



Head of School Weekly Update

Welcome to this week's end of week update in the penultimate week of the year.

As always, I hope that you find this useful!

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

We were so pleased to host our Christmas Lunch on Wednesday which saw students and staff in the festive spirit and enjoying food together.

Students gave lots of feedback on how much they enjoyed the crackers, decorations and balloons, and we had amazing reviews of the chocolate cake.

We raised a great amount for Save the Children and feel that the event was a great success!

Notice on e-scooters

We have received the following communication from Thames Valley Police regarding the use of e-scooters. From January 2024 we will not be permitting e-scooters on the UTC premises.

Thames Valley Police strongly advise that e-scooters should not be allowed to be kept at school.

An e-scooter continues to fall within the statutory definition of a motor vehicle.

- *They are for use on private land only.*
- *They are illegal on any public highway (road or footpath).*
- *You cannot get insurance to ride these on the road.*
- *There are no circumstances which would make a personal e-scooter legal on a road at this current time.*

Schools should consider listing e-scooters as a prohibited item under the schools relevant policy. Schools may then confiscate all e-scooters found on school grounds. This is advisable in order to safeguard those children.

The government are currently looking into legalising e-scooters. There are currently a number of complications which need further consideration e.g. are they considered the same as e-bikes? What should the speed limits be? Should they be able to use cycle lanes? Is a handlebar necessary? Currently there is no update or date provided for any change of legislation and therefore the recommendation is that they should not be kept at school.

Thank you for your understanding and support in ensuring that everyone at UTC Reading is safe.

The Big Ambition Survey

The Children's Commissioner has launched [The Big Ambition survey](#) to understand what children want ahead of the next General Election.

If you would like to take part please click here: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition

End of Term arrangements

As we come to the end of the academic year, I wanted to highlight the plans for the end of term and key dates for starting back in January.

KS5 End of Term will now be Tuesday 19th December at 16:00pm, with an end of term celebration event starting at 15:00pm. Students will then be dismissed for the Christmas holidays following this assembly.

KS4 End of Term will be as advertised on Wednesday 20th December at 12:30pm, with an end of term celebration event starting at 11:30am. Students will then be dismissed for the Christmas holidays following this assembly.

We would like to remind you that it is business as usual on these last few days of term, where the UTC Reading dress code is expected and lessons will continue as normal.

UTC Reading will be closed from 14:00pm on Wednesday 20th December for the whole Christmas Break to enable our staff to have a well-deserved rest. Please ensure your son/daughter has cleared out their locker prior to leaving as there will be no access to the building over the holidays.

In January, there are two staff inset days on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th January, with all students returning at 8:45am on Wednesday 10th January for business as usual.

The first few days back Year 10 and 12 will be having in-class assessments, and more information on this will be released in due course, and we would also like to remind our Sixth Form BTEC Students of the Engineering & Computing BTEC Examinations happening throughout January too.

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 – Siva 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 finish for the end of term next week as outlined above. The return date for all students in all year groups is Wednesday 10th January 2024. Next week I will share more detail in the final end of week update.

Wishing everyone in the community a restful weekend.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J.A. Thomson".

Jennie Thomson

Head of School