunities for learning and personal development. We are excited to see what our students will accomplish as they delve into new topics and challenges.

Our dedicated pastoral team plays an integral role in supporting our students' academic and personal well-being. Their unwavering commitment to ensuring every student feels valued and cared for is a testament to the positive and supportive culture within the academy. As Head of Turing College, I am honoured to work with such a talented and dedicated team. Together, we are committed to providing our students with an exceptional education that prepares them for a successful future.

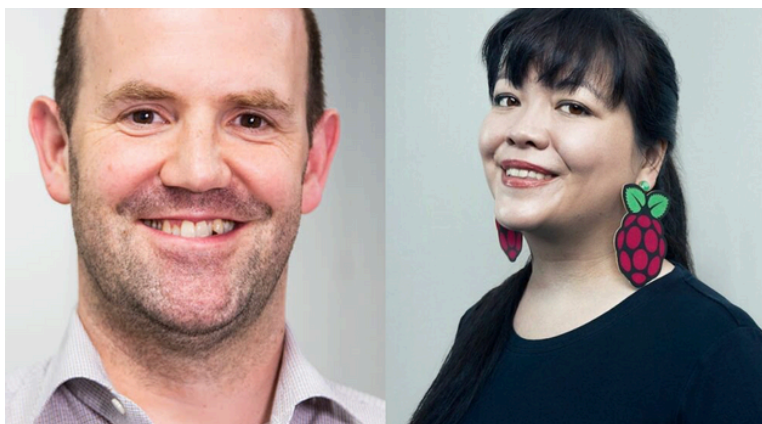
With the support of our students, staff, and community, The Leigh UTC is poised for continued success. We are excited to see what the future holds for our college and our students.

Kind regards,

Mrs Pamphlett



## MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF COLLEGE



“AS YOU RATCHET UP, SUCCESS SEEMS LESS UNLIKELY. THE AMBITION WAS ALWAYS THERE BUT THE SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE AND FEASIBILITY OF ACTUALLY ACHIEVING THE AMBITION HAS INCREASED OVER TIME. IT WOULD BE NICE TO BE NUMBER ONE” - EBEN & LIZ UPTON

### EBEN AND LIZ UPTON - INNOVATORS

Welcome, everyone! It is with great pleasure and excitement that I welcome you all back to another fantastic year at The Leigh UTC. To our returning students, welcome back! And to our new students and their families, a very warm welcome to our community.

As we stand at the threshold of this new term, I want to remind you all that this is a fresh start, an opportunity to begin anew. The beauty of a new term is that it brings with it endless possibilities. It's a chance to take on new challenges, explore new interests, and set new goals. Whether you're continuing your journey with us or just starting out, remember that each day is a new page in your story.

At The Leigh UTC, we pride ourselves on our specialism in STEM education. Our unique curriculum is designed to prepare you not just for exams, but for the real world. We encourage you to dive into your studies with curiosity and enthusiasm. Don't be afraid to ask questions, to experiment, to innovate. This is your time to discover what you are passionate about and to pursue it with all your heart.

To our new students, I understand that starting at a new school can be daunting. But rest assured, you are now part of a supportive and nurturing community. Your teachers, peers, and all the staff here at The Leigh UTC are here to help you succeed. Embrace this wonderful journey you are about to start with us. Make new friends, join clubs, participate in projects, and make the most of every opportunity that comes your way.

To our parents, thank you for entrusting us with the education and development of your children. We value your partnership and look forward to working together to support your child's growth and success.

As we embark on this new term, I encourage you all to be optimistic about the future. Yes, challenges may come, but with determination, resilience, and a positive attitude, there is nothing you cannot overcome. Believe in yourself, work hard, and most importantly, enjoy the journey.

Welcome back, everyone! Let's make this year the best one yet!

Mr Alamu



# THE LEIGH UTC'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

## Celebrating a Decade of Success: The Leigh UTC's 10th Anniversary

On the 25th of September 2024, The Leigh UTC celebrated its 10th anniversary with a celebration event that highlighted a decade of innovation, excellence, and community. This milestone marks a significant moment in the history of our UTC, where we reflected on the journey that has shaped The Leigh UTC into the distinctive institution it is today.



The celebration was graced by a distinguished group of guests, including current and legacy staff, representatives from the Leigh Academies Trust central services, the Baker Dearing Trust, governors, alumni, business partners, and mentors. Their continued support has played a pivotal role in the success of our students and the wider Leigh UTC community.

We were honoured to host a series of inspiring guest speakers who shared their reflections and aspirations for the future. Simon Beamish, CEO of the Leigh Academies Trust, delivered a stirring speech on the importance of innovation in education and the unique role that the Leigh UTC plays in this field. Frank Green CBE, a long-time supporter of UTCs across the country, spoke about the pioneering work of the institution and its impact on shaping young minds over the last decade. Kate Ambrosi, Deputy CEO at the Baker Dearing Trust, highlighted the vital role of partnerships and mentorship in fostering a culture of technical excellence, and Clive Barker, Chair of Governors, shared heartfelt remarks about the school's growth and development, commending the staff and students for their dedication and achievements.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of Service Awards to our existing staff. These awards symbolised the dedication, hard work, and commitment shown by our team members, some of whom have been with us from the very beginning. Their unwavering contribution is at the heart of our success and progress as an educational institution. Our catering partners, Cucina, ensured that the event was complemented with an exquisite selection of canapés and refreshments, beautifully served by our Clark College (Sixth Form) students. Their professionalism and enthusiasm reflected the high standards of The Leigh UTC and left a lasting impression on our guests.

As we look back on the past ten years, it's clear that our success is built on a foundation of strong partnerships, dedicated staff, and the support of our wider community. The Leigh UTC has always strived to provide a unique and inspiring education, preparing students for the future with real-world technical skills. The impact we've had on thousands of young people is a testament to the passion and dedication of everyone involved with the school. This anniversary not only celebrates our past achievements but also sets the stage for an exciting future. With the continued support of our partners and community, I have no doubt that The Leigh UTC will go on to achieve even greater things in the next decade.

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of this incredible journey. Here's to the next 10 years and beyond!



# OPEN DAY

The Leigh UTC is delighted to report the resounding success of our Open Events held this year. The commitment and enthusiasm demonstrated by our staff and students were instrumental in creating a memorable and informative experience for prospective students and their families.

Some of the highlights:

- Our students played a pivotal role in showcasing the college's vibrant learning environment, sharing their passion and enthusiasm with visitors.
- The open events received an overwhelming number of positive comments from attendees, highlighting the welcoming atmosphere and impressive facilities at Leigh UTC.
- The events provided a valuable platform to showcase our unique curriculum, state-of-the-art facilities, and the many opportunities available to our students.

The introduction of open mornings allowed prospective students and their families to experience the college's daily routine firsthand. This provided a valuable opportunity for visitors to see the college in action and gain a better understanding of our educational approach.

The success of our open events is a testament to the positive and supportive culture we have cultivated at Leigh UTC. Our commitment to providing a high-quality education and fostering a sense of belonging has resonated with the community.

We are incredibly proud of the environment and culture we have created at The Leigh UTC and look forward to welcoming new students to our vibrant community.



# ASSEMBLIES THROUGHOUT THE MODULE

**Assemblies this module have been diverse and impactful.**

The module began with Expectations at The Leigh UTC. Followed by a Literacy assembly to highlight the importance of literacy skills for *International Literacy Day* on 8th September and an environmental awareness assembly to mark the *International Day for the preservation of the Ozone Layer* on September 16th.

*International Day of Languages* is celebrated on 26th September and the German department Ambassadors and Student Voice gave an insightful and collaborative assembly to celebrate the use of languages and diversity in our communities.

October marks two important events, on the 10th October is *World Mental Health Day* which is important to the focus on the vitality of our mental health to be able to achieve our goals in life and to be proud of and present our best selves.

In addition, the whole of October marks *Black History Month*. Many assemblies and social media posts have been devoted to celebrating people, culture, diversity and the history of black people, including the *Black Lives Matter* movement and our shared heritage.

Lastly, to end the module, an assembly on Diversity and Inclusion was delivered to celebrate our differences and unique abilities by Heads of College and guest speaker Temi Afolabi

Check out some of these books, films, poems and documentaries to help celebrate *Black History Month*:

Book: ***Black and British*** by David Olusoga

Film: ***A United Kingdom*** (2016)

Poem: ***'I Come From'*** by Dean Atta

Documentary: ***Black and British: A Forgotten History*** by David Olusoga





# ASSEMBLIES - EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES



## European Day of Languages Celebrations at The Leigh UTC

On 26th September, we celebrated a very special occasion: the European Day of Language. The event is celebrated every year. The assemblies in all key stages which were supported by some German Ambassadors highlighted the importance of language learning, cultural diversity, and the rich linguistic heritage that makes the world so unique.

Learning languages opens doors to new worlds. It allows us to connect with people from different countries, understand their cultures, and broaden our perspectives. Whether you are learning German or any other language, each one gives you the power to communicate beyond borders and explore different ways of thinking. It also embodies the IB ethos of lifelong learning and the importance of engaging with the world from an international perspective.

One of the most exciting parts of the assembly was hearing from our staff members, who spoke in their home languages, sharing a few words, phrases, or greetings that reflect their culture. This reminds us of the beauty of linguistic diversity within our own school community.

# PRIMARY OUTREACH WORK

## Celebrating Culture and Collaboration with Dartford Bridge Primary School

In the second week of module 1 we had the wonderful opportunity to partner with Dartford Bridge Primary School for their vibrant and exciting Culture Day. This collaboration was a perfect blend of community spirit, cultural celebration, and student leadership.

Our students played a crucial role in making the event a success. A team of our budding photographers captured the energy and joy of the day, ensuring that every special moment was documented. These images were then showcased on Dartford Bridge's social media pages and website, both of which our students helped manage and update throughout the event. Their skills in digital content management brought a professional touch, allowing the day's festivities to shine online.

In addition to their behind-the-scenes work, our students were at the forefront, supporting parents and guardians who attended. They acted as guides, provided information, and made sure everyone felt welcome, demonstrating the warm and inclusive atmosphere both schools strive to create.

One of the main attractions of the day was the vibrant array of food stalls celebrating different cultures from around the world. Our students not only helped set up and run these stalls but also contributed to raising funds for local charities. The cultural food stalls were a highlight for visitors, offering a delicious way to celebrate diversity while contributing to a meaningful cause.

The partnership with Dartford Bridge Primary School for Culture Day was a proud moment for all involved. It highlighted the power of collaboration, the importance of community engagement, and the joy that comes from celebrating cultural diversity together.



We look forward to more opportunities to work with Dartford Bridge in the future, continuing to build connections and create impactful experiences for both our students and the wider community.



# DEPARTMENT NEWS - T-LEVELS UPDATE

The T-Level students have started the year with great enthusiasm and excitement, exploring various exciting projects and opportunities. This year promises to be packed with valuable learning experiences and industry insights.

The Year 12 T-Level Digital students have begun the course with a focus on Content Areas 1 and 2, enhancing their programming skills through hands-on practice in languages such as Python and JavaScript. As part of their preparation for the Employer Set Project (ESP), students are also gaining experience with tools like the Pandas library, used for data analysis, and MATLAB, essential for computational tasks. They are also learning how to create and manage Gantt charts for project planning, which will be crucial for both their ESP and future roles in the industry.

The Year 13 T-Level Digital students are focusing on their Occupational Specialism Project (OSP) and expanding their web development capabilities. This involves creating fully functional front-end websites, strengthening their coding abilities in HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, as well as coding the backend of websites and applications using Node.js, and linking to databases using SQL. These tasks are essential for building full-stack applications and give students hands-on experience in real-world software development. Some students are also preparing for their upcoming industry placements at Amazon, where they will gain invaluable experience working with one of the world's leading tech companies. This opportunity will allow them to collaborate with industry professionals, work on live projects, and develop a deeper understanding of the real-world applications of the skills they've acquired throughout the course.

Throughout the year, students will participate in various workshops and guest speaker events featuring professionals from companies like Google and IBM, where they'll learn about the latest trends and innovations in the tech industry.

In addition, T-Level students will engage in competitions and collaborative projects, where they'll get to showcase their skills in app development, artificial intelligence, and more. Many students are also working towards certifications in cybersecurity and AWS (Amazon Web Services), a highly valuable credential in cloud computing that will greatly enhance their skill set and employability.

We look forward to seeing the continued progress of our T-Level students as they embrace these opportunities and prepare for bright futures in the tech industry!

*“Being equivalent to three A levels, the T Level programme focuses primarily on the development of vocational skills to allow students to enter skilled employment, higher education or apprenticeships. Students pursuing T levels benefit from spending 80% of the course in the Academy and 20% comprises in a meaningful industry placement that allows them to put their theoretical learned at the Academy into practice.” - Challenge Partners Report.*

# DEPARTMENT NEWS - ART

## Celebrating Culture and Historical Figures through Art

During Black History Month our students are embarking on a hands-on art project focused on celebrating the cultural heritage and historical impact of three key figures: Asquith Xavier, Walter Tull, and Samuel Crowther.

For Samuel Crowther, students will research Nigerian places of worship and traditional patterns. From this, they will design and build a model of a place of worship that reflects his influence on faith and education

In tribute to Walter Tull, students are learning about his achievements in football, eventually being the first black footballer in Britain, playing for Tottenham Hotspur and his role as a war hero. They will design a commemorative coin in his honour and create a presentation box that highlights his life through images and text.

For Asquith Xavier, students are researching the traditional patterns and colours of Dominica, his homeland. They will use this research to design and paint trains, symbolising Xavier's groundbreaking career in British National Rail, and create a map showcasing his work between Chatham and Dartford.

This project allows students to combine research and creativity as they celebrate important historical figures through art.



# DEPARTMENT NEWS - BUSINESS

## Business & Enterprise Department

We would like to say thank you to our Bluewater Delegates:

**Angie Liddell** Bluewater Community Executive  
**Lindsay Williams** Ahead Partnership Project Associate  
**Claire Dunn** Bluewater Deputy Centre Executive  
**Duaan Lewis** Bluewater Retail Executive  
**Paul Allen** Bluewater Senior Engineer  
**Jenny Beavis** Bluewater Operations Executive



## Share Your Spark - First session

On Wednesday the 25th September, eight of our Year 10 Business students were invited to visit the executive offices in Bluewater to take part in a brand new mentoring initiative run by Ahead Partnership and the executives of Bluewater.

The first of three sessions saw the students being paired up with a mentor for an ice breaking and goal setting session by using the pen profiles created by the students before arrival.

The students then were taken on a 'behind the scenes' look at bluewaters impressive control room and community conference rooms. The logistics of controlling the safety of shoppers (with 100's of CCTV cameras around the centre) and the logistics of construction and delivery of merchandise for the shops to trade were explained in greater detail.

The students finished with a 'My skills check' session where they set mini goals to achieve before the next meeting.



# DEPARTMENT NEWS - BUSINESS

## Second Sessions at the Leigh UTC IA Boardroom

The Year 10 Business students welcomed the Bluewater and Landsec delegates to the UTC for this second session.

In this session following ice breakers, the students explored their zones of comfort, fear, learning and growth (see diagram). The students then worked with their allocated mentor on the main task of identifying a step by step design for an idea of using a space in Bluewater that should be unique from any other already trading in the Mall. In their final session next week at Bluewater the students will present their designs with their mentors to an executive audience.

## Coming up in the next edition of the magazine

- Year 12 Update on the developments of Young Enterprise
- Year 10 Price Water House trip - London
- Year 12 Finance Booster trip to Westfield



## Young Enterprise Company Program 2024

Year 12 Business students have launched themselves into the 2024 Young Enterprise Company Program competition.

The competition is a national event where students get to start up and run their own businesses from Sept-March 2025.

The students have weekly board meetings held in the UTC board room where they meet to discuss the weekly agenda for their business decision making.

Next month's report I will show the development of the business and which product or service they have decided to trade with!

# DEPARTMENT NEWS - DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

As the autumn term progresses, our Design and Technology department is buzzing with excitement and creativity. Our Year 11 students have embarked on their NEA projects, showcasing their original designs and manufacturing skills.

## Year 7: The Start of a Journey:

Our Year 7 students are embarking on their exciting journey in Design and Technology. They are exploring the fundamentals of design, innovation, and manufacturing, laying the foundation for their future studies.

## Building Skills and Confidence:

Year 8 and 9 students are continuing to develop their skills in cooking, engineering, and design. They are using increasingly complex machinery and pushing the boundaries of their creativity. Through hands-on experience and guidance from our talented teachers, our students are gaining confidence and becoming skilled designers and makers.

## Culinary Delights:

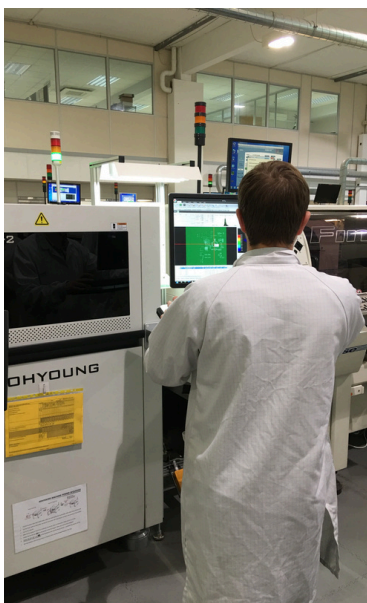
In our food lessons, students are honing their culinary skills and creating delicious and nutritious meals. Our focus on practical experience and hands-on learning ensures that our students develop a well-rounded understanding of food production.

## Year 11 Innovation:

Our Year 11 students are deep into their NEA projects, demonstrating their creativity and problem-solving abilities. They are designing and manufacturing innovative products that showcase their unique talents and understanding of design principles.

## A Year of Achievement:

As we move through the year, we are excited to witness the incredible achievements of our Design and Technology students. Their dedication, creativity, and hard work are inspiring, and we look forward to seeing the amazing projects they will create.



# DEPARTMENT NEWS -ENGINEERING

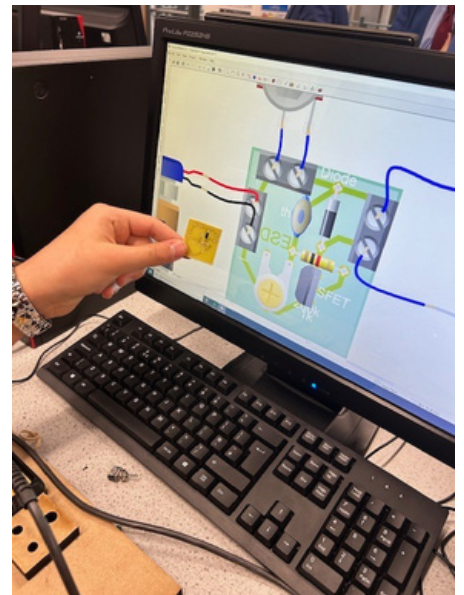
## Electronics Engineering Students Off to a Flying Start

Students in Year 10 and 12 enrolled in Engineering and Electronics are already diving headfirst into their courses, making impressive strides in just the first few weeks.

Year 10 electronics students have been immersing themselves in system design, quickly advancing to designing their own circuits. Projects include practical designs such as automatic fans, nightlights, and door alarms. After mastering PCB design, they're now bringing their ideas to life by soldering their circuits together. In the workshop, these budding engineers are also learning essential machining processes, using lathes, mills, and drills to craft their very own tap wrenches.

Year 12 students in the Engineering course have been sharpening their skills in CAD software, creating animated models of a Stirling engine. They've also taken on the challenge of machining an engineering vice and are now collaborating on an exciting group project: designing and manufacturing a custom BBQ, tailored to the specific needs of a client.

With such hands-on experience and innovation in full swing, it's clear that these future engineers are well on their way to mastering their craft!





# DEPARTMENT NEWS - ENGLISH

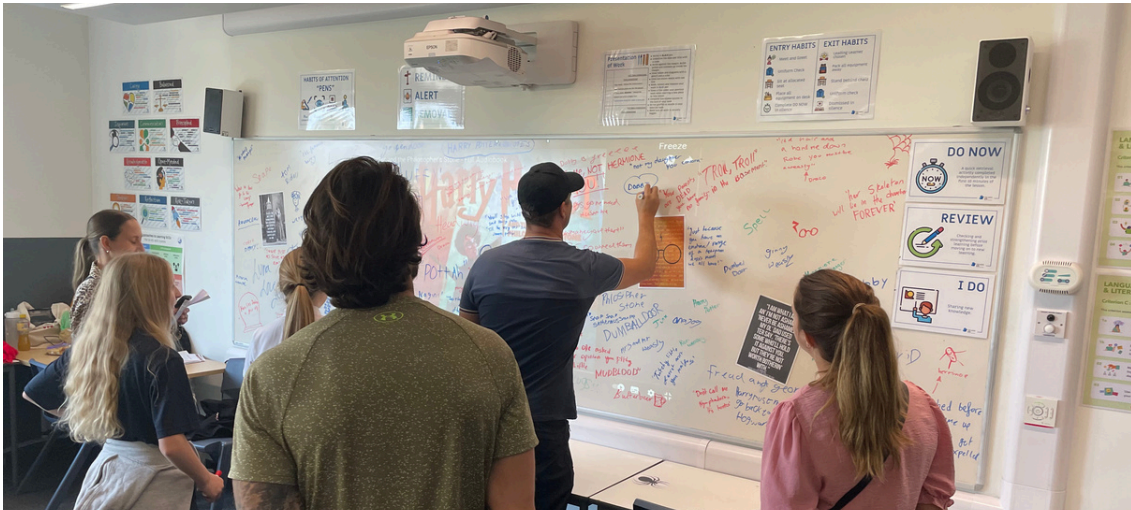
## KS3

Key Stage Three have had a wonderful start to the academic year!

Year 7 have begun their study of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, considering the characters and themes within the novel. They have used their IB Learner Profile Attributes to choose their own wands, and have enjoyed reading so far.

Year 8 have started studying Identity Poetry, learning about a different poem each week. They have enjoyed learning about the different contexts and stories behind each poem, and even competed in a slam poetry competition in their classes last week!

Year 9 have begun their study of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. They have really sunk their teeth into the tricky language and themes within the text. They have been particularly focused on the role of gender in the play, and the way Shakespeare shapes our view of Romeo throughout the text.



## KS4

Key Stage Four have had a great start to their GCSE studies this year.

Year 10 have begun their study of Dickens' A Christmas Carol which is one of their GCSE texts. They have enjoyed getting their head around the language and form of Dickens writing, and understanding how and why Scrooge is such a grumpy old man!

Year 11 have started their study of Shakespeare's Macbeth, which is one of their GCSE texts. They are enjoying learning about the twists and turns of Macbeth's story, and getting to grips with the old-English language. They are working hard ahead of their mocks when we return after half-term.

## DEPARTMENT NEWS - HISTORY

### Black History Month: Embrace the Past

I recently scrolled through my social media and came across a brief talk by an eminent historian come history teacher (since retired) who discussed the importance of history in education. He said simply that history roots us, without it we have no place in the world and if we are to have any hope of positively pressing forward we must study our collective history to help light the successful path ahead.

This struck me as being very pertinent as I write this article, having just witnessed a fantastic assembly on Black History Month by one of our resident Maths teachers. He obligingly explored The Windrush Generation who came from islands in the Caribbean to serve this island in the North Sea but yet were faced with torrents of abuse upon arrival by the very people they had helped in the Second World War and more importantly had uprooted their lives to come and help here.

However, more excitingly he delved into the rich culture that followed them across the Atlantic ocean, the food, the language, the mannerisms, the nuances of the culture. It dawned on me how lucky we are that our student body and our teaching body reflects some of this wonderful multiculturalism of our country and that we can have the opportunity to learn from one another and explore these alternative 'culturisms' without having to hop on a plane for twelve plus hours. It is simply on our doorstep!



Fundamentally it is our own historical past, be that empire, be that world wars, be that political turmoil that has resulted in our multicultural present. We can either try and turn our back on it and in the process deny our historical identity or we can embrace our unique diverse citizenship and, as suggested, light a successful path ahead.

Mr. Hicks

# DEPARTMENT NEWS - PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## Warm-Up: The Not-So-Boring Stretch!

We have been focusing on health and fitness components, testing and training and the importance of warming up and cooling down. Not only does warming up prepare our muscles for action, but it also boosts blood flow and helps prevent injuries.



## Components of Fitness: The Fab Five!

Now, let's dive into the fab five components of fitness we've mastered this module:

1. **Cardiovascular Endurance:** This is all about how well our hearts pump blood and keep us going. Remember those exhausting laps around the field? Turns out, they're helping us run faster when we're late for class!
2. **Muscular Endurance:** This is about how long we can keep going without feeling like we just climbed a mountain. Ever tried to hold a plank while your friends cheer you on? Talk about motivation!
3. **Agility:** Changing direction at speed, keeps us quick on our feet—perfect for dodging opponents in games.
4. **Balance:** The ability to maintain your centre of mass, over a base of support helps us stay upright during those intense workouts (or while trying not to topple over in gymnastics).
5. **Speed:** Putting the body parts through actions as quickly as possible. Well, who doesn't want to zoom past their friends in a race?

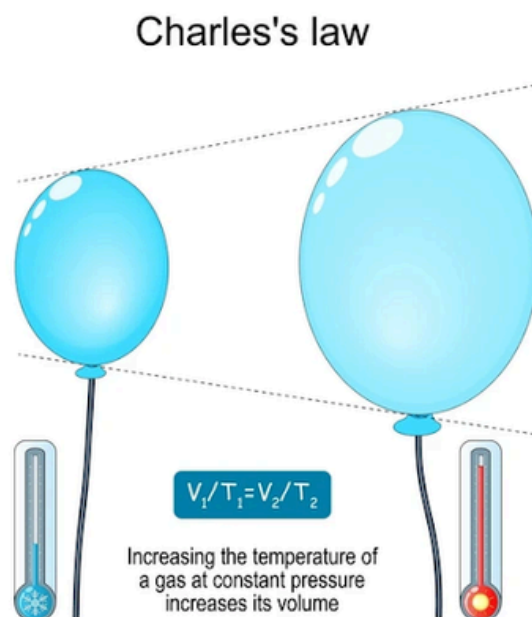
## Fitness Tests: The Reality Check!

To see how far we've come, we also tackled some fitness tests. These little challenges were both fun and eye-opening:

1. **Bleep Test:** This classic test measures our cardiovascular endurance. As we sprint back and forth between markers to the sound of beeps, it felt like a game of fitness tag! The goal? Keep up with the beeps, or risk being "out"!
2. **Cooper Run:** This 12-minute run is all about covering as much distance as possible. It's a true test of endurance!
3. **Illinois Agility Test:** Think of this as an obstacle course for speed and agility! We darted around cones, zigzagging our way to see who could navigate the course the fastest. Spoiler alert: it's way harder than it looks!
4. **Sit-Up Test & Push-Up Test:** How many sit-ups/ push-ups can you do in a minute? This test challenged our core strength and determination. Let's just say, we now know who's been secretly training and who might need a little extra core work!
5. **30m Sprint:** This short sprint was a test of pure speed. We lined up, ready to blast off like rockets! The thrill of the race and the finish line cheered us on.
6. **Balance Test:** Standing on one leg with our eyes closed? Challenge accepted! This test showed us that balance is harder than it looks, but with practice, we'll all be pros.

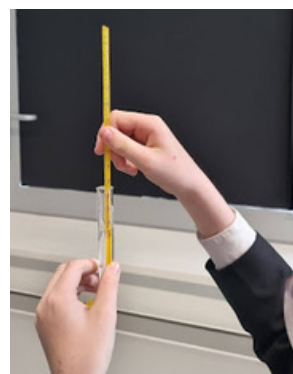
## DEPARTMENT NEWS - SCIENCE

In our recent A-levels physics lesson, we explored Charles's Law through a hands-on experiment that demonstrated the relationship between gas volume and temperature. By heating a gas and observing its expansion, students gained practical insight into this fundamental gas law. Understanding Charles's Law is crucial as it helps explain everyday phenomena, such as how hot air balloons rise and how weather balloons operate. This knowledge not only reinforces core physics concepts but also fosters critical thinking and problem-solving skills, essential for students pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.



In science, year 7 have started their first official investigation. They are designing an experiment to determine the best material to use in a drug capsule and using their knowledge of solubility to aid them. They have developed their **communication skills** by writing for different purposes in the form of a method and **collaboration skills** by working with others and identifying mistakes and ways to improve. The image above shows one of our Year 7 student's Henry, completing his solubility practical to test whether his chosen substance is suitable to be used for a drug capsule.

Meanwhile in Year 8, students have been investigating the identity of 4 unknown metals. They had been tasked with researching the differences in reactivity between metals and using this information to plan and carry out experiments to determine the identity of 4 unknown metal samples. They must then support their conclusion by evaluating their experiment and results.





## XC CLUBS AT THE LEIGH UTC

For updates about the XC Clubs please follow us on our social media feeds!  
[@theleighutc](https://twitter.com/theleighutc)

### Extra-Curricular Clubs Off to a Flying Start!

We're excited to share that our extra-curricular clubs have been up and running since the very first week of the module, and participation has been high! Students across all year groups have eagerly joined in, making the most of the fantastic opportunities to explore new interests and deepen their passions outside the classroom.

This module, we've introduced several exciting new clubs, including the Year 10 and 11 Music Club, Gaming Club, and Book Club, all of which have been warmly welcomed by students. Whether it's strumming a guitar, battling it out in a gaming competition, or diving into the pages of a new novel, there's something for everyone!

In addition to these new offerings, many of our popular clubs are back in full swing. The **German Club** is perfect for those keen to improve their language skills and immerse themselves in German culture. Sports enthusiasts have flocked to the **Basketball Club** and the **Football Club**, where students have the unique opportunity to train with Dartford FC coaches, taking their skills to the next level. For our tech-savvy students, the **Coding Club** and **STEM Club** are buzzing with activity, offering hands-on experiences in programming, engineering, and science projects. These clubs continue to inspire the next generation of innovators, giving them practical skills and a taste of real-world problem-solving.



But that's not all—Module 2 promises even more! Make sure to keep your eyes peeled for announcements on additional clubs and activities.



## XC CLUBS AT THE LEIGH UTC

For updates about the XC Clubs please follow us on our social media feeds!  
@theleighutc

Check out the new clubs timetable!



MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
Book club, 7:30am, Library	Reading, Puzzle and Lego club, Lunchtime, Library	Reading, Puzzle and Lego club, Lunchtime, Library	Reading, Puzzle and Lego club, Lunchtime, Library	Reading, Puzzle and Lego club, Lunchtime, Library
Reading, Puzzle and Lego club, Lunchtime, Library	German Culture & Ambassador, 15:15pm, A2.02		E-Sports, KS3, 15:15, 2.13	
KS3 Football, 15:15, Field	Art, 15:15pm, A0.17		KS3-5 Basketball, 15:15, PE Hall	
Gaming, 15:15, 2.03	KS4 Football, 15:15, Field		Science STEM, 15:15, 1.17	
	Coding, 15:15, 2.02		Y9&10 Music, 12:35, Lecture Theatre	



## Congratulations to the Fourth Generation of German Ambassadors

This module marks an exciting moment for The Leigh UTC and the German department. It is with great pleasure that we introduce and celebrate the newest group of student ambassadors, who have successfully completed their applications and earned the honour of "flying the flag" for the German department. The German "Botschafter" who received their prestigious badges in a special presentation with the Principal Mr Watson, will play a crucial role in promoting German language, culture and academic opportunities.

### What does it mean to be a German Ambassador?

The Ambassadors are students of German who are flying the flag for German language through various volunteering opportunities within the department.

Being a Language Ambassador gives you the opportunity to support and encourage pupils in different German classes.

This can help you with your communication and social skills and will also increase your self-confidence.

The German Language Ambassador Scheme was successfully introduced to The German Department at The Leigh UTC last year.

Plus you get to go on school trips and get to wear the German Ambassador badge!



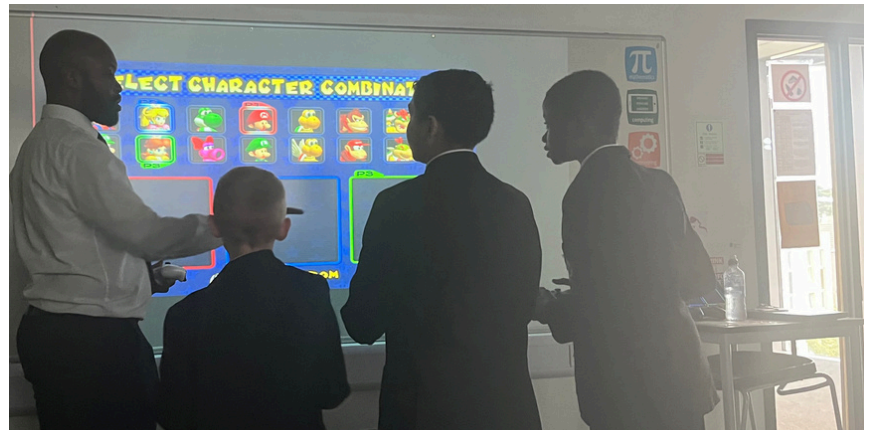


Maths club is a numbers paradise with puzzles and games for keen mathematicians

# MATHS CLUB

## Maths 🎮 Video Games

It's a new academic year and the maths team have upgraded from board games to yep, you guessed it, video games.



Our very own nerd extraordinaire, Mr Emengo, has conducted some technical wizardry to turn 2.02 into a gaming paradise for students of all year groups.

Currently the team are enjoying some vintage Mario Kart and are getting quite competitive on Monday afternoons. Mr Emengo has even taken the opportunity to buy some new controllers to avoid 'stick drift'!

If you're interested in gaming and want to know more, then please speak to one of the maths team, or alternatively, pop up to 2.02 in the UTC straight after school on a Monday and see if you can get Mario around the circuit before Yoshi!

## KS3 & KS4 BOOK CLUBS

### Book Club

There are two exciting book clubs being run in the English department in this module. Miss Benneworth is running a Key Stage Three book club on a Friday afternoon, and the group are reading *The Hate U Give*. Mrs Grigg is running a Key Stage Five book club on a Tuesday morning before school, which was requested by a group of keen readers.



KS4 & KS4 Book Clubs are an exciting opportunity to meet other keen readers and try something new!





# BASKETBALL CLUB

Basketball Club is a great experience to enjoy playing a sport you love and learn some tactical skills



## Year 7 and 8 Basketball Training Overview

This academic year has seen a fantastic start for our Year 7 and 8 Basketball training program. The students have been highly engaged, and their dedication is already paying off as we lay the foundation for a competitive season ahead.

### Training Focus Areas:

#### 1. Ball Skills Development:

Fundamental ball-handling skills are at the core of our training. Students are learning how to dribble with confidence, pass accurately, and improve their shooting technique. These skills are being developed through a mix of drills, one-on-one practice, and small-sided games that enhance their overall court awareness and agility.

#### 2. Health and Fitness:

Basketball demands high levels of fitness, and our sessions incorporate conditioning exercises that build endurance, strength, and agility. We emphasise the importance of warm-ups, cool-downs, and injury prevention. Students are also taught about the benefits of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and how proper fitness supports their performance on the court.

#### 3. Game Scenarios and Strategy:

As part of their progression, students are being introduced to various in-game scenarios. They are learning about offensive and defensive strategies, positioning, teamwork, and decision-making during real-time play. Scrimmage games are a regular feature, allowing them to put their training into practice and enhance their understanding of game flow.

#### 4. Friendly Matches and Fixtures:

We are excited to announce that the team's hard work will soon be put to the test with our **first set of fixtures** approaching. These matches will be an excellent opportunity for students to showcase their skills and experience competitive play. Additionally, we are gearing up for the highly anticipated **LAT Tournament**, where we aim to compete with other schools in our area.

With each training session, the team is building confidence, improving skills, and working together towards a successful season. We are thrilled to see their growth and look forward to the upcoming challenges and achievements.

# COMPUTER SCIENCE CLUB

Computing Club delves and explores the ever expanding mechanisms of computer technology



## Exciting New ESports Opportunities in Computer Science!

This module, we're thrilled to announce that the Computer Science department has kicked off the year by launching ESports, starting with the Nintendo Switch and Mario Kart 8!

As we move into the upcoming modules, we're excited to host special events. For this month we are celebrating music and culture in honour of Black History Month, encouraging diversity and inclusivity in gaming and computer science. Everyone is invited to join us every Thursday for the next three weeks as we play **Just Dance**—a fantastic way to celebrate culture through music, have fun, and promote diversity in our community.

Stay tuned for more details about future ESports tournaments, coming soon!

We can't wait to see you there and celebrate together!



UTC COMPUTING



# CODING CLUB



Coding Club is a hub to explore the excitement and complexities of coding to help students gain an understanding of the developing technology of our world

The Coding Club meets every Tuesday after school for KS3 students. So far, students have explored various activities on their Chromebooks. In Module 1, our focus has been on using Microbits, allowing students to experiment with a range of projects, such as creating scrolling messages and animated symbols. In recognition of the upcoming Black History Month, we have also encouraged students to create either a poster or a game using Scratch to raise awareness about the significance of this important month, which they can showcase later in the module. As we move into Module 2, we will hold a competition where students will have the opportunity to present their best game or coding project created with the Microbits. We invite new members who are keen to enhance their coding skills and learn how to work with microcontrollers like the Microbit to join us in learning Computer Science.



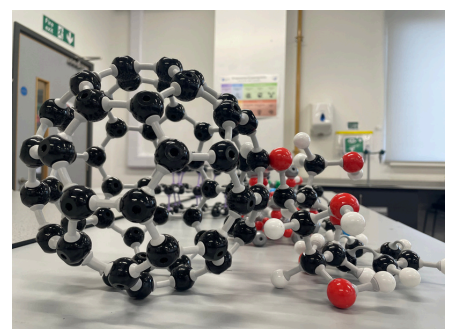
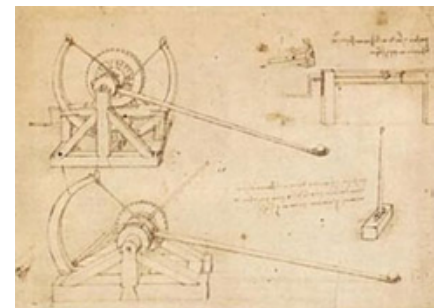
Stem Club is a unique experience to experiment and understand the science of past, present and future

# STEM CLUB

In the STEM club students have been investigating reaction times and gravity balls looking at how gravity affects the motion of objects.

Students are currently designing catapults, looking at what materials they need to use to build them, the shape of the catapult. They have had to research first to get ideas before they start making them.

They will then make them and test out how well they work and have been able to visualise a working catapult by looking at a model of Leonardo Da Vinci's design.



# FOOTBALL CLUB

Football Club is a great opportunity to play football with your mates, learn teamwork skills and play matches.



## Fixtures:

Year 7 Boys Football vs  
Wilmington Academy  
(01/10/24)

Year 7 Boys Football vs Stone  
Lodge (15/10/24)

Year 9/10 Boys (15/10/24)

Year 9/10 Girls (16/10/24)

LAT Handball Tournaments @  
LA Bexley

Cross-Country

District Cross Country  
(05/11/24) @ The Sir Geoffrey  
Leigh Academy ( Year's 7-11)

Cobham Hall Cross Country  
(08/11/24) @ Cobham Hall  
School ( Year 7 and 8 Only)

LAT Cross Country (19/11/24) @  
SJWMS ( Year 7 to 10 )



Year 9 and 10 boys competed in the LAT Handball tournament today hosted by The Leigh Academy Bexley.

It was a great event, with loads of sharp paced games. The students loved competing in the first ever tournament and thoroughly enjoyed the day. Congratulations to Hundred of Hoo for coming first and LAT Tonbridge who were runners up.

Kieran C was our player of the tournament and every player did brilliantly well and represented the academy with pride.



The Year 9 and 10 Girls Handball team played in the first ever LAT Handball event at LA Bexley.

In the first phase of the Tournament we were drawn against Stationers Crown Woods and Longfield.

In the second phase we were drawn against the SGL Acd and The Halley. The games in this phase were a lot closer with our girls scoring in every game of the tournament.

All of the girls did fantastically well and were exhausted by the end as we didn't have any subs, so every player played every minute of every game!

## Match report 01/10/2024:

The Year 7 Boys Football team played their first match in the District Cup on Tuesday against Wilmington Academy. After a delayed start to the match due to local traffic, the Leigh UTC started very well, with our two wing backs Archie B and Mason P getting forward and creating chances for both Callum R and Riley M. However the Leigh UTC couldn't make their early pressure count and Wilmington Academy managed to score the all important first goal. After that Wilmington started to dominate and scored three further goals before half time.

The second half was a bit scrappy with both sides making changes. Wilmington Academy eventually winning the game by 8-0. 'Man of the Match' for the Leigh UTC was Mason P.



# STUDENT VOICE



Hey there, Leigh UTC students!

We're your Student Voice Team, and we want to tell you about all the cool stuff we do. Basically, we're here to make sure your ideas and concerns are heard and acted on. It's your school, after all!



## What's Student Voice all about?

It's pretty simple: we give you a chance to have your say on things that matter to you and your mates. We work with teachers, parents, and governors to make our school better.

## What have we been up to this module?

We've been busy! Here are some of the things we've done:

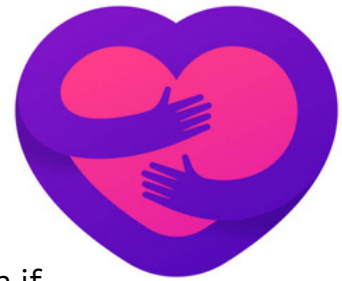
- 1. Culture Day at Dartford Bridge Primary:** We went to support at the local primary with their culture celebration day where they put on dance performances and sold foods from all over the globe from their different heritages.
- 2. Hello Yellow:** We raised money for YoungMinds, a charity that helps kids with mental health and wellbeing. We all wore yellow accessories to show support for the charity and raise awareness of this fantastic cause.
- 3. Macmillan Cancer Bake Sale:** Staff and students baked and sold cakes and raised money to help people with cancer.
- 4. Black History Month:** We've been working hard to celebrate and teach everyone about Black history and culture. We have held movie nights, promoted a reading, watching and listening resources to further educate the UTC community and promoted an Art competition.



How do we make things happen?	What do we focus on?
We listen to your ideas	Making sure everyone feels included and respected
We come up with plans	Improving how we learn in class
We share these plans with everyone	Making the school look and feel better
We talk to the big bosses (SLT) to make changes happen	Making sure you have great experiences at school
What else do we do?	What do we learn?
We tell teachers what we like about lessons	How to talk to different people
We report problems and try to fix them	How to understand new ideas
We organise rewards for when you do great things	How to work in a team
We do lots of charity work	How to help our community
We even help interview new teachers and give tours to future students	How to manage projects
We give talks in assemblies	How to debate and compromise

So that's us - the Leigh UTC Student Voice Team! We're here to make our school awesome and to help out in our community. If you've got ideas or concerns, come talk to us. Remember, it's your voice that matters!

# WELLBEING AT THE LEIGH UTC



Each module, staff are given a 'Wellbeing Wednesday', where sessions are offered by either a member of staff or an external company, for any member of the UTC to participate in if they wish to. Staff are also given the opportunity to leave at an earlier time to focus on something they enjoy to maintain that healthy work life balance.

Our social media platforms include a Wellbeing Wednesday 'tip of the week' for any of our followers to try. These are directed at staff and students, but can be taken up by any member of the UTC community and are also shared weekly for staff in the bulletin.

Below are a few examples of what we have focused on this module via *Action for Happiness*, who promote a monthly calendar of daily happiness and kindness tips, including:

- 'Self-Care September' - tips to make September a month to devote to taking care of yourself.
- 'Optimistic October' - tips to help you stay positive and upbeat and wave away those winter blues!

## Sources of Support:

**Mind:** Telephone number: 0300 123 3393



**Remploy:** This is a confidential service offering advice and support for mental health issues, anxiety and stress at work. Telephone number: 0300 456 8114

**Samaritans:** Offer emotional support 24 hours a day via a listening service, in full confidence. Call 116 123.



# WELLBEING AT THE LEIGH UTC

‘Self-Care September’ - includes tips to help devote time to self-care and look after yourself, for you and the community to try.

**Self-Care September 2024**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Find time for self-care. It's not selfish, it's essential	2 Notice the things you do well, however small	3 Let go of self-criticism and speak to yourself kindly	4 Plan a fun or relaxing activity and make time for it	5 Forgive yourself when things go wrong. Everyone makes mistakes	6 Focus on the basics: eat well, exercise and go to bed on time	7 Give yourself permission to say 'no'
8 Be willing to share how you feel and ask for help when needed	9 Aim to be good enough, rather than perfect	10 When you find things hard, remember it's ok not to be ok	11 Make time to do something you really enjoy	12 Get active outside and give your mind and body a natural boost	13 Be as kind to yourself as you would to a loved one	14 If you're busy, allow yourself to pause and take a break
15 Find a caring, calming phrase to use when you feel low	16 Leave positive messages for yourself to see regularly	17 No plans day. Make time to slow down and be kind to yourself	18 Ask a trusted friend to tell you what strengths they see in you	19 Notice what you are feeling, without any judgement	20 Enjoy photos from a time with happy memories	21 Don't compare how you feel inside to how others appear outside
22 Take your time. Make space to just breathe and be still	23 Let go of other people's expectations of you	24 Accept yourself and remember that you are worthy of love	25 Avoid saying 'I should' and make time to do nothing	26 Find a new way to use one of your strengths or talents	27 Free up time by cancelling any unnecessary plans	28 Choose to see your mistakes as steps to help you learn
29 Write down three things you appreciate about yourself	30 Remind yourself that you are enough, just as you are					

**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS** Happier · Kinder · Together

‘Optimistic October’ - includes tips to help remain optimistic and upbeat as we head into the winter ‘blue’ months

**Optimistic October 2024**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1 Write down three things you can look forward to this month	2 Find something to be optimistic about (even if it's a difficult time)	3 Take a small step towards a goal that really matters to you	4 Start your day with the most important thing on your to-do list	5 Be a realistic optimist. See life as it is, but focus on what's good	6 Remind yourself that things can change for the better
7 Look for the good in people around you today	8 Make some progress on a project or task you have been avoiding	9 Share an important goal with someone you trust	10 Take time to reflect on what you have accomplished recently	11 Avoid blaming yourself or others. Find a helpful way forward	12 Look out for positive news and reasons to be cheerful today	13 Ask for help to overcome an obstacle you are facing
14 Do something constructive to improve a difficult situation	15 Thank yourself for achieving the things you often take for granted	16 Put down your to-do list and do something fun or uplifting	17 Take a small step towards a positive change you want to see in society	18 Set hopeful but realistic goals for the days ahead	19 Identify one of your positive qualities that will be helpful in the future	20 Find joy in tackling a task you've put off for some time
21 Let go of the expectations of others and focus on what matters to you	22 Share a hopeful quote, picture or video with a friend or colleague	23 Recognise that you have a choice about what to prioritise	24 Write down three specific things that have gone well recently	25 You can't do everything! What are your three priorities right now?	26 Find a new perspective on a problem you face	27 Be kind to yourself today. Remember, progress takes time
28 Ask yourself, will this still matter a year from now?	29 Plan a fun or exciting activity to look forward to	30 Identify three things that give you hope for the future	31 Set a goal that brings a sense of purpose for the coming month			

**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS** Happier · Kinder · Together

## CONTACT US

Thank you to all the students, staff and families in our UTC community for supporting us through another successful module. If you have any feedback please do not hesitate to contact us on any of the following platforms.

THE LEIGH UTC,  
THE BRIDGE DEVELOPMENT,  
BRUNEL WAY,  
DARTFORD,  
KENT,  
DA1 5TF

PHONE: 01322 626600

EMAIL: [WWW.INFO@THELEIGHUTC.ORG.UK](mailto:WWW.INFO@THELEIGHUTC.ORG.UK)

## QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS?

Should you wish to discuss any concerns with your child's learning, the first point of contact should be your child's Form Tutor or their Student Services Manager.

To get in touch, use; [info@theleighutc.org.uk](mailto:info@theleighutc.org.uk)

The SEND Team can be contacted directly via the email address; [SEND@theleighutc.org.uk](mailto:SEND@theleighutc.org.uk)

## ADMISSIONS

For information regarding admissions please email; [admissions@theleighutc.org.uk](mailto:admissions@theleighutc.org.uk)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us to stay updated on news, events and other fun activities going on at The Leigh UTC on our social media feeds!



[@theleighutc](https://www.facebook.com/theleighutc)



[@theleighutc](https://www.x.com/theleighutc)



[@theleighutc](https://www.instagram.com/theleighutc)