

THE BYTE

SPRING ISSUE #5 29.03.2018

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

As we head towards our Easter break, I would like to say a huge thank you to staff, students and parents for such a wonderful term.

This term has been exciting with lots of various events and activities which I am sure you will appreciate in this Byte. Our website, tweets, Instagram postings indicate just how busy this term has been for our Learning Family. All members of our community should be proud of what they have achieved this term.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you an enjoyable, restful and peaceful Easter break and look forward to seeing students return refreshed on Tuesday 17th April for a 9am start.



E. H.

WHITEWATERWRITING

The first week of March, I had the incredible opportunity to work alongside nine students and the 'White Waters Writers' programme to publish a novel, 'Feud of Fire', in only one week. In such a short amount of time, we were asking students to take an idea, workshop it, develop it, storyboard it, draft it, proof it, refine it, polish it and after four and a half days – publish it.

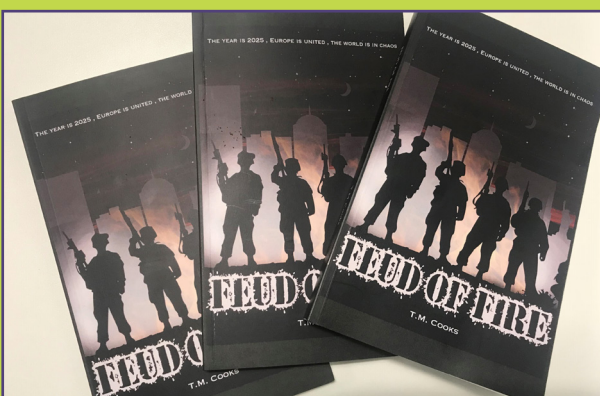
The only teacher intervention these students had was the initial prompt of "the story breaks". From this vague headline, they were able to create a sophisticated plot about international conspiracy, fake news and the fight for truth against censorship. In order to get the novel to an ambitious 10,000 word count it took a vast amount of teamwork and collaboration. Each student took on the writing responsibility of a character that would be in the novel. This also allowed the students to connect to the plot in a way that was meaningful to them. From young and impressionable soldiers to journalists, children and bloodthirsty army commanders, every young writer had a character that was in tune with their interests.



After five straight days of being in a small space with the same eight peers, one would think that these students would have had enough of each other. However, the atmosphere was the exact opposite. There was

a tangible sense of pride and accomplishment among the students. The impossible became possible only because of what they could do by working together. On the surface the 'White Waters Writers' programme is incredible as it turns students into published authors. Arguably more important though is that this programme equips students with a perseverance, resilience and grit that they will take with them to the rest of their studies and beyond.

- Sarah Hargan, English Teacher

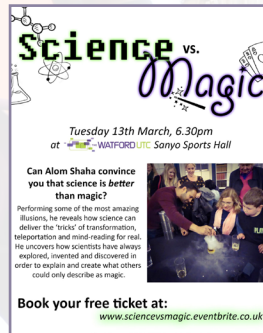
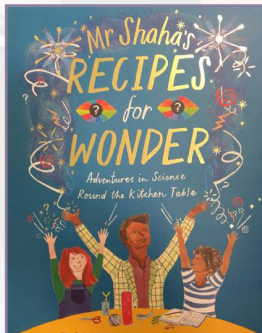


SPRING TERM 2018

Science vs Magic

Alom Shaha, Physics teacher at Watford UTC delivered a fantastic public masterclass on Tuesday 13th March to students and members of the public. Performing some of the most amazing illusions, he revealed how Science can deliver the tricks of transformation, teleportation and mind reading. He uncovered how scientists have always explored, invented and discovered, in order to explain and create what others can only describe as 'magic'.

Alom also recently published a Science book for children and parents that encourages children to be more inquisitive about Science. It explains how to set up easy experiments at home.



Digital Photography Trip

Year 11 Photography students went to the Rickmansworth Aquadrome on Wednesday 14th March. They made the most of the landscape to contribute to their GCSE portfolios.



Shaken Not Stirred

Well done to our Year 12 Business students on the success of their event Shaken Not Stirred, and many thanks to all who joined us at Micklefield Hall and to those who generously donated in aid of our chosen causes DEMAND Charity and The Amelia Richards Fund: DEMAND is a local charity that changes lives of those with disabilities through unique equipment solutions; and Amelia Richards is a Year 11 Watford UTC Student selected to represent England for sprinting at the CP (Cerebral Palsy) Games in Spain this Summer.

Guests enjoyed a Prosecco reception at Micklefield Hall's beautiful events venue, The Great Barn in Sarratt. Luxury afternoon tea finger food was supplied by Cucina, served alongside tea from Fortnum & Mason's "Famous Teas" collection: Royal Blend, Earl Grey and Vanilla Nougat. Students also served signature cocktails and mocktails titled Spectre and The Golden Eye, specially created for the event in association with The Grove. Entertainment included Bangra performers, a photo booth and live music from the Watford UTC Band. Thank you again to all our guests, sponsors, supporters and contributors for making this one of our biggest and best student-led events yet!



OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

DEAR Day

On Friday 19th January, all of our staff and students took part in 'Drop Everything and Read' day. During afternoon tutor time, everyone at the Watford UTC switched off their electronic devices and spent twenty minutes reading in silence.



Romeo and Juliet

On Thursday 25th January our Year 11 students took part in a Romeo and Juliet Live Lesson. They viewed a live performance of the balcony scene and were able to view a discussion about themes from the play in relation to their GCSE exam.



A Day in the Life Filming

On Thursday 22nd February we were joined by our governor Mo and his crew from 'Bland to Brand' who spent the day filming our staff and students in action. Savindu and Mia were also given the opportunity to shadow the crew and do some filming.



Debate Team

On Friday 23rd February, our debate team, Yazad, Iona-Mae, Jack.C and David participated in Richard Harrington's Hertfordshire Schools Debate at the Houses of Parliament. The team had to debate the notion "Should the Monarchy be abolished?"

Royal Albert Hall Performance

Nithushn, Caitlyn, and Kaveesha went with band leader, Luke, to the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday 11th March to participate in Hertfordshire School's Gala. They collaborated with choirs from other schools and performed numerous songs.



Brilliant Club

Year 10 Scholar's Programme participants visited Jesus College at Oxford University on Friday 16th March, as the introduction to the course. Their project focuses on Philosophy and the next stage is meeting with a specialist in the field.

Barcelona Trip

A group of students taking Travel & Tourism and Spanish visited Spanish teacher, Raquel's home town, Barcelona, from Monday 26th to Thursday 29th March. Students went paddle boarding, toured local landmarks and experienced the cuisine and culture.



STAFF PROFILES

Name: Raquel Rojas

I finished Secondary school thinking that I wanted to be a teacher. I have vocation and passion for teaching; from my point of view, it is one of the most important things in life. Anyone can learn how to be a teacher but having the passion, which I display, is something that cannot be taught. Another of my passions are travelling and discovering new cultures. At Watford UTC, I can put all my passions into practice! I am a Spanish and Travel and Tourism teacher and I am very grateful to be part of this learning family.



Name: Seb Darlison

Maths has been a common denominator throughout my life's endeavours. It's a language that I adore and am still a student of. Luckily I've been able to share what I do know with young people for the past eight years, which has helped me to guide them towards an interest in learning and an adulthood of open doors. Although Maths is what I teach, I believe in an holistic education, and see my role at Watford UTC as a chance to foster in our students the strength of character to push through adversity and start to see the world for what it is.



CREDITALLY

Since September 2017 we have awarded:

7,270 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 |
|------------|-----------|----------|---------|
| Jack | Kirsty | Bailey | Cian |
| Kimberley | Marcus | Rory | Louis |
| Ria | Munashe | Nathan | Leon |
| Haroon | Laurajane | Alwin | Charlie |
| Thilakshan | Dimeji | Daniel | James.S |
| Dimitri | Liam | Harry | Sam.H |
| Chantel | Antonio.B | Savindu | Tom |
| Andrei | Monika | Louis | Kierad |
| Sky | Portia | Luigi | Kemi |
| Flaviu | Madison | Nithushn | Jack.M |

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

30th March-15th April
Easter Break

16th April
Inset day, no school for students

18th April-11th May
GCSE, AS and A2 Photography assignments

18th April
No Wellbeing; Y12/13 finish at 13:00,
Y10/11 finish at 14:00

19th April
Emirates Aviation Experience Trip

30th April/1st May
Y12 Business Controlled Assessment

30th April-4th May
BTEC IT Unit 2 Controlled Assessment

8th/9th May
BTEC Media Unit 8 Controlled Assessment

14th May-26th June
Exam Period

30th June
Final BTEC Sign off date



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Aspire to achieve excellence; Be energetic and innovative"



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