

THE LEIGH UTC

The Modular Newsletter of The Leigh UTC and Inspiration Academy



WHAT'S INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:

Key Visits

**Messages from
Head of
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Y7 & Y8 5-a-side Football tournaments - 13th and 14th January 2025

Dartford Academy Primary School engineering workshop - 15th January 2025

Y11 Parents' Evening - 16th January 2025

Y8 & Y13 Parents' Evening - 30th January 2025

Y12 Parents' Evening - 27th February 2025

All years' LAT Swimming Gala - 6th February 2025

TERM DATES

NEXT TERM - MODULE 3

Start: Tuesday 7 January 2025

Finish: Thursday 13th February 2025

INSET DAYS

Monday 6th January 2025

Friday 14th February 2025

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Students, Parents, Staff and our wider community,

As we conclude another vibrant and productive module at Leigh UTC, I am delighted to share highlights of our journey so far in this academic year. Module 2 began with a purposeful and insightful INSET day focused on understanding and supporting students with ADHD. This session reinforced our commitment to ensuring every student thrives within an inclusive and nurturing environment.

In the second week, the entire academy came together to pause and reflect during our Remembrance observance. This meaningful moment allowed our students and staff to honour those who have sacrificed for our freedoms, instilling a sense of gratitude and responsibility in our community.

Another standout event was our first *Learning Beyond the Curriculum Day* of the academic year, which provided students in Years 7 to 10 and Clark College Sixth Form with the opportunity to explore enrichment activities that deepen their learning and broaden their horizons.

We were also thrilled to host our annual Awards Dinner, a prestigious occasion made possible by the generous support of our valued business partners. This event celebrated the exceptional achievements of our students, highlighting their dedication and excellence.

Finally, we ended the module on a joyful and festive note. Our catering partners, Cucina, treated staff and students to a spectacular Christmas dinner, creating a warm and celebratory atmosphere. Many students showed their support for our chosen charities by donning festive jumpers for the occasion, demonstrating their generosity and community spirit.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the magazine, which captures the essence of life at Leigh UTC during Module 2. Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to strive for excellence in all we do.

Warm regards,

Kevin Watson
Principal, The Leigh UTC



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF COLLEGE



“WE CAN ONLY SEE A SHORT DISTANCE AHEAD, BUT WE CAN SEE PLENTY THERE THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE” –
ALAN MATHISON TURING

ALAN MATHISON TURING - COMPUTER SCIENTIST

Dear Turing College,

As the festive season approaches, I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our entire school community. This year has been filled with remarkable achievements, both academically and personally for members of our college. Our recent Awards Evening was a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students. It was inspiring to see so many young people recognised for their academic achievements and contributions to the school community.

Inspired by the legacy of Alan Turing, our students have demonstrated exceptional problem-solving skills, creativity, and resilience. Our staff have continued to work tirelessly to create a supportive and stimulating learning environment, fostering a love of learning and a spirit of inquiry.

We are incredibly proud of the progress made and the positive impact we have had on our students' lives. As we look forward to the holidays, let's take a moment to relax, recharge, and celebrate our accomplishments.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break filled with joy, laughter, and quality time with loved ones.

May the new year bring you happiness, health, and continued success.

Sincerely,

Mrs Pamphlett



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF COLLEGE



“EXCITED TO MAKE THE
TREMENDOUS BENEFITS
OF ROBOTICS
UNIVERSALLY
ACCESSIBLE” - EBEN &
LIZ UPTON

EBEN AND LIZ UPTON - INNOVATORS

As we approach the end of module 2, I'm filled with joy and pride reflecting on the remarkable resilience and effort by our students and the tireless efforts of our dedicated staff.

Our classrooms have buzzed with intellectual curiosity, as students have delved into challenging subjects and developed a deep love for learning. Our teachers have gone above and beyond, creating engaging lessons, providing personalized support, and fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment.

Beyond academic success, our students have flourished in their personal growth with one of our very own students being nominated for the local youth council. We've witnessed our students soar as they participated in various extracurricular activities, sports events, and celebrations.

I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our stakeholders who keep on contributing to the success of our academy. Especially those who were able to make it to our awards evening, this spectacular celebration, honoring the outstanding achievements of our students and business partners, never fails to inspire. Also I want to say a big thank you to the parents and guardians who have been stoic in their support for the school with their children.

Our Christmas spirit was truly magical, with the Christmas jumper day and Christmas lunch bringing joy and festive cheer to everyone.

As we embark on the Christmas break, I wish all our students and staff a joyous and restful holiday season filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments with loved ones.

May the new year bring renewed energy, fresh opportunities, and continued success for everyone.

Happy Holidays!

Mr Alamu



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR FOR LEARNING FOR POST 16

“ONE DAY YOU WILL THANK YOURSELF FOR NOT GIVING UP” -YVONNE CLARK



YVONNE CLARK - ENGINEER

As the Director of Learning for Post 16, I am immensely proud to reflect on our remarkable cohort this year. We are experiencing our largest Post 16 intake yet at the UTC, and these students continue to inspire me with their exceptional qualities. They are an incredibly thoughtful, ambitious, and dedicated group who demonstrate remarkable academic potential and personal commitment. What truly stands out is how students from diverse educational backgrounds have seamlessly integrated into our UTC family, bringing unique perspectives while embracing our community's ethos with genuine consideration and enthusiasm.



The remarkable journey of our students extends beyond their academic achievements. Recently, we were privileged to host a distinguished visitor from Oxbridge who delivered an inspiring talk about university life at Oxford and Cambridge. This incredible opportunity provided our students with invaluable insights into these prestigious institutions, igniting aspirations and broadening their horizons. The presentation not only offered a glimpse into the academic rigour of these world-renowned universities but also motivated our students to set ambitious goals for their future educational destinations.



Clarke College has been buzzing with incredible student energy and engagement over recent weeks, demonstrating why our students are truly outstanding ambassadors for the institution. On 15th November, a motivated cohort of students ventured to the What Next? careers fair at London Olympia, where they proactively explored university stalls and company apprenticeship stands, gaining valuable insights into their future pathways and networking opportunities.

Moreover, the students stepped up brilliantly during the Post 16 open evening, serving as articulate and engaging ambassadors who showcased the vibrant learning environment and opportunities at Clarke College. Their commitment, enthusiasm, and willingness to go above and beyond have truly highlighted the calibre of our student body, demonstrating that Clarke College nurtures not just academic excellence, but also leadership, community spirit, and personal development. These activities underscore the holistic educational experience at Clarke College. Students are empowered to learn, grow, and make meaningful contributions both within and beyond the classroom.



Regards, Syreeta Martin
Director for Learning, Post 16

LEIGH UTC HONORS REMEMBRANCE DAY WITH A HEARTFELT TRIBUTE TO "IN FLANDERS FIELDS"

On Monday, 11th November, Leigh UTC marked Remembrance Day with a poignant ceremony that united students and staff in honoring the sacrifices of those who served in conflicts past and present. The central theme of the day was the enduring legacy of the iconic poem *In Flanders Fields* by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, whose evocative verses brought added depth to the commemorative atmosphere.



**“IN FLANDERS FIELDS, WHERE
THE POPPIES BLOW...”**

A Moment of Reflection

In the run up to the day we had a week of assemblies, where the significance of Remembrance Day was shared with students. A respectful two-minute silence was observed at 11:00, a powerful moment that filled the academy with reverence. As the clock struck, the Last Post played, evoking emotions and drawing the audience into a collective state of gratitude and reflection.

Keeping the Memory Alive

As the poppy wreaths were laid and the assembly dispersed, the words of McCrae lingered in the minds of all present. Leigh UTC's Remembrance Day celebrations not only honored the past but also inspired the students to carry forward the torch of remembrance. Through the powerful lens of *In Flanders Fields*, the school community reflected on the courage and sacrifices of those who came before, renewing their commitment to peace and unity for generations to come.

The Power of *In Flanders Fields*

Central to the ceremony was a reading of *In Flanders Fields*. Each verse was delivered with heartfelt emotion, reminding attendees of the human cost of war and the resilience symbolized by the poppies that “blow between the crosses, row on row.”

Mr Richter emphasized the enduring relevance of McCrae's words, noting how the poem serves as a bridge between history and the present. "The message of *In Flanders Fields* encourages us to reflect on our freedoms and responsibilities," he said. "It reminds us of the importance of remembrance and the duty we have to preserve peace."

ROCHESTER BRIDGE PROJECT



FM Conway: A Valuable Partnership

We're excited to be working closely with FM Conway on a variety of projects that benefit our local community. Their recent collaboration with our Year 7 students on the Rochester Bridge project was a fantastic opportunity for our students to learn about engineering and construction.

With our year 7 students, we aim to inspire and motivate them to pursue STEM careers right from the beginning, exposing them and feeding their curiosity around STEM careers and opportunities. This partnership with FM Conway aligns with our mission to provide our students with real-world experiences and opportunities to develop essential skills.

We look forward to continuing our strong partnership with FM Conway and exploring future collaborative projects.

About FM Conway:

FM Conway is a leading infrastructure services company operating in transportation, the built environment, and public realm. Whether working on small maintenance schemes, major frameworks, or large complex projects, our vision is to bring clear thinking, innovation, and efficiency to challenges within the built environment. Working on behalf of both communities and businesses, we have developed a self-delivery model, which combines in-house consultancy expertise with frontline operational excellence.

From initial inspection through to design, delivery, refurbishment works, and ongoing maintenance, this approach enables us to supply all the services required to keep the nation's infrastructure and open spaces operating effectively and efficiently.



THE LEIGH UTC ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Celebrating Excellence

The Leigh UTC was proud to host its Annual Awards Dinner on Wednesday, 20th November 2024, celebrating the remarkable achievements of its students and partners. The prestigious event was attended by distinguished guests, including Lord Baker, a prominent advocate for technical education, and Frank Green, Chairman of Leigh Academies Trust.

Held in the inspiring surroundings of the Leigh UTC, the evening was a tribute to the hard work, talent, and innovation displayed by students and collaborators alike. Awards were presented to students who were in Years 10 and 12 during the last academic year, recognising their outstanding academic and technical accomplishments.



The evening was generously sponsored by an array of our valued business partners, including CSB, FM Conway, Kenard Engineering, Alcatel Submarine Networks (ASN), Sam Learning, and Cucina. Their ongoing support plays a vital role in empowering students and fostering meaningful connections between education and industry.

Awards were presented by Leigh UTC staff, who proudly aligned the presentations with their subject specialisms, highlighting the breadth and depth of expertise within the UTC community.

In addition to student awards, the Business of the Year Award was presented to Alcatel Submarine Networks, honoring their invaluable partnership and contribution to fostering real-world opportunities for students. The evening was enhanced by the exceptional catering provided by Cucina, the Leigh UTC's catering partner, whose culinary expertise added a touch of elegance to the celebrations.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of a bespoke trophy to Lord Baker, crafted by Leigh UTC alumni working at Kenard Engineering. This trophy symbolised the strong connection between the UTC, its graduates, and the industries it collaborates with, underscoring the importance of education as a bridge to future innovation and success.

Principal Kevin Watson commented: *"The Annual Awards Dinner is a cherished tradition at Leigh UTC. It allows us to reflect on the incredible achievements of our students and the strong partnerships that enrich our learning community. We are deeply honored by the presence of Lord Baker and Frank Green, whose ongoing support inspires us to push the boundaries of education and technical excellence."*

The Leigh UTC looks forward to continuing its mission of shaping the innovators and leaders of tomorrow, with events like this serving as a testament to the shared success of students, staff, and partners.

AMAZON AND T-LEVELS

Celebrating T -Levels at The Leigh UTC

This module has been an exciting and rewarding time for our T-Level students as they've taken their skills and knowledge into real-world environments.

Digital T-Level Students Impress at Amazon HQ

Our Digital T-Level students have excelled during their placements at Amazon's London headquarters. Collaborating with Amazon's professional teams, they have been contributing to the development of innovative digital products, some of which are planned for production. Recently, they showcased their progress in an impressive and professional presentation to staff, students, and Amazon employees. Their hard work and creativity have truly shone through, earning them well-deserved praise.



Meanwhile, our Engineering T-Level students have embarked on their initial work placements at various prestigious locations, including ASN (Alcatel Submarine Networks). Early feedback from employers has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the students' professionalism and eagerness to learn. We're incredibly proud of how they've embraced this opportunity to gain practical experience in the field.

My Experience with the T Level Course

By S Mulla, Year 12 T-Level Digital Student

My experience with the T Level Digital course has been incredibly positive so far. The program is packed with fascinating topics and plenty of opportunities to dive into programming; both of which I've thoroughly enjoyed learning and applying through our classroom projects. I chose this course because it offers the perfect balance: a chance to achieve excellent grades while equipping me with the skills and knowledge needed for further education. What excites me the most is the upcoming 45-day industry placement. This will provide a unique opportunity to gain real-world work experience and get a glimpse into what working life is truly like.

For me, combining hands-on experience with a strong academic foundation is a huge advantage. I'm confident it will open doors to exciting opportunities and set me on the path to a successful career. So far, the T-Level journey has been rewarding, and I look forward to what's next!

My T-Level Journey in Digital Design and Production

By N Bawonda - Year 12 T-Level Digital Student

Studying T-Levels in Digital Design and Production has been an amazing experience so far! The course has given me the chance to gain hands-on experience with industry-relevant tools that are essential for my future career. What I love most is how engaging and exciting the subject is, it keeps me looking forward to every lesson. This journey has been incredibly rewarding, and I'm excited about what new opportunities and challenges the future holds for me.

AMAZON AND T-LEVELS

My OSC Journey: Building Skills for Success

By S Robinson - Year 13 - T-Level Digital student

As part of my OSC, I have been focusing on the key specifications required to excel in this project.

My journey began with mastering HTML, my first programming language, which I plan to pair with CSS to create a visually appealing and functional front-end for my website. Once the front-end design is complete, I'll move on to Python and Flask to develop the back-end functionality, ensuring the site operates seamlessly.



Creating a website isn't just about the code; it's also about understanding the needs of both future users and clients. By focusing on inclusivity and accessibility, I aim to accommodate a diverse range of people. Justifying the various design and functionality aspects of my website will be crucial for evaluating its success, usability, and compatibility in real-world applications.

This experience is not only enhancing my technical skills but also teaching me how to think critically and design solutions that are practical and user-friendly. I'm excited to see how this project evolves and contributes to my development as a digital professional.

A Call for New Partnerships

As we continue to expand our T-Level programme, we are keen to establish new partnerships with businesses in digital production, engineering, and marketing. If you are interested in offering meaningful work placements for 17-18-year-old students, please get in touch.

Visit our website at <https://theleighutc.org.uk/post-16/t-levels/> or email our director of T-Levels at Jay.wright@theleighutc.org.uk to find out more.

Let's work together to shape the next generation of industry professionals!



LONDON LIONS BASKETBALL TRIP

London Lions vs Surrey 89ers: A Night of Basketball Magic

The Copper Box Arena pulsed with energy as our UTC students descended upon the iconic Olympic Park venue, transforming an ordinary evening into an extraordinary basketball experience. From the moment our students entered the arena, the electric atmosphere was palpable. The students were leading the chants and were involved with the other fans creating an electric atmosphere.

The game itself was mesmerising with both teams putting on a masterclass. The London Lions and Surrey 89ers delivered a masterclass in basketball technique, showcasing:

- Slam dunks that seemed to defy the laws of physics
- Precision passing that our students can bring back to the UTC court
- Buzzer-beaters that kept us on the edge of our seats
- Defensive plays that demonstrated incredible skill and determination

For our students, this was more than just a basketball game. It was a live demonstration of passion, teamwork, and commitment. Our young athletes witnessed firsthand the dedication required to excel at top-tier competitive sports and we are looking forward to more trips like this in the future.

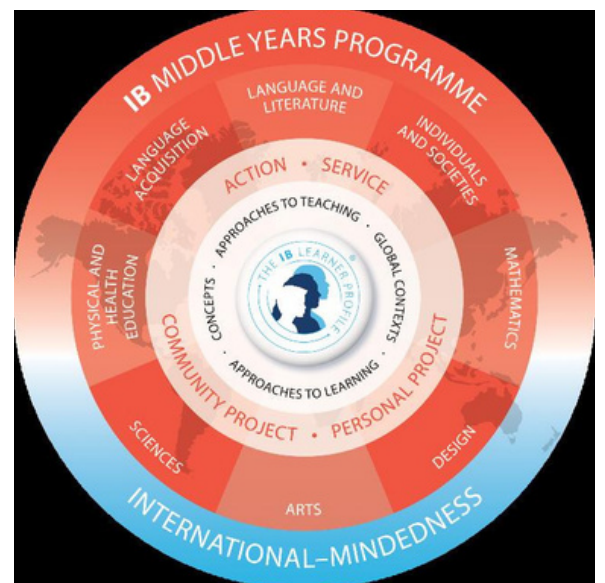


MYP ASSESSMENT WEEK

During the week beginning Monday 2nd December, students in KS3 were completing their MYP subject assessments within lessons ready for staff to report on their progress so far. Well done to all the students who took these assessments seriously and made a concerted effort to apply their knowledge and skills.

These summative assessments which are used to evaluate students' learning at the end of a unit of work allow staff to provide a final judgment of the learning that has taken place, identify gaps in knowledge and identify what the next steps are to support students to improve. Each subject has 4 set assessment areas known as criteria A, B, C and D and students will have been assessed on a minimum of 1 of these criteria in every subject. Details of each criteria per subject are available to see on our website.

During the course of the academic year students will be awarded an MYP Interim Grade and at the end of the year a MYP Final Grade will be awarded based on the summative assessments that have taken place during the course of the year.



PRIMARY SCHOOL OUTREACH PROGRAM



10 Great Reasons to become a scientist or engineer

1 Develop all this...

- Artificial limbs for the injured and medicine for diseases like Ebola
- 3D games consoles and solar powered laptops
- Make-up that automatically matches skin tone
- Systems to reduce the risk of flooding
- Driverless vehicles and spacecraft for future tourists
- Smart fabrics with in-built digital technology
- Supercomputers that predict the effects of climate change

...and more

2 Work in your favourite industry

From food, medicine and renewable energy to sport, film and music - **scientists and engineers are needed everywhere**

3 Earn great money

On average, engineering apprentices **earn almost double** the national minimum apprentice wage.

Minimum apprentice wage vs Engineering apprentice wage

The average starting salary for people with engineering and technology degrees is **20% higher** than for all graduates.

4 Make a difference

Help tackle some of the world's biggest challenges, like responding to natural disasters, improving cyber security and developing clean energy sources

5 Be in demand

Between now and 2024, around **2.5 million** jobs requiring science, engineering, technology and research skills need filling.

6 Choose your own route

Go to college, do an apprenticeship, get a university degree or combine different routes.

7 Have your pick of future careers

Capture tidal energy, design a robot, discover a cure for cancer... or do a job that doesn't even exist yet!

Continuing with maths and science - especially physics - keeps your options open for as long as possible for jobs in science, engineering.

8 Travel the globe

Work in dynamic teams with people from different backgrounds, on exciting projects all over the world.

9 Gain respect

Be remembered for your work and go down in history for designing incredible structures, making awe-inspiring advancements in technology, discovering planets or identifying crucial genetic codes.

10 Design, create and innovate

Subjects like design and technology, art and computing can help pave the way to careers that revolutionise the way we live.

LAPA working with Engineering

Young Engineers Take Shape
Leigh UTC recently hosted a group of Year 6 students from Leigh Academy Primary School.

These budding engineers spent time in our workshop, designing and crafting impressive cam toys, whilst learning to use different tools and to a brief with a christmas theme.

Their enthusiasm and skill were truly inspiring, showcasing the potential of the next generation of engineers.

ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies at The Leigh UTC remain topical, highlighting important events and raising awareness of different needs in society.

Module 2 was jam-packed with relevant information and content for our students starting off with **Remembrance Day** to pay tribute to the many men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country in old and current wars. We remember them.



Followed swiftly with an informative assembly about **Anti-Bullying**, drawing attention to the parameters of the harm it causes, consent and emotional, mental and physical effects it can have on us all and why its important to promote respect and tolerance.

Half way through the module, assemblies discussed the importance of **Health and Wellbeing** and how we can all look after ourselves better, also celebrating our differences and nuances as human beings with a fascinating assembly on **Disability Awareness Week** and the power of neurodiversity in society. **Road Safety Week** was also a focus, including how to stay safe when our attention is not always vigilant in a busy area.

Towards the ending of the module, we have enjoyed delivering a varied mixture of assemblies on our T-Levels programme, Human Rights and why its important that we are aware of our own rights and how to enforce them, and lastly, celebrating cultures and religions at Christmas time, to come together and learn traditions from each other.

Module 3 will feature more riveting and insightful assemblies to educate our young people on the importance of remembering and learning from events in the past, so that we can look forward to the future with a more-rounded perspective.

Awareness Days Assemblies coming up in M3:

- New Year, New Beginnings - 7th - 10th January 2025
- STEM Education - 13th - 17th January 2025
- Holocaust Remembrance - 20th - 24th January 2025
- Kindness and Compassion - 27th - 31st January 2025
- National Apprenticeships Week - 3rd - 7th February 2025
- Internet Safety - 10th -13th February 2025



17-23 November 2024

#RoadSafetyWeek

Delivered by Brake the road safety charity Sponsored by

AUTOGLASS

BAKER DEARING VISIT

On Friday 6th December, The Leigh UTC had a visit from members of the Baker Dearing Trust, Jim Wade and Daniel Locke-Wheaton, who have a long-standing professional association with the Leigh UTC, highlighting the importance of technical education and supporting university technical colleges deliver employment focused curriculums.

Also attending the visit, was Clive Barker, Chairman of the Board of Governors, a familiar face and regular visitor to our school since its conception.

Four students, two year 7, Reggie and Layla, were accompanied by two members of the Student Voice team, Keira, year 9 and Alex, also year 9 who enthusiastically showed our visitors around the building and did us proud, whilst they took ownership of the task to promote and celebrate our school achievements and facilities.

Our visitors toured the UTC and IA buildings, looking in on different lessons, including Art, Food Technology, English and lastly a tour of the Library.

“Abstract knowledge and reasoning need to be linked to the ‘real world’ through practical applications. This is the philosophy behind UTCs, created by Baker Dearing.”

UTCs, through their association with employers and universities, through project-based learning, and through a focus on technical subjects, bridge the gap between the world of education and the world of work. Today, there are 44 UTCs open across England, educating 20,000 students, and supported by more than 400 employers and universities.

THE BAKER DEARING EDUCATIONAL TRUST MISSION STATEMENT:

“The Baker Dearing Educational Trust supports (UTCs) to deliver a high-quality, industry-focused curriculum to students. Established in 2009, the trust sits at the centre of the UTC network and is uniquely placed to provide co-ordinated support to, and advocacy for, UTCs, as well as communications both within the network and to a broader audience.”



Reference:
<https://bakerdearing.org/work-with-us/what-we-do/>

LBC DAY

Learning Beyond the Curriculum: A Day of Enrichment and Discovery

This year's first Learning Beyond the Curriculum (LBC) day was a phenomenal success, offering students across all year groups the chance to immerse themselves in exciting, educational experiences outside the classroom. Both Upton and Turing students demonstrated exemplary behaviour throughout the day, making staff immensely proud of their enthusiasm, respect, and maturity. These trips not only deepened students' understanding of their subjects but also created wonderful memories and strengthened the positive relationships between students and staff.

Turing

- **Year 7: Gravity**

Turing's Year 7 students enjoyed an action-packed day at Gravity. The energy and camaraderie displayed during the trampolining and fitness challenges were infectious, making the day a fantastic start to their LBC experience.

- **Year 8: Royal Naval College**

Year 8 students ventured to the Royal Naval College in Greenwich, where they delved into the history of British maritime power and architecture. The guided tours and interactive workshops were engaging, and students left with a deeper understanding of the UK's naval heritage.

- **Year 9: Imperial War Museum**

The visit to the Imperial War Museum was a moving and thought-provoking experience for Turing's Year 9 students. Exploring the exhibits on global conflicts gave them a new perspective on history and its impact on the world today. Their respectful behavior and mature reflections were a credit to the academy.

- **Year 10: Natural History Museum**

Turing's Year 10 students explored the wonders of our planet at the Natural History Museum. From ancient fossils to cutting-edge research on biodiversity, students were inspired to think critically about humanity's relationship with the natural world.



LBC DAY

Learning Beyond the Curriculum: A Day of Enrichment and Discovery

Upton

- **Year 7: Leeds Castle**

Upton's Year 7 students stepped back in time at the stunning Leeds Castle, exploring its rich history and breath-taking grounds. Students were captivated by tales of medieval life and enjoyed interactive workshops. Their curiosity and respect for the site were evident throughout the day, and they left with a deeper appreciation for British heritage.

- **Year 8: London Docklands**

Year 8's visit to the London Docklands brought the dynamic world of global trade and urban regeneration to life. Students explored the Museum of London Docklands, learning about the area's transformation and its historical significance. Their insightful questions during the guided tours showed their engagement and eagerness to learn.

- **Year 9: Science Museum**

Upton's Year 9 students were fascinated by the wonders of science and innovation during their visit to the Science Museum. From interactive exhibits to ground-breaking technological advancements, students had the opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world applications.

- **Year 10: Silverstone**

Year 10 revved up their curiosity at Silverstone, the home of British motorsport. The trip offered an incredible behind-the-scenes look at the engineering and innovation behind Formula 1. Students were inspired by the science, engineering and teamwork required to achieve greatness in the fast-paced world of motorsport.



Sixth Form: University Visits

Sixth-form students embarked on university visits, giving them valuable insight into higher education and future opportunities. Engaging tours and sessions provided a glimpse of university life, motivating students to aim high and achieve their academic goals.

The first LBC day of the academic year not only enriched students' knowledge but also nurtured a love for learning beyond the classroom. The academy is immensely proud of the students' enthusiasm and willingness to embrace these unique experiences. We look forward to building on this success in future LBC days, continuing to inspire and empower our young people.

GERMAN TRIP



Wednesday, 27th November 2024

This festive season, the magic of Germany’s renowned Christmas markets came alive for 45 lucky students as they embarked on an unforgettable 4-day trip to **Cologne and Aachen**. Known for its enchanting holiday spirit, Cologne was the perfect destination to experience the festive traditions that make German Christmas markets a global treasure.

After a 3 o’clock departure the group arrived at their first stop in Köln – the Panorama Tower which is an observation platform. To get there, the group had to take the elevator, which zoomed to the 28th floor within seconds.

Thursday, 28th November 2024

The second day was a “Day of Connection and Learning”: Students Visit The Geschwister Scholl Gymnasium in Aachen

After another early start, the students embarked on an exciting day in Aachen where they visited their German link school. This cultural and educational exchange offered the students a unique chance to strengthen international friendships and experience life in a German school.

For many, the visit was a joyful reunion as some students reconnected with their German friendship groups.

The students joined lessons at the school, immersing themselves in the German education system. From interactive discussions to observing classroom dynamics, they gained first-hand insight into the similarities and differences between their own schooling and that of their German peers.

The day was not just about academics—it is about connection. Through shared lessons and time spent together, the students experienced the warmth and hospitality of their German hosts. It was a day of learning, not just in the classroom, but through meaningful interactions that transcend borders.

This visit to Geschwister Scholl Gymnasium is a testament to the power of international friendships and the value of cultural exchange. It’s a reminder that education goes beyond books—it’s about building bridges, broadening horizons, and creating memories that last a lifetime.



GERMAN TRIP



Friday, 29th November 2024

A Visit to the Iconic Cologne Cathedral: A Masterpiece of Gothic Architecture

During their journey to Cologne, the students had the opportunity to visit one of the most famous landmarks in the world—the majestic **Cologne Cathedral (Kölner Dom)**. The Cathedral was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996.

Saturday, 29th November 2024

A Sweet Experience at the Lindt Chocolate Museum: Learning, Tasting, and Pure Bliss!

As part of their German adventure, the students visited the famous **Lindt Chocolate Museum** in Cologne—a paradise for chocolate lovers and an unforgettable treat for all the senses! The visit began with an engaging tour of the museum, where students learned about the fascinating history of chocolate. No visit to the Lindt Chocolate Museum would be complete without tasting fresh chocolate from the iconic **chocolate fountain**. Students dipped wafers into the flowing, velvety chocolate and savoured the rich, creamy flavour. It was a truly indulgent moment that delighted everyone's taste buds. Before leaving, many students picked up delicious Lindt chocolates and unique gifts from the museum shop to bring home—a little piece of this sweet experience to share with family and friends.

The Lindt Chocolate Museum visit was not only educational but also a delicious celebration of one of life's greatest joys—chocolate!

An Unforgettable Day at Phantasialand: Thrills, Chills, and Delicious German Treats!

The students spent a magical day at **Phantasialand**, one of Europe's most exciting theme parks. From adrenaline pumping rides to festive activities and traditional German food, it was an action packed day. One of the highlights was ice-skating in Phantasialand's winter wonderland.

The Journey Home: Crossing the Channel via Le Shuttle

As their German experience drew to a close, the students began their 35 minute journey back to England, travelling through the **Le Shuttle** on the **Eurotunnel**. The Channel Tunnel is a railway tunnel, opened on May, 6th 1994 and is the longest underwater tunnel in the world, measuring 50 kilometres long and 45 kilometres wide.

Danke Schön und Auf Wiedersehen!



BUSINESS TRIP

Price Waterhouse Cooper Embankment Offices visit Year 10/12 Wednesday 6th November - New World New Skills School Series

On this day our Year 10 and 12 Business students were invited to the 'New World New Skills' PWC series in the prestigious PWC Embankment Offices. The series is collaborated by PWC staff who volunteer to work with our students on topics such as Tax, NI Contribution and Pensions.



The morning session also included a tour of the prestigious offices in Charing Cross to show the working environment and spectacular view over the London landmarks from the 9th Floor board room. With its open plan the students could see staff working spaces and meeting rooms.



The afternoon session focused on employability skills and key skills when applying for jobs in global businesses such as PWC. Students proudly presented their work in front of their peers and PWC employees. Students agreed that the day provided them with development of their communication, team working, numeracy and leadership skills.

BUSINESS TRIP

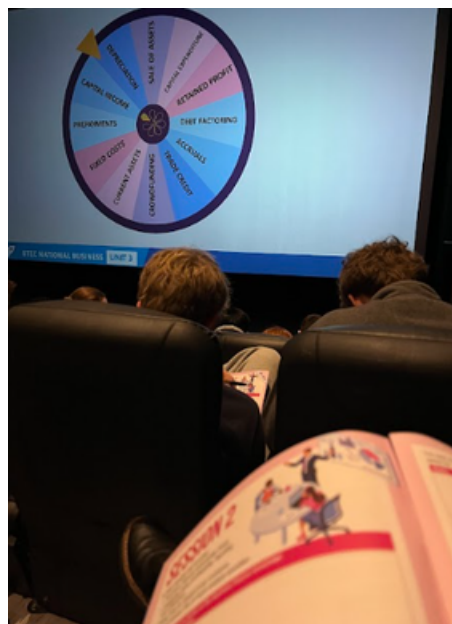
Student Review of Tutor2U Finance Grade Booster Session

On Friday 29th of November 2024 me and my classmates attended a grade booster activity in the Vue cinema, Westfield Stratford. In the session, we gained a better and more developed understanding of the assessment we will be taking on Unit 3 Personal and Business Finance in January. For me personally, I can strongly say that it has helped me develop various new and effective skills to approach tasks I know little about, and in the space of four hours, know 5 times the amount compared to what I knew that same morning. It also made me realise that I knew more than I thought I did, this was through the lecturer's engaging way of informing us all, asking us lots of questions and keeping us interacting as they progressed through the course.. Overall I think it was a very good and useful experience and would definitely recommend it to people in the similar position to me, who just needed that little bit of guidance to straighten the path ahead of them.

S Williams, Year 12 Business Student

At the end of November on the 29th me and my business associates took a trip up to Westfields Vue cinema for a more important business booster session with Tutor2u. Imagine a whole interactive cinema experience all about business finance to help you with your upcoming business finance paper. It was very informative. We took our seats and it began. We were taught tricks to help us save time during the paper, for example on 6 and 8 marker questions you do not need a conclusion you only need to evaluate your points that will save me time when I go to do the real thing. We also learnt how to break into the 10-12 mark barrier so we could get the best possible marks. The whole experience was very informative and left me feeling much more confident going into the real thing. If you are in a similar position to me I would highly recommend this to you.

O Mitroj, Year 12 Business Student



LAT CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

The start of this module saw an exciting launch across all Leigh Academy Trust Schools of the annual Christmas Card Design Competition. Each school was invited to take part and students encouraged to either draw, paint, photograph or graphically design on a computer their original designs for this year's Christmas card that will be used on behalf of the LAT. As a school the hunt was on for a design to be submitted for this competition on behalf of The Leigh UTC.

We had a tremendous response with designs handed in virtually and in person and it was clear to see many students had really taken their time and thought creatively about how their Christmas card designs would look. Competition was fierce and all the entries were whittled down to our top 5 and then a poll was held amongst some of our staff to find the winner.

Congratulations goes to Emilia S in Year 8 for the winning Leigh UTC entry that has been submitted to the LAT for the overall competition. We were so impressed with Emilia's design that we have even had some cards printed on behalf of our school using her drawn image. Special recognition also needs to go to our four runners up for their creative and fantastic designs, well done to Alfie C (Year 8), Brooke C (Year 8), Christie (Year 9) and Kye F (Year 7).



Winner: Emilia S (Y8)



Runner-Up: Christie A (Y9)



Runner-Up: Kye F (Y7)



Runner-Up: Brooke C (Y8)

STUDENT ELECTED FOR KCSC

Celebrating Alex H: A Year 9 Inspiration!

We are thrilled to announce an incredible achievement by one of our own: Alex H in Year 9, who has been elected to represent young voices as part of the Kent County Student Council! This well-deserved honor comes as a testament to Alex's dedication and hard work as a member of our Student Voice team. His unwavering passion for improving the local community and enhancing student experiences has left a lasting impression on peers and staff alike.

Alex's vision for a cleaner, more exciting, and safer environment for young people, both now and in the future, is truly inspiring. Whether through championing eco-friendly initiatives, advocating for engaging activities for youth, or emphasizing safety in our local area, Alex demonstrates the values we hold dear as an academy: leadership, compassion, and a drive for positive change.

We are incredibly proud of Alex and have no doubt he will bring the same energy and determination to his role on the Kent County Student Council as he has shown within our academy. We wish him every success as he embarks on this exciting journey to make a difference for young people across the county.

Principal Kevin Watson commented: *"I am delighted to congratulate Alex on being elected to represent Young Voices. This is a remarkable achievement and a testament to Alex's dedication, leadership, and passion for making a difference. We are incredibly proud to see one of our own stepping up to give a voice to young people across the county. I have no doubt that Alex will represent our UTC and community with great integrity and enthusiasm."*

Well done, Alex—you are an inspiration to us all!



"I am very pleased to have been elected, and look forward to working with Kent County Student Council to help the community in our locality" - Alex H, year 9



DEPARTMENT NEWS - ART

This term, Year 7 has been exploring patterns from a variety of cultures, delving into the rich history and symbolic meanings behind these beautiful designs. So far, students have been developing their understanding of repeat patterns, but they're now working towards creating stunning 3D sculptures that incorporate cultural patterns in exciting and innovative ways. Fantastic work, Year 7!

Year 8 students have been working hard to complete their positive propaganda pieces, designed to raise awareness of global issues that matter to them. These thought-provoking works aim to inspire change and promote positivity. Keep an eye out around the school for their incredible creations, which will soon be displayed to spark conversations and encourage action. Well done, Year 8!

Year 9 have been fully immersed in their Icons project, honing their digital skills and experimenting with mixed media techniques. Inspired by the surreal work of Loui Jover, they've created thoughtful responses that integrate his unique style. Students will finish the project by blending the influences of previously studied artists to create original and meaningful pieces that showcase their deep understanding of artistic inspiration. Amazing progress, Year 9!

Our Year 10 students have been busy exploring new mediums for their Natural Forms project. They're developing impressive proficiency across a wide range of techniques, producing highly creative and skillful outcomes.

A huge well done to Year 11 for their hard work in completing coursework and preparing for their final pieces! Your dedication and enthusiasm are shining through. Keep that momentum going, and we can't wait to see your outstanding final outcomes.



DEPARTMENT NEWS - BUSINESS

Young Enterprise Company Program 2024: Citrus Spray Success

Year 12 Young Enterprise has celebrated impressive success with its innovative product, Citrus Spray. This lemon and lime sprayer is a practical and fun tool that extracts fresh juice directly from citrus fruits, allowing users to add a burst of flavour to their dishes and drinks with ease.



Designed for versatility, the Citrus Spray is an essential addition to any kitchen, perfect for enhancing recipes with fresh citrus zest. It's equally indispensable for parties, where it adds flair to cocktails and garnishes. Its compact design, ease of use, and vibrant functionality make it an appealing choice for customers.

The team behind the product has marketed it brilliantly using the catchy slogan, "Brighten Your Day with Citrus Spray." This memorable tagline emphasises the product's ability to bring zest and brightness to everyday life.

Sales have been highly successful! See the Young Enterprise team if you haven't got yours already.



DEPARTMENT NEWS - DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Innovation and Excellence

We're thrilled to share the latest updates from our Design and Technology department. Our students continue to impress us with their creativity, ingenuity, and dedication.

NEA Success Stories

Our Year 11 students have been working tirelessly on their NEA projects, demonstrating exceptional design skills and problem-solving abilities. We're incredibly proud of their commitment to excellence.

Culinary Creations

Our Year 11 Hospitality students have been honing their culinary skills and creating mouth-watering dishes. Their dedication and passion for food are truly inspiring.

A Focus on Practical Skills

Our hands-on approach to learning ensures that our students develop a strong foundation in practical skills. From computer-aided-designing (CAD) software tools to woodworking, our students are gaining valuable experience that will benefit them in their future studies and careers.

We're incredibly proud of the dedication and hard work of our students and staff. Together, we're shaping the future of design and technology.



DEPARTMENT NEWS - COMPUTING

UTC COMPUTING



Computer Science

It's important to stay informed about the evolving digital landscape your children engage with daily. With **Internet Safety Week** on the horizon, here's how you can support your child's online activities.

Social Media Awareness

1. **Know What They Use:** Take an interest in the platforms they frequent (e.g., Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok). Discuss the benefits and risks.
2. **Promote Privacy:** Encourage them to use strong passwords and adjust privacy settings to control who sees their content.
3. **Discuss Digital Footprints:** Remind them that what they post online can have long-term consequences. A "Think Before You Post" rule can be helpful.
4. **Be Open:** Create a safe space where your child feels comfortable discussing online interactions, both positive and negative.

Supporting with Computer Science

1. **Encourage Problem-Solving Practice:** Sites like Code.org or practice platforms like W3Schools can help reinforce learning through coding challenges.
2. **Focus on Revision Tools:** Use flashcards for key terms like algorithms, binary, and cybersecurity.
3. **Mind Healthy Screen Time:** While computer science often requires screen use, balance study sessions with breaks to avoid burnout.
4. **Stay Informed:** Engage with their coursework—ask about their latest project or topic.

Save the Date: Internet Safety Week (starting 10th February 2025) is a great opportunity to revisit online safety at home.

reference: daydream education

Online Safety Follow the SMART rules to help stay safe online.

- S** Stay **safe** online by not sharing your personal information.
- M** Do not **meet** anyone who you have only become friends with online.
- A** Do not **accept** messages and friend requests from people you do not know.
- R** Not everything online is **reliable**. People online are strangers and you can't always trust everything they say.
- T** Tell an adult you trust if anything happens online that you do not like.

Be careful what you share online!
Stop and think before you share information online.
Don't say or do anything that you wouldn't do in the real world!

T-LEVELS
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

T - LEVELS
OPPORTUNITIES AT THE
LEIGH UTC

For more information about the T-Levels study programme, please email info@theleighutc.org.uk

DEPARTMENT NEWS - ENGINEERING

Year 12 T Level EPQ Practice projects

Our talented Year 12 T-Level students have been busy firing up their skills and creativity with an exciting BBQ design project for their practice EPQ. But this isn't your average BBQ—these innovative students have reimagined the entire concept, from the drawing board to the final model. Starting with bold design ideas, they created scale models and dove into hands-on experimentation. Testing their welding skills proved to be a challenge (spoiler: it didn't go as planned), but they didn't let that stop them! Instead, they took a fresh approach, exploring fabrication joining methods and testing new possibilities for construction. Their experimentation led them to laser cutting and the use of CAD and 2D design software, opening up exciting opportunities to push their design skills to the next level. With a combination of creative problem-solving and technical innovation, these students are now developing a final BBQ prototype that integrates their fabrication expertise and design ingenuity. This project highlights the amazing talent and determination of our Year 12s as they rise to the challenge and take their skills to new heights. We can't wait to see the final product! Keep an eye out for updates on their progress.

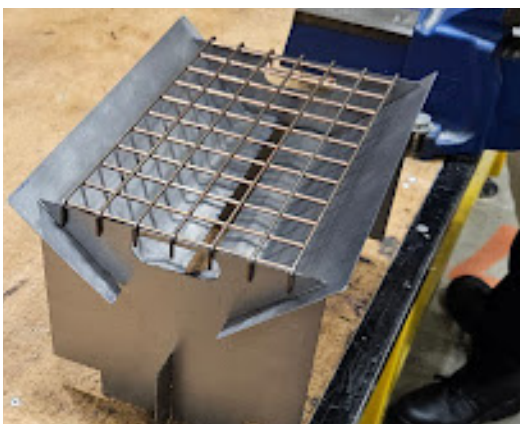
The project also tested their ability to manage health and safety, conduct risk assessments, select appropriate materials, and efficiently plan their work. With a focus on precision, safety, and resourcefulness, these students have proven themselves as future engineering professionals. We're proud of their achievements and excited to see what they'll create next.

Year 13 T level Engineering

Our Year 13 T-Level Engineering students have successfully tackled a demanding project: designing and manufacturing a centre square finder. This essential tool helps engineers and craftspeople accurately locate the centre point of rectangular or square objects, meeting all the project's strict requirements.

Crafted from two carefully chosen materials, the tool combines precision and durability, handling bars up to 50mm in diameter. Using both traditional hand tools and advanced machinery, students demonstrated exceptional skill and attention to detail throughout the process.

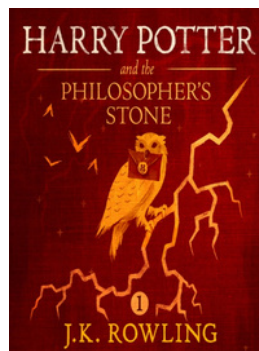
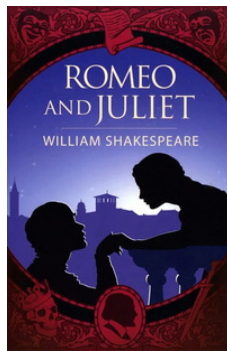
ENGINEERING SUPPORTING DESIGN TECHNOLOGY



Our Engineering Department is proud to support Design Technology projects, offering students unique opportunities to combine disciplines. Recently, a Year 10 DT student demonstrated this collaboration by using a spot welder to test her design. This innovative approach allowed her to join multiple workpieces and create a sturdy structure, showcasing the practical application of engineering techniques in DT. This partnership enables students to develop skills that many DT departments simply can't offer due to limited resources. By blending engineering expertise with creative design, our students gain an unparalleled learning experience, setting them apart in both fields.

DEPARTMENT NEWS - ENGLISH

Key Stage Three have had a fabulous Module 2. Year 7 have continued their work on Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. They have absolutely loved their first study of a novel at the The Leigh UTC, and have done an excellent job. Year 8 have spent Module 2 studying a collection of Speeches and focusing on the use of Rhetoric. They have looked at speeches from Winston Churchill to Rhianna. They even practiced delivering their own inspiring speech! Year 9 have continued their study of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. They have done a great job getting their heads around the difficult language, and absolutely love reading the play aloud. Well done, Year 9!



Key Stage Four have spent Module 2 continuing their study of their GCSE texts. Year 10 have finished their study of Charles Dickens' classic novella A Christmas Carol, while practicing creative writing alongside this. Their knowledge and understanding of text is impressive, and we look forward to starting our study of An Inspector Calls in Module 3. Year 11 have finished their study of Shakespeare's Macbeth, and have loved the gruesome story. They have successfully completed a round of mock exams, and have produced some wonderful English results.



Upon our return in January, Year 11 will begin their revision of all of the excellent GCSE texts we have studied across Key Stage Four, as their exams edge closer.

Well done to all students for their hard work in English this Module, and the English department look forward to welcoming you all back in January.

DEPARTMENT NEWS - GERMAN

Willkommen im Fach Deutsch!

In Year 7 students have been learning how to describe their families and pets. All students are now able to have a short conversation introducing themselves and other members in their family.

In Year 8 the German students are currently studying different types of accommodation in Germany - hotels and youth hostels. The main focus this term was how to improve reading and listening skills.

All year 9 students have been able to explore ways to describe their role models in German. Students have been sharing stories about their personal role models and reasons why they like them so much.



Year 10 / GCSE

Students have started the GCSE course and have been introduced to GCSE writing and speaking styles.

The students also took part in the trip to the German link school - the "Geschwister-Scholl-Gymnasium in Aachen", Germany where they were able to practice their speaking skills.

Year 11 / GCSE

Our hard working GCSE group have just completed their mock exams and continue to improve their exam skills in all four language skills.

Year 13

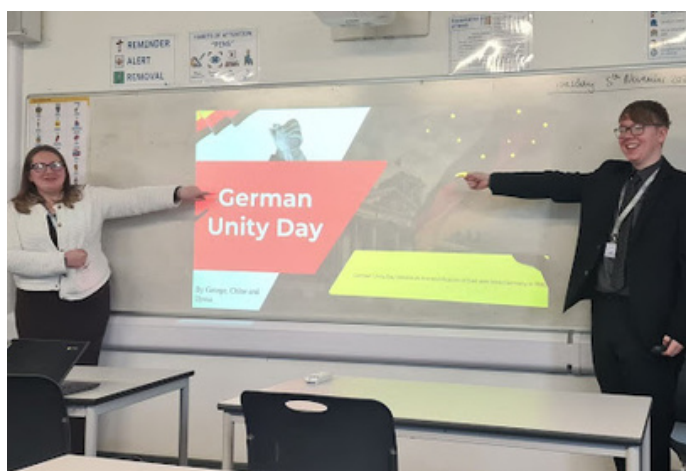
Our year 13 students have been preparing different presentations on Germany's rich history. They learned about Germany's history from 1945 to 1993, including the Reunification Day in 1990.

Deutsche Botschafter!

Our German Ambassadors have been busy supporting the department with the recent Sprachenwettbewerb competition!

We would like to thank all our German students for their hard work and their enthusiasm!

Frohe Weihnachten und Alles Gute für 2024!



DEPARTMENT NEWS - GEOGRAPHY

Module 2 has been very exciting for the KS3 Geographers of the Leigh UTC.

Year 7 focused on understanding the differences across continents around the world. It was exciting for the students to recognise and show an awareness of the various forms of diversity on each continent and the uniqueness of each country. Students were also willing to share their experiences exploring different countries and continents with their families.

The year 8s all agreed that the world needs to reduce its dependence on fossil fuel and so we explored renewable sources of energy as an alternative to fossil fuels and suggested which renewable source would be the most sustainable for the UK.

Year 9 explored the effects that climate change has been having on the UK and the rest of the world. While there are both negative and positive effects of climate changes, the negatives far outweighs the positives. Students were able to link some extreme weather events to this phenomenon such as an overactive 2024 Atlantic hurricane season.



Students ended the module with the expectation that they will all contribute positively to the fight to reduce the effects of climate change by just making small changes to their day to day activities.

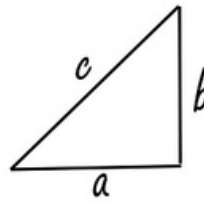
Food for thought! Could the deadly floods in Spain on October 29, 2024 be as a result of climate change?



DEPARTMENT NEWS - MATHS

Welcome to Module 2 Maths!

It's assessment time in KS3. Students are currently utilising their knowledge to spot patterns and accurately communicate how different mathematical concepts work.



Mr Mahdi can be seen modelling 'Blue Review' a weekly activity which supports students with the most complex questions in their Sparx homework. We aim to support all students in completing 100% of their homework and this step is vital in giving students the confidence to persevere until it's all done.

Mr Akinysoye is also working to encourage all students to complete their homework with a new rewards strategy which involves positive points for XP Boost completion and Bookwork Code completion (for more information please contact Mr Akinysoye or Mr Haynes although your child should be able to reveal all).

In Mr Emengo's class you can see Year 9's tackling some challenging simultaneous equations, with the class encouraged to support one another in finding solutions. (I'm sure some of you have got very fond memories of this branch of mathematics!)

Year 10 are now in full swing with their additional qualification. From qualitative to quantitative, from quota sampling to stratified sampling, Statistics really is flavour of the month at The Leigh UTC.

In Year 11, mock season has just ended with students getting a real taste of what the summer is going to look like. You can see our current Statistics cohort doing some exam practice - I can tell you all that they were delighted with me taking their pictures.

With the lead up to Christmas, we will be sure to introduce some festive calculations but, for the time being, we're laser-focused on making every student's mathematical skills as strong as possible.

DEPARTMENT NEWS - SCIENCE

When you know, you know! This image should be familiar to all students that have studied plants under a microscope:

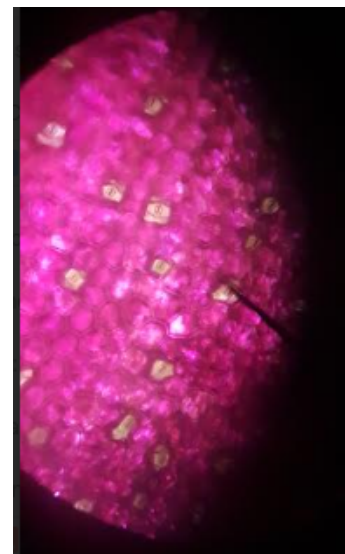
This particular image was captured by a year 8 student studying the stomata found on the underside of all leaves. The leaf in question is tradescantia, which has a beautifully contrasting purple pigmentation.

There is a visible and sometimes audible sense of amazement when the detail of a plant leaf is revealed to students for the first time as they slowly adjust the depth of focus on a microscope.

Looking at leaves and appreciating their cellular organisation aside, the students engaged in finding evidence for the adaptations that plants have in order to carry out one of the most vital processes on this earth, PHOTOSYNTHESIS.

In viewing the leaves under a microscope it allows a deeper and richer knowledge and understanding of the systems of the world. It also fuels their desire to look into other areas with more depth, to keep asking why and most importantly seek their own answers through practical scientific investigations

This is not a new thing of course, the giants of science Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Lisa Meitner to name a few had this same approach and discovered fundamental laws about the systems of the natural world. They all had to start somewhere, why not here, now, in a year 8 lesson at the UTC looking at the underside of a leaf?



DEPARTMENT NEWS - PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This module we have been focusing on skills within Winter Sports. We braved the cold weather and participated in Rugby on the field and sheltered from the rain teaching Basketball in the sports hall.

In rugby, students have been learning essential skills such as passing, tackling, and understanding the rules of the game. They've been focusing on teamwork and communication, working together to execute strategies and create scoring opportunities. Students have also been practicing their fitness, speed, and agility, which are key components of rugby. In addition, they've learned the importance of sportsmanship and respect on and off the field, as well as how to stay focused under pressure. This blend of skills helps students develop both physically and mentally in a fun, fast-paced environment.

In basketball, students have been learning key skills such as dribbling, shooting, passing, and defense. They've been focusing on improving their agility, hand-eye coordination, and spatial awareness, all crucial for success on the court. Students have also been practicing teamwork and communication, working together to create plays and defend as a unit. They've gained an understanding of the game's rules and strategies, including positioning and timing. Beyond the physical skills, students are developing discipline, resilience, and the importance of sportsmanship, making basketball both a fun and valuable learning experience.



Tag Rugby Inter-College Competition:

Congratulations to the Year 7 & 8 combined College Rugby Winners Turing, narrowly beating Upton 3-2 on 12th December 2024.

Year 9 Upton are to be congratulated for having won their game on Tuesday 10th December 2024. Donations of 50p each game all go to our chosen charity, *Action for Children*.



XC CLUBS AT THE LEIGH UTC

For updates about the XC Clubs please follow us on our social media feeds!
[@theleighutc](#)

A Fantastic Term for Extra-Curricular Activities!

This term has been nothing short of exceptional for our extra-curricular program, with students enthusiastically embracing the wide range of activities on offer. From sports to gaming, there's been something for everyone.

We've been thrilled to introduce several exciting new opportunities. The Table Tennis Club for Year 12 and 13 students has quickly become a favourite, offering a fun and competitive way to unwind during lunch times. Meanwhile, our Netball Club for KS3 students kicks off bright and early on Monday mornings, giving young players a fantastic chance to develop skills and teamwork before the school day begins, releasing that serotonin and starting the day on a high.

In sports news, the Year 11 Basketball Team played their first fixture against St Mary Magdalene School from Greenwich. Despite a narrow loss, the team's determination and sportsmanship were second to none—a fantastic effort and a promising start to their season.

Our KS4 students have also been making a tremendous contribution to the school community by volunteering to referee and organise KS3 Football during lunchtimes. This initiative has brought structure and competition to the games, allowing KS3 students to enjoy a more enriching experience. At the same time, KS4 volunteers are gaining valuable leadership skills and qualities—a win-win for everyone involved.

Another highlight of the term was the KS3 Tag Rugby Competition, which saw Turing and Upton Colleges face off in a spirited contest. The energy and camaraderie displayed by all students made it an event to remember, and we can't wait to see the rivalry continue to grow in future competitions.

Meanwhile, the E-Sports and Gaming Club has been a standout hit, with high participation levels and regular tournaments. This module's focus on Dance-themed games brought a creative twist, culminating in a festive, Christmas-themed final week that also contributed to our fundraising efforts for Action for Children.

We're incredibly proud of the engagement, enthusiasm, and creativity shown by our students this term. Their efforts have not only made these activities a success but have also helped foster a stronger school community.

BASKETBALL CLUB

Basketball Club is the place to play the game, learn resilience, skill and team spirit



UTC Basketball Club: Our Own Rising Stars

The Year 11 Basketball team recently demonstrated their skills in our match against St Mary Magdalene (MM).

The match highlights showed it really was a game of 4 quarters:

- First Quarter: UTC took an impressive six-point lead with baskets from Ijaz and Haider.
- Second Quarter: MM applied intense pressure, narrowing the gap to just two points after some great passing and counter attacks.
- Third Quarter: MM's consistent free throws saw them take the lead as they continued to aggressively attack our basket, leaving us with no other option but to foul.
- Final Quarter: A nail-biting finish with both teams showcasing incredible 3-point shooting but ending in a one point loss.

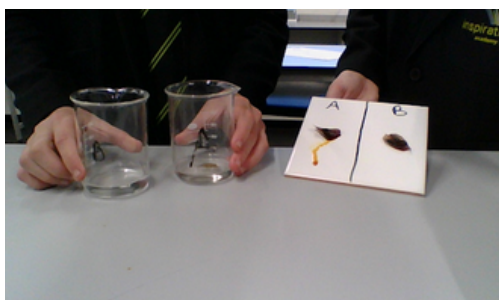
Despite a heart-breaking one-point loss, our team's performance was nothing short of inspirational. Their resilience, skill, and team spirit shone through, promising exciting matches in the future.



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

STEM CLUB

In the STEM club this module students have been designing and making parachutes to be tested to see if they can drop an egg without it breaking when it hits the ground. They have also been investigating static electricity including the use of the Van De Graaf generator. Other activities they have been doing are learning how electromagnets work through building circuits and looking at leaves under a microscope.





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

CODING CLUB

Coding Club - Celebrating Our Students' Journey in Game Development!

This module, the students at Coding Club have been on an exciting journey of creativity and learning as they dived into the basics of game development using Game Lab and Scratch. The enthusiasm and determination they've shown are inspiring, as they've worked through concepts like coding logic, sprite design, and interactive storytelling.

Progress So Far:

- **Introduction to Game Lab and Scratch**
- Students began by exploring these user-friendly platforms, learning how to create characters, set up backgrounds, and code simple animations. For many, this was their first foray into coding.
- **Building Foundations**
- Over the weeks, the group has mastered key programming concepts like loops, conditional statements, and event handling. Through fun, hands-on activities, they've created mini-projects like animated scenes and interactive stories.
- **Teamwork and Creativity**
- Collaboration has been a highlight! Students shared ideas, debugged each other's code, and gave feedback, helping everyone improve and innovate.

What's Next?

With their foundational skills in place, and as Christmas approached, we were thrilled to announce our **Christmas Game Challenge**. Each student designed and developed their very own Christmas-themed game. Whether it's helping Santa deliver presents, dodging falling snowflakes, or navigating a reindeer through a winter wonderland, the possibilities were endless.

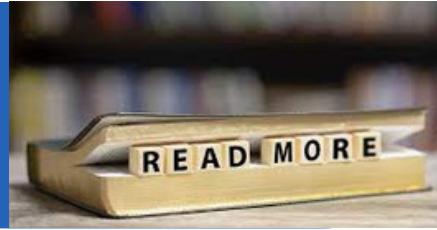
Why This Matters

This project is more than just a fun way to celebrate the season; it's an opportunity for students to think like game developers. They'll tackle design challenges, problem-solving, and most importantly, experience the joy of bringing their ideas to life through code. We can't wait to see their creations and celebrate their hard work during our showcase next month. Stay tuned for updates as our young coders bring their festive games to life!

Coding club every Tuesday 3:15pm - 4pm - Room 2:02 UTC Building

LIBRARY CLUB

Library Club encourages an inclusive environment, cherishing the treasures of story-telling and imagination to keep reading enabling the skills to become the creative and analytical leaders of tomorrow



The Heart of Learning: The School Library

The school library is more than just a room filled with books; it is an essential space to the school's academic life. It serves as a sanctuary for students, a place where they can explore new worlds, delve into new worlds via stories, explore a topic in greater detail and work independently or collectively to broaden their horizons and expand their knowledge.

This module, students have continued to use the library regularly with many students borrowing books to read, using the quiet study areas to finish homework assignments, do puzzles, listen to music to regulate or listen to an audiobook via KCC Libraries free service.



The school library is a welcoming space for all students. It provides a quiet refuge for those who need a break from the hustle and bustle of school life. Our school library remains an inclusive environment where every student feels valued and supported, regardless of their background or abilities. Visit the library everyday at breaktimes and lunchtime!



Creative Clay Club is a chance to practice your creativity whilst learning about the techniques, tools and tactics to make your products stand out.

CREATIVE CLAY CLUB

We were very excited to begin a different art club offering half way through this module and were blown away with the numbers that appeared for our very first session! With our Christmas Clay Club we have had students exploring the medium of clay, creating both functional and decorative items. As we are building towards Christmas our focus has therefore been on creating Christmas Tree decorations. Students creativity and enthusiasm have been wonderful to see, and we can't wait to see their final creations.

Our plan in the Creative Clay Club is to allow students to explore this medium and have instructions on different styles and tools they can use to create different products whilst being able to let their imaginations go wild. Our doors are open for any other budding creatives who would like to also have the chance to design and decorate with the club running in aG.17 every Tuesday afterschool.



E-SPORTS CLUB

With the success of the Nintendo switch club, we have invited all students to participate in a dance competition. This is a great opportunity for students to make new friends and showcase their dance skills.

Get Ready to Groove: Just Dance Competition on Nintendo Switch!

Think you've got the moves to wow the crowd? Join us for the **Just Dance Competition**, where you can showcase your rhythm, flair, and energy!

Event Details

When: Every **Thursday after school**, starting **28th November 2024**

Time: 3:15pm - 4:00 PM

Location: Room 2.13

Winner Announcement:

The ultimate Just Dance champion will be crowned at the **Awards Assembly!**

How to Join

- 1. Drop In:** Head to Room 2.13 any Thursday after school to participate.
- 2. Dance It Out:** Compete for the top score on a variety of tracks.
- 3. Claim Your Spot:** Keep coming back to improve your scores and rise up the leaderboard!

Whether you're a Just Dance expert or just want to have fun and get active, this event is for everyone. Don't miss your chance to show off your moves, let's dance!

Esports! Play, sports, dance and be entertained, whilst gaining social, people and coordination skills simultaneously



Gaming Club is an opportunity to build stamina and competitive ability

Gaming Club is kicking off! Module 2 saw the ever popular Tuesday afternoon sessions expanding to more and more students. Whether you're looking to hone skills on some vintage games or trying to come out on top in EAFC 25, there really is something for everyone in Mr Emengo's classroom.

GAMING CLUB



With more and more people signing up, the whiteboards are doubling up as giant screens. By day, a source of learning and by afternoon, a source of extreme competitiveness. We have students of all ages taking part with Year 7s and Year 13s often present to see if they can beat the teacher or simply have a quick game with a friend. Mr Haynes has occasionally been known to dip in and be quite smug when he wins and a very sore loser when he does not. If you're interested in the Sega MegaDrive, the Nintendo DS, Gameboy Colour, or even the shiny newer consoles we have something for you. So if its Spyro, Mario, or Cristiano Ronaldo, make sure you come to 2.03 in the UTC on a Monday after school!

FOOTBALL CLUB

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



After school, the KS3 football club is a hit, with players giving it their all on the pitch. Whether they're perfecting their skills or having fun in a friendly match, there's a great atmosphere of teamwork, excitement, and plenty of high-energy action!

This module year 7 has managed to play four games, year 8 one, year 9 two games with plenty more opportunities to come! After Christmas we look forward to participating in the LAT 5-aside football competition.

KS3 Football club has been taking place on Monday nights after School and we have been getting 25-30 students per week attending this. District Cup Football fixtures are now starting to take place for year's 7 -10. We will also start to get some Girls Football fixtures played after Christmas.



Table Tennis Club is a great opportunity to build stamina, challenge yourself and your opponent with batting skills

TABLE TENNIS CLUB

During lunchtime, the 6th formers can often be found showing off their impressive table tennis skills, turning the break into an intense yet fun tournament. Whether it's a fierce rally or a friendly match, there's always plenty of laughter and good-natured competition as they take on each other.





XC CLUBS AT THE LEIGH UTC

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

M3 XC CLUBS TIMTABLE

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; transform: rotate(-5deg); font-weight: bold;">Extra Curricular</div> <div style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 5px; transform: rotate(-5deg); font-weight: bold;">Clubs</div> </div>				
MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
Reading club (library) and KS5 Table Tennis (LT) every lunchtime				
KS3, Netball 8.15am, PE Hall	Y8 Crossword club, lunchtime, Library	KS3 Python Coding, Lunchtime 2.02	Mindful colouring and Lego lunchtime, Library	Y7 Board games, lunchtime, Library
Gaming, 15:15, 2.03	Coding, 15:15, 2.02		E-Sports, KS3, 15:15, 2.13	
KS3 & 4 Football, 15:15, Field	Clay club, 15:15pm, A0.17		KS3-5 Basketball, 15:15, PE Hall	
German Speaking, 15:15pm, SRI office in UTC	German Culture & Ambassador, 15:15pm, A2.02		Science STEM, 15:15, 1.17	
			Film club, 15:15, IA stairs	



One of the most exciting and unexpected opportunities we've had as the Student Voice Team was participating in the student voice recruitment process. And not just any recruitment - we were invited to interview candidates for new team members across years 7-11, alongside Clive Barker, our head of governors.

Talk about responsibility! We weren't just token participants - we were genuine decision-makers. We sat down as a team and carefully designed our own interview questions. We wanted to ensure we were looking for more than just who had the most amount of positive bromcom points - we were seeking team members who would truly understand and connect with the team.

Over the course of a morning, we interviewed six candidates. Each of us took the process seriously, preparing our questions in advance and taking notes during the interviews. We discussed communication skills, approach to teaching, understanding of student needs, and how they might contribute to our school's inclusive environment.

Clive Barker commented that we demonstrated remarkable maturity, asking insightful questions and providing thoughtful feedback and that we were actively shaping our school's future. The best part? We got to celebrate our successful candidates on our social media page with a live video of the successful candidates opening their welcome to the team letters! It was amazing to share our recruitment journey and showcase how students are involved in real school decisions.

We're also super proud of our "We Like It When..." initiative. This is where we give real feedback to staff about what's working well in lessons. It's not about criticism - it's about celebrating great teaching. For example, we recently highlighted how Mr. Arnould in Maths makes complex topics super engaging by using real-world examples and interactive demonstrations. We love sharing these moments of great teaching so other staff can learn from these awesome approaches. This experience reinforced everything we believe about Student Voice - that students aren't just passive recipients of education, but active participants in creating the best possible learning environment.

Our message is clear: when students are given genuine opportunities to contribute, amazing things happen!

CHRISTMAS HAMPER AND TOY DRIVE CAMPAIGN

Our work doesn't stop. Our newly recruited team members jumped straight into action with the Dartford Deeds charity project. We've been creating hampers filled with food, drinks, and gifts for local families. It's been incredibly meaningful to support our community, especially knowing that students will be able to give these hampers to their family members. It's more than just a charity project - it's about showing care and making a real difference.



STUDENT VOICE CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING



In the last week of the module, The Leigh UTC had a busy but fun time, celebrating the festive season but an opportunity to give back to the local community and families in need.

Many activities for staff and students to get involved in were planned and presented in many ways. In addition to the Christmas Hamper and Toy Drive, staff and students enjoyed a delicious Christmas Dinner and dessert, provided by our business partner, Cucina.

Our sixth form students, kindly made some sugary treats and Christmas cookies to sell in the canteen, with the money going to *Action for Children*.

As a whole school, staff and students had two days to celebrate Christmas by wearing a festive Christmas jumper or Christmas item, in adjacent to their school uniform. £1 donation was kindly asked to donate to our chosen children's charity, *Action for Children*.

Also, a Christmas film was shown in the IA building on the big screens, with refreshments provided for staff and students to enjoy. Again a donation of £1 went to the charity.

All money proceeds went to *Action for Children*, a charity that helps foster families and makes the lives of children in need better, safer and more hopeful.



A great time was had by all, as many smiling faces could be seen!



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:

- 'New Ways November' - new ways to take of you and ideas to share with your friends
- 'December Kindness' - ways to do good this festive season and beyond!

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

‘New Ways November’ - New ways to take of you and ideas to share with your friends

New Ways November 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 4 Sign up to join a new course, activity or online community	 5 Change your normal routine today and notice how you feel	 6 Try out a new way of being physically active	 7 Be creative. Cook, draw, write, paint, make or inspire	1 Make a list of new things you want to do this month	2 Respond to a difficult situation in a different way	3 Get outside and observe the changes in nature around you
11 Choose a different route and see what you notice on the way	12 Find out something new about someone you care about	13 Do something playful outdoors – walk, run, explore, relax	14 Find a new way to help or support a cause you care about	8 Plan a new activity or idea you want to try out this week	9 When you feel you can't do something, add the word "yet"	10 Be curious. Learn about a new topic or an inspiring idea
18 Connect with someone from a different generation	19 Broaden your perspective: read a different paper, magazine or site	20 Make a meal using a recipe or ingredient you've not tried before	21 Learn a new skill from a friend or share one of yours with them	15 Build on new ideas by thinking "Yes, and what if..."	16 Look at life through someone else's eyes and see their perspective	17 Try a new way to practice self-care and be kind to yourself
25 Use one of your strengths in a new or creative way	26 Try out a different radio station or new TV show	27 Join a friend doing their hobby and find out why they love it	28 Discover your artistic side. Design a friendly greeting card	22 Find a new way to tell someone you appreciate them	23 Set aside a regular time to pursue an activity you love	24 Share with a friend something helpful you learned recently

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



‘December Kindness’ - ways to do good this festive season and beyond!

December Kindness 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others	2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are	3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment	4 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about	5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely	6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find	7 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today
8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member	9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead	10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them	11 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank	12 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today	13 See how many different people you can smile at today	14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one
15 Say hello to your neighbour and brighten up their day	16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to	17 Give thanks. List the kind things others have done for you	18 Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving	19 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated	20 Help others by giving away something that you don't need	21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you
22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed	23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness	24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh	25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!	26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature	27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat	28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy
29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people	30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why	31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2025				

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



WELLBEING AT THE LEIGH UTC

Further Support:

Free, 24/7 Confidential Helpline

Available 24/7, 365 days a year, our helpline connects you with experienced therapists and advisors who provide non-judgemental, professional support. Call anytime on **0800 028 0199**.

Counselling Services

For those in need of emotional support, our EAP provides:

- **Telephone Counselling:** Discuss your concerns with a qualified counsellor over the phone.
- **In-Person Counselling:** Arrange face-to-face sessions if needed.
- **Video Counselling:** Access virtual counselling sessions for added flexibility.
- **Online Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT):** Self-help modules, videos, and fact sheets from qualified counsellors to address issues such as anxiety, depression, and stress

Support for Personal Challenges

Life can bring unexpected changes, and our EAP is here to help you handle them with services such as:

- **Bereavement Support:** Receive compassionate counselling and practical advice during times of grief, including help with grief-related legal matters.
- **Family Support:** Access support for family-related issues, including childcare, eldercare, and relationships.
- **Domestic Abuse Support:** Confidential advice and guidance for those in need

Health and Lifestyle Advice

In addition to emotional and practical support, the EAP also offers resources for maintaining a balanced lifestyle:

- **Nutritional Advice:** Practical tips on healthy eating and lifestyle changes.
- **Fitness Guidance:** Support with fitness planning and achieving personal health goals.
- **Health Checks and Factsheets:** Access up-to-date medical information and advice on various health topics.

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

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 PD Mentor or their Student Services Manager (SSM).

To get in touch, please do not hesitate to contact us via email on; info@theleightuc.org.uk

The SEND Team can be contacted directly via the email address; SEND@theleightuc.org.uk

For information regarding admissions please email; admissions@theleightuc.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!



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



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



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