

# THE BYTE

WINTERISSUE#6 19.12.2018

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

The Autumn Term is, I always think, half of the academic year. It arrives with force, energy and a huge amount of optimism. This was palpable when you spoke or worked with Year 11 students. They arrived in September with a focussed realisation that this is the term they would lay the foundations for their 2019 results.

Our world moves at such a pace. The Watford UTC is no different, we have experienced an incredibly busy term, having had many masterclasses, visits and trips, all of which complemented the day to day buzz of learning.

As the Christmas break approaches I find time to step back and reflect on the start to this academic year and I find that two feelings dominated my thoughts.

I am in awe of my colleagues, each and every day staff put their students at the heart of everything they do. Their determination, passion and commitment to ensuring students are supported in becoming the best versions of themselves inspires me.

Pride in our students. So many give their entire attention and focus each day, produce impressive work and do so in a collaborative and meaningful way.

Seeing students develop, becoming more aware of who they are and what type of person they want to become is a privilege. The Watford UTC is an incredibly special place to be on a daily basis and I feel very lucky to be able to play my part in our students' learning journey.

The staff and students could not achieve what we do without parents and carers support. You are key to each student attending the UTC and being ready to learn. Thank you for being so supportive of your child and WUTC.

When we close on the 19th December I hope all our Learning Family find time to rest, spend quality time with friends and family, ready to return with renewed energy on the 7th January for the Spring term.



## ENGLISH EVENTS

Both Year 10 and 11 students had fantastic opportunities to attend English Literature events this term. In October, Year 10 students attended Schools Poetry Live Day at the Southbank Centre. During this afternoon of poetry, students were introduced to many young and inspirational poets including Young People's Laureate for London, Momtaza Mehri. The group of poets presented a collection of their work that focused on theme this year of 'change'.

Another group of Year 10 students attended the Young Writer's Festival at the University of Cambridge. They experienced a full-day writing festival featuring keynote speakers, small group workshops, poetry slams and live performances.

In December Year 11 students attended GCSE Poetry Live Day at The Apollo Victoria Theatre. At this event, they had the opportunity to hear first hand from many of the poets they are studying including Simon Armitage, Carol Ann Duffy and Daljit Nagra. Students also picked up some helpful exam strategies from AQA English literature Chief Examiner, Tony Childs.





# AUTUMN TERM 2018

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

Our Year 10 students held their very first event at the Watford UTC earlier this term. Students organised a coffee morning to raise money for Macmillan. Cakes and drinks were set out and served to family, friends and other guests.

Guests took part in quizzes and raffles as well as listening to our school band perform.

The event was a huge success which raised £245 for Macmillan, our highest amount raised from a coffee morning to date.



## Team Building

Year 10 and 12 students took part in a team building day. Students worked in groups and completed numerous activities such as giant jenga, archery, basketball, golf and badminton.

It was a great opportunity for students to develop their ability to work as part of a team whilst showing off their competitive edge!



## Brit-Miss

Some of our Year 12 Business students organised and ran their very first event this term, celebrating the 'Best of British'.

Guests were served various classic British delicacies created by our Year 10 students and mocktails were also made by our Year 13 student Max.

There was lots of entertainment on the day, including our Year 10 student, Maia, playing the cello, christmas crackers and a quiz.

The event was a huge success, with over 30 guests attending.

Well done to all students involved, including Aiden, Mide and Rohan who organised the event. The students were delighted to raise £100 for Dame Helen Hyde's charity - Rwandan Sisterhood.





# OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

## Work Experience at The Grove

Three of our Year 12 students spent a week at The Grove, gaining valuable work experience. Kirsty, Rohan and Antonio visited each department of the hotel and were able to shadow staff. Students were able to get hands on experience setting up events and were able to interact with guests on a professional level.



## Angus Forbes Masterclass

Angus Forbes, co-founder of Natural Capital, delivered a whole school masterclass. He discussed the importance of looking after our planet and protecting our natural resources. It was inspiring and sent a strong message.



## Mayor of Watford Visit

Peter Taylor, Mayor of Watford, visited our school for a morning. He met with students, experienced a variety of our lessons and spent some time at 'geek corner' with our robotics students who showed him what our Nao robots can do.



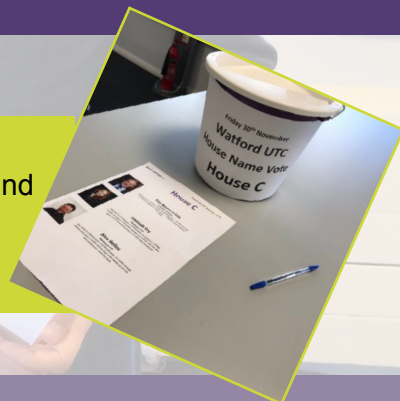
## Branding Masterclass

One of our governors, Mo Luthra, visited us this term to deliver a masterclass to our Year 10 students. Mo spoke to our students about the importance of branding and how to address different markets with your ideas.



## House Name Voting

We held a school-wide vote to find our new house names! Instead of House A, B and C, our houses will be named after some of the most inspirational people from the Computing, Travel and Event Management industries.



## Road Safety Video

Year 12 Media students took part in the Hertfordshire Fire Service Road Safety Competition this term. It was an amazing experience visiting and filming at the Watford Fire Station, developing their filmmaking skills while learning about the importance of road safety.



## Scholars at King's College

A group of Year 10 students went to King's College London as part of their Scholars programme. They spent time mixing with students from other school, listening to lectures and learning about Monomial and Polynomial maths.



# STAFF PROFILES

Name: Charlie King

I was previously a student at Watford UTC. I started in Year 12 and graduated last year with a BTEC in IT.

After my graduation I was offered an IT apprenticeship role at the Watford UTC, which I gladly accepted. So far, I have been thoroughly enjoying the transition from student to staff member.

In the future, I would like to continue my IT career, hopefully as a programmer.



Name: Mel Keene

As a new member of staff at the Watford UTC I have been made to feel extremely welcome by staff and students alike.

The role as a receptionist is incredibly varied and rewarding. I have really enjoyed getting to know the students and seeing them progress.

I look forward to continuing my journey as part of the school's Learning Family.

## CREDITTALLY

Since September 2018 we have awarded:

**3,632 credits!**

Congratulations to the following students, who are in the top ten for most credits within their year group.

Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Harrison	Chantel	Ross	Bailey
Daniele	Bridget	Aiden	Daniel
Nuha	Elias	Kieron	Rory
Neo-Pascal	Jack	Kirsty	Alwin
Aaron	Thomas	Ojaswani	Rose
Daniel	Iyan	Fin	Daisy
Charles	Sky	Preslav	James
Chantel	Ria	Bradley	Jackson
Alex.B	Amy	Monika	Nitushn
Josh.G	Maddy	Dimeji	Daya

## KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

3rd and 4th January  
INSET Day, no school for students

7th January  
Start of Spring Term for all students

8th January  
Youth Connexions— Students Wellbeing

9th January  
CISCO Masterclass Y13 BTEC IT students

11th January  
Digital Firestarters Masterclass, Y12 & Y13 IT students

10th January  
Skills for Life, Masterclass Y10 & Y12

15th January  
Jurys Inn Project Masterclass, 10 & Y12 TTEM students.

25th - 29th January  
White Water Writers Y10 Workshop

31st January  
Information Event; 16.30 - 18.00



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Aspire to achieve excellence; Be energetic and innovative"