



Head of School Weekly Update

Welcome to the first end of week update of 2024.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a very Happy New Year to the whole UTC community and I am looking forward to what 2024 brings.

As always, I hope that you find this useful!

Welcome back – Dress code reminder

A reminder about the dress code expectations at UTC Reading as we return from the holiday break.

We expect our dress code to be met by students and staff every day. Where the expectations are not met, we will look to support by providing the correct uniform items for students to wear when they enter the building.

For any families who have UTC uniform items that have been taken home, please can these be washed and returned to us as soon as possible.

For reference, the dress code can be found here: <https://www.utcreading.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/04/2022-2023-Dress-Code-V2.pdf>

Update on new staff members

This week we have welcomed four new members of staff to the team.

Samar – Examinations Officer

Matthew – IT Technician

Richa – Assistant Principal (Quality of Education)

Lee – Assistant Principal (Behaviour and Safeguarding)

I look forward to working closely with all new members of the team to continue to make sustained progress this academic year.

Supporting positive school attendance

With the cold weather forecast set to continue, and the annual increase in cough, cold, flu and viruses at this time of year, I wanted to reiterate the advice and guidance on when students should be attending school.

To help parents and students make decisions about whether you are well enough to attend school, please refer to the NHS guidance about which conditions require students to stay at home.

The guidance can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

We are aiming for all our students to attend school for at least 95% of the year, we encourage our students to develop this professional attribute by attending school regularly and on time.

Government consultation outcome – GCSE exams

In autumn, the government held a consultation on the continued use of extended formula sheets in GCSE maths, physics and combined science.

The outcome of this consultation was a decision to continue to use these formula sheets for the 2024 examinations in GCSE Maths, Physics and Combined Science.

You can read more information about the consultation here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-changes-to-the-assessment-of-mathematics-physics-and-combined-science-gcses-in-2024#:~:text=Ofqual's%20consultation%20sought%20views%20on,21%2C181%20responses%20to%20the%20consultation.>

Parent Workshops with Local Authority

We have been given the opportunity for parents to join a number of different workshops with the local authority. You can find information about these opportunities below.

World of Emotions (WoE) 13/02/24 – 1-4.00pm. Free online session via MS Teams.

World of Emotions is not a parenting course, but rather an opportunity for parents/carers to gain more skills to understand and support their child/young person's wellbeing. It will cover a range of emotions and difficulties (e.g. low mood/depression, anxiety, self-harm, disordered eating, challenging behaviour towards others etc).

Complete the [MHST Referral Form](#), saying you would like to attend. Anyone who is closely involved in a child who attends an MHST school, is welcome to attend. See list [here](#).

Resilience workshop 22/02/2024 3– 5:30pm. Free in person. Venue: St Johns Primary School, 121-147 Orts Rd, Reading RG1 3JN .

“Prepare the child for the road, not the road for the child”. It's the ability to adapt well to adversity, trauma, threats or stress. It is difficult and distressing but parents can help children and young people to be more resilient in managing day to day challenges and more difficult situations. **To book or for more information email Wilma.Williams@brighterfuturesforchildren.org**

Understanding Autism & Anxiety Workshop – 27/02/2024 9.30 - 12.00pm. Free online session via MS Teams. For parents/carers of Reading pupils ages 6 -16.

*A 2.5 hour workshop targeted towards parents/carers of children with a diagnosis of autism or those who may be awaiting a diagnosis. It looks at common drivers for anxiety in those with autism, especially in relation to coping with uncertainty and not knowing what might happen. The workshop gives parents a chance to share their experiences and to learn strategies and approaches to manage anxious feelings. **To book or for more information email Wilma.Williams@brighterfuturesforchildren.org***

Key Contact Details

Senior Leadership Team

Executive Principal – Wayne Edwards

Head of School – Jennie Thomson

Assistant Principal – Stephanie Mitchell

Assistant Principal – Lee Reynolds

Assistant Principal – Richa Pareek

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

Kind regards

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

Jennie Thomson

Head of School