

# THE BYTE

Summer Issue #1 | 20.05.16



## A message from the Principal...

As we head further into the summer term please find enclosed the latest newsletter which gives you excellent examples of just some of the events the students have been involved in and their successes. They are, as ever, inspirational!

It continues to be an honour and privilege to lead such a fantastic school and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students for their diligence and achievements so far this year. We have so many success stories to share and good news items to celebrate together.

With the exam season now upon us for many of you, I wanted to wish you all the best for the final push. Without a doubt, this can be a stressful time of year. With the finish line in sight, I urge you to stay open-minded and positive, and make your very best efforts over the next few weeks.

Change is in Watford UTC's blood; change is good, it keeps us thinking and up to date. We have reached the end of the building phase and expect the finishing touches, bringing to life our Refresh Café and Escape Travel Agency, to be completed this term. We look forward to welcoming members of our learning family to these dynamic spaces when we have our official opening on the 8th July 2016!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their dedication and hard work, as well as parents and carers for your continued support of Watford UTC and our students.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to the Principal, is written on a white background.



Our new Business Cafe called 'Refresh' is now open from 11:30-2:00pm each Thursday and Friday from 9th June. There will be a range of platters and coffees for sale.

Our travel agency, Escape, will be having a soft opening over the next half term so look out for those holiday bargains.



### International Women's Day

Tuesday 8th March was International Women's Day and our new Student Leader Sophie Richards contributed to the event by shadowing Richard Harrington MP in parliament. Sophie took part in a workshop to discuss how to get to a 50:50 gender balanced Parliament. Sophie also went on a tour of 10 Downing Street and then back to Parliament to watch the International Women's Day debate at the Commons.



### EPQ

Year 13 students went to Merchant Taylors' School to present their EPQ projects (Extended Project Qualification). This is a qualification taken by students who pose themselves a question and carry out extensive research in order to answer it. Tom (pictured above) presented his research on "Would giving firearms to pilots prevent acts of terrorism?" while Nhyoumila researched whether implementing railway lines in Kathmandu Valley was beneficial.



### Granada Trip

A group of Year 11 and 12 students visited Granada as part of a Travel & Tourism and Spanish trip! All of the students had an incredible time and experienced being part of the Spanish culture. Students tried the local cuisine, visited a Spanish Science Park and even learned some of the language from the locals. Meeting Maria's family (Spanish Teacher) was a highlight of the trip.



### British Airways

A group of Year 10 and 12 Travel and Hospitality students visited British Airways. They saw first hand how the Airline works. Students were also able to experience the role of cabin crew, as you can see from the photo above, they very much look the part.



Shakeel visited CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, where physicists and engineers are probing the fundamental structure of the universe. They use the world's largest and most complex scientific instruments to study the basic constituents of matter – the fundamental particles. The particles are made to collide together at close to the speed of light. The process gives the physicists clues about how the particles interact, and provides insights into the fundamental laws of nature. Students are now visiting CERN in July.



### Film Screening

Media Studies students were selected to go to Working Titles in London to experience a VIP Premiere Screening of the Cohen Brothers' film 'Hail Caesar!'



### BMX Masterclass

Mike from BMX Academy came in to deliver a BMX Masterclass to some of our students, as part of Sky Sports' Living for Sport programme.



### Sports Hall

Our new sports hall is in full use! Students are now having lunch time sessions in this space, which includes dodgeball and basketball. Good use is also made during Well Being.



### Arctic Challenge

Year 13 students took part in the Young Engineers RN UTC Arctic Challenge, where they had to plan, design and build a fully functioning miniature rescue boat.



Well done to our students coming 3rd in the Annual Rotary Tournament Engineering/Bridge Design competition! Students had to build a bridge that could hold 1kg and open and close fully to allow a boat of 25cm to pass through.



Action Jackson came delivered an examination preparation Masterclass with our Year 11 and 13 students! Amazingly, he ran to the Watford UTC and documented his journey through a series of photos that can be found on his Twitter page: @Actionjackson. What an inspiration to our students!



### Army Challenge

Year 10 students were put through their paces when Watford UTC was visited by the Army! Students had to take part in a variety of different team building challenges and puzzles.



## STAFF PROFILES



**Name: Alex Cummings**

"Life is full of problems and I enjoy solving them. This passion led me to undertake a BSc in Industrial Design; from this I have worked as a CAD designer on projects for WRC, Herman miller, Young Designers, NHS and the BBC. With some of my work being exhibited at various exhibitions in London. Currently I work at The WUTC and enjoy helping students expand their minds and apply their knowledge to situations in the form of practical examples and demonstrations."



**Name: Alom Shaha**

"I teach Physics A-level at the UTC and also work as a science writer and film-maker. I've spent most of my career sharing my passion for science and education through teaching and working as a science communicator. You can see examples of my work at [alomshaha.com](http://alomshaha.com). I'm currently writing a book for parents to help introduce their children to scientific ideas called "Mr Shaha's Recipes for Wonder"."



## Request

Our Green Space team have been making excellent progress with our allotment and the Well Being activity is becoming increasingly popular with the students.

If anybody has any appropriate gardening equipment that you would be willing to donate to help us improve our allotment even more, we would greatly appreciate it!



## PUFF OF SMOKE

We would like to share a short film that Daniel Hinshelwood and his sister Jasmine, have created for the Cut Films 2016 Short Film Competition. The film has been created to reflect the dangers of smoking.

Winners of the competition will be presented with their award at a prestigious ceremony held at the BAFTA Headquarters in Central London on 4th July 2016.

Please visit the following link and vote for Daniel and his sister to get them to number one:

<http://competition.cutfilms.org/Video/View/7c9cce2e-4850-49db-94e3-e41ddb75e8b3>

The voting closes on Sunday 22nd May at midnight. Please support these talented students.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### June

Week commencing 20th June, Year 10 exam season begins

Wednesday 22nd June, Masala Spice Event run by Year 10 Business students

Friday 24th June, Year 11 Celebration Assembly, 10:00-11:30, parents/carers, students invited - where students journey at the WUTC is marked, refreshments served

Monday 27th June, Meller Educational Trust invitational Award Ceremony, Central London

Tuesday 28th June, Royal Institution (Ri) visit, Central London - selected Year 10 students

Wednesday 29th June, VTT Multisport Challenge, run by Year 10 Hospitality students.

Thursday 30th June, Year 13 Graduation Ceremony, Bubbles and Canapes, 5:30-7:00pm, parents/carers, students invited - where students celebrate their time at WUTC

### July

Tuesday 5th July, Changing Lives at Lord's Event, run by Year 12 Business students.

Wednesday 6th July, New Student Induction Session with Action Jackson

Wednesday 6th July, WOSCARS, An awards ceremony for students, by students, 7:00-8:30pm

Friday 8th July, 11-12:30, Watford UTC Official Opening (#WUTC Launch), run by Year 12 Hospitality students.

Tuesday 12th July, History Invitational Challenge Event

Thursday 14th July, Andrew McGuiness (@anguiness) delivering a PR Masterclass (pictured below), 9:00-11:00

Monday 18th July, Year 12 Tube Challenge

Wednesday 20th July, Full Circle Year 10 Trip to London (details to follow)

