

APRIL - MAY 2024 | MODULE 5

THE LEIGH UTC

The Modular Newsletter of The Leigh UTC and Inspiration Academy



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Head of
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UPCOMING EVENTS

STEAM Week - 28th-31st June 2024

Year 9 Graduation 2023 - Friday 14th July 2023

Years 9 & 10 LAT Sports Day 12th June 2024

Years 7 & 8 LAT Sports Day - 9th July 2024

LBC Day - 9th July 2024

GCSE & A-Level Results day - 22nd August and 15th August 2024

TERM DATES

SPRING BREAK

Tuesday 28th May 2024 – Friday 31st May 2024

MODULE 6

Start: Monday 3rd June 2024

Finish: Friday 19th July 2024

KEY VISITS

Read all about our Key Visits this Module, including our GermanLink School visit on 19th April, Challenge Partners Event and Amazon T-Levels visit.

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Community Members,

As we approach the end of another successful academic year, I am thrilled to share some exciting news and updates from The Leigh UTC. Our school community has demonstrated remarkable resilience, dedication, and achievement over the past few months, and I could not be prouder of our collective efforts.

Student Achievements and Highlights

Beyond the Challenge Partners review which was a resounding success, our students have continued to excel in various areas: Academic Excellence, Extracurricular Success, Community Engagement and Business Engagement.

Looking Ahead

As we look forward to the next academic year, we are excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. Our focus will remain on maintaining high standards, fostering innovation, and ensuring that every student can reach their full potential. We will continue to build on our successes and address any areas for improvement identified in the Challenge Partners review.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back in the autumn, ready to embark on another year of excellence at The Leigh UTC.

Warm regards,

Kevin Watson
Principal, The Leigh UTC



MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF COLLEGE



EBEN AND LIZ UPTON - INNOVATORS

Upton College Community,

I am filled with pride as I reflect on the incredible efforts and achievements of our students throughout Module 5. It has been a remarkable journey, and your dedication and hard work have truly shone through.

Our Year 11 students deserve special recognition for the way they have commenced their exams. Their preparation, perseverance, and commitment to excellence have been exemplary. The resilience and determination they have shown during this critical time set a high standard for the entire college. Keep up the fantastic work—you are making us all very proud.

Furthermore, I would like to give a heartfelt shoutout to all our Year 7-10 students for their consistently positive attitudes. Their enthusiasm for learning, support for one another, and unwavering spirit are invaluable to our college community. Whether in the classroom, during extracurricular activities, or in everyday interactions, you embody the values we hold dear at Upton College.

Thank you for making Upton College a place of inspiration and achievement. Let's continue to strive for excellence together.

Sincerely,
Mr. Alamu

“AS YOU RATCHET UP, SUCCESS SEEMS LESS UNLIKELY. THE AMBITION WAS ALWAYS THERE BUT THE SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE AND FEASIBILITY OF ACTUALLY ACHIEVING THE AMBITION HAS INCREASED OVER TIME. IT WOULD BE NICE TO BE NUMBER ONE” - EBEN & LIZ UPTON



MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF COLLEGE

YVONNE CLARK - ENGINEER

Throughout this academic year, Clark college continues to excel and be the inspirational college to the younger students at the school. In a recent visit, it was commented on how Clark college remains a beacon of excellence and a clear motivator to the younger students.

This dedication to fostering a positive learning environment reminds me of the pioneering work of Yvonne Clark, a fellow champion for education and opportunity. Just as she broke barriers as an African-American woman in engineering, your hard work today has the power to break new ground in your own chosen fields.

Our Year 13 students: The next chapter of your journey is about to begin. Embrace the challenges and possibilities that lie ahead! We are incredibly proud of your accomplishments at Clark College, and we are confident you will thrive in the next chapter, whether it's university, an apprenticeship, or the workforce. Remember that you never stop learning and growing. Believe in yourself and your potential. The world needs your unique talents and perspectives. Never be afraid to step outside your comfort zone. Growth often happens just beyond what feels comfortable.

Our Year 12 students: This next year will lay the foundation for your future. The skills you develop now will serve you well throughout your academic and professional careers.

Challenges are inevitable, but they are also opportunities to learn and build resilience. Dream big, set ambitious goals, and don't be afraid to take calculated risks. As you explore your future options, remember that Clark College has a wealth of resources available to support you.

To all of you: Please remember that you are the architects of your own future. Make it extraordinary! We are here to support you every step of the way. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything. We encourage you to stay connected with the Clark College community, whether as alumni or future mentors.

Sincerely,
Mrs Pamphlett

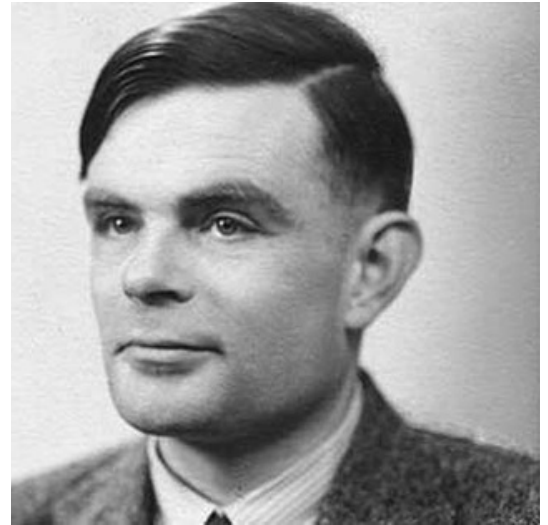


**“WHATEVER YOU
LIKE, LEARN
ABOUT AND
PURSUE IT...THE
ENVIRONMENT IS
WHAT YOU MAKE
IT” -YVONNE
CLARK**



MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF COLLEGE

**“SOMETIMES IT IS THE
PEOPLE NO ONE CAN
IMAGINE ANYTHING OF,
WHO DO THE THINGS NO
ONE CAN IMAGINE” - ALAN
MATHISON TURING**



ALAN MATHISON TURING - COMPUTER SCIENTIST

Dear Turing College,

Thank you so much for the warm welcome I've received from both students and staff. Having worked with so many of you already, I'm particularly excited to be joining such a vibrant and successful college known for its focus on excellence both inside and outside of the classroom.

It's been incredibly rewarding to witness the college's commitment to the professional habits of Respect, Relationships, and Responsibility. I've seen outstanding work from students across all year groups, and the college's continued achievements are truly inspiring.

As we move forward together, let's remember the legacy of our namesake, Alan Turing.

His dedication to overcoming challenges paved the way for significant advancements in technology. Similarly, your hard work today will shape your own bright future. I believe that together, we can build upon Turing College's strong foundation and achieve even greater things.

I'm looking forward to working with you all and collaborating with the entire college community.

Sincerely,
Mrs Pamphlett

CHALLENGE PARTNERS REVIEW



“LEADING IN ALL AREAS -THESE COMMENDATIONS ARE A TESTAMENT TO THE DEDICATION OF OUR STAFF, THE HARD WORK OF OUR STUDENTS AND THE UNWAVERING SUPPORT OF OUR PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS” - KEVIN WATSON, PRINCIPAL

Challenge Partners Review: A Resounding Success!

One of the highlights of this term has been our recent Challenge Partners review which took place between 8th-10th May 2024. I am delighted to report that the review was extremely positive, reflecting the hard work and commitment of our entire school community. I will of course share the report in full once received but verbally the review team praised several aspects of our school, noting:

- The high ambition that the Academy has for its students as well as a clear desire for continued improvement.
- The vision for professional habits is clear, resulting in a purposeful learning environment.
- The collaboration between senior and middle leaders, which is further supported by the trust curriculum advisors.
- Careers guidance is outstanding and runs from year 7 to year 13 with well constructed guidance meetings taking place in Year 9, 11 and 13.
- Our teachers have been commended for their subject knowledge, innovative and engaging teaching methods, which have significantly enhanced student learning and achievement. The review team was impressed with our students' academic progress and achievements. Where gaps in performance for key groups nationally are widening, at The Leigh UTC they are closing.
- The curriculum is carefully thought out and ensures that we maintain our UTC brand, highlighting our strong focus on STEM subjects, which continues to set us apart.
- Training has been provided for all staff on the additional needs of our students which as a result allows them to thrive in lessons.
- An incredibly effective strategy to increase student attendance, resulting in rates that exceed national averages.

These commendations are a testament to the dedication of our staff, the hard work of our students, and the unwavering support of our parents and community members. Together, we have created a thriving educational environment that nurtures excellence and innovation.

GERMANLINK SCHOOL VISIT



In April we were excited to welcome students and staff from our German link school Das Geschwister-Scholl-Gymnasium for the third time.

Students from both schools were able to engage in conversations and to gain a deeper understanding of the different cultures they all had.

The German visitors were able to have some hands on engineering experience in our workshop, thanks to a brilliant presentation by Mr Nash who was able to showcase some of the new Engineering equipment. It was a pleasure to see so many students and staff renew old friendships with students they had met from previous visits and trips.

Our German guests also attended lessons and enjoyed spending a day in the life of a Leigh UTC student. Our commemoration tree that was planted during the first visit in 2022 is flourishing and a symbol of the strong relationship between the two schools.

We are now looking forward to visiting the Geschwister-Scholl-Gymnasium at Christmas time as part of our annual trip to Germany.

Bis bald!



T-LEVELS

THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

T- LEVELS OPPORTUNITIES AT THE LEIGH UTC

For more information about the T-Levels study programme, please email info@theleighutc.org.uk

AMAZON VISIT

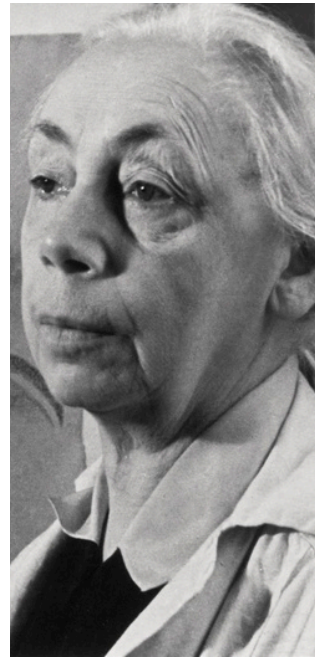
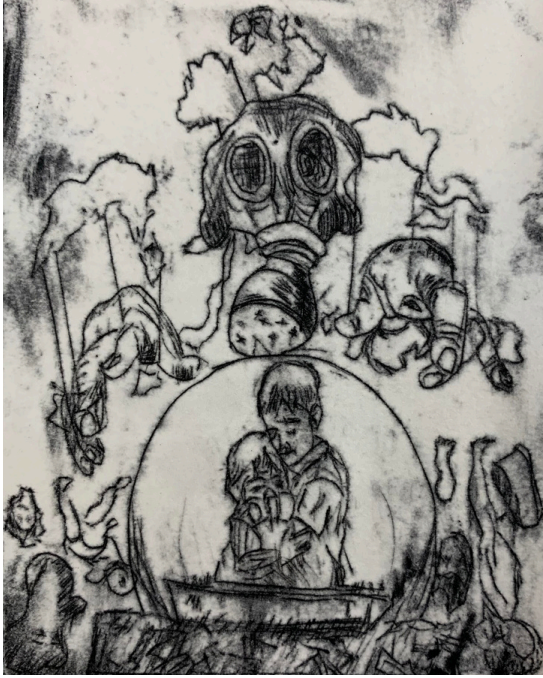
In Module 5 we had the pleasure of hosting Rachel and Ian from the Amazon Engineering Team and we are very much looking forward to sending our T-Levels Engineers for their industry placement at the local Amazon Engineering site for the first time!

It is great to have them as our industry partners who will help raise aspirations and motivate the young generation of Engineers from The Leigh UTC.

Thank you for visiting us, and we look forward to working with the Amazon Team.



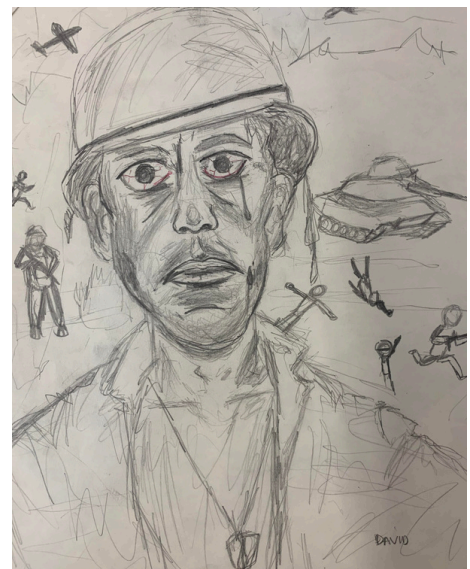
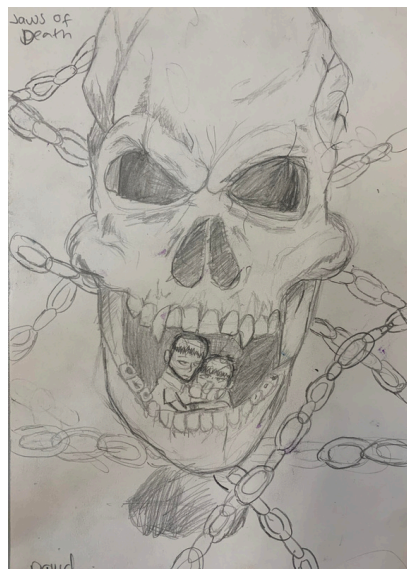
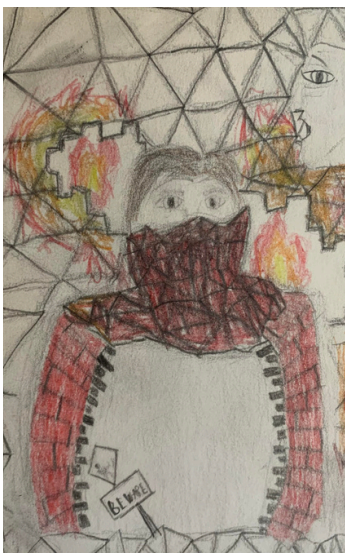
DEPARTMENT NEWS - ART



This term in Art, Year 9 embarked on a powerful journey, exploring the effects of war on individuals. They began by delving into the works of German artist Käthe Kollwitz, known for her poignant portrayals of war's devastation. This exploration then culminated in a project focusing on the Syrian civil war.

Students investigated how artists have commented on the conflict's impact on people's lives and the destruction of communities. The project culminated in the creation of moving final pieces.

Students employed a range of media and techniques to creatively express their understanding of the emotional and physical scars left by war. The project not only fostered artistic skills but also sparked empathy and a deeper awareness of war's consequences.



DEPARTMENT NEWS - BUSINESS

Share Your Spark Mentoring Programme

We are proud of the opportunities we are able to offer our students to engage with the local business community and we are excited to share news of another that will be starting soon!

A selection of our current year 10 Enterprise students will have the opportunity to take part in the 'Share Your Spark' mentoring programme in early September.

Working closely with Bluewater Management Team and 'Ahead Partnership', the programme will involve pairing up our students with a mentor from Bluewater Management Team.

It is designed to raise motivation, level up aspirations, and acknowledge each student's unique skillset. The students will attend four sessions over the September term - the first and last sessions will take place at Bluewater with the other two at the UTC.

We look forward to updating you on how the students involved in this fabulous programme grow and develop across the autumn term!

DEPARTMENT NEWS - COMPUTING

KS3 In Module 5

Students have been very creative creating exciting and fun products based around sustainability .

Year 7 have been using scratch to create a game to raise awareness about E-Waste. Students in Year 8 and 9 have been learning about HTML and CSS - Creating a webpage raising awareness about sustainable fashion and a sports events page. The students can gain and transfer their skills into web development, Social Media or Marketing.

KS4 In Module 5

Students have completed Unit 2 - Computational Thinking where they have understood how to read,write and create algorithms. They are more sufficient in Python and have participated in exciting challenges.

DEPARTMENT NEWS - DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Knowledge Organiser

Food & Nutrition

Topic: Sensory Analysis, Convenience Foods and Additives

Sensory analysis is a way of evaluating the taste of a product. The senses play an important part in evaluating the quality of a food product. So it is important that food tastes, looks and smells good and has the correct texture.

Taste: (When you eat, taste receptors on the tongue and the roof of your mouth send neural impulses which give your brain signals about taste. The four main tastes are sweet, salty, sour or bitter. Umami is a savoury taste.)

Smell: (Olfactory sensors inside the nose send messages to the brain and help you smell. They work together with taste buds to deliver a true flavour. When you have a cold or allergy you may notice food doesn't taste the same.)

Useful sites:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hchJia7G0E&list=PL62n>

Sensory Tests

Ranking test allows food to be put in order according to a specific quality e.g. sweetness

Rating test: Allow tasters to give samples a mark on a scale e.g. 'extreme like' to 'extreme dislike'

Sample	Rank Order
1	3
2	1
3	2

Triangle test allows tasters to see if they can identify the odd one out. E.g. testing different types of Cola

Which type of cola is reported? Circle your answer.

Profiling test tasters rate different sensory aspects of the product and record results on a star diagram

Factors affecting food choice

Convenience foods
 Convenience foods applies to foods which have been pre preserved commercially. They shorten meal times, save effort, have long storage life and are often portion controlled.
 E.g. Canned foods, frozen meals, cartons, jars and bottles, dried food, chilled ready meals

Additives
 Are substances added to products to perform specific functions like adding colour, flavour or preservation.
Preservatives: Prevent microbial growth which causes food spoilage and increases shelf life e.g. nitrite (E249) and nitrate (E252).
Antioxidants: Prevent rancidity and the rancidity or off-flavour caused by oxidation. E.g. ascorbic acid (E300).
Colours: Restore the original colour of food through processing.
Flavour enhancers: They bring out the flavour in some processed foods. E.g. monosodium glutamate (E612).
Sweeteners: Used to intensify the sweetness of a product. E.g. Sucralose.
Anti-caking agents: Allow for free movement of dried foodstuffs.
Emulsifiers: help mix ingredients together e.g. lecithin (E322).
Stabilisers: prevent ingredients from separating e.g. locust bean gum (E415).
Gelling Agents: are used to change the consistency of a food product. E.g. Pectin (E440). is used in commercial jam making.

Sensory perception: Keywords

Taste	Texture	Aroma	Appearance	Sound
Spirity	Musky	Sweet	Colourful	Crisp
Bland	Soft	Yeasty	Dull	Sizzling
Sour	Juicy	Spicy	Shiny	Bubbling
Sweet	Crunchy	Citrus	Smooth	Popping
Salty	Chewy	Savory	Rough	Fizzy
Fruity	Crisp	Buttery	Uniform	
Bitter	Smooth	Chewy	Size	

Celebrating Success and Innovation!

Year 7, 8, & 9: Mastering Diverse Skills.

These year groups are currently wrapping up their final rotations of Module 5, having explored the exciting worlds of Engineering, Concept Design, and Food Technology. Their creativity continues to shine as they develop innovative and problem-solving solutions through each project. By year-end, all students will have gained valuable experience in these key areas, fostering their skills as: - Amazing Problem Solvers: DT equips students to tackle challenges with ingenuity and resourcefulness. - Effective Communicators: Clear communication is key to translating ideas into reality. - Creative Thinkers: Students are encouraged to think outside the box and explore innovative solutions.

Year 10: Deepening Knowledge and Pushing Boundaries - Food Technology: Year 10 students have solidified their understanding of food groups and dietary requirements, while further refining their practical skills in the kitchen. - DT: Year 10 students have been putting their skills to the test in their Practice NEA projects. They've showcased remarkable creativity by designing and developing their own unique products!

Year 11: Preparing for the Future - DT: All Year 11 DT students have successfully completed their NEA projects and are now gearing up for their final exams. - Graphics: Year 11 Graphics students have produced outstanding final pieces, demonstrating their impressive graphic design abilities. Year 7, 8, & 9: Showcasing Year-Long Excellence These year groups are finalizing their MYP assessments, preparing to proudly display the incredible skills they've honed throughout the year. We have no doubt these will be some of the best results yet!

A Message of Inspiration

We are truly inspired by the dedication and talent of all our students. Their hard work and innovative spirit are a constant source of pride for the Design & Technology department. We look forward to witnessing their continued success in the future!

DEPARTMENT NEWS - ENGINEERING



Year 10 Engineering

Students have been working on a full GCSE style project that will help them prepare for their Unit 1 assessment which involves the manufacture of a tool makers clamp. They have been completing the coursework component but been honing their skills in the use of Solidworks in order to create dynamic CAD drawings which allow them to full simulate the assembly of a tool makers clamp.

Year 10 Electronics

Students have been undertaking a mini GCSE style project which simulates the three component parts of their final assessment. They have been designing a house alarm that uses a pressure pad to activate an alarm. They had to both design and simulate the circuit and then create a PCB design for the alarm. They then had to manufacture the alarms which involved drilling and cleaning the PCB, selecting their physical components and soldering them in place. Then assembling off board components and testing and fault finding their PCBs. Alongside this they produced a portfolio and created a theory pack of learning based on their Timing Circuits theory topic.

Y12 BTEC Engineers

Students have begin designing their articulated vice for a hobbyist. This involves adapted their vice that they manufactured and have an articulated adapter that fits onto the hobby workbench. This involves them research attachment methods to secure the adaptor onto the bench and then designing a mechanical method of give the vice a range of movement in at least 1 axis. Eg Move up and down, or rotate.

The Y11 Engineers and Electronics students along with the Y12 and 13 BTEC and T level students have simply been completing their full assessments including both NEAs and formal examinations. Whilst we can't share moderator reports - responses for both the Y13 BTEC and T level reports spoke extremely highly about the quality of our student's work, praise not often given.

We are incredibly proud of the dedication and progress demonstrated by all our Engineering students. Their commitment to learning and their innovative spirit continue to inspire us!

DEPARTMENT NEWS - ENGLISH

In Module 5, Key Stage 3 have started studying some exciting new texts. Year 7 have started studying the use of propaganda in World War 1, and how this is reflected in the novel ***Soldier Dog***. Year 8 have started their two-module study of Willy Russell's ***Blood Brothers***, which they are absolutely loving so far. Year 9 have been studying 'Diversity in Literature' and the experiences that people of all backgrounds face.

In Module 5, KS4 have started their GCSE examinations and have done an amazing job so far! They only have one more English exam after the half term and we wish them very good luck!

ENGLISH - LIBRARY LESSONS



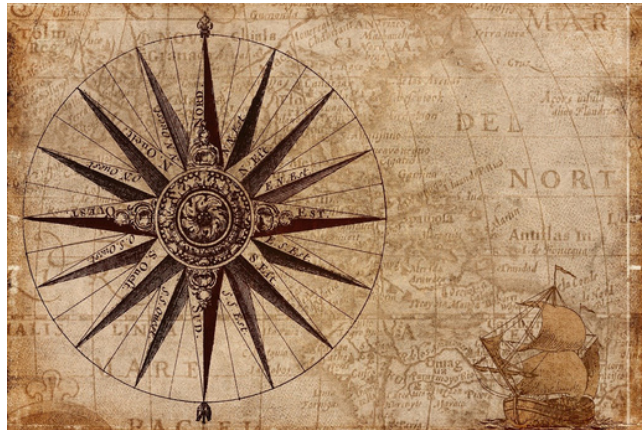
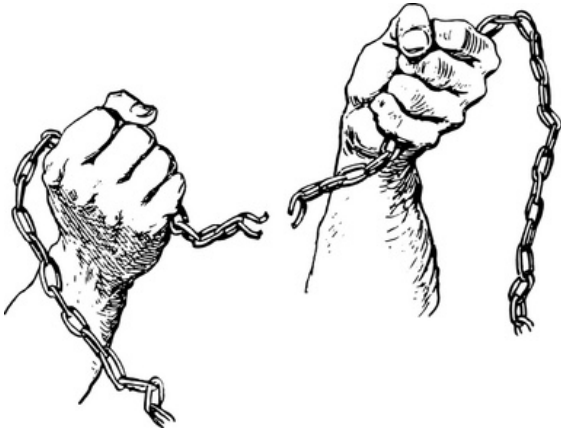
Individual Book Projects

Over the course of two modules KS3 students of Years 7- 9 participated in their own individual Book projects. They were tasked with picking a book of their own interests from either fiction or non-fiction genres, and reading a chapter in class and answering comprehension questions to gauge their level of understanding of the text and completing homework assignments of the same requirements. At the end of the module, they were asked to submit a book review about their book and make it as colourful and interesting as possible. Many students did very well and some of their contributions are on display within the school library!

Class Book Work

Years 7 - 9 have now begun their next book projects in their Library lessons. As a class, sharing the reading experience is encouraged by reading aloud and following along, with staff also joining in the reading. Then either comprehension questions or a creative writing activity follows based on a scene or discussion point in the chapters which have been read. Year 7 are greatly enjoying ***The Boy in Striped Pyjamas*** by John Boyne, complementing their studies on wartime experiences. Year 8 are becoming detectives by reading a gothic fantastical Victorian murder mystery; ***The Lie Tree*** as an introduction to Victorian themes and the supernatural, whilst Year 9 are delving into a modern scientific multi-racial love story named ***The Sun is Also a Star*** complementing their English lessons on diversity in literature.

DEPARTMENT NEWS - HISTORY



Within History Y7 have been delving into life in England after the Norman Conquest looking at the building of castles, as well as the devastating murder of thousands of Anglo-Saxons during the brutal Harrying of the North.

For Year 8 we have been concluding our exploration of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the reasons why it came to an end - or did it?

With Year 9 we have been getting to grips with the events of the Second World War and evaluating the different potential turning points that resulted in the Allies being victorious.

All groups are currently working towards completing their end of year assessments with revision very much a part in the weeks ahead and looking to half term.

DEPARTMENT NEWS - MATHS



Earlier this month, some of our brightest mathematicians put pen to paper for the UKMT Maths Challenge 2024.

The test is taken by schools up and down the country to put logic to the test and probe with a series of increasingly difficult mathematical problems. Our students in both Year 7 and 8 excelled once again with 12 Bronze, 5 Silver, and 2 Gold Certificates.

This was not all though, with Year 8 student, Finley S, qualifying for the next round which takes place in June.

A massive congratulations to all those who took part and good luck to Finley in the next round!

DEPARTMENT NEWS - PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Throughout this module we have seen the start of Athletics and Striking and Fielding season, with students participating in a range of event, alongside Cricket or Rounders. We have been hosting Athletics training after school every week in preparation for the LAT Sports Day and the UTC Sports Day. We also have a number of students put forward for the district Athletics team.

KS3 were put through their paces in their fitness testing and training PE lessons! The teams learnt about muscular endurance, muscular strength and speed through a number of different competitions!

Year 9 students in their pacing lesson in PE, learnt about anaerobic and aerobic respiration, training thresholds and the cardiovascular system!

DEPARTMENT NEWS - SCIENCE

This module has been for beginnings and ends (of sorts). The current year 11 cohort have begun their GCSE exams and for some this will mean they are leaving the Leigh UTC once they have finished their exams, the last of which being Physics.



Students have been impressive in their preparations and calmness before the exams, this is in no small way down to the calm, dedicated approach of their science teachers and of course year 11 team at large. It is clear from talking to students that they are accessing science revision and learning materials from a wide variety of sources, the majority of which are digital. This is a fitting approach for our digitally minded school and is an increasingly important part of our vision to develop STEM professionals for future global markets.

So to beginnings. Students in Year 7 have been developing skills and knowledge in their MYP science course throughout their 1st year at the UTC and are currently getting ready to leave also... or at least they would be if they were able to source the materials, means of manufacture and up-scale their rocket designs...



In truth they are finalising their assessment year for the MYP but it must be known that the MYP assessments are not just a means of grading students. The assessments are opportunities to provide authentic experiences that build their confidence; provide expert feedback and bring them one step closer to becoming the next cohort of STEM professionals and/or rocket scientists. If the latter is to be the case then the UTC vision may need to be broadened outside of 'Global'.



XC CLUBS AT THE LEIGH UTC

For updates about the XC Clubs please follow us on our social media feeds!

@theleighutc

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF OUR EXTRA CURRICULAR PROGRAM

IA Triumph in Module 5: Celebrating Our Extra Curricular Program

To conclude Module 5, we are thrilled to share the outstanding progress of our extra curricular program here at Leigh UTC. Our clubs have seen a remarkable and consistent increase in attendance since Module 2, reflecting the dedication and enthusiasm of our students and staff.

A Heartfelt Thank You

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the staff and students who have contributed to this success. Your commitment to fostering a vibrant and inclusive extracurricular environment has truly made a difference. Special thanks go to our Year 12 and 13 students who volunteered their time and expertise to support various clubs as part of their 'give back' initiative. Your leadership and generosity have not only enriched the experiences of younger students but also exemplified the spirit of community and service that we cherish at Leigh UTC.

Highlights and Future Plans

The feedback from our students has been invaluable, and we are excited to share some of the plans and opportunities that lie ahead, inspired by their suggestions and the recent SWOT analysis:

1. **Introducing New Clubs:** Based on student interest, we will be launching several new clubs, including an Esports Club, a Podcast Club, and a Make-Up Club. These additions will cater to diverse interests, providing more avenues for creativity, skill development, and fun.
2. **Educational Enrichment:** We are excited to introduce subject-based clubs like English and Maths, as well as special interest clubs such as Chess. These clubs will provide additional learning opportunities and foster intellectual curiosity.
3. **Expanding Physical Activities:** New sports clubs, including Cricket and Rounders Club to diversify our athletic offerings.

Looking Ahead

The future of our extra curricular program is bright, and we are committed to continuous improvement. By addressing the interests and needs of our students, we aim to create a dynamic and inclusive environment where everyone can explore their passions and talents. We look forward to seeing the continued growth and success of our clubs in the coming modules. Thank you once again to everyone who has made this journey possible. Together, we are building a community that celebrates learning, creativity, and camaraderie.

BASKETBALL CLUB

**JOIN US ON
THURSDAYS
AT 3.15PM IN THE
SPORTS HALL!**



A Big Thank You to Our Team!

We want to extend our gratitude to all the members of the Leigh UTC Basketball Club for their incredible energy and dedication. Your commitment has been truly inspiring, and it's amazing to see how your enthusiasm has fueled our growth and success. Thanks to the fantastic increase in attendance, we've been able to put on even better training sessions. Our Year 11 and Year 12 students have stepped up magnificently, organising and leading sessions for our KS3 students. Their leadership and passion for the sport have not only improved skill levels but also fostered a stronger sense of community within the club.

We are thrilled to announce that we will be arranging a game in the next module! This will be a wonderful opportunity for everyone to showcase their hard work and for our club to come together in a spirit of friendly competition and teamwork. Keep an eye out for further details and get ready to bring your A-game!

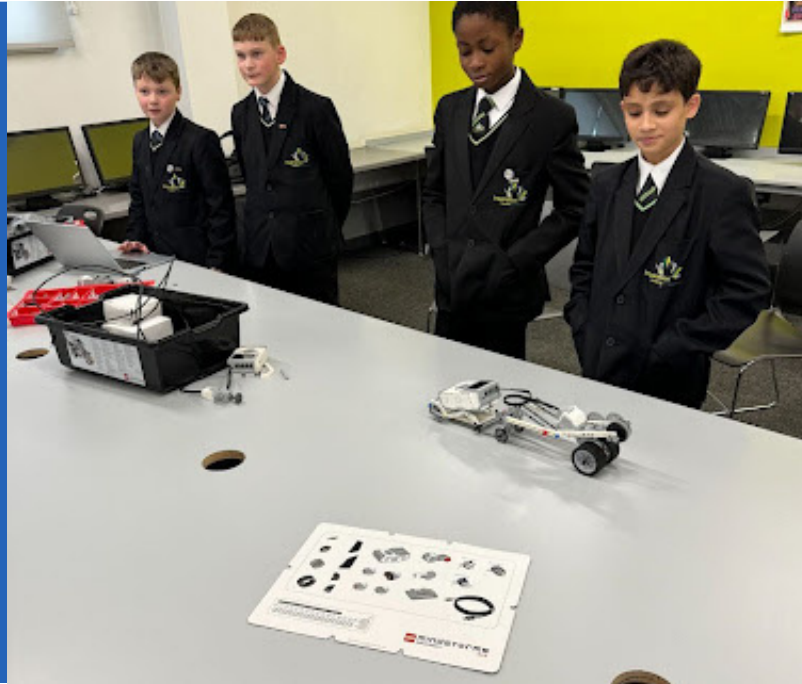
We also want to apologise for the recent lack of training sessions. The sports hall has been occupied due to exams, which has unfortunately disrupted our usual schedule. However, we appreciate your understanding and patience during this period. Rest assured, we will be back stronger than ever, ready to hit the court with renewed enthusiasm.

As we move forward, we are excited about the future of the Leigh UTC Basketball Club. Your continued participation and enthusiasm are vital to our success, and we can't wait to see what we can achieve together in the coming modules.

Thank you once again for your dedication and support. Let's keep the momentum going and make the Leigh UTC Basketball Club the best it can be!

CODING CLUB

**JOIN US ON
TUESDAYS AT 3.15PM IN
ROOM 2.02!**



Our club is a hub for students to explore the exciting world of coding and robotics through hands-on projects and collaborative learning.

LEGO Projects: Building the Future

Our younger members are diving into the world of engineering and design with LEGO. These projects are not just about assembling blocks; they involve complex problem-solving and innovative thinking. Students learn to build and program LEGO robots, creating everything from automated machines to interactive models. This engaging approach helps them understand the fundamentals of mechanics, electronics, and programming in a fun and accessible way.

Python Activities: Empowering Year 9 Students

For our Year 9 students, the club offers a deeper dive into programming with Python. This powerful and versatile language is perfect for young coders to develop their skills. Through a series of structured activities and projects, they learn to write code, debug programs, and create applications.

Why Join Us?

- **Hands-On Learning:** Our projects are designed to be interactive and engaging, making complex concepts easier to grasp.
- **Collaborative Environment:** Students work together, share ideas, and help each other, fostering a supportive learning community.
- **Real-World Skills:** The skills gained in our club are directly applicable to future academic and career opportunities in technology and engineering.

BADMINTON CLUB

JOIN US ON FRIDAYS AT
3.15PM IN THE SPORTS
HALL!



In Module 5, students have continued to engage in our weekly badminton sessions.

These weekly sessions serve as a way for students to enhance their abilities and keep fit regardless of their initial skill level. Through their dedicated involvement, they have gained essential life skills such as teamwork, perseverance, and respect.

We commend the efforts and anticipate further growth and achievement for the next module.

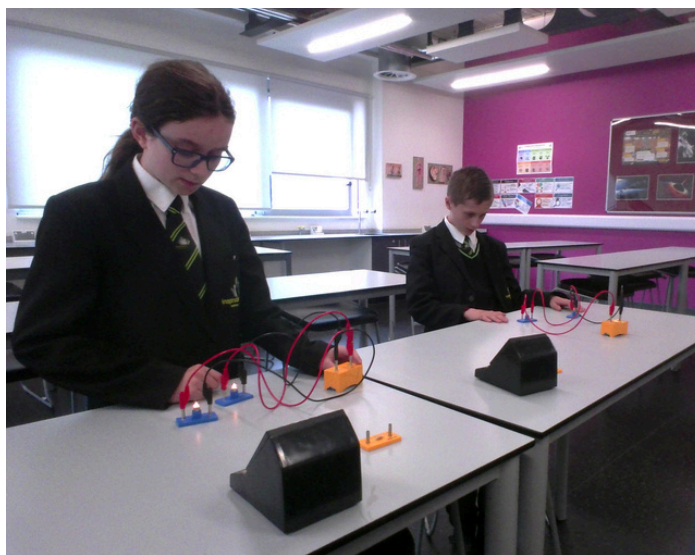
STEM CLUB

JOIN US ON
TUESDAYS
AT 3.15PM IN ROOM
1.17!



Fun with Circuits!

Stem Club have been investigating circuits and have been introduced to new components which include different types of diodes. They have also been looking at how this relates to everyday life, looking at how lights in the home are wired up and how other electrical components are wired to ensure they work properly without causing harm to the users, e.g. Christmas lights.



LIBRARY CLUB

JOIN US ALL WEEK AT
12.35PM AND 1.40PM
IN THE LIBRARY!



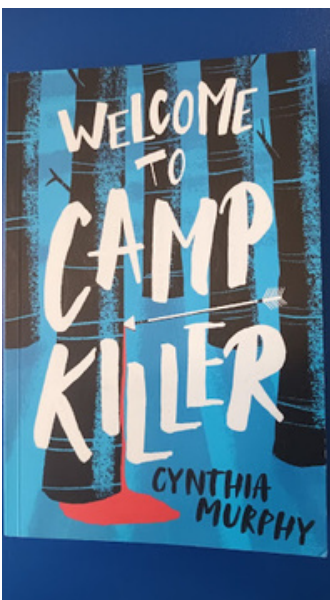
Reading, Puzzles and Lego!

The Library is abuzz with activities including Reading groups, fun with calming and reflective puzzles and creative building with Lego!

Students in our reading group have been enjoying reading a Teen fiction Summer read; *Welcome to Camp Killer* by Cynthia Murphy, a modern retelling of a classic ‘whodunnit?’ story. This is teamed with group discussion and vocabulary development to monitor their understanding whilst maintaining a love of literature.

Puzzle Club students have started as they mean to go on, with a colourful Spiderman 42 piece puzzle and are now sinking their teeth into a World War Two Aircraft Airfix 1,000 piece jigsaw puzzle. Puzzles are extremely beneficial calming exercises but also help develop problem-solving, sequencing and logistic pattern skills. Other students have enjoyed competing with each other working on a rubix-cube!

Lego Club students have continued enjoying and sharing the experience of developing creativity and social skills. They have been endeavouring to design and build innovative constructions including bridges, towers and ‘hybrid’ vehicles that can act as boats and cars!



STUDENT VOICE



I want to take a moment to extend my thanks and congratulations to each of the student voice team for their outstanding dedication and hard work. Their recent efforts have been truly inspiring and have made a significant impact on our school and the local community.

Over the last few weeks of M5, the team participated in two meetings with Challenge Partners where they met with the guests and demonstrated remarkable leadership and collaboration. The team engaged thoughtfully and provided insightful feedback, and worked tirelessly to advance our goals throughout the module.

Additionally to this we are delighted to announce that three members of the team contacted Dartford Bridge Community Primary School (DBCPS) via a letter and arranged a meeting to create a partnership focused on supporting the local community and environment. They will be introducing a combined litter pick initiative that is helping to keep our environment clean and foster a sense of responsibility among younger students whilst assisting Year 6 students with their transition into secondary school school life. Furthermore, we discussed supporting DBCPS during their sports day to encourage physical activity and also to help build a strong sense of community.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting events planned for the next module. We will be hosting the college competition of the Chase Game Show, where students will battle against each other as part of the Turing v Upton College competition. This will be a thrilling opportunity to showcase your knowledge and skills as you go up against staff in a friendly yet competitive battle of the brains.

The dedication and hard work that the team consistently put into all of our meetings has not gone unnoticed, and we are incredibly proud of all that they have already accomplished. Thank you for your continued commitment to making a positive difference.

ATTENDANCE

New regulations for schools in next stage of attendance drive

Every state school in England will now share their daily attendance registers across the education sector - including with the department for education, councils, and trusts in the next stage of the government's drive to reduce pupil absence in school.

The sharing of daily school registers will form a new world-leading attendance data set that will help schools spot and support children displaying worrying trends of persistent absence or those in danger of becoming missing in education.

Schools, trusts and councils will be able to access this data via an interactive secure data dashboard maintained by the department for education. This will allow them easy use of the data to not only spot pupils in need of support but also to understand how their attendance position compares locally and nationally so they can look at where they might need to drive improvements.

These reforms are the next phase in the government's plan to improve attendance following the pandemic which has seen a worldwide rise in absence and persistent absence driven by broken habits of attendance, and new and exacerbated barriers like mental ill health.

The announcement is the next step in the government's national drive to improve attendance and tackle persistent absence, launched in January. This sits alongside the national communications campaign raising awareness of the importance of attendance, which is running until Easter. Under the strapline Moments Matter, Attendance Counts it outlines the importance of attendance for attainment, wellbeing, and development as well as signposting to advice for further support for parents and carers.



WELLBEING AT THE LEIGH UTC

YOU CAN FOLLOW
US ON SOCIAL
MEDIA

@THELEIGHUTC



Each module, staff are given a 'Wellbeing Wednesday', where sessions are offered by either a member of staff or an external company, for any member of the UTC to participate in if they wish to. Staff are also given the opportunity to leave at an earlier time to focus on something they enjoy to maintain that healthy work life balance.

Our social media platforms include a Wellbeing Wednesday 'tip of the week' for any of our followers to try. These are directed at staff and students, but can be taken up by any member of the UTC community and are also shared weekly for staff in the bulletin.

Below are a few examples of what we have focused on this module:

- '7 Yoga Poses to Release Stress and Anxiety'
- 'Mindfulness: Arts and Crafts'
- 'Mindful Breathing: For Stress Relief'

Sources of Support:

Mind: Telephone number: 0300 123 3393

Remploy: This is a confidential service offering advice and support for mental health issues, anxiety and stress at work. Telephone number: 0300 456 8114

Samaritans: Offer emotional support 24 hours a day via a listening service, in full confidence. Call 116 123.



WELLBEING AT THE LEIGH UTC

Any form of creativity has the benefit of distracting us from difficult thoughts while reducing stress and improving our self-esteem. Making something, whether it be a poem, a song or a papier-mâché volcano, gives us a confidence boost and improves our mood.

Arts and crafts like drawing, painting, sculpting, scrapbooking or photography are all great creative activities that can help you improve your mental wellbeing.

When you become immersed in creating art, you tend to focus intently on the task at hand. This results in a meditative state similar to what you can achieve through practising mindfulness, increasing mental clarity and lowering stress



Child's Pose



Cat & Cow



Downward Dog



Pretzel



Pigeon



Knees to Chest



Corpse

7 Yoga Poses To Release Stress And Anxiety

These seven yoga poses serve two purposes, the first being to release physical tension throughout your body, and the second being to use the poses as an opportunity to go inward.

Going inward could mean meditation, if that's something you are comfortable practising independently, but going inward could also be thought of as asking yourself: where am I at? What is bothering me? Why am I feeling this way?

WELLBEING AT THE LEIGH UTC

As we embark on another week of learning and growth, let's take a moment to prioritise our wellbeing. This week, we encourage you to incorporate mindful breathing into your daily routine.

Why Mindful Breathing?

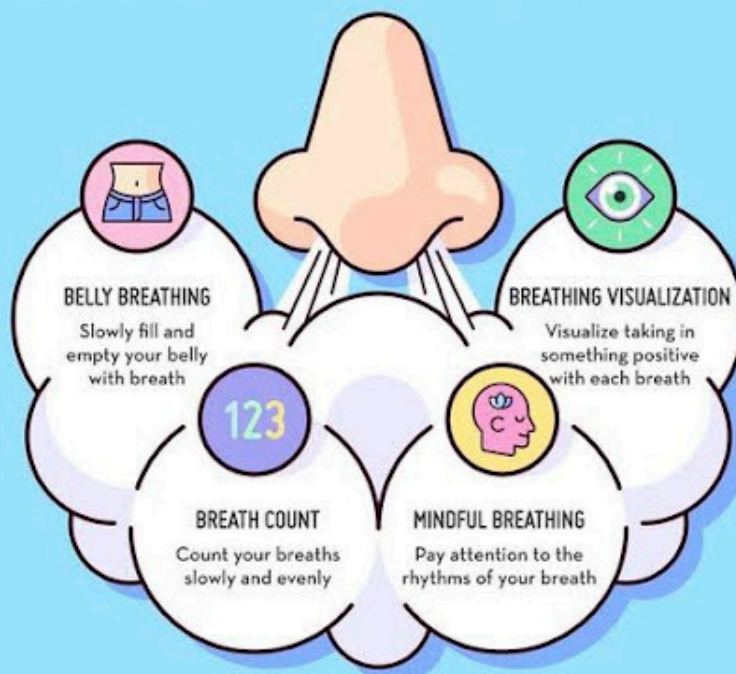
Mindful breathing is a simple yet powerful technique that can help reduce stress, increase focus, and promote a sense of calm. By paying attention to your breath, you can anchor yourself in the present moment and let go of worries about the past or future.

How to Practice Mindful Breathing:

1. **Find a Quiet Space:** Sit or lie down in a comfortable position where you won't be disturbed.
2. **Close Your Eyes:** Shut out external distractions and turn your focus inward.
3. **Take Deep Breaths:** Inhale slowly and deeply through your nose, allowing your lungs to fill with air.
4. **Exhale Slowly:** Release the breath through your mouth, letting go of any tension or stress.
5. **Focus Your Attention:** Pay attention to the sensation of your breath as it enters and leaves your body. Notice how it feels as it moves in and out.

FOR STRESS RELIEF, JUST TAKE A DEEP BREATH.

Start the week calm with four deep breathing techniques.



CONTACT US

Thank you to all the students, staff and families in our UTC community for supporting us through another successful module. If you have any feedback please do not hesitate to contact us on any of the following platforms.

**THE LEIGH UTC,
THE BRIDGE DEVELOPMENT,
BRUNEL WAY,
DARTFORD,
KENT,
DA1 5TF
PHONE: 01322 626600
EMAIL: WWW.INFO@THELEIGHUTC.ORG.UK**

QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS?

Should you wish to discuss any concerns with your child's learning, the first point of contact should be your child's Form Tutor or their Student Services Manager.

The SEND Team can be contacted directly via the email address SEND@theleighutc.org.uk

ADMISSIONS

For information regarding admissions, please email; admissions@theleighutc.org.uk

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us to stay updated on news, events and other fun activities going on at The Leigh UTC on our social media feeds!



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