



## Head of School Weekly Update

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Welcome to this week's end of week update.

The focus this week is around safety, and updates on the improvements we are making at UTC Reading.

As always, I hope that you find this useful!

### *The Whisper Button Update*

As you will be aware, I have shared with our community about the anonymous reporting tool that we have for students to use to report concerns if they need to.

I am pleased to share with you some statistics from our Whisper Button usage since September.

Total reports made using Whisper: 54

Average time from report being made to complete closure including actions being addressed: 42 hours

I am really pleased that this reporting shows us that students are making use of this tool, and that even for incidents that have been reported overnight, over weekends or during the half term break, we have continued to maintain a resolution to these incidents in less than two days.

I look forward to seeing students continue to use this tool, and I am pleased that this is providing our students with a safe and secure way to share any concerns that they have about their school experience.

### *Anti-Bullying Week 2023*



This week we have been encouraging our students to take a stand against bullying and become an active member of the community and not a bystander.

Please see below for the Anti-Bullying alliance call to action we have shared with students this week.

*Too often, we are silent when we see bullying take place, silent about the hurt bullying causes, and silent when we hear bullying dismissed as 'just banter'.*

*Together, we can make a difference and take a stand against bullying.*

*From the playground to Parliament, and from our phones to our homes, let's make a noise about bullying.*

*It doesn't have to be this way.*

*Of course, we won't like everyone, and we don't always agree, but we can choose respect and unity.*

*This Anti-Bullying Week let's come together to have discussions about what bullying means to us, how banter can turn into something more hurtful, and what we can do to stop bullying!*

## *Personal and Professional Development Sessions*

Key Stage 4 students will be participating in some whole group activities in their personal and professional development sessions over the next few weeks.

These include the screening of a Channel 4 documentary called “One Killer Punch” and a visit from an external speaker who will share his lived experience with them of exposure to drugs and criminal activity.

I am expecting these sessions to create great discussion about safety, risk and managing risks with students. The documentary has a parental guidance warning on it, but having used this resource at UTC Reading in the past, we have found that it is a very useful platform to use to bring about discussion and understanding of the risks of physical violence.

Students will be supervised by staff when watching the documentary. If you would like to view the content, you can find the documentary here: <https://dailymotion.com/video/x6irbcp>

## *Student Executive Board*

I am pleased to announce our student board for 2023-2024, please see their details below.

**Student Executive Directors** – Michael Miloev and Fawzan Nismy

**Director of Year 10** – Jamie Sterland

**Director of Year 11** – Pooja Srivastava

**Director of Year 12** – Daria Sanina

**Director of Year 13** – Johann Lubi

**Directors of Sixth Form** – Alice Greibig and Charles Grant

**Director of Culture and Diversity** – Kamaachi Vimalanathan

**Director of Extra Curricular** – Faris Kadeb

**Director of Personal Development** – Ali Ahmed

Having met with this student team, I am blown away by their passion for change and championing student voice throughout the school. This week they have met with an external consultant about their vision for UTC Reading, and focusing on how to develop student voice through the school.

Some of their key priorities for this academic year are around safety, speak up speak out, assessment and curriculum planning and clarity in communications.

I am really pleased to be working with them and I am excited to see the impact that they will have over the course of this year.

## *Caterlink food menu at UTC Reading*

As you know, the dining and food experience at UTC Reading is something that students often provide feedback on and we are always looking for ways to improve the experience.

Attached to my communication today you will find the menu for food at UTC Reading this term. Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November will be a Week One menu.

I am also pleased that we will be celebrating themed menu days to increase our celebration of different cultures and cuisines. This will run alongside some of the work being done by the student executive board to increase our celebration of diversity.

## *Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day*

We will be hosting our Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

Students are invited to wear their most festive jumpers to school with their usual business dress underneath. We will be collecting a donation of £1 per student for this and all donations will be given to Save the Children.

Our Christmas Lunch menu will be a full roast with all the trimmings, a pudding and a bottle of water for £5. On this day, no other lunch items will be available for purchase apart from sandwiches and fruit.

Christmas lunch orders must be made in advance by completing this form, no later than Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December.

### [Christmas Lunch Order Form](#)

Unfortunately, this meal is not available to purchase on the day and must be booked in advance. Students in receipt of free school meals are not required to pay for their lunch, but must still order using the form above.

## *Parent forum feedback*

We were really pleased to spend time with the Year 11 Parents forum today, and found the discussion and feedback really useful in helping us understand the parent experience at UTC Reading.

We have further workshops upcoming, and if you are able to join us, please book a space here:

- [Year 12 parents](#) Friday 24 November 2pm
- [Year 13 parents](#) Friday 1 December 11.30am

If you aren't able to attend, we would be very grateful to hear your feedback via [this form](#). We will also be running sessions for parents of children with SEND and will share information about this in due course.

## *Key Contact Details*

### ***Senior Leadership Team***

Executive Principal – Wayne Edwards

Head of School – Jennie Thomson

Assistant Head of School – Stephanie Mitchell

Acting Assistant Head of School – Anderson Ramdeen

### ***Safeguarding Team***

Designated Safeguarding Lead – Jennie Thomson

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads – Anderson Ramdeen, Jackie Wynter, Wayne Edwards, Stephanie Mitchell, Charlotte Tennant, Julie Hooper

### ***SEN Team***

Trust Lead for SEN and Safeguarding – Linda Stevens

SEN Coordinator – Siua Abnett

### ***Curriculum Leadership Team***

Director of Maths – Lewis Hart

Director of English – Thomas Trayers

Acting Director of Science – Carly Gale

Director of Design, Engineering and Technology – Jamie Chandler

Director of Computing – Ian Scott

Finally, a reminder of key dates coming up. We have a full school INSET day on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** and we break up for the end of term at **12:30pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**.

Wishing everyone in the community a restful weekend.

Kind regards



Jennie Thomson

**Head of School**