

THE LEIGH UTC

The Modular Magazine of The Leigh UTC and Inspiration Academy



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Y12 Parents and Guardian Academic Monitoring
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Year 9 Options Evening - 5th March 2025

World Book Day - 6th March 2025

Year 11 Exams Information Evening - 27th March
2025

LAT Cross Country Championships (all years) -
20th March 2025

LBC Day - 21st March 2025

TERM DATES

NEXT TERM - MODULE 4

Start: Monday 24th February 2025

Finish: Friday 4th April 2025

AWARENESS DAYS - MODULE 4

- World Book Day - 6th March
- Fairtrade Fortnight - 25th Feb - 10th March
- International Women's Day - 8th March
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- International Day for the Elimination of
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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Students, Parents, Staff and our wider community,

At The Leigh UTC, creating and maintaining a comfortable, positive environment for students, staff, and visitors is one of our top priorities. We deeply value the well-being of every individual within our community and are steadfast in our commitment to fostering a workplace and learning space that supports both productivity and happiness.

As part of this commitment, we have recently introduced a new destination display in the lecture theatre to celebrate our student leavers from 2023 and 2024. This display highlights the universities and apprenticeships our students have progressed to, illustrating the pathways our graduates take as they step confidently into their futures. This initiative not only celebrates the achievements of our students but also showcases how our UTC serves the local community, with apprenticeship destinations exceeding the national averages.

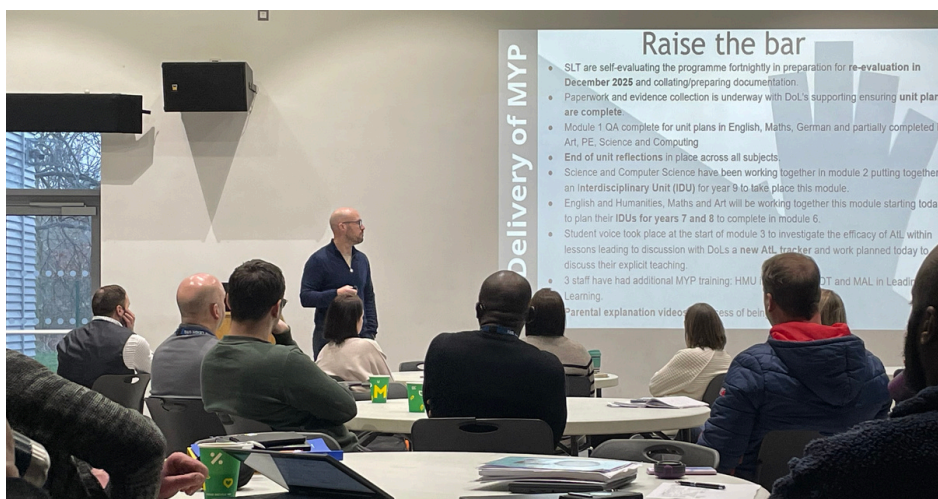
Looking ahead, we are excited to share plans for redesigning the UTC soft seating area by the end of the academic year. As our UTC continues to grow, this space has outlived its original purpose. The redesigned area will provide a dual-purpose environment, offering a dedicated lunch space for an entire year group while meeting broader needs throughout the day. We are confident this enhancement will contribute to a more functional and enjoyable environment for all. Updates on this development will follow in the near future.

Beyond physical improvements, we remain equally dedicated to fostering cultural growth within our community. This academic year, we introduced the theme of "intentional positive interactions." This initiative emphasises thoughtful communication, where positivity inspires and encourages more positivity. By focusing on this approach, we aim to cultivate an environment where every interaction contributes to a supportive and uplifting atmosphere. We warmly invite you to join us in embracing this ethos whenever you engage with our community.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in making Leigh UTC a thriving and dynamic place for learning and growth.

Warm regards,

Kevin Watson
Principal, The Leigh UTC



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF TURING 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,

A Positive Start: Embracing the Leigh UTC Values

The new year has begun with a fantastic start, and we are delighted to see our students embracing the core values that underpin our learning community. As we return to learning, let us remember the inspiring legacy of Alan Turing. Like Turing, all of us in Turing College encourage curiosity, innovation, and a relentless pursuit of knowledge. We strive to foster a learning environment where every student feels empowered to explore their potential and contribute to a brighter future.

- **Respect:** Students have demonstrated a remarkable level of respect for their peers, teachers, and the school environment. We are proud to see our students embracing diversity and creating an inclusive atmosphere where everyone feels valued and respected.
- **Relationships:** Students are actively engaging in classroom discussions, collaborating with peers, and building strong relationships with their teachers. This positive and supportive environment fosters a love of learning and encourages personal growth.
- **Responsibility:** We have been impressed by the level of responsibility demonstrated by our students. They are taking ownership of their learning, meeting deadlines, and demonstrating a strong work ethic.

These core values are essential for academic success and personal development. By embracing these principles, our students are well-equipped to thrive in their studies and beyond.

Key Reminders:

- **Punctuality:** Students are expected to be on the playground by 8:20 am.
- **Preparedness:** Bring all necessary equipment: 2 black pens, 2 blue pens, a pencil, a ruler, a calculator, and a fully charged Chromebook.
- **Uniform:** Maintain a professional appearance at all times. Blazers are to be worn when moving around the building.

We look forward to a successful and rewarding term, filled with exciting learning experiences and inspiring achievements.

Kind regards,

Mrs Pamphlett



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF UPTON COLLEGE



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

EBEN AND LIZ UPTON - INNOVATORS

As we come to the end of another busy and successful module, I want to take a moment to celebrate the consistent and hard work applied by both our staff and students.

This term, staff have persevered and continued to bring their best to the students we serve and this is no easy task, especially with the dark and cold winter mornings and evenings. In spite of all of the challenges faced in this module we have continued to push boundaries, challenge expectations, and foster a love of learning in all things IB and STEM related.

Our students remain dedicated, creative, and positive, glorifying our community with care for each other and a dedication to improvement. From the classrooms, workshops, even to the lab, our students have engaged with complex concepts, work on unique projects, and shown real passion and fervor for their success. Whether it's been work on electronics systems, coding, engineering design, their effort and passion continue to be inspiring.

I would like to once again thank our dedicated staff for their unwavering commitment to providing our students with the space to enable success, innovation, and guidance, all which have helped our students succeed, grow, and thrive. We are fortunate to have a team of experts so dedicated to providing a STEM education for all our students.

As we head into the break, let's continue to take pride in everything we've achieved this term.

Enjoy the well-deserved break, and I look forward to more success, progression and growth in the next module.

Kind regards,

Mr Alamu



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR FOR LEARNING FOR POST 16 - CLARK COLLEGE

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



YVONNE CLARK - ENGINEER

The Year 13 Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) presentations have launched, marking a significant milestone in our Post 16 profile-raising initiative. Leading industry partners including Thames Water, Qinetiq, BAE Systems, DS Commercials, Mackleys, er-productions, and Kenard are engaging with students to evaluate their innovative projects and presentation skills. Adding valuable perspective to these Friday sessions, Alumni students have returned to participate in the assessment process. The projects showcase remarkable breadth and creativity, featuring practical innovations such as deadlift jacks and smart mirrors, Bar stools from old bicycles, Rugby impact warning helmet, alongside computer games developed to measure cognitive responses. Students' dissertations demonstrate equally impressive scope, tackling contemporary issues from musculoskeletal disorders to Brexit's implications and gender disparities in justice systems. These weekly presentations, continuing throughout the term, exemplify our students' capability to engage with complex real-world challenges while developing professional presentation skills.

Year 12 students are demonstrating their collaborative capabilities through team projects in Personal and Professional Skills (PPS) lessons. They are tackling real-world challenges including a Network Rail project, designing a UTC reception kiosk, and coding a microbot for the BBC. Business partners are actively mentoring these younger students, helping them develop essential teamwork and presentation abilities.



Former UTC student Sam Copley exemplifies the successful transition from education to industry through his apprenticeship at DS Commercials. Returning to present his EPQ project, Sam showcased his innovative hay bale forklift - a practical solution he designed, fabricated, and welded himself for use on his family's farm. This project perfectly demonstrated the hands-on technical skills and problem-solving abilities developed during his time at the UTC. Now thriving in his apprenticeship at DS Commercials, Sam's journey illustrates the direct pathway from UTC education to industry success. His return to share his experiences and assess current students' projects provides invaluable inspiration, showing current students how UTC's practical, industry-focused education can lead to meaningful career opportunities.



Kind regards,

Syreeta Martin
Director for Learning, Post 16

MYP VISIT WITH DIANNE BLACKBURN

On Thursday 30th January we opened our doors here at The Leigh UTC to Dianne Blackburn, a world-leading consultant for the International Baccalaureate to share her expertise and to see how we implement and celebrate the Middle Years Programme (MYP) for our Key Stage 3 students.

During the course of the day, Dianne visited lessons, spoke with students from years 7 to year 9 and spoke with staff about our delivery of the MYP and how it is embedded within our curriculum, projects and extra-curricular activities. The day was an opportunity to celebrate our excellence of delivering this ambitious world renowned curriculum and how we are supporting our students to make practical connections between their studies and the real world, preparing them for success in further study and in life.



Dianne was particularly impressed with our students who were able to vocalise and discuss how the way we teach here at The Leigh UTC impacts upon their learning and could reflect upon the skills they are developing. Dianne articulated that our students displayed confidence discussing their opportunities and how they are managing their learning and connecting it with the larger world at a local and global level.

As a school we are continuously looking to develop how we support our students to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right. Dianne complemented how eloquently and passionately our students spoke about developing these interpersonal and disciplinary skills and why these are important to their learning journey and education.

Our year 9 students have even been asked to come back and talk to Dianne next academic year, once they have graduated the MYP to feedback on their Community Project experiences and also how their learning over the three years has enhanced their ability to access their GCSE course.

We look forward to seeing Dianne again and also to go through the official MYP evaluation of our programme next year where we will be showcasing the world leading education we deliver here at The Leigh UTC.



EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT AT THE LEIGH UTC

Strengthening Employer Engagement at The Leigh UTC

At The Leigh UTC, fostering strong connections with industry is at the heart of our commitment to preparing students for the world of work. Recent initiatives have reinforced these links, providing students with valuable exposure to employers and real-world career opportunities.

This month, Clive Barker (Chair of Governors) and Jay Wright (Director of T Levels) attended the Kent & Medway Chamber of Commerce event, where they engaged with key business leaders to explore new opportunities for industry collaboration. This event, which brought together representatives from manufacturing, engineering, and other sectors, provided a platform to discuss ways local businesses can support our students through placements, mentoring, and industry projects. Guest speakers, including Morag Bailey from PrepWorld and Andrew Metcalf from Maxim PR, offered insights into the regional economic landscape and workforce development, reinforcing the importance of employer engagement in shaping the future workforce.



In addition to external networking, we have been strengthening employer involvement within the school. All Year 12 students have been participating in one-to-one career interviews, helping them refine their career aspirations and plan their next steps. Local businesses have also played a key role in assessing final presentations for both the Professional Project Studies (PPS) and Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) subjects, giving students direct feedback from industry professionals.

The impact of our employer partnerships is already being felt, with businesses expressing high praise for our students on T-Level work placements. Employers such as Amazon, SEM, and Ellis & Son have commended their professionalism, work ethic, and willingness to engage in hands-on tasks. Amazon HQ, in particular, has encouraged all of their T Level placement students to apply for apprenticeships, highlighting the positive impression they have made.

As we continue to build these valuable industry links, we look forward to expanding opportunities for our students and ensuring they leave The Leigh UTC equipped with the skills and experience to thrive in their future careers.

YEAR 8 ACADEMIC MONITORING PARENT AND GUARDIAN EVENING

Y8 Parents' Evening: A Night of Meaningful Dialogue

Thank you to all Parents' and Guardians who attended the evening with us, it was a great opportunity to celebrate the success of our young people together.

Despite challenging traffic conditions, the Year 8 Academic Monitoring Parent and Guardian Evening achieved a commendable 65% attendance rate, demonstrating parents' commitment to their children's educational journey.

The evening provided a valuable opportunity for parents and teachers to engage in rich, substantive conversations about students' academic performance and behavioural development. These discussions are crucial in supporting students' holistic growth and understanding their progress.

Key discussions focused on individual student achievements, areas for improvement, and collaborative strategies to support each child's learning and personal development.

The strong turnout underscores the importance of home-school partnership in nurturing student success.

Best wishes,

Ms Walker



ASSEMBLIES

The Power of Assemblies: Highlighting Important Days

Assemblies are an essential part of our school community here at Leigh UTC, bringing everyone together to share, learn, and reflect. They create a sense of unity and provide a platform to celebrate significant days that shape our understanding and values. Let's explore the importance of assemblies and highlight some key days and events we observe in our assemblies throughout module 3.

New Year, New Beginnings and New Year's Resolutions

The start of a new calendar year is a time for fresh starts and setting goals. Assemblies held in January offer us a chance to reflect on past achievements and set new aspirations. It's a moment to inspire us to embrace new opportunities and strive for personal and academic growth. A "New Year, New Beginnings" assembly encourages positivity and resilience as we embark on another exciting journey.

In conjunction with the New Year, making resolutions is a powerful way to set intentions and goals. An assembly focused on New Year's Resolutions can guide us in setting realistic and meaningful goals for the year ahead. It's an excellent opportunity to discuss the importance of self-improvement and perseverance.



International Day of Education (24th January)

Education is the cornerstone of personal and societal development. Assemblies held in anticipation of the International Day of Education emphasize the value of learning and the opportunities it provides. Highlighting this day encourages us to appreciate our education and motivates us to take full advantage of our learning experiences.

Holocaust Memorial Day (27th January)

Holocaust Memorial Day is a solemn occasion to honour the memory of the millions who suffered and perished during the Holocaust. Assemblies about this day provide a platform to educate us about the historical events, the importance of tolerance, and the consequences of hatred and prejudice. It is a time for reflection and a commitment to promoting human rights and dignity.



World Cancer Day (4th February)

World Cancer Day aims to raise awareness about cancer prevention, detection, and treatment. Assemblies can provide valuable information about healthy lifestyles, the importance of regular check-ups, and advancements in medical research. It's a time to show support for those affected by cancer and to foster a community of care and empathy.

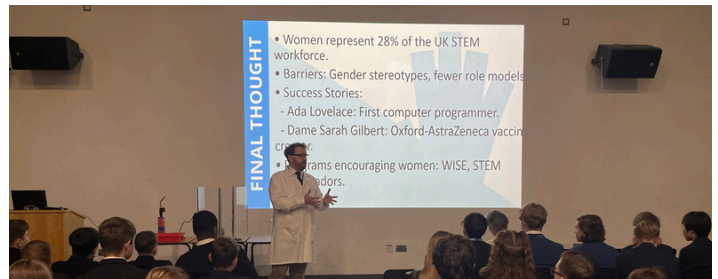


Random Acts of Kindness Day (17th February)

Kindness can transform lives and communities. Assemblies previewing Random Acts of Kindness Day inspire us to practice generosity and compassion. Highlighting simple acts of kindness can encourage a positive and supportive school environment where everyone feels valued and respected.

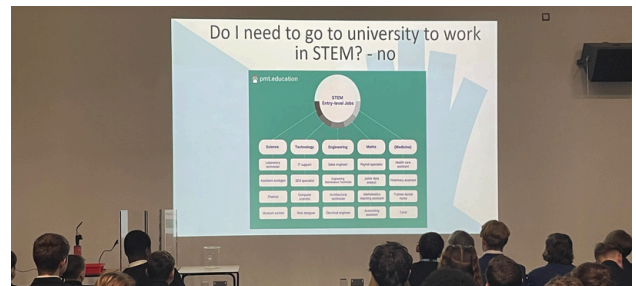
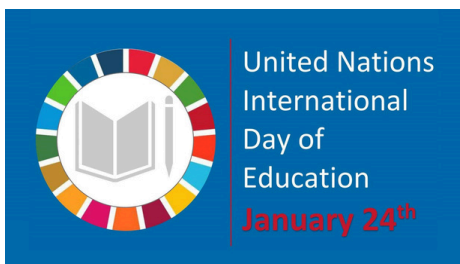
ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies play a vital role in fostering a sense of community, enhancing communication, and providing valuable educational experiences. By highlighting important awareness days and key events like "New Year, New Beginnings," New Year's Resolutions, International Day of Education, Holocaust Memorial Day, World Cancer Day, Random Acts of Kindness Day, STEM Education, and National Apprenticeships Week, we ensure that our assemblies are meaningful and impactful. Let's continue to come together, learn, and grow as a community through these shared experiences.



STEM Education

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education is crucial for preparing us for the future. Assemblies dedicated to STEM education highlight the importance of these subjects and their impact on our world. They can feature guest speakers, student projects, and demonstrations that spark curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. Celebrating STEM education fosters innovation and critical thinking skills, essential characteristics of the IB world schools profile that we model at The Leigh UTC.

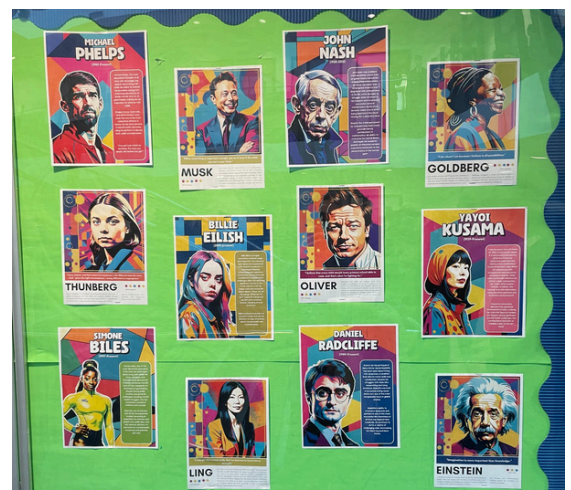


National Apprenticeships Week (10th -16th February)

National Apprenticeships Week celebrates the value of apprenticeships and the opportunities they provide for skill development and career advancement. Assemblies during this week can showcase success stories, highlight various apprenticeship programs, and provide information on pathways to different careers. This encourages us to consider apprenticeships as a viable and rewarding option for our future.

Assemblies coming up in M4:

- 24th - 28th February - National Careers Week
- 3rd - 7th March - Women's Empowerment and LBC Day
- 10th - 14th March - Science and Innovation
- 17th - 21st March - Cultural Awareness
- 24th - 28th March - Environmental Protection
- 31st Mar - 4th April - Autism Awareness



ONLINE SAFETY

At The Leigh UTC, we have dedicated a week to promoting digital safety and ensuring that our students understand the legal and ethical responsibilities of their online presence.

In preparation for Safer Internet Day, we proactively raised awareness through our social media platforms, focusing on critical issues such as scams and fake news, giving guardians, staff and students the tools to support them making informed decisions when deliberating over whether something is a scam or fake news with the tagline of ‘don’t believe everything you read’. During students’ PD time, as part of “The Day,” debates were held on the role of artificial intelligence. These debates highlighted both the positive impacts AI can have on society and the safety concerns that accompany its use.

As part of Safer Internet Day, Mr Adeniyan presented bespoke assemblies with messages tailored slightly differently to each year group that delved into several key areas of online safety including:

- The Law Around Online Crimes: Exploring how various online actions can be classified as criminal offenses.
- The Malicious Communications Act: Reviewing legislation aimed at protecting individuals from harmful online interactions.
- Hate Crimes: Analysing the legal implications of online hate speech and the consequences of these along with examples of hate crimes.

Students interacted in the assemblies in a live poll where they evaluated different online scenarios to determine whether they breached online safety protocols or violated legal standards. This shocked many students as to what would be counted as an online crime and has helped to educate them further with some of their future online choices. Mr Adeniyan also spoke in detail to KS4 on Mental Health and Digital Wellbeing, recognising the connection between digital safety and overall wellbeing. Students engaged in discussions on the impact of digital exposure and social media on mental health, learning how to identify signs of digital stress and the importance of establishing healthy online boundaries.

ATTENDANCE

In Module 3, students with 100% attendance were entered into a generator and randomly selected for each year group during the reward assemblies for a chance to win chocolate bouquets. Students who maintained 100% attendance in both modules received a badge and a certificate.



LAT 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS

The Leigh UTC Year 7 and 8 Girls Football team took part in the LAT 5-a-side Football Tournament on the 13th January 2025. The Tournament took place at the Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy (SGLA) in Dartford. The Leigh UTC were placed in a very strong group and played seven matches, with their best result coming against Mascalls School where they managed to draw 0-0. The standard was very high and it was a new experience for many of our girls. The Winners were Leigh Stationers Academy.

On the 14th January 2025 it was the boys turn to compete. The boys also played seven games in the group stage, drawing with Strood Academy 1-1 and beating Leigh Stationer's 2-1. The boys then went into a play off against Hugh Christie Academy for 15th place and drew 3-3 after being 3-0 down at one stage.

Monday the 20th of January 2025 our Year 9 and 10 Girls took part in the LAT 5-a-side Tournament at the Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy. We were placed in a League with Longfield, Mascalls, Strood, Wilmington, Leigh Stationers and Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy. In our six group match's the girls managed a draw vs Sir Geoffrey Leigh and lost by the odd goal against Mascalls and Strood. We only had 6 players and apart from the match against Leigh Stationer's who were the eventual winners the girls were very competitive. We played off against Leigh Academy Halley from the other group for 13th place losing 3-0.



The Year 9 and 10 Boys LAT 5-a-side was played on the 21st January 2025 again at SGL Academy. The boys won their first game against Wilmington Academy 1-0, but they were unable to reach a similar standard for the rest of their games. The winning team were The Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy.

The Year 10's continued their fine start to their District Cup campaign with a win against Ebbsfleet Academy by 4-3. The Leigh UTC started on the front foot creating plenty of opportunities before Alfie B opened the scoring from a great team move. Ebbsfleet struggled to get into the game, but got back into it after catching the Leigh UTC trying to play out from the back. Ebbsfleet then took the lead soon after and started to put Leigh UTC under a bit of pressure. However we still looked dangerous on the counter attack. Both teams changed goalkeepers at half time and it was The Leigh UTC who came out of the blocks fast and got back on level terms through Alfie B. Soon after it was 3-2 after another attack, leading to Shay S scoring. Ebbsfleet continued to try and get back into the game but our back three of Jenson J, Tommy P and Kieran C stood firm. Soon after we went 4-2 up when Tony O scored a header from a corner. Ebbsfleet continued to press but also found Tafara S in top form coming out bravely twice to deny the Ebbsfleet Centre forward. Ebbsfleet did get one back but it was not enough and we held on by 4-3 for a great victory.

DEPARTMENT NEWS - ART

This module, Year 7 has been exploring patterns from a variety of cultures, delving into the rich history and symbolic meanings behind these beautiful designs. Working in their wider world learning and global exposure, 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.

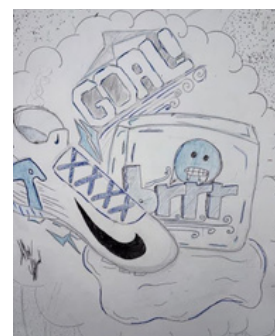
Year 8 have been working on their most recent Pop Art project where they are exploring popular products and themes around consumerism. The students have done a fantastic job in creating mixed media pop art advertisements.

Year 9 have been fully immersed in their icons project, students have created artworks in response to the exciting artist Richi Barba; a Serbian Graphic Artist and Illustrator known for street art across the world. Students have learned how to mix paint for this outcome and to work in layers.

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

Year 11 have now recently begun their component two project where they are exploring themes around 'Habitat' and 'Identity', in preparation for their painting based on their initial ideas.

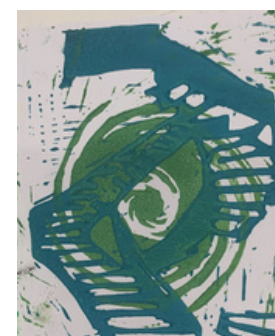
Year 7



Year 8



Year 9



Year 10

DEPARTMENT NEWS - BUSINESS

Made In Bluewater Competition Launch 2025

Year 10 GCSE Business students had the opportunity in February to attend the launch of the 2025 Made in Bluewater competition. During the launch students took part in Marketing, Selling and Sustainability sessions with Bluewater and Landsec staff.

The challenge this year is to create an experience for customers linked to sustainability. The main aim is to attract more customers to Bluewater. We wish them good luck in their pitches which will be presented back to the CEO's of Bluewater and Landsec on 11th March.

The students reported that:-

'The Bluewater trip had a very organised timetable of events. There was a variety of delicious food. The guides were very informative and gave clear instructions. They also showed how they helped a sole ownership business. The workshops were very interactive and showed how sustainable Bluewater is. They gave information that I didn't know before such as Landsec having 30% shares of Bluewater' - Lucas, Year 10.



'During my time at the Bluewater trip, the people at Bluewater and Landsec had explained what the challenge was about in great detail and let the people who are participating for The Leigh UTC participate in very interesting and informative workshops and activities on sustainability and market research. The team at Bluewater and Landsec took us on a very educational tour around the Bluewater shopping centre and told us about how different businesses attract customers. Near the end of the tour they brought us to the empty unit that would be used for the challenge and turn into the idea that the winning team of the challenge that will be presented to the judges in 6 weeks during the next visit to Bluewater. The hospitality was very nice and they supplied us with various food and drink.' - Ronald, Year 10.

DEPARTMENT NEWS - DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

As the academic year progresses, our Design and Technology department continues to thrive.

Year 10/11 Innovation:

We are witnessing remarkable growth within our Year 10 and 11 Design and Technology students. Their confidence, enquiry-based learning, and creative endeavours continue to inspire us.

Students are demonstrating a deeper understanding of design principles and applying this knowledge to their projects. They are becoming increasingly independent in their learning, actively seeking solutions and refining their designs.

We are particularly impressed by their dedication and the quality of their work. Their enthusiasm for learning is evident, and they are developing valuable skills that will serve them well in their future studies and beyond.

We look forward to witnessing their continued progress and celebrating their achievements throughout the remainder of the academic year.

KS3 Food Technology Students:

Our Food Technology lessons are buzzing with activity as students hone their culinary skills. From mastering basic techniques to experimenting with new flavors, they are creating delicious and nutritious dishes. Our emphasis on practical experience ensures they develop a well-rounded understanding of food production, from planning and preparation to presentation.



KS3 Engineering Students:

Students are demonstrating increased confidence and a growing spirit of innovation in their engineering projects. They confidently operate more sophisticated machinery, pushing the boundaries of their creativity and demonstrating significant growth in their design and making skills while exploring new ideas and solutions.

DEPARTMENT NEWS - COMPUTING

Computer Science Updates

Year 7

Our youngest Computer Science students have been designing and programming a library app aimed at encouraging more students to read and enjoy books. By integrating creativity with coding, they've been developing user-friendly apps to enhance the reading experience for their peers.

Year 8

Year 8 students have been working on smart farming projects, utilising Micro:bit technology to design and build automated farming solutions. From monitoring soil moisture to optimising plant growth, their projects showcase an innovative approach to sustainable agriculture using technology.

Year 9

This module, Year 9 students have been immersed in an exciting emerging technology project, planning, designing, and building robotic delivery buggies. As part of their AI and automation topic.

Year 10

Year 10 students are making great strides in their programming journey, building a deeper understanding of key concepts and applying them in practical projects. Their dedication to refining their coding skills is setting them up for success in future projects.

Year 11

GCSE students are preparing for their upcoming mock exams, with a focus this module on the ethical aspects of computing. Discussions and case studies have encouraged students to explore real-world ethical dilemmas in technology, from data privacy to the impact of AI on employment.

Year 12 (T-Level)

This module, Year 12 T-Level students have been focusing on (ESP), with a particular emphasis on debugging. As May assessments approach, they've been refining their problem-solving skills, ensuring their code is efficient and robust.

Year 13 (T-Level)

Year 13 T-Level students have been busy preparing for their OSP exams while advancing their Full Stack web development skills. In the coming weeks, they will transition into mock exams, ensuring they are fully prepared for the real assessments ahead.

Year 13 (A-Level)

A-Level students have been working on individual projects for their NEA tackling real-world problems with innovative solutions. Some standout projects include a pizza ordering app designed for a small local business operating outside of school premises and an app to support individuals with dementia. These projects are not just academic exercises but have the potential to make a genuine impact on the community.



T - LEVELS OPPORTUNITIES AT THE LEIGH UTC

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

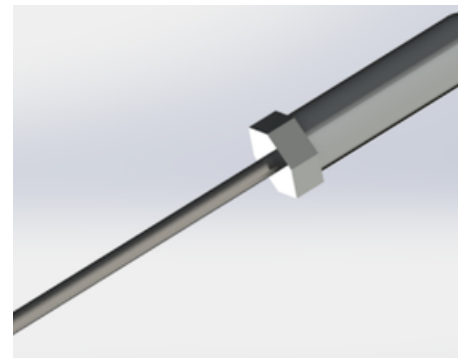
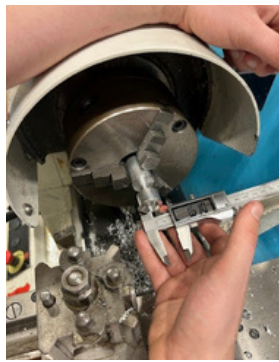
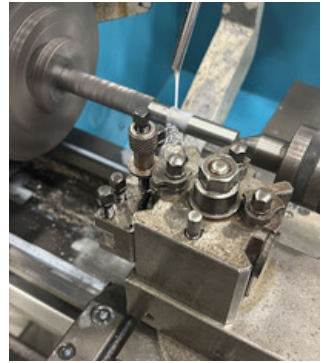
DEPARTMENT NEWS - ENGINEERING

Year 10 Engineering Students Build Skills with Screwdriver Project

Our Year 10 Engineering students have been gaining hands-on experience in designing and manufacturing their own screwdrivers, developing a range of essential engineering skills in the process. As part of this project, students are using SolidWorks CAD software to create their designs, giving them valuable insight into computer-aided design and precision engineering. They are also learning heat treatment techniques, using the forge and anvil to shape and work-harden the screwdriver heads—an essential process in metalworking.

In addition, students are exploring different methods for producing the screwdriver handles. Some are using manual turning techniques on the lathe, while others are employing 3D printing to create innovative designs, exposing them to both traditional and modern manufacturing techniques.

This project is not only enhancing their technical skills but also encouraging creativity, problem-solving, and hands-on craftsmanship. We are excited to see their finished products and the continued development of their engineering.



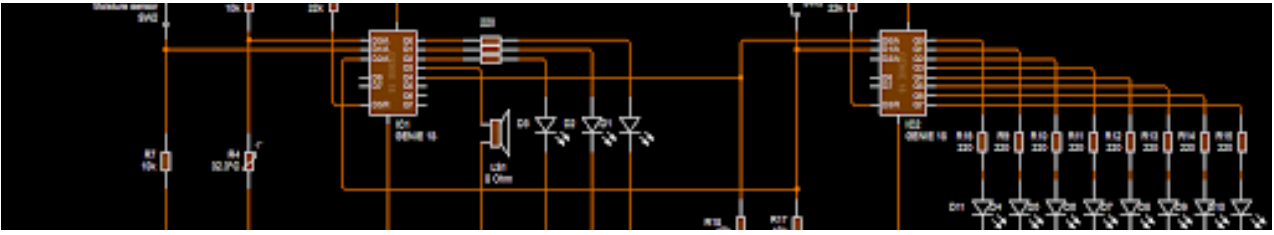
Year 11 Electronics Students Showcase Innovation in Bespoke Projects

Our Year 11 Electronics students have been demonstrating their creativity and technical expertise as they work on their controlled assessment tasks. Each student has designed and built a unique project to solve a problem of their own choosing, resulting in a diverse range of innovative designs.

Projects this year include garden watering systems, automatic blinds, home alarm systems, fishing bite alarms with competition counters, and many more. Every design is bespoke, reflecting the students' ability to identify real-world challenges and engineer practical solutions. Students have been responsible for designing their own circuits, converting them into PCBs (printed circuit boards), and then mounting, soldering, and testing their components to ensure functionality. This hands-on process allows them to develop essential skills in electronics design, prototyping, and problem-solving.

One standout project, designed by Henry M, is an interactive child's bath toy. This innovative creation detects when placed in water, triggering a gentle lighting effect, and when lifted, it automatically activates an engaging light and sound display to enhance playtime interaction.

DEPARTMENT NEWS - ENGINEERING



Year 13 Engineering Students Master CNC Precision with Hammer Project

Our Year 13 T Level and BTEC Engineering students have been demonstrating their precision machining skills through the creation of a custom setting hammer—a tool they can use for future machining tasks.

This project has allowed students to apply both CNC programming and manual turning techniques. They have developed their own CNC programs, first simulating them on a CNC simulator before machining their components on the Harrison Alpha lathe. In addition, they have designed and manufactured an end insert using CAD software before producing it on the Boxford CNC machine.

Beyond CNC work, students have also developed their manual machining skills, crafting a hammer handle using turning and milling techniques before assembling the final product. To ensure precision, they conducted high-level testing and inspection using industry-standard measurement equipment, working to tolerances as fine as 0.01mm.

This project has not only refined their technical abilities in machining and CAD/CAM programming but has also reinforced quality control, problem-solving, and attention to detail—essential skills for their future careers in engineering.



Year 13 BTEC Engineering Students Tackle Electronics Project

Our Year 13 BTEC Engineering students are putting their technical and teamwork skills to the test as they design and manufacture a barbecue timer as part of their Barbecue Fabrication project.

This challenging project requires students to develop a programmable timing circuit, create a custom program, and design a printed circuit board (PCB). Beyond individual technical skills, the project emphasizes collaborative manufacturing, with students working in teams to produce a consistent batch of timers, assigning specific roles to ensure efficiency and quality control.

DEPARTMENT NEWS - ENGINEERING

This hands-on experience provides invaluable insight into electronics design, programming, and batch manufacturing, all while reinforcing the importance of teamwork, precision, and project management—essential skills for success in the engineering industry.

We are excited to see their designs come to life and look forward to their final creations!

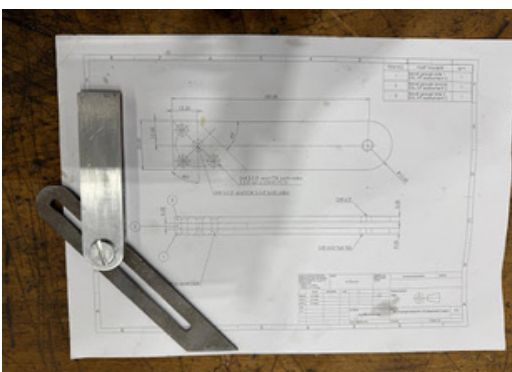


Year 13 T Level Students Excel in Bevel Gauge Project

Our Year 13 Engineering students have been demonstrating their dedication to precision and professionalism as they prepare for their Occupational Specialisms exam. As part of their assessment, students undertook a practical hand-fitting exercise, meticulously manufacturing a bevel gauge—a fundamental tool in engineering. The workshop was a hive of focused activity as students applied industry-standard health and safety protocols, wearing the appropriate PPE, including safety glasses, steel-toe boots, and well-fitted overalls. Before commencing their practical work, each student conducted a detailed risk assessment, carefully identifying potential hazards and outlining control measures.



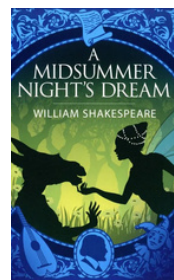
Through comprehensive production planning, they demonstrated a strong understanding of material selection, tool requirements, and quality control processes—key competencies in modern engineering. Tutors praised the students for their professionalism and attention to detail, particularly in their precise handling of files and measuring equipment. This exercise not only strengthened their practical engineering skills but also reinforced the importance of workplace safety, meticulous planning, and quality craftsmanship—critical attributes for success in the industry.



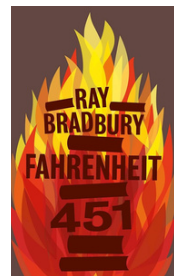
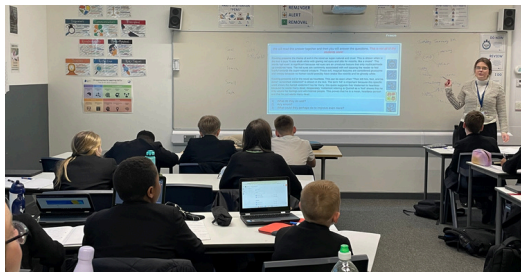
We are incredibly proud of their hard work and look forward to them continuing to develop into the next generation of skilled engineers.

DEPARTMENT NEWS - ENGLISH

Key Stage Three have had a great Module 3. Year 7 have started a new study of William Shakespeare, and have considered many of his plays throughout this Module. They particularly enjoyed creating their own Shakespearean insults and hurling them at each other! This work will prepare them to study their first full Shakespeare play next Module, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.



Year 8 have spent Module 3 studying a collection of dystopian fiction from the last 100 years. They have looked at texts such as 'Fahrenheit 451', 'The Handmaid's Tale' and 'The Hunger Games', considering how each dystopia is presented. This will help them in their study of the dystopian novella 'The Giver' next Module.



Year 9 have started their study of the gothic novel 'The Woman in Black'. They have done an excellent job in reading the very long, Edwardian-esque sentences and have enjoyed being spooked by the excellent plot.



Key Stage Four have spent Module 3 continuing their study of their GCSE texts. Year 10 have started their study of the play 'An Inspector Calls', and have enjoyed reading the very dramatic plot! There has been some excellent reading for our budding actors in Year 10!

Year 11 are continuing their revision ahead of their exams. We wish them the best of luck in their round of mocks!



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 after a restful half-term.



Join us on World Book Day, 6th March 2025!

Calling all young writers, artists, and storytellers! Are you ready to unleash your creativity and share your unique stories with the world? **The World Book Day Book Creator Competition 2025** is here, and it's time for YOU to shine!

This is an exciting opportunity for young minds to craft their own books, from thrilling adventures to heartwarming tales. Whether you're a budding author, a talented illustrator, or a creative genius, this competition is your chance to showcase your skills! Join us for more information on the 6th March 2025!

- Express Yourself: Share your unique voice and perspective through your story.
- Inspire Others: Your book could inspire readers around the world.
- Get Recognized: Winners will gain recognition and amazing rewards.



Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to become a published young author!

DEPARTMENT NEWS - GERMAN

Year 7 Goes Global: Writing Letters to German Pen-Friends

This term, Year 7 has been channeling their creativity and language skills into an exciting project: writing letters to their German pen-friends from the Geschwister School Gymnasium in Aachen. Students have been expressing their hobbies, likes, and dislikes in German, making meaningful connections with our German link school who will visit again in May 2025. The project has been a fantastic way to blend language learning with real-world application. Students worked hard to structure their letters, practicing proper greetings and sentence formation. They introduced themselves, shared their favourite activities—whether it's football, music, gaming, or reading—and even revealed the things they're not so fond of – like doing homework. Beyond language skills, this activity has offered a chance to explore German culture and strengthen ties with peers abroad. Year 7 is eagerly anticipating responses from their German counterparts, sparking the start of lasting international friendships. Stay tuned for updates on this cultural exchange—there's plenty more to come as Year 7 continues their journey into the world of languages and connection!

Fashion and Grammar: Year 8's Stylish Language Journey

This term, Year 8 has been stepping into the world of fashion and language, learning all about items of clothing and what to wear when meeting up with friends. But this isn't just a simple vocabulary lesson—they've also been mastering how to describe their fashion choices using three different tenses. From casual meetups to preparing for a special date, students have been practicing how to express their style and share their experiences in German. They've explored:

- The Present Tense: Talking about what they're currently wearing. ("Ich trage ein weisses Hemd und schwarze Schuhe.")
- The Past Tense: Reflecting on what they wore and how they prepared. ("Ich habe einen roten Rock für eine Party gekauft.")
- The Future Tense: Sharing plans for what they'll wear when going out. ("Ich werde eine Jeans und ein T-Shirt anziehen.")

To bring the lesson to life, Year 8 engaged in fun activities like describing their ideal outfits for different occasions, imagining how they prepared for a date, and even creating their own mock dialogues about getting ready to go out. This blend of creativity and grammar has not only enhanced their ability to communicate in German but also given them the confidence to talk about real-life scenarios in a fun and relatable way. Plus, who doesn't love a good outfit chat? Year 8 has certainly proven that they're both fashionable and fluent. With their new skills, they're ready to impress their friends—not just with their outfits but also with their linguistic flair in German!

Dreaming Big: Year 9 Explores Life Ambitions in the Conditional Tense

This term, Year 9 students have been reaching for the stars—linguistically and imaginatively—as they learned how to express their life ambitions in German using the Conditional Tense. From adventurous activities to life-changing milestones, they've been mastering the language to share what they would do if given the opportunity.

Using phrases like „Wenn ich die Möglichkeit hätte...“ (If I had the opportunity...), students explored their dreams and aspirations, diving into topics as exciting and varied as:

- Experiencing the thrill of zorbing down a hill.
- Conquering the challenge of climbing Mount Everest.
- Embarking on a journey to travel the world or live abroad, embracing as many cultures as possible.
- Picturing future milestones like going to University or even getting married and having children.

DEPARTMENT NEWS - GERMAN

To make the lesson interactive, students participated in creative activities, such as imagining their “bucket list” moments. They practiced forming sentences like „Ich würde die ganze Welt bereisen, um neue Kulturen zu erleben.“ (I would travel the world to experience new cultures) and „Ich würde den Mount Everest besteigen, wenn ich stark genug wäre.“ (I would climb Mount Everest if I were strong enough). The lessons not only helped sharpen their grammar skills but also encouraged them to think deeply about their aspirations and how language can bring their dreams to life. Who knows—some of these ambitions might just turn into reality one day! Year 9’s creativity and enthusiasm have shown that the Conditional Tense isn’t just about hypothetical situations—it’s a way to dream big and think about the exciting possibilities the future holds.

Rising to the Challenge: Year 10 Completes Their First GCSE Practice Exams

This term, Year 10 hit an exciting milestone—they completed their first set of exams modelled on the new AQA GCSE syllabus. With the updated standards raising the bar for linguistic precision and fluency, the group worked hard to refine their German skills and meet the demands of the modern GCSE exams. Central to their preparation was mastering high-level opinion phrases and using at least three different tenses with accuracy and confidence. From expressing detailed thoughts about their hobbies („Meiner Meinung nach ist Fußball fantastisch, weil es mich fit hält.“) to discussing past experiences and future plans („Letztes Wochenende habe ich einen Film gesehen.“ / „Nächstes Jahr werde ich nach Köln fahren.“), Year 10 has embraced the challenge of making their language richer and more expressive. Well done to Year 10 for their achievements so far—here’s to even greater success as they continue their GCSE journey!

Final Push: Year 11 Gears Up for GCSE German Exams

This term, Year 11 has been hard at work preparing for their upcoming GCSE exams in May, with a particular focus on sharpening their speaking, writing, and listening skills. As the countdown to their first exam—the speaking component in April 2025—draws closer, the group has been showing impressive dedication to making these final months count. To support their progress, students continue to attend intervention classes, where they receive targeted support to polish their skills and boost their confidence. In speaking practice, students are refining their ability to express themselves clearly and fluently, mastering spontaneous responses and detailed answers to unpredictable questions. Writing sessions are helping them develop well-structured, creative pieces that incorporate a variety of tenses, opinion phrases, and advanced vocabulary. Meanwhile, listening activities are building their ability to understand fast, authentic German in real-life scenarios—a vital skill for their exams and beyond. Year 11’s commitment to their studies has been remarkable, and their teachers are confident that this hard work will pay off. With just a few months to go, this final stretch is all about staying focused, putting the finishing touches on their skills, and building the confidence they need to succeed.

To all of Year 11, we say: Viel Glück und viel Erfolg! Good luck and every success as you prepare to showcase your progress and passion for German in the weeks ahead.

DEPARTMENT NEWS - GEOGRAPHY

Module 3 Geography

The year 7 students at the Leigh UTC have been engaging interactive lessons on weather and climate. They are equipped with the knowledge to explain why British weather is often described as 'rubbish'. With climate change having a strong impact on the weather students can educate others on the importance of protecting themselves to reduce the effects of the extreme weather events. They also gained an appreciation for the impact of climate change and the importance of climate action.



In this module year 8s have been focusing on urbanisation, learning how cities grow and change over time. They discovered the reasons why people move to cities, the urban pressure cities face like overcrowding and pollution, and the exciting opportunities they offer, such as jobs linking into global exposure and providing them with wider world learning. Students were able to link their global knowledge to the capital city of the UK. London faces many challenges, such as providing housing and infrastructure for its growing populations. The students completed the module by writing a letter to the Mayor of London offering suggestions on ways to reduce urban pressure in the city.



Year 9 students have been exploring the fascinating world of global development, uncovering the factors that shape the lives of people around the globe. Through this module, students were able to compare the theories of development and identify the indicators used to measure development across countries, such as GDP, HDI, and life expectancy, and how these can be used to compare development across countries.



This module has provided a solid foundation for students to continue their learning about global issues and to become informed and engaged citizens of the world.



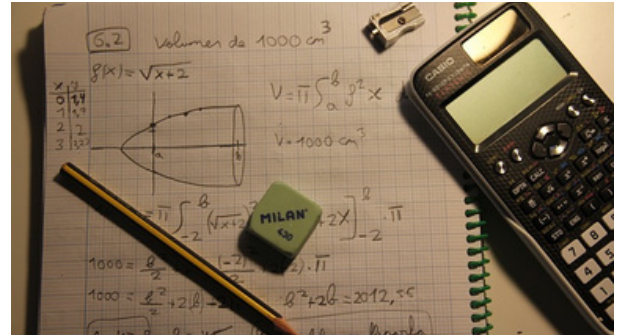
DEPARTMENT NEWS - MATHS

Welcome to Module 3 Maths!

Across KS3 there's a whole host of topics that our students are sinking their teeth into. For Year 7s, it's a first look at angles in secondary education.

Parallel lines, Triangles, Quadrilaterals and

Congruence are just some of the mathematical buzzwords that your child should be familiar with by the end of the module. In Year 8 its a case of recapping Ratio and then looking at graphs in a real-world context - where they're used, how they're used and how they are vital in areas including finance, weather, and healthcare. Finally our Year 9s are also examining angles like their Year 7 counterparts. Once this has been mastered then it will be a move to Loci and Construction, which means pencils and pairs of compasses galore (if you are able to provide these for your child the Maths team will be most appreciative).



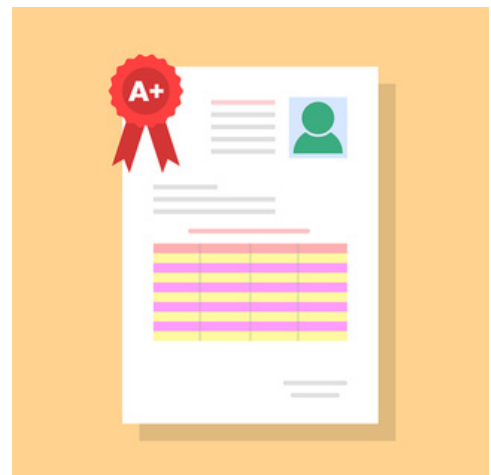
In Year 10, exams are also the order of business, with our current cohort experiencing their first mock GCSE examination, in class. Students will be given the opportunity to demonstrate what they have picked up across KS3 and start to get to grips with how exam technique and question comprehension are vital to their chances of success in 18 months time.

It's 2025 which means its officially exam year for our current Year 11s! With intervention now ramping up across all subject areas, students will be invited to Maths on a Tuesday after school to solidify existing knowledge and to build on previously studied concepts to prepare for their three papers in the summer.

As always, if you would like to contact the Maths team about what we are learning across any year group, please feel free to reach out to the relevant classroom teacher. Finally, Sparx is still very much the order of play for homework so please ensure that students are completing this each week (they can even complete it on their smartphones).

5 Top Tips for Effective Revision:

- Start Early - don't leave it until the last minute!
- Plan your time - make a schedule.
- Avoid your phone! - it's too distracting.
- Practice, Practice, Practice!
- Take regular breaks for a few minutes.



DEPARTMENT NEWS - PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Year 7: Building Skills

In Year 7, students started their gymnastics journey by learning the foundational moves that every athlete needs. Rolls, handstands, and cartwheels became second nature as they worked on building strength and coordination.

- **What They Mastered:** The students gained confidence as they learned new skills such as forward rolls, handstands and round offs.
- **Why It Was Amazing:** For many, this was their first taste of gymnastics, and they discovered their hidden talents and superpowers!
- **Memorable Moments:** Watching classmates finally hold a perfect handstand or land their first cartwheel brought cheers of excitement and encouragement.

Year 8: Superhero Adventures

By Year 8, students took their skills to the next level with superhero-themed dances and gymnastics routines. Every session felt like stepping into a Marvel movie, with moves inspired by characters like Black Panther and Captain Marvel.

- **What They Created:** Dynamic routines combined flips, spins, and dramatic superhero poses, telling exciting stories of strength and courage.
- **Why It Was Epic:** These performances brought out creativity and teamwork as students choreographed their routines together.
- **Standout Performances:** Who could forget the back walkovers timed perfectly to powerful music or the dramatic leaps that looked like they came straight out of an action film!



Year 9: Graffiti-Themed Cool

In year 9, groups were trying the art of blending urban dance with gymnastics, creating graffiti-themed routines full of energy and attitude. Their performances were bold, colorful, and brimming with personality.

- **What They Explored:** Students combined breakdancing freezes with gymnastics skills, turning every move into a work of art. Urban-inspired music and graffiti backdrops brought the routines to life.
- **Why It Stood Out:** Students were able to make their mark, expressing their individuality and showing off the skills they had honed over the years.
- **Unforgettable Highlights:** The perfectly executed handsprings and freeze poses wowed everyone, while the graffiti props added a creative edge that made each performance unforgettable.

DEPARTMENT NEWS - SCIENCE

It is highly likely that many of the roles our students will take in the future do not exist yet and/or they will need to draw upon knowledge and skills from several different subjects. Addressing this eventuality is a core part of the Middle Years Programme (MYP), delivered at the UTC.

In the MYP, interdisciplinary units play a vital role in fostering a holistic and connected approach to learning. These units encourage students to draw on knowledge, skills, and concepts from multiple disciplines to explore complex topics and address real-world issues. By integrating perspectives from different subject areas, students develop critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills. Interdisciplinary units also promote collaboration, as students work together to synthesize ideas and create meaningful connections between seemingly distinct fields of study, aligning with the MYP's emphasis on inquiry-based and globally relevant education.

Students in Year 9 have been engaging in their Interdisciplinary Unit in Science and exploring the influence of external factors on their decision making. They completed a debate lesson where they explored the question "Do Pharmaceutical Companies Have Too Much Influence Over Our Health Decisions?".

The students practiced 2 ATL skills: 'Delegate and share responsibility for decision making' and 'Consider ethical, cultural and environmental considerations'. They split into small groups assigned to different roles and nominated 2 speakers to engage in an enthusiastic 25 minute debate.

Ryan B (Y9) commented "The lesson was really interesting and led to further debates on the topic after the lesson. It was different than usual and enjoyable"



XC CLUBS AT THE LEIGH UTC

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

Extra-Curricular Clubs Continue to Thrive in Module 3!

Following the success of our extra-curricular program in the first two modules, Module 3 has seen even more exciting opportunities for students to get involved! We've introduced nine new clubs, each of which has been a fantastic success, with high levels of engagement and enthusiasm from students across all year groups. As always, we encourage even more students to come along, try something new, and enjoy these fantastic activities!

Among the new additions, the Film Club, led by the English team, has been a hit with students who love storytelling and cinema. Meanwhile, our Netball Club continues to grow, now a regular fixture on Monday mornings, providing KS3 students with a great way to start the week with some teamwork and fitness.

For those looking to sharpen their skills, our Table Tennis Club for KS4 and KS5 has been taken to the next level with a professional coach, giving students the chance to develop their technique and competitive play. Mental agility is also being tested in the new KS3 Crossword and Problem-Solving Club, where students can challenge themselves with puzzles and word games.

The introduction of Board Games Club and Mindfulness Colouring Club has created a relaxing and social space for students to unwind, while Lego Club has been a great hit among those who love to build and create. Over in the Art Department, the new Clay Club has allowed students to get hands-on with sculpting and creativity, producing some incredible work.

One of the most exciting additions this module has been the KS3 Dance Club, which is uniquely run by our talented Year 12 and 13 students. This student-led initiative has been inspiring younger students, fostering creativity, and providing an opportunity for leadership and teamwork in the process.

It has been incredible to see students engaging so actively in these clubs, and we can't wait to see even more students get involved as we move forward. There's always room for more—so if you haven't joined a club yet, now is the perfect time! Stay tuned for even more exciting opportunities in Module 4!

Don't forget every time you attend a club you receive 5 points that goes towards The Leigh UTC Champions League and 10 points every time you represent the school externally.

BASKETBALL CLUB

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



Basketball Club - Module 3 Highlights

The Leigh UTC Basketball Club has had an exceptional module, showcasing the passion and dedication of our students in Years 7, 8, and 9. With an incredible turnout each week, the club has welcomed over 30 enthusiastic players, creating an atmosphere of teamwork, growth, and sportsmanship. The consistent attendance of more than 30 students every session is a testament to the popularity and success of the club, but most of all the students attitude and dedication to improve.

Students have worked on their dribbling, shooting, passing, and defensive techniques. They have also been working on lay-ups, set shots, and the fast break by playing half-court defense to allow lots of attacking opportunities, demonstrating their growing confidence and skill on the court.



We welcome all students, no matter age, gender or ability to ensure that all players feel encouraged and supported. From beginners learning the basics to more experienced players refining their techniques. A big shout out must go to Isabelle in Year 8 who attends week in week out as the only female in the group! It is great to see her improving every week and building in confidence and we would love to see more female students following in her footsteps and attending in module 4.

The Year 7 & 8 Basketball team won their opening game of the season against a great ball handling side of SGLA. The first quarter saw us take an early lead with Sam O rebounding hard and draining all of his set shots close to the basket putting us up 8-2. In the second quarter SGLA worked hard battling against our power forwards and moving the ball well, getting back into the game by stopping us from scoring any more than just the one basket. We realised we had to move the ball more and find the space that Isabelle B was creating, feeding her the ball, enabling her to show off her range of passing and decision making to assist Harry B on the scoresheet. In the final quarter we knew we had to keep it tight, we didn't let the nerves get the better of us and despite not scoring any baskets, we did not let this change our game plan and had the crowd shouting "D-fence" constantly, where we stayed disciplined and only conceded one basket. Full time: UTC 18 v 6 SGLA

Looking ahead we are excited to see what the future holds for the team. Here's to many more slam dunks and unforgettable moments in the modules to come!





German Club is the place to be to learn a new language, culture and heritage

GERMAN CLUB



Die Deutschen Botschafter in Aktion

"Rolling with Tradition: Students and the Meatball - Frikadellen Mission."

The German Ambassadors hosted a cooking event in module 3 where students learned the history and traditions surrounding Frikadellen before rolling up their sleeves to cook. The process itself is straightforward, making it ideal for beginner cooks. Students mixed ground beef with diced onions, breadcrumbs, eggs, and seasonings like parsley, salt, and pepper. Shaping the mixture into patties and pan-frying them allows students to practice basic techniques like seasoning, forming, and cooking to temperature. Preparing the German food together fostered teamwork and communication, and learning about the dish's origins offered a deeper appreciation of German culture. Students learned that there are about 50 different names for these meatballs in the different parts of Germany! Guten Appetit!



Students Breathe New Life into German Department Displays

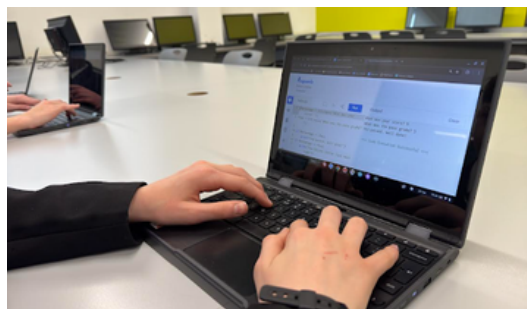
The German Department's display boxes in the IA recently underwent an exciting transformation, thanks to the collaborative efforts of The German Botschafter. With the goal of creating vibrant and informative displays showing photos of the recent Christmas Market Trip to Köln and Aachen. The 45 students who went on the trip were asked to share their favourite shots of the trip! A big thank you to all the Ambassadors involved! Vielen Dank!





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

Welcome to the Coding Club, every Wednesday at 12:35 pm in UTC 2.02. Students learn the fundamentals of programming using Python to create programs to solve a range of problems through the use of sequencing, Selection, Interaction, Functions and Arrays.

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

MARKERS CLUB

Markers Club allows students to explore coding and creativity simultaneously using Micro:bit!

Markers Club

Unleashing Creativity with Micro:bit!

Join us every Tuesday after school for Markers Club, where KS3 students explore coding and creativity using the Micro:bit controller! This module they design fun, simple projects—like flashing lights and basic games—while learning the basics of programming. It's a great way to develop problem-solving skills and bring ideas to life in a fun, hands-on way. Stay tuned for their amazing creations! Next module we will be looking at 3D Printing!!



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

STEM CLUB

Module 3 has been another successful module for STEM club. In this module students have been experimenting with different ways to determine the pH of various different substances. Students have been using some standard methods and also making their own indicator using red cabbage. Students have been linking the experiments to various industries and careers that require the testing and use of the information related to pH.

We have seen some new students attending this module and it would be great to see more students attending every Thursday between 3:15 and 4:15 in a2.11 science lab.

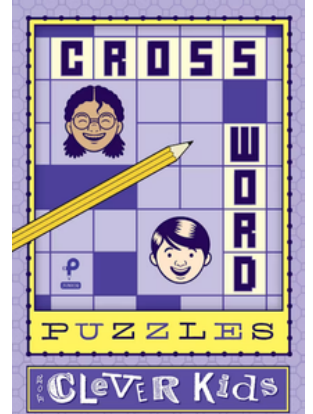
LIBRARY AND CROSSWORDS CLUB

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



Unlock the Magic of Crosswords: Brain Teasers for Every Member!

Welcome to the wonderful world of crosswords, where fun meets brainpower and every puzzle promises a delightful challenge! If you haven't already joined the crossword craze, here's why you absolutely should. Get ready to discover the amazing benefits of crossword puzzles that make them an unmissable activity for our club members.



Brain Boosting Fun

Crosswords are like a gym workout for your brain! They help improve your vocabulary, enhance memory, and sharpen your problem-solving skills. Each puzzle you solve is a step towards keeping your mind sharp and agile, and who wouldn't want that?

Stress Relief

Feeling stressed out? Grab a crossword puzzle and dive in! The gentle focus required to solve clues helps calm your mind and provides a wonderful escape from daily pressures. Plus, there's no better feeling than the satisfaction of filling in that last blank space.

Social Connection

Crossword puzzles are fantastic for fostering social interaction. Whether you're solving them solo or teaming up with friends, they spark conversation and collaboration. Share clues, swap answers, and celebrate those "Aha!" moments together. It's a great way to bond and make new friends.

Expanding Knowledge

Every crossword puzzle is a mini-trivia challenge, packed with interesting facts and general knowledge. As you solve more puzzles, you'll find yourself learning about diverse topics, from history and science to pop culture and literature. It's like a fun-filled learning adventure every time.

Creativity and Imagination

Crosswords often require you to think outside the box and come up with creative solutions. This can stimulate your imagination and enhance your creative thinking skills. Plus, the clever wordplay and puns can tickle your funny bone and keep you entertained.

Accessible for Everyone

Whether you're a seasoned crossword solver or a newbie, there's a puzzle out there for you. Crosswords come in all levels of difficulty, so you can always find one that matches your skill level. Plus, they can be enjoyed anywhere – at home, in the park, or on the go. So, why wait? Grab a crossword puzzle today and start enjoying all these incredible benefits. Join our club's crossword enthusiasts and unlock a world of fun, learning and camaraderie every lunchtime in the library.

BOARD GAMES CLUB

Board games Club is a club to practising strategizing, teamwork or individual competitiveness



The Benefits of Playing Board Games

In a world dominated by digital entertainment, board games offer a refreshing and rewarding alternative. Not only are they a fun way to pass the time, but they also provide a wealth of benefits for both the mind and body. Below are some compelling reasons to dust off that old board game collection and gather around the table for some good, old-fashioned fun.

Cognitive Health

Playing board games can significantly boost cognitive functions. Many games require strategic thinking, problem-solving, and planning ahead, which can improve memory and mental agility. Games like chess or Scrabble especially enhance cognitive skills by challenging the brain in unique ways.

Social Benefits

Board games are a fantastic way to bring people together. Whether you're playing with family or friends, these games foster teamwork, communication, and a sense of community. They provide an excellent opportunity to bond and create lasting memories, making social interactions more meaningful in an era where digital dialogue often overshadows face-to-face conversations.

Mental Health

Board games can be a powerful tool in reducing stress and promoting relaxation. Engaging in a fun activity distracts the mind from daily stresses and worries, providing a much-needed break. The laughter and excitement that come with playing also release endorphins, which help improve mood and overall mental well-being.

Boosts Creativity and Confidence

From creating original strategies to thinking outside the box, board games can stimulate creative thinking. Successfully executing a strategy boosts confidence and can encourage a sense of accomplishment. This newfound confidence can spill over into other areas of life, leading to increased self-esteem and motivation.



Join the board games club every Friday at lunchtime in the Library



Mindful Colouring Club is a chance to be creative and practice relaxation and mindfulness!

MINDFUL COLOURING CLUB

Joining a mindful colouring lunch club can be a fantastic opportunity for our students. This club offers a peaceful escape from the academic pressures of school life, providing a chance to unwind and de-stress.

Through the simple act of colouring, students can enhance their focus and concentration, which can help improve their academic performance. Additionally, the club fosters a supportive and inclusive environment where students can socialise and build friendships. It's a wonderful way for them to express their creativity and to enhance their fine-motor skills.

Overall, our mindful colouring lunch club can significantly contribute to the mental and emotional well-being of our students, making their school experience more enjoyable and balanced. Currently our club is open for year 8 students during their Thursday lunch-time in the IA Library.



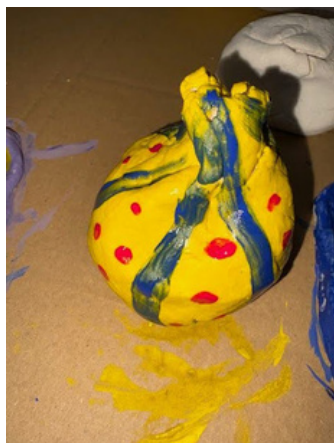
CREATIVE CLAY CLUB

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



In Creative Clay Club, students have been using salt dough to create unique sculptures and ornaments. With the freedom to design anything they imagine, they have explored textures, patterns, and intricate details, developing their creativity and fine motor skills along the way.

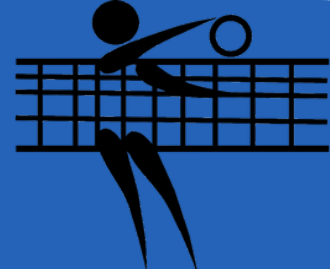
In the Creative Clay Club students are given the opportunity to explore this artistic medium and have instructions on different styles and tools they can use to create different products whilst being able to let their imaginations go wild.



Creative Clay Club runs every Tuesday afterschool in aG.17, so if you like the sound of this opportunity to explore your creativity come and join us!

NETBALL CLUB

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

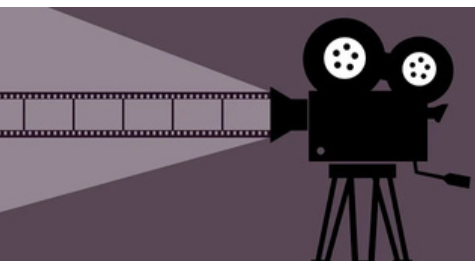


Join the Fun at Netball Club!

Looking for a way to kickstart your week with energy, teamwork, and a bit of friendly competition? Then Netball Club is the place to be!

- When? Every Monday, 8:15–9:00 AM
- Who? Years 7-9
- Where? The Sports Hall
- What to Bring? Your PE kit and a positive attitude!

Whether you're a seasoned player or completely new to the game, everyone is welcome. It's a great chance to sharpen your skills, make new friends, and have fun before the school day begins. So, grab your PE kit, set your alarm, and meet us on the court. Let's make Monday mornings something to look forward to! See you there!



Film Club is the place to be for the love of books and film adaptations!

FILM CLUB

Are you a book lover who can't get enough of film adaptations?

Come watch your favorite novels come to life on the big screen with us!

Each week, we'll dive into a different movie based on a beloved book discussing the highs, the lows, and how the story compares to the original. The Hunger Games, Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings etc. The choice is yours so grab your popcorn, bring your thoughts, and let's chat about books and movies in a1.11 every Thursday, 3.15 - 4pm

GAMING CLUB

Gaming Club is an opportunity to build stamina and competitive ability



Another module and another successful iteration of Mr Emengo's Games Club. Students across KS3 and KS4 have been flocking to the UTC on a Monday after school to enjoy all kinds of games. Whether it be board, interactive, or card, we've got you covered.

Mr Emengo has recently taken receipt of some fresh new Xbox controllers so students have the opportunity to play against their friends on all sorts of games, from 80s classics to modern day spectacles. So if you're a Yu-Gi-Oh enthusiast, you love Anime (in which case Mr Emengo can chat to you for hours) or you like the idea of smashing barrels with Donkey Kong, then make sure you're at room 2.02 at 15.15. There's always room for more!



Another exciting Module for Nintendo Club!

Every Thursday after school, students have been stepping up and showing off their moves in our Just Dance sessions—whether you're a seasoned dancer or just want to have fun, there's always space on the floor.

Exciting news! We've recently taken delivery of brand-new gaming chairs and accessories as we gear up for a new era—competing in the LAT Esports League against other schools in the trust. We're looking for teams of five from KS3 to represent us in competitive play. Think you've got what it takes? You'll need to assess your skills in games like Rocket League, Fortnite, Overwatch 2, and (coming soon) FC 25 and Marvel Rivals.

Game schedules are in the works, with Overwatch 2 likely running on Tuesdays, Rocket League on Thursdays, and Fortnite moving to Mondays. Plus, you'll have the chance to design and create your own team jersey as you represent the school on the national stage! If you're up for the challenge, start sharpening your skills—more updates coming soon!

Calling All Young Cyber Enthusiasts!

The Cyber Explorers Cup 2025 is just around the corner, offering an exciting opportunity for students aged 11 to 14 across the UK to dive into the world of cyber security. This interactive online competition, running from 31 March to 4 April 2025, challenges teams to secure the new headquarters of the Cyber Squad by focusing on People, Processes, and Technology. It's a race against time to protect Cyber City!



Competition Highlights:

- **Team Formation:** Schools can enter up to five teams, each consisting of 4–6 students. Teams can be formed from a single class or a mix of year groups within the 11–14 age range.
- **Prizes:** Winning schools will receive half-day, face-to-face cyber security career events, exclusive merchandise, certificates, and prizes from industry partners. The top home-school participant will also receive exclusive merchandise, certificates, and prizes.

Entry Requirements:

Participating schools or home-schools should have completed at least three content elements from the Cyber Explorers educational platform.

The competition runs over a five-day period, with teams competing during a one-hour timeslot of their choice. The deadline for entry is 21 March 2025, or until all places are filled. Don't miss this chance to engage in a thrilling cybersecurity adventure and showcase your skills! For more details and to register see Mr Adeniyi in room 2.13.

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.

Football club has been taking place each Monday. We are usually getting 20+ Year 7 and 8's it would be nice to get a few more Year 9's. Fixtures are now also taking place across all Year groups now that the Mini Bus has been repaired.

Football club is fun and enjoyable and everyone is welcome, whatever your standard of play.



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

TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Exciting Return of the Friday Lunchtime Table Tennis Club!

We are delighted to announce the triumphant return of our Friday Lunchtime Table Tennis Club, now bigger and better than ever! Due to its growing popularity, we have expanded to two sessions across both first and second lunch, allowing even more students to take part. We are also thrilled to have a coach from Joyden Wood Table Tennis Club, who is providing expert guidance and support to students eager to develop their skills. In just the first two weeks, we have seen an incredible 45+ students participating—whether to hone their techniques, take on new challenges, or simply enjoy the game for the first time. This initiative continues to foster teamwork, concentration, and sportsmanship, and we are proud to see so many students engaging with enthusiasm.

We look forward to seeing even more students get involved in the coming weeks!



M4 XC CLUBS TIMETABLE

<div>Extra Curricular Clubs</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	



Student Voice Team

This term, the Student Voice team has been incredibly busy, making a positive impact within and beyond the Leigh UTC community.

We began by celebrating our collective achievement of raising an impressive £330 for Action for Children charity during Module 2. To mark this success, the team met to reflect on our fundraising efforts and discuss plans for future fundraising initiatives...watch this space.

On 30th January 2025, we had the privilege of meeting Diane Blackburn, who visited the academy. As part of a student panel, we spoke to our guests about our experiences in Key Stage 3 and participating in the IB MYP programme. It was a fantastic opportunity to share our perspectives and highlight what makes learning at Leigh UTC unique.

Additionally, we met with Tracey Trusler, our Academy Director, and Anthony Farr from Leigh Stationers Academy to share the incredible things happening at Leigh UTC. We discussed how we stand out from other schools and showcased the many ways our community excels.

To close the module, the team successfully ran the Random Acts of Kindness anonymous message pledge. Students and staff were encouraged to write positive messages for their peers and staff, which were then hand-delivered on the final day of the module in celebration of Random Acts of Kindness Day which is on the 17th February. Seeing the smiles these messages brought to everyone's faces was truly heartwarming and a reminder of the power of kindness, which led from Mr Alamu's assembly in the penultimate week of the module on kindness.

The Student Voice team is proud of what we've achieved this module and looks forward to continuing to make a difference in our school community.

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:

- 'Happier January' - some tips and tricks to feel happier in the month of January and beat those 'January Blues'
- 'Friendly February' - ways to be kinder to yourself and to others throughout February.

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

'Happier January' - some tips and tricks to feel happier in the month of January and beat those 'January Blues'

Happier January 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1 Find three things to look forward to this year	2 Make time today to do something kind for yourself	3 Do a kind act for someone else to help brighten their day	4 Write a list of things you feel grateful for and why	5 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths
6 Take five minutes to sit still and just breathe	7 Learn something new and share it with others	8 Say positive things to the people you meet today	9 Get moving. Do something active (ideally outdoors)	10 Thank someone you're grateful to and tell them why	11 Switch off all your tech at least an hour before bedtime	12 Connect with someone near you - share a smile or chat
13 Take a different route today and see what you notice	14 Eat healthy food which really nourishes you today	15 Get outside and notice five things that are beautiful	16 Contribute positively to your local community	17 Be gentle with yourself when you make mistakes	18 Get back in contact with an old friend	19 Focus on what's good, even if today feels tough
20 Go to bed in good time and allow yourself to recharge	21 Try out something new to get out of your comfort zone	22 Plan something fun and invite others to join you	23 Put away digital devices and focus on being in the moment	24 Take a small step towards an important goal	25 Decide to lift people up rather than put them down	26 Choose one of your strengths and find a way to use it today
27 Challenge your negative thoughts and look for the upside	28 Ask other people about things they've enjoyed recently	29 Say hello to a neighbour and get to know them better	30 See how many people you can smile at today	31 Write down your hopes or plans for the future		

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



'Friendly February' - ways to be kinder to yourself and to others throughout February.

Friendly February 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1 Send a message to let someone know you're thinking of them	2 Ask a friend how they have been feeling recently
3 Do an act of kindness to make life easier for someone	4 Invite a friend over for a 'tea break' (in person or virtual)	5 Make time to have a friendly chat with a neighbour	6 Get back in touch with an old friend you've not seen for a while	7 Show an active interest by asking questions when talking to others	8 Share what you're feeling with someone you really trust	9 Thank someone and tell them how they made a difference for you
10 Look for good in others, particularly when you feel frustrated with them	11 Send an encouraging note to someone who needs a boost	12 Focus on being kind rather than being right	13 Smile at the people you see and brighten their day	14 Tell a loved one or friend why they are special to you	15 Support a local business with a positive online review or friendly message	16 Check in on someone who may be struggling and offer to help
17 Appreciate the good qualities of someone in your life	18 Respond kindly to everyone you talk to today, including yourself	19 Share something you find inspiring, helpful or amusing	20 Make a plan to connect with others and do something fun	21 Really listen to what people say, without judging them	22 Give sincere compliments to people you talk to today	23 Be gentle with someone you feel inclined to criticise
24 Tell a loved one about the strengths that you see in them	25 Thank three people you feel grateful to and tell them why	26 Make uninterrupted time for your loved ones	27 Call a friend to catch up and really listen to them	28 Give positive comments to as many people as possible today		

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

WELLBEING AT THE LEIGH UTC

Further Sources of 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.

In School

If a student is concerned about anything regarding their life in school and out of school, for example, bullying, they can contact their Student Services Manager (SSM) or email;

stop@theleighutc.org.uk

STUDENT SAFETY AND WELLBEING

Student Safety and Wellbeing at The Leigh UTC

At The Leigh UTC, your safety and happiness are our top priorities. We are committed to ensuring every student feels cared for, valued and listened to every single day.

Our approach to safety covers a wide range of areas, including preventing bullying, using photos responsibly, staying safe online, learning about healthy eating, first aid, and ensuring everyone is protected.

Through our curriculum, particularly in PSHE (Personal, Social, and Health Education) and RSE (Relationships and Sex Education), we empower students with vital life skills. These lessons help students make informed choices, live healthy active lifestyles, and prepare for future responsibilities, all taught within a safe, caring, and respectful environment. We understand how important it is for students to feel confident and supported. That's why we work hard to create learning environments where everyone feels safe inside and outside of the classroom, where students are encouraged to communicate with us either verbally or via our stop@theleighutc.org.uk email in order for all students to feel truly listened to. If a student feels worried or upset, they can turn to any adult in the building for help. All staff members receive regular training via the LAT online training platform Thrive, to ensure they can provide the best care and support.

To make accessing help easy, we provide information in PD mentor time, assemblies, letters, emails, social media and on posters around the school. These resources direct students to the appropriate support services.

As part of our commitment to safeguarding, our trained Child Protection Team works closely with outside agencies and families when additional support is required. If you ever have concerns or need help, please don't hesitate to reach out to our Safeguarding Officers.

At The Leigh UTC, we are dedicated to fostering a secure and supportive environment where every student can thrive.



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@theleighutc.org.uk

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

For information regarding admissions please email; 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://twitter.com/theleighutc)



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