

July - August 2025 | Module 6



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Principal's Message

End of Module 6 Reflections

Module 6 commenced with the final Governing Board meeting of this academic year. This meeting marked the end of an era, as it will be the last held in its current format. From September, we look forward to transitioning to the new Community Board model. Leigh UTC will form a collaborative community with Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy, Leigh Academy Bexley, and Leigh Academy Dartford (Primary).

We took the opportunity to thank those governors who have played an instrumental role in our recent successes. We are pleased that many of them will continue to serve our wider community either through the new Community Board or as members of the Employer Focus Group.

In Week 3, we were proud to welcome an external reviewer for the Inclusion Quality Mark Award. This two day review allowed us to showcase life at Leigh UTC and reflect on our inclusive culture. As ever, it was our students who left the most lasting impression with their conduct, character, and engagement remaining the best testament to our work. Later that same week, we welcomed a range of local employers to our Employer Focus Group, with valued partners FM Conway presenting their impactful outreach work in schools, underlining the mutual benefits of such collaboration. On Friday 20th June, our Year 11 students returned to site for one final time this academic year for their prom. A huge thank you to all staff involved in making the event so memorable. With Mr Martin as our resident DJ, a traditional photo booth, and the new addition of a magician, the evening truly was a celebration of a remarkable year group.

Week 4 brought one of the highlights of the year with our STEAM Week. Students in Key Stage 3 participated in a variety of engaging and challenging projects, followed by their final Learning Beyond the Curriculum (LBC) trip. We also welcomed parents and carers of Year 9 students for their MYP Graduation on the Wednesday. This special occasion coincided with a visit from John Boumphrey (UK & Ireland Country Manager for Amazon), Lord Baker, and colleagues from the Leigh Academies Trust, Amazon, and the Baker Dearing Trust.

Week 5 saw our incoming Year 7 students join us for their transition day. They took part in a range of exciting activities while becoming familiar with the expectations and routines of life at the UTC. We eagerly anticipate their return at the start of the next academic year.

Module 6 is never complete without our annual Sports Day. On Friday 18th July, we hosted our event at Dartford's Central Park, where students and even some staff, demonstrated outstanding athletic talent. Both colleges competed with great spirit, showing respect, responsibility, and strengthening our sense of community.

As we draw the academic year to a close, I want to thank all students, staff, parents, colleagues and partners for your continued commitment and support. I hope you all enjoy a well earned, restful, and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back for another exciting year in 2025–26.

Warmest regards,

Mr Kevin Watson

Principal, Leigh UTC Dartford

Message from Head of College

ALAN MATHISON TURING - COMPUTER SCIENTIST



“WE CAN ONLY SEE A SHORT DISTANCE AHEAD, BUT WE CAN SEE PLENTY THERE THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE” - ALAN MATHISON TURING

Turing College: A Triumphant End to an Exceptional Year

As the final days of the academic year fade into summer, Turing College stands proud, having wrapped up another transformative year full of growth, innovation, and ambition. The final module has always carried a unique energy, and 2025 was no exception. It's the season where learning peaks, projects reach completion, and the Turing community comes together to reflect, celebrate, and look ahead.

A Season of Purpose and Progress

From the outset, this module was marked by a relentless drive toward excellence. Students took on real-world challenges across disciplines, from AI ethics debates to design technology prototypes, and from environmental design solutions to digital entrepreneurship ventures. What set this summer apart was not only the standard of work, but the confidence with which students presented ideas; bold, informed, and thoroughly future-facing.

Year 10s and Year 12s alike stepped up, applying their learning with maturity that impressed staff and external partners alike.

Standout Moments

A real highlight was also the Year 9 students completing their community projects, where student groups completed a range of projects; ranging from environmental sustainability to healthy eating. Guest speakers from industry judged the entries and were quick to praise both creativity and technical thinking. In a quieter but equally powerful way, the pastoral team continued to support students' development as self-aware, resilient learners. Reflective coaching sessions helped students prepare for transitions, whether into the next year group or the world of work.

Celebrating the Journey

The end-of-year celebration was a fitting tribute, combining recognition, laughter, and a touch of emotion. Awards were presented for subjects and for students displaying our professional habits. Staff shared anecdotes and well-wishes, and students had a chance to reflect on how far they'd come. From awkward introductions in September to confident, collaborative learners in July; the growth was unmistakable.

Looking Ahead

With September on the horizon, students now turn their gaze to new opportunities. Whether continuing on their learning journey or taking their next steps into the world beyond Turing College, they do so equipped not just with knowledge, but with clarity, curiosity, and character.

As the academic year closes, we take pride in more than results; we celebrate people. Their ideas, effort, kindness, and tenacity. This summer module may be ending, but the legacy of what's been learned and achieved will carry on well beyond the classroom walls.

Have a wonderful summer from all the Turing team.



Message from Head of College

EBEN AND LIZ UPTON - INNOVATORS



A Year of Resilience, Reflection and Remarkable Achievement

As we close another academic year at Leigh UTC, I want to take a moment to reflect on the journey we’ve taken together; and what a journey it has been.

“EXCITED TO MAKE THE
TREMENDOUS BENEFITS OF
ROBOTICS UNIVERSALLY
ACCESSIBLE” - EBEN & LIZ UPTON

We have experienced another positive year at Leigh UTC. As per what is becoming the UTC’s tradition, our students and our staff, teaching, support, site, admin, and leadership, have gone above and beyond what they were ‘required to do’ and ensured our students have received not just an education, but an holistic experience that has and will continue to prepares them for the world beyond the classroom.

On a day to day basis our students have shown resilience, curiosity, ambition and continue to continue to inspire staff and students alike, with the highlight of this being our own year 9 student being selected as part of the dartford borough student council. Our students have not only risen to the personal, academic and familial challenges this year has brought, but they have engaged with global and national issues, debated, supported, and represented Leigh UTC with pride in and beyond our community. Through various sport, language and mathematical events, we have shown we may be a small school in number but our impact is felt locally and nationally. The peak of this being our recognition by HRH King Charles for our contribution to the educational improvement of the children we serve.

This year, we’ve marked some important national events together; from Remembrance Day to International Women’s Day, Mental Health Awareness Week to Pride Month: using them as powerful opportunities to learn, reflect, and strengthen the inclusive culture we are proud of. This was made even more special with the recognition of ‘Excellence’ when we received the Inclusion Quality Mark. The IQM award was special for us as it reminded us of the rich and powerful inclusive community we have grown and the ongoing richness we continue to evolve and grow. As the philosopher Aristotle said, “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.” That excellence has been visible in our corridors, classrooms, and work across this fantastic and awe inspiring school.

As we look ahead to the summer, I urge all of us, staff and students alike to take a really really well earned rest. To recharge, refresh and to reflect because we have not just earned it, we are owed it. Let the summer be your exit pass to slow down (and maybe, just maybe, forget your email password for a few weeks). Let’s return in September not just refreshed, but ready to grow, to stretch, to laugh and yes, to finally fix the cable in A1.03. And for those moving on to new pastures, colleges, apprenticeships or new adventures, know that you carry Leigh UTC spirit with you. Wishing everyone a safe, happy, and well-earned summer break.

I will leave you with a joke; Why did the student eat his homework?
Because the teacher said it was a piece of cake.

With sincerity and gratitude to all my colleagues,
Mr Alamu and Upton College.



Message from the Director for Learning for Post 16 - Clark College

YVONNE CLARK - ENGINEER

“ONE DAY YOU WILL
THANK YOURSELF FOR
NOT GIVING UP” -
YVONNE CLARK



End of Module Reflections

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we bid farewell to our Year 13 students, with just a final few T-Level placements taking place, our attention now turns to supporting our Year 12 students as they prepare for their crucial final year. You are following in the footsteps of an exceptional cohort who are already greatly missed, and I have every confidence that you will continue their legacy of excellence. This term has been particularly successful, with our Routes to Success week proving invaluable for students exploring their future pathways. The final phase of this programme - 'the interview' - is taking place this week, giving students essential real-world experience that will serve them well in their university and career applications.

Our Year 12 students have also completed their PPE assessments at the beginning of this module, which have been very successful in providing both students and staff with a valuable picture of current performance and forecast grades for university applications. As we approach the summer break, I encourage all Year 12 students to use this time productively by completing their UCAS applications. By finishing this preparation over the summer, you will be ready to submit your applications at the beginning of Year 13, putting you ahead of the game and allowing more time to focus on your studies and final preparations.

The foundation work you've done this year, combined with summer preparation, will set you up perfectly for success in your final year. Well done, Year 12 - you have risen to every challenge this year with determination and maturity, and I am incredibly proud of what you have achieved so far.

Kind regards,
Ms Martin



A Reflection: Our Assemblies

This module, our school assemblies brought the community together to learn, reflect, and celebrate the vibrant world around us. From awareness-raising discussions to energetic events, each gathering offered something unique and meaningful.

Our Year 7 and 8 STEAM Assembly sparked curiosity and innovation as students delved into Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Maths. The energy was electric as students were excited to see Year 9 present their projects during their Community Project Exhibition and celebrated triumphs during their Graduation. Coinciding, later in the term, we commemorated *Women in Engineering Day* on 23rd June, highlighting trailblazing women who have shaped the industry. This assembly also left us with an appreciation for the wealth of opportunities open to us to explore and the power of the contribution of women.

We also launched our Charlie's Promise Fundraiser, in honour of the charity *Charlie's Promise*, which rallied our students around a cause close to our hearts through activities like making donations, wearing blue (the corporate colour of the charity), quizzes, sports challenges including riding the distance from Dartford to Calais via exercise bike, and fundraising stalls including bake sales. Charlie's story touched all of us and we were very privileged to have Charlie's father back this module, for another visit to our school to spread the importance of the dangers of knife crime.



One of the most anticipated events was Leigh UTC Sports Day at Dartford Harriers Sports Ground on the 18th July, where we celebrated physical fitness, camaraderie, and teamwork. Students enthusiastically participated in events, cheered each other on, and demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship.

Culture Week transported us across the globe on Wednesday 16th July, we celebrated a different country's traditions, food, language, and art offering a deep and thoughtful look at food and creativity being integral to cultural identity and pride in our individual history and heritage.

Finally, as the academic year drew to a close, our End of Academic Year, Celebration Assembly in which Leigh UTC Champions League Winners were announced and End of School Year Preparation assemblies provided a space to reflect on growth, say farewell to those moving on, and build excitement for the journey ahead.



From reflection to celebration, this term's assemblies left a lasting impact; reminding us of our shared values, the power of knowledge, and the strength of our school community.

A Reflection: Our Assemblies

Whilst we celebrated the Champions League Winners who had 100% for the entire academic year, we also celebrated the students across Years 7 - 11 who have had 100% Attendance in Module 6!

The winners were treated to a basket of sweets and a certificate in assembly, and The Champions League winners were treated to a rewards trip to Thorpe Park!

100% Attendance Winners!

100%

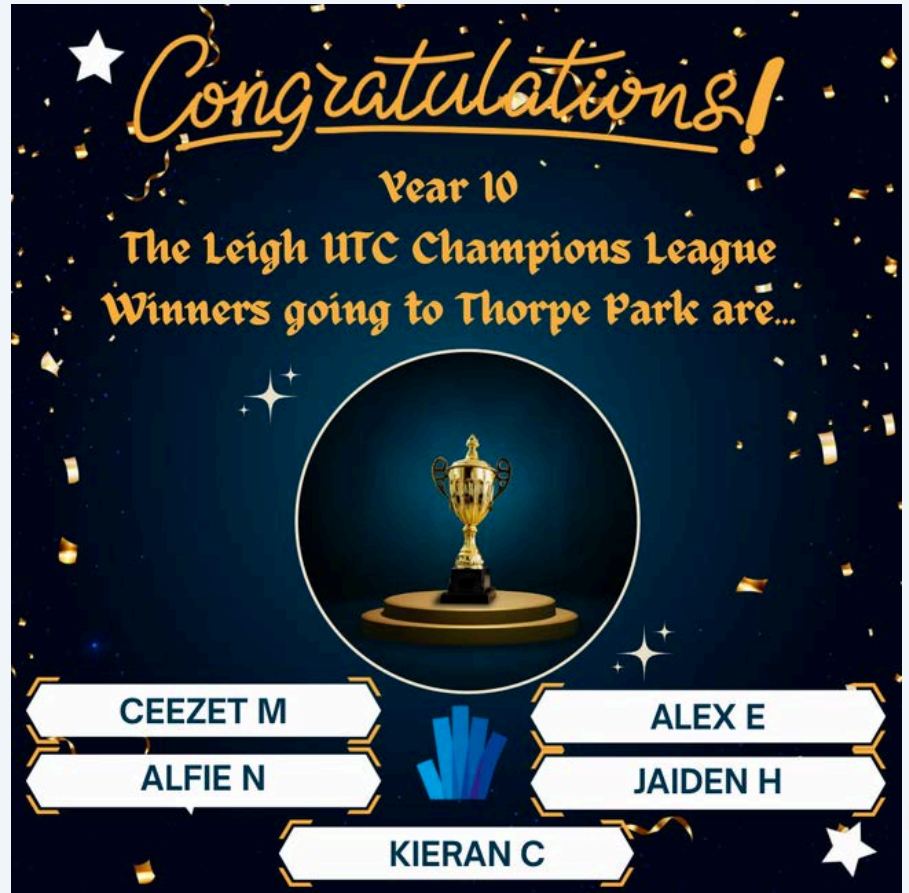
Name	Year Group
Freddie L	7TT
Michael O	7US
Grishiga T	7US
Jakub B	7UT
Chisom E	7UT
Alex G	7UT
Emilie S	7UT

Name	Year Group
Fraser H	10TE
Pauline I	10TE
Jerome J	10TE
Shiloh M	10TE
Tafara S	10TE
Inioluwa I	10TS
Preston I	10TT
Papa P	10US

Name	Year Group
Eliana A	8TS
Zac J	8TS
Callum C	8TT
Adonai N	8TT
Samuel O	8TT
Jan K	8UT

Name	Year Group
Jack A	11TS
Matus M	11TS
Tomas M	11TS
Alfie N	11TS
Matei G	11TT
Kolade O	11TT
Damilola O	11TT
Tevin B	11UE
Jessica L	11UE
Micha T	11UE
Jordan A	11US
Alfie G	11US
Tyrese M	11US
Callum M	11US
Kitdhes V	11US
Samuel A	11UT
Dideoluwa A	11UT

Name	Year Group
Brandon W	9TS
Alex N	9TT
Joseph O	9TT
Zahra O	9TT
Michael A	9US
Alexander H	9US
Joshua A	9UT



Community Collaboration with Dartford Bridge Community Primary School – June 2025

As part of our ongoing commitment to community engagement and partnership work, Leigh UTC was proud to support Dartford Bridge Community Primary School during their annual Sports Days on Monday 23rd and Thursday 26th June 2025.

A team of enthusiastic Post-16 students, accompanied by dedicated staff, volunteered their time to help facilitate the event, which saw hundreds of primary-aged pupils taking part in a range of sporting activities and challenges. Our students were involved in multiple aspects of the day, from setting up equipment and managing stations to timekeeping, recording scores, and supporting the smooth operation of the timetable.



Throughout both days, Leigh UTC students demonstrated exceptional leadership, communication, and teamwork skills. They were actively engaged in encouraging the younger pupils, offering support and cheering them on during races and field events. Their presence not only brought a sense of energy and positivity to the event but also served as inspiring role models for the primary students, many of whom expressed their excitement at interacting with “the big kids from the secondary school.” Staff from Dartford Bridge Community Primary School praised our students for their professionalism, maturity, and friendliness, noting how their contribution helped elevate the overall experience for all involved. Teachers and support staff were particularly impressed with how Leigh UTC students adapted to the responsibilities given, confidently managing score sheets and stepping in wherever needed with minimal instruction.

Beyond the logistics and practical help, the day offered something deeper: a genuine connection between two educational communities. For our students, it was a chance to give back, to build relationships beyond their own school walls, and to feel the reward of making a positive difference. For the younger pupils, it was a day of celebration, fun, and inspiration, made even more memorable by the support of older peers.

This meaningful collaboration is just one example of how Leigh UTC continues to foster strong links with local schools and the wider community. We are incredibly proud of the students who represented our school with such integrity and enthusiasm, and we look forward to continuing this partnership with Dartford Bridge Community Primary School in the future.

STEAM Week

Science, Technology, Electronics, Arts and Mathematics Week (STEAM) is a themed week we run here at Leigh UTC dedicated to celebrating and promoting learning in the areas of STEAM. This week took place during Module 6 and was filled with activities, workshops, competitions, guest speakers, and special lessons that went beyond the regular curriculum.

(Image - Year 7 with Balfour Beatty)

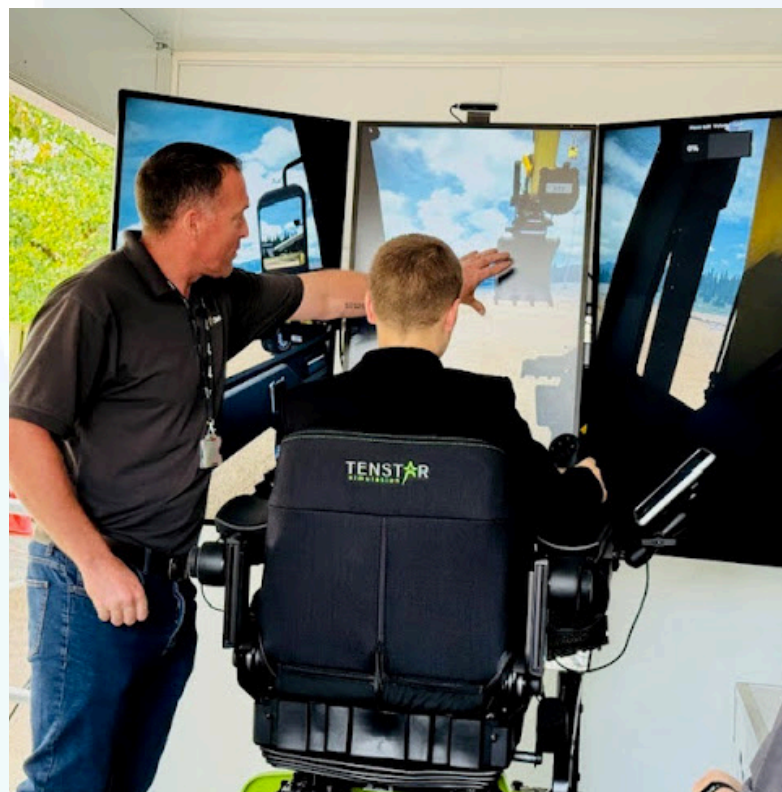
STEAM week is our opportunity to enrich students' learning by highlighting the interdisciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics. Through a range of engaging, hands-on activities and interdisciplinary projects, students were encouraged to think creatively, solve problems collaboratively, and apply their knowledge in real-world contexts. The inspirational and awe inspiring week aims to broaden students' understanding of how STEAM subjects contribute to innovation and everyday life, while also inspiring potential future pathways in both technical and creative industries. By fostering curiosity and critical thinking, STEAM week supports the development of well-rounded, forward-thinking learners here at the Leigh UTC.



During STEAM week, we were fortunate to host a series of inspiring career talks and workshops delivered by industry leaders, including Balfour Beatty, Network Rail, Clancy, and the Construction Youth Trust. In addition to these valuable sessions, all students stepped away from their usual timetables to engage in a variety of immersive activities, including a mock election process, Lego sustainability challenges, and a dedicated sustainability project with a strong focus on science and engineering. The level of enthusiasm and active participation from our students was exceptional, creating a vibrant and energising atmosphere throughout Leigh UTC.



(Hannah, Year 7 with
Construction Youth Trust)



(Year 8 with Clancy and their
mobile simulation unit)



STEAM - Elections Project

Year 7 and Year 8 embarked on a simulated local election on the Monday and Tuesday of STEAM week.

This saw four groups of students adopt a political party each, with the task of understanding that party's political views and then coming up with how they would spend £50 million provided by the Government to 'level up' Dartford in five key areas which were: Transport, Education, Cost of Living, Youth Services and Flood management.

Our students took to the task with enthusiasm and maturity. Students all had different roles, be that campaign advisers, speech writers, marketing, or journalists and at the end of the day, a hustings was held where students voted on the candidate they thought would best serve Dartford.

The votes were counted and the results for the Year 8 election saw the Conservatives led by Emilia S coming out on top and in Year 7 it was the Reform Party that claimed victory, ably led by Oscar H.

The importance of Democracy is a fundamental British Value, something we at Leigh UTC value, students took away an understanding of how local party politics works and the importance of getting involved and using your vote.



STEAM - Lego Projects

As part of STEAM Week, the English, Computing, and Art departments collaborated on two exciting Lego-based projects with Year 7 and 8 students.

Year 7 were challenged to tackle a real-world issue: How to design a sustainable and accessible park in an urban environment. Students engaged in research, planning, and design before bringing their ideas to life by constructing their parks using Lego.

They enjoyed exploring creative, sustainable solutions and had even more fun building their creative designs.

Year 8 were presented with a creative survival scenario: What would you do if you crash-landed on an unknown planet and had to survive for ten years? Their task was to design and build a functional survival base using Lego.

After researching and planning their ideas, students brought their concepts to life through detailed Lego models. They then presented their bases to the class, explaining the features they included and how these would help them survive in a challenging environment.

The students enjoyed the opportunity to use Lego to transform their imaginative ideas into reality.



STEAM - Sustainability Project

As part of this year's STEAM Week celebrations, students in Years 7 and 8 took part in a two-day Sustainability Project focused around Science and Engineering. The theme centred on the 6 Rs of sustainability: Recycle, Refuse, Repair, Reuse, Reduce, and Rethink—with a bonus seventh 'R', Reward, added to recognise students' efforts and achievements.

The event began with an engaging and thought-provoking presentation by Mr Butcher, who outlined current recycling practices and highlighted some of the environmental challenges we still face. Students were encouraged to think critically about the impact our consumption has on the planet and how we can make more responsible choices.

Students then rotated through a series of interactive workshops led by staff across different departments.

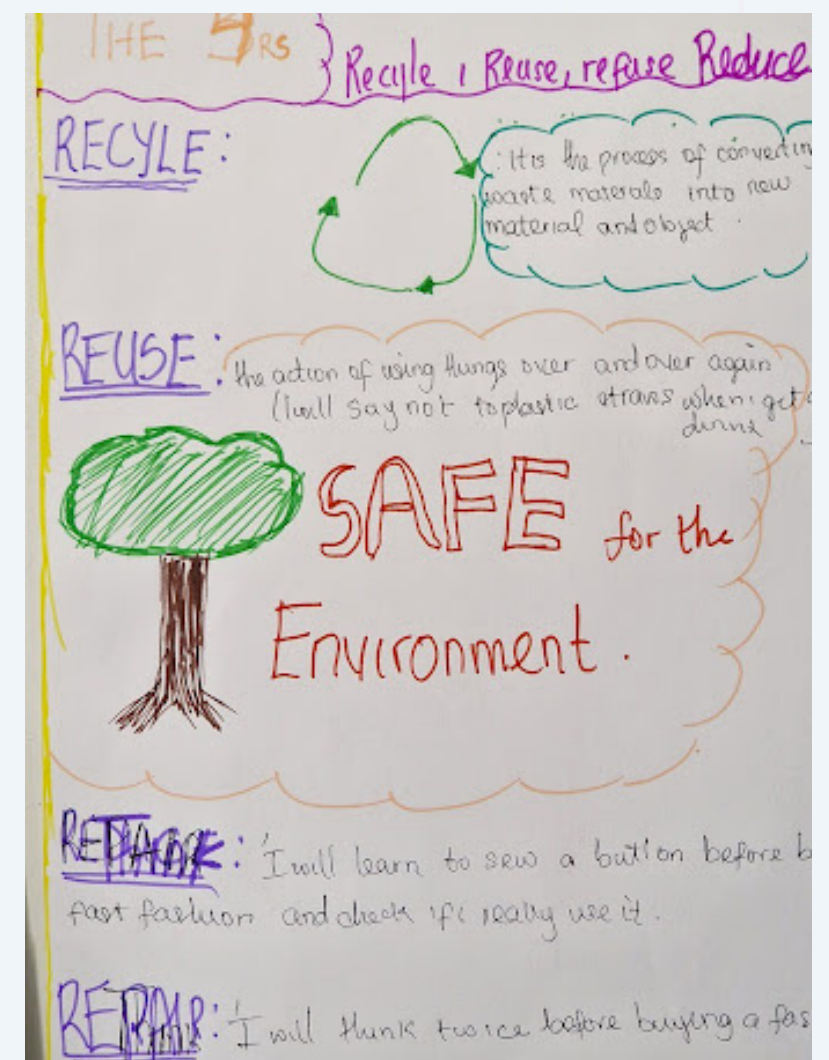
Each session explored practical and creative ways to apply the 6 Rs:

- **Repair:** Learning how to safely fix a 3 Amp plug.
- **Reuse:** Building mechanical toys using common household materials that would usually be discarded.
- **Reduce:** Designing a mobile phone stand using the minimum amount of material needed for it to function.
- **Refuse:** Taking on a challenge to replace everyday plastic items with more sustainable alternatives.
- **Rethink:** Developing a set of personal or household pledges to live more sustainably. Some students even presented their pledges on reused materials collected during the activities.
- **Recycle:** Using more recycled materials to create more products, helps to save money and protect our environment better.



The two days concluded with a celebration assembly, led by Mr Nash, where students who stood out in each workshop were rewarded for their creativity, teamwork, and innovative thinking, all while managing to stay focused during two very hot days!

A huge well done to all our Year 7 and 8 students for their energy and engagement, and thank you to our dedicated staff for organising such an inspiring event. Together, we're taking meaningful steps toward a more sustainable future.



Year 9 Community Project and Graduation

For STEAM week our Year 9 students were reaching the culmination of their MYP journey as they prepared to transition to their GCSEs.

After completing a planning module for their Community Projects; each centred around a Sustainable Development Goal and focused on a topic of personal interest, students worked independently or in small groups to bring their projects to life.

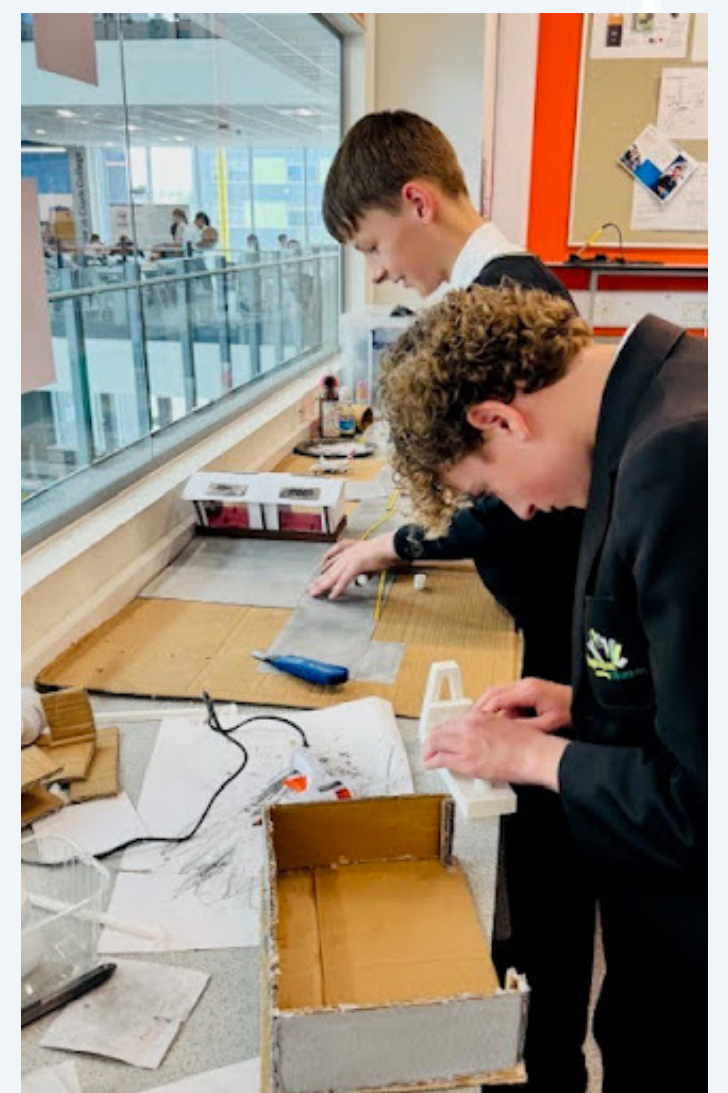
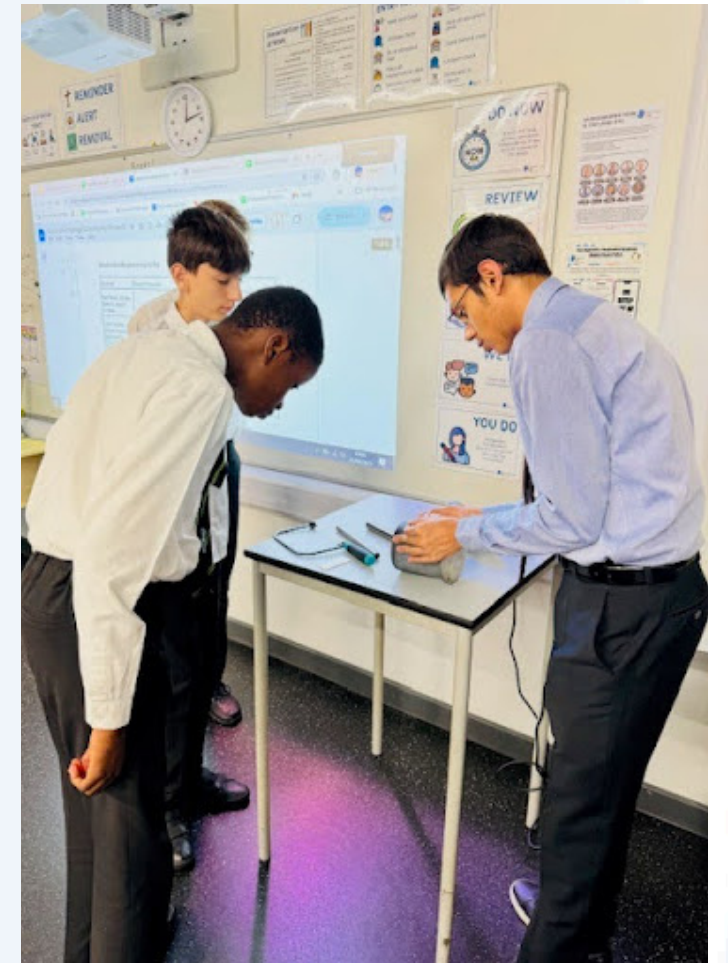
Their aim was to create meaningful impact and drive positive change within their chosen area, demonstrating initiative, commitment, and a strong sense of social responsibility.

Completing the Community Project as part of the Middle Years Programme (MYP) in Year 9 provides students with a valuable opportunity to develop as responsible, reflective, and active global citizens. It encourages them to identify and explore issues that matter to them and their communities, promoting a sense of empathy, initiative, and social responsibility.

Through this independent, student-led project, learners strengthen essential skills such as research, collaboration, communication, and time management. It also serves as a meaningful bridge between academic learning and real-world application, helping students understand how they can make a positive impact beyond the classroom.

Mrs Chapman, our Community Project Lead at Leigh UTC, has played a vital role in guiding and inspiring our Year 9 students throughout their journey, supported by their PD mentors.

Together, they have helped students identify the areas they are most passionate about and where they want to make a meaningful difference.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Year 9 Community Project and Graduation

On Wednesday 25th June, students proudly showcased their completed projects to Year 7 and 8 peers during the day and to parents and carers after school.



The day concluded with a special Graduation Ceremony, celebrating not only the students' dedication to their Community Projects but also their achievements over the past three years at the school. At the Graduation ceremony, we were honoured to recognise students who demonstrated outstanding MYP attributes within their subject groups and embodied the learner profiles, as well as those who presented the most inspiring Community Project ideas. Although selecting the winners was a challenging task, every Year 9 student should take great pride in their achievements throughout this journey.

Firstly we celebrated our subject group winners, who have displayed excellent Attitudes to Learning within the subject, our winners were:

Language Acquisition - Samuel C
Language and Literature - Alexander H
Mathematics - Sophie R
Sciences - Evie F
Individuals and Societies - Daniel B
Design - Alex N
Physical and Health Education - Christie T
Arts - Ryan S



We celebrated our overall winners of each the Learner Profiles, awards were presented to:

Knowledgeable - Harry M
Inquirer - Kai K
Thinker - Henry M
Principled - Naomi B
Risk Taker - Donovan M
Caring - Jamie C
Communicator - Maddison D
Open minded - Chidi O
Reflective - Lily A
Balanced - Henry N



Awards were finally presented for students who had gone above and beyond expectations with their community projects:

Oliver M and Ryan S for their robot prototype.
Christie T and Kiera May B for their eye-opening focus and research on rape culture in the UK.
Oliver C for his time and effort that went into his meticulous drawings and research on veterans and homelessness in the UK.

Boxing 4 Schools Returns to Leigh UTC

Boxing 4 Schools Returns: Building Resilience, Discipline and Self-Belief

Following the success of our initial Boxing 4 Schools programme earlier last module, we proudly launched a second module of this transformative intervention, this time working with a new group of students from Years 8 and 9.

The five-week programme is designed to build key personal development traits such as resilience, discipline, and self-belief. The sessions combine boxing skills with personal growth, offering students a powerful space to develop not only physically but mentally and emotionally too.

Each Friday, selected students step into a structured and supportive environment where they take part in activities including pad work, shadow boxing, skipping, and strength circuits. These exercises are not just about fitness, they are carefully crafted to support students in developing greater self-awareness, emotional control, and confidence.

What sets this programme apart is its ability to connect with students on a deeper level. Through the physical discipline of boxing, students are encouraged to reflect on their mindset, manage their emotions, and push beyond self-imposed limits. Many have reported feeling stronger, calmer, and more motivated both in and out of the classroom.

The return of Boxing 4 Schools marks our ongoing commitment to innovative, student-centred interventions that go beyond academic achievement. By focusing on character development, we are equipping our students with the tools they need to succeed not only in school, but in all areas of life.

Coach Wayne has once again been instrumental in creating a positive, engaging atmosphere where students feel seen, supported, and challenged. His passion for youth development shines through in every session, and we are proud to be working with a partner who shares our vision for empowering young people.



Pride Week at Leigh UTC

Leigh UTC has seen a powerful celebration of Pride Week in this module where we have not missed out on the opportunity to promote inclusivity, raise awareness, and strengthen understanding of the LGBTQ+ community among our students. Through a series of carefully curated and engaging presentations, students were encouraged to explore the importance of acceptance, the value of allyship, and the need for education to combat prejudice and discrimination.

Throughout the week, assemblies focused on several key themes that underpin Pride and the values it represents. Students began by exploring the meaning behind the LGBTQ+ abbreviation, gaining a clearer understanding of the spectrum of identities and orientations that fall under the umbrella of this community. The aim was not only to inform but to build empathy and compassion through knowledge.

Students also learnt about high-profile public figures and celebrities who proudly identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. From sport and politics to music and film, these individuals serve as role models for living authentically and have helped challenge stereotypes and change perceptions across society.

One of the most impactful aspects of the assemblies was a deep dive into pronouns, what they mean, why they matter, and how we can all use them respectfully. This was supported by real-life examples and scenarios, helping students reflect on the significance of language and the small but meaningful ways in which respect and inclusion can be shown in everyday interactions.

The assemblies also tackled more difficult conversations, including the reality of homophobic hate crimes and slurs. Students were encouraged to think about the impact of discriminatory language and behaviour, and

what steps we can all take as individuals and as a school community to challenge prejudice and create a safe, welcoming environment for everyone. Emphasis was placed on the power of standing together to eliminate hate, and on the responsibility we each share in being active allies.



PRIDE MONTH

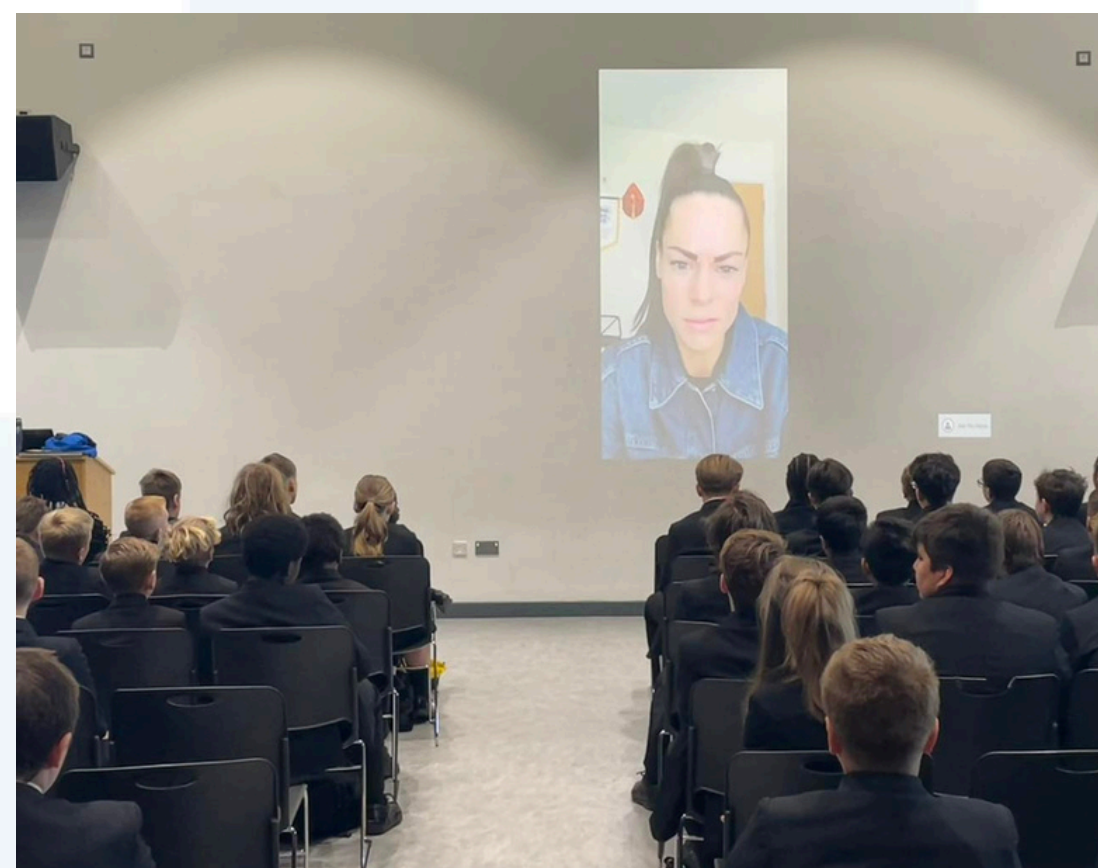


Pride Week at The Leigh UTC

A highlight of the week was a virtual guest appearance from Claire Rafferty, former England international and professional footballer. Claire shared her journey as a gay athlete navigating the world of elite sport, reflecting on the challenges she faced and the strength it took to overcome them.

With honesty and courage, Claire spoke about the barriers that existed within football and beyond, highlighting the importance of visibility, representation and support. Her message of authenticity, resilience and pride resonated deeply with students and staff alike.

Claire's footballing career is an inspiration in its own right. Having earned 18 caps for England, she represented her country at both the 2011 and 2015 FIFA Women's World Cups – securing a bronze medal in the latter. Domestically, she played for Millwall Lionesses, Chelsea, and West Ham United, and achieved great success at Chelsea, winning two Women's Super League titles and two FA Cups. Claire retired in 2019 and now continues to advocate for equality in sport and society.



We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Claire Rafferty for her time, her openness, and her contribution to our Pride Week programme. Her words were not only insightful, but empowering reminding us that change starts with conversation, courage and community.

At Leigh UTC, Pride Week is more than a celebration. It is a reminder of our commitment to equality, respect and inclusion, and a promise that every student has the right to feel seen, valued and safe exactly as they are.

Amazon and Baker Dearing Visit Leigh UTC

Amazon and Baker Dearing Trust Visit Leigh UTC to Celebrate Technical Education and Industry Partnerships

Leigh UTC was honoured to welcome John Bounphrey, Vice President and UK Country Manager for Amazon, and Lord Baker, former Secretary of State for Education and co-founder of the Baker Dearing Trust, for a distinguished visit on Wednesday 25th June 2025. They were joined by Simon Beamish, Chief Executive of Leigh Academies Trust, and Richard Taylor, Deputy Chief Executive, for a day that highlighted the power of technical education to transform lives and strengthen communities. The visit provided an invaluable opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue around the evolving role of education in a modern economy. This conversation was particularly timely as it coincided with Leigh UTC's STEAM Week, during which Year 9 students proudly presented their community based projects. Their work demonstrated not only impressive creativity and teamwork, but also their growing confidence in applying real world learning to tangible outcomes.

Guests were also introduced to four Year 13 students from Leigh UTC, each of whom has secured a prestigious degree level apprenticeship with Amazon, a testament to their dedication, as well as to the strength of our industry aligned curriculum. Hospitality on the day was delivered by a talented Year 11 student from Leigh UTC, who recently completed a Level 2 vocational course in Hospitality and Catering, showcasing the professionalism and skills that lie at the heart of our practical learning pathways. The event served to reaffirm the shared mission of all parties in delivering a high quality, industry focused curriculum that equips young people with the employability and leadership skills needed to contribute to sustained economic growth locally, nationally, and globally. Leigh UTC remains steadfast in its commitment to nurturing the next generation of STEM professionals. Through deep collaboration between business and education, they continue to foster an enterprising culture where innovation, partnership, and ambition drive students to become not just work ready but future ready.

Amazon Vice President and Country Manager for UK and Ireland John Bounphrey Commented: *"Having witnessed the transformative power of apprenticeships at Amazon, I've seen countless talented young people forge successful, fulfilling careers through hands-on learning experiences. That's why we're teaming up with the Baker Dearing Educational Trust and UTC network – to give more young people opportunities to develop their skills and build confidence for the workplace."*



Leigh UTC Year 9 students discussing their community project with Lord Baker and Richard Taylor



John Bounphrey and Leigh UTC Principal Kevin Watson experiencing a Year 8 Engineering lesson

Learning Beyond the Curriculum (LBC) Day

On Friday 27th June 2025, students stepped away from their usual classroom routines and embarked on exciting educational and enrichment experiences as part of our highly anticipated third LBC Day of the year.

Year 7: A Magical Adventure and a Royal Retreat

Our Year 7 colleges were split across two equally exciting destinations. One group travelled to the Harry Potter Studios, stepping into the magical world of Hogwarts, Diagon Alley, and the Great Hall and saw the Hogwarts Express Train!

"Seeing the sets in real life was unreal, it felt like I was walking through the actual films!" Year 7, Callum.

Meanwhile, another group visited the historic Leeds Castle. Set within beautiful grounds, students explored the castle's rich medieval past and even enjoyed the famous maze.



Year 8: Culture, Curiosity and Challenges

Year 8 had a cultural and adrenaline-filled day with two contrasting trips. One group journeyed to Greenwich, where they visited the National Maritime Museum and soaked up the atmosphere of Greenwich Market. Here, students explored exhibits on naval history and global exploration before sampling street food and browsing unique market stalls.

The second group took a more physical route at Ninja Warrior UK Chatham, putting teamwork, agility and resilience to the test. Students cheered each other on through obstacle courses and warped walls, whilst taking full advantage of the opportunity to push staff off of the apparatus!

"I loved the day, to see staff in normal clothes and joining in with us was funny too, especially seeing them getting wiped out!" Year 8, Jack



Learning Beyond the Curriculum (LBC) Day

Year 9: Wartime Reflections and Tree-Top Triumphs

Year 9 students visited the Imperial War Museum, where they delved into the harsh realities of conflict and its global impact. The museum's immersive exhibits prompted deep reflection and empathy.

"It made me think differently about what people went through, it was emotional and inspiring," Finn, Year 9.

At Go Ape Bedgebury, the second group tackled treetop trails and zip wires. Not only did it build confidence and courage, but it also created a sense of achievement with some students overcoming their fear of heights.

"I was scared at first, but once I did the zip line, I didn't want to stop, best school day ever!" Layla, Year 9.



Year 10: Natural Wonders and Outdoor Bonding

Year 10 students explored two very different sides of the world. One group visited the Natural History Museum, encountering dinosaur skeletons, gemstone galleries and the wonders of the natural world.

"I was blown away by the earthquake simulator" Aurellia, Year 10.

Others opted for a more relaxed day outdoors at Mote Park, where dragon boat racing, group games and a picnic atmosphere helped students unwind and recharge.

"It was a chance to laugh with friends, learn a new skill and just enjoy being outside." Noah, Year 10.



A Day to Remember

LBC Day once again showcased how learning can be extended far beyond the classroom walls. These experiences not only reinforced curriculum themes but also built confidence, encouraged independence and created memories students will carry for years to come.

We look forward to the next adventures that we have already booked for you for 2025-26!

Cricket Trip

On Monday the 30th June a group of Year 7 and 8 students from the Leigh UTC attended the "Kent School's Day out" at the St Lawrence cricket ground in Canterbury.

The students watched a County Championship match between Kent and Northants. It was a lovely day to watch Cricket and the Kent Batsman certainly enjoyed themselves. As well as the Cricket our students also took part in some activities with the Kent Cricket coaching team. We were also allowed to go on the outfield during the lunch break and play a bit of Cricket and meet some of the players. Thanks to Miss Hobbs who also attended the trip.



Thorpe Park Trip

Throughout the academic year, students across the academy have worked incredibly hard to demonstrate their commitment to excellence, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Leigh UTC Champions League was introduced to recognise those who consistently go above and beyond, with points awarded for outstanding attendance, positive behaviour, participation in extracurricular clubs and attendance at academic interventions. After months of dedication, the top five students from each year group were identified, as the top twenty students across the entire academy. Their resilience, attitude to learning, and willingness to engage fully in school life set them apart, and it was only right that they were rewarded in a truly memorable way.

To celebrate their achievements, these students were treated to an unforgettable trip to Thorpe Park. From braving the heights of Stealth to testing their nerves on Saw, every moment was filled with laughter, adrenaline and well-deserved fun.

Despite a few soaking wet moments on the water rides, spirits were high, and the day was a brilliant way to mark the end of a fantastic year for our highest achievers.

Well done to all those who earned their place, your hard work has not gone unnoticed, and we hope this trip was a fitting reward for your efforts.



A Day for Charlie's Promise: Fundraising, Unity and a Sea of Blue

Thursday 3rd July marked a truly special day at Leigh UTC as students and staff came together to raise money and awareness for Charlie's Promise, a charity dedicated to knife crime prevention and education.

Everywhere you looked, there was a sea of blue; blue accessories, blue-themed bakes and blue decorations showing just how committed our community is to the cause. The colour, chosen in support of the charity, created a powerful visual message of unity, remembrance and hope.

The day featured a range of activities. Students and staff brought in an incredible variety of blue-themed food and sweet treats, many of which were homemade. Additional items were prepared in Food Technology lessons and in after-school clubs, all of which were quickly snapped up during our bustling bake sales at break and lunchtimes.

One of the highlights of the day was our virtual bike ride from Dartford to Calais. With an ambitious target of 112 miles, representing the distance between our academy and the French port city, the challenge was set. Through determination and teamwork, our students smashed the goal, reaching an incredible 118 miles cycled throughout the school day.

In total, the school raised over £200, with funds continuing to come in through our JustGiving page. Every contribution helps support the vital work Charlie's Promise does in educating young people and preventing knife crime across the country.

The day was a brilliant example of what can be achieved when a school community rallies behind a cause. Thank you to everyone who contributed, participated, and supported this important event and most of all to the Student Voice Team who organised the whole event!



German Ambassador's Rewards Trip



Deutsche Botschafter Reward Trip!

The German Department recently celebrated the hard work and dedication of its German Ambassadors by treating them to a well-deserved reward trip. As a thank-you for their continuous contributions throughout the academic year, the Ambassadors were taken tenpin bowling; a fun and lively outing that allowed them to relax, bond, and enjoy some friendly competition outside the classroom.

The German Ambassadors play a vital role in promoting language learning and cultural awareness across the school. From looking after the visitors from our German link school or supporting other students in their language learning, the Ambassadors consistently demonstrate enthusiasm and leadership.

The department hopes that this initiative will continue to inspire other students to get involved and show that language learning extends beyond the classroom into experiences, friendships, and fun.

VIELEN DANK to all our incredible German Botschafter — we look forward to another fantastic year ahead and receiving applications for the new cohort of Botschafter.



Leigh UTC wins Sprachenut Competition

Celebrating Our Success: Winning the Trust Language Competition for the Second Time!

We are thrilled to share some fantastic news with our school community! Leigh UTC students have once again demonstrated their dedication and language skills by winning one of the two Sprachenut trophies in the Trust Sprachenut Competition for the second consecutive year. Students from Leigh UTC had the most points per student out of all of the secondary academies.

The achievement is a testament to the hard work, enthusiasm, and teamwork of everyone involved. The German department is especially proud of all the students who took part in this exciting challenge. Their commitment to learning and their passion for the German language truly shone through. It's inspiring to see our students not only striving to improve their language abilities but also representing our school with pride on such a prestigious platform.

Once the trophy and certificates arrive, we will be hosting a special reward assembly to celebrate everyone's efforts. This event will recognize all students who scored highly in the competition, highlighting their achievements and encouraging everyone to continue their language learning journey.

Congratulations to all our talented students! Your success motivates us all to keep aiming high and embracing new challenges. We look forward to celebrating together soon!

Vielen Dank und Herzlichen Glückwunsch!



Year 10 Health & Fitness Students Train the Staff

Over the last few weeks, a group of us in Year 10 Health & Fitness have had the chance to do something completely different, we've been running after-school circuit training sessions for the staff! It's been a brilliant experience where we've taken on the role of Personal Trainers, putting everything we've learned this year into practice.

Each session, we worked in pairs or small groups to plan and deliver different exercises to get the staff moving. From bodyweight workouts to strength stations and core challenges, we had to make sure everything was safe, effective and even enjoyable. It definitely felt a bit weird at first telling our teachers what to do, but they've all been really supportive and even asked for tips and feedback on their form!

This experience has been really useful for us because next year, in Year 11, our coursework will involve planning and delivering fitness programmes. By running these sessions now, we've been able to practice our communication skills, boost our confidence, and get a real feel for what it's like to lead a group, especially one filled with our own teachers!

It's also been a lot of fun seeing a different side of the staff. Some of them really got into it and gave 100%, while others needed a bit more encouragement (which we were happy to give). We've learned a lot about how to motivate different people and adapt exercises to suit their needs.

Overall, it's been a great experience, not just for our coursework, but for our confidence and teamwork too.



Year 12 Trip to The Bank of England, London

Business Studies & Digital IT



Our recent visit to the Bank of England Museum was a valuable and engaging experience for our Year 12 students studying the Level 3 BTEC Business Diploma and T-Level Digital IT.

The museum provided an excellent opportunity to deepen their understanding of key economic and financial concepts covered in their coursework. Students got to read about the design of the GBP currency and materials used for the bank notes, in particular the World War Two Codebreaker, Alan Turing £50 note which illustrated our understanding of Turing whose founding work in coding, computing and mathematics spearheads our very own college system. Through interactive displays, historical artefacts, and hands-on activities, students explored topics such as inflation, interest rates, monetary policy, and the role of central banks in the UK economy.

A particular highlight was the chance to hold a real gold bar and take part in a simulated Monetary Policy Committee exercise, where they analysed economic scenarios and made decisions about interest rates; mirroring real-world financial decision-making.

The museum's clear and practical presentation of complex ideas helped students make strong connections between their studies and the financial systems that shape the business environment. The visit also sparked thoughtful discussions about careers in finance, economics, and public policy.

Staff were welcoming and knowledgeable, offering tailored resources that matched the students' level of study. With its central location and free admission, the Bank of England Museum proved to be an ideal destination for enhancing our students' understanding of business and finance in a real-world context.

Psychology and Biology Students Explore Bethlem Museum

A Journey Through the Mind: Psychology and Biology Students Explore Bethlem Museum

The Psychology and Biology departments recently organised an enlightening educational trip to the Bethlem Museum of the Mind, providing students with an extraordinary opportunity to explore the world's oldest psychiatric hospital, dating back to 1247.

The day combined a comprehensive history lecture on Bethlem's transformation from "Bedlam" to modern compassionate care, an interactive activity on supporting psychiatric therapy decisions where students analysed real case studies, and a fascinating museum tour. Students examined powerful artifacts including historical restraints, straitjackets, early electroconvulsive therapy equipment, and moving patient artworks ranging from intricate drawings to textile work that conveyed experiences of mental illness with remarkable emotional depth.

The trip provided psychology and biology students with an invaluable educational experience that extended far beyond the classroom, challenging them to apply their knowledge to real-world scenarios while grappling with complex questions about diagnosis, treatment options, and the balance between individual rights and therapeutic intervention.

Students gained crucial insights into how societal attitudes toward mental illness have evolved from fear and stigmatisation to scientific understanding, and how historical approaches continue to influence contemporary practice. The combination of historical education, practical application, and direct engagement with artifacts created a powerful learning experience that will undoubtedly influence these students' future studies and potential careers in mental health, medicine, or related fields.



Year 12 Routes to Success Trip

Routes to Success: Year 12 Students Conquer London's Cultural Treasures

The ambitious "Routes to Success" trip for all Year 12 students proved to be an outstanding educational adventure, combining academic enrichment with independence training as students navigated London's premier cultural institutions.

The carefully planned excursion challenged students to take ownership of their learning journey while gathering valuable resources for their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) work.

The day's highlight was an engaging treasure hunt that saw student teams successfully collaborating to explore four world-renowned venues: the Science Museum, Natural History Museum, Victoria and Albert Museum, and Tate Modern Gallery.



Independence was the cornerstone of the entire experience, with students taking responsibility for signing in at different venues and navigating in teams around London's bustling streets and transport networks. This autonomy not only built confidence but also developed crucial life skills that will serve them well in their future academic and professional endeavors.

Students seized the opportunity to collect primary sources of evidence for their EPQ projects at the Science Museum, where they engaged with cutting-edge exhibits and interactive displays that brought their research topics to life. The treasure hunt format encouraged students to think creatively about their learning, discovering unexpected connections between different disciplines and cultural perspectives as they moved between institutions, from the scientific wonders of the Natural History Museum to the artistic masterpieces of the V&A and the contemporary innovations at Tate Modern.

Transition Day with Year 6

Mission to Mars: A Stellar Success!

On Wednesday 2nd July 2025, the school was buzzing with excitement as Year 6 students from our feeder primaries took part in an unforgettable Transition Day themed “Mission to Mars.”

From rocket designing in the Engineering suite to imagining life on the red planet in Science, students were fully immersed in a day designed to spark curiosity, build confidence, and ignite a passion for STEM.

The day kicked off in the Sports Hall with a warm welcome and a creative icebreaker, before launching into a timetable packed with hands-on experiences. Budding engineers designed and built rockets, while future scientists explored the possibilities of sustaining life on Mars. English and Maths sessions added depth with imaginative space tourism writing and mathematical challenges linked to space travel.

The enthusiasm was infectious, and many spoke of their eagerness to begin their journey with us in September.

The day concluded with a parent session, where families had the opportunity to meet the staff team, hear about our expectations, and witness firsthand the thoughtful planning that underpins the transition to secondary school.



LAT Sports Day

The Year 7 and 8 LAT Athletic's took place at Dartford Athletic's Arena on the 8th July this year. Students from Leigh UTC took part in a number of running, jumping and throwing events against other School's in the LAT. This was a very big event this year with 17 other school's taking part. It wasn't one of our better performances in this year's event but we still set 5 new school records and took home one gold medal in the Year 7 800m (Archie B).

Seven new school records were set in the Year 8 Girls 100m Topaz U (14:31), the Year 8 Boys 1500m (Zac J 5mins 28 sec) the Year 8 Girls 800m (Emilia S 3mins 18 sec), Year 7 800m (Archie B 2 mins 26 sec) and the Year 8 Girls 4x100m relay (Topaz U, Jess R, Hameedah M and Emilia S 58.85 sec). It was a fantastic event and our students were a credit to the Leigh UTC. The full set of results for the event are not out yet , but we hope to improve our position on the second day of the event on Monday 14th July with the Year 9 and 10's.



The Year 9 and 10 students from Leigh UTC took part in the LAT Athletics event on the 14th July 2025 at Dartford Athletics Stadium. It was a fantastic day and between the two year groups we had eight top 3 finishes and set five new school records. Ifeanyi D was the star of the day for Leigh UTC winning both the 100m and the High Jump, setting two new school records in the process. He was also part of the Year 9 boys relay team who won there heat but ended up having the 4th fastest time. The star performer for the girls was Evie F who came second in the High Jump, 3rd in the 300m (New school record) and came fourth in the long jump (new school record). Other stand out performers were Kieran C who won the Year 10 Boys Javelin with a throw of 36.77m smashing our current school record by a full 10m. Alfie B who finished 3rd in the 100m in a very close race. Ameerah M who finished 3rd in the 100m setting a new school record. Emilija A who finished 2nd in the Shot put and Henry N who set a new School record in the 1500m finishing 5th in his race. In terms of the overall results we finished 8th out of 17 schools in the Boys(492 pts) overall and 11th out of 16 in the Girls (425 pts). The Year 9 boys finished 5th with 154 pts and the Year 10 Boys were 4th with 137pts missing out on the top 3 by 1 point. The Year 10 girls also finished 9th.

Thanks to every student who took part over the 2 days, everyone's contribution was of equal importance. Your commitment and behaviour on both days was outstanding. We can't wait for next year.



Sports Day at Leigh UTC

Sports Day Summary: Upton vs Turing Clark vs Staff

One of the most anticipated events was Leigh UTC Sports Day at Dartford Harriers Sports Ground on the 18th July, where we celebrated physical fitness, camaraderie, and teamwork. Staff and students enthusiastically participated in events, cheered each other on, and demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship.

The annual Sports Day was a thrilling display of talent, energy, and team spirit as Upton vs Turing, and Clark battled it out against the Staff team in a series of exciting events. From the explosive sprints to the more strategic field events, the day was filled with unforgettable moments. In the 100m, athletes from all teams pushed their limits in a race to the finish line, with Upton leading the way in a nail-biting final. The 200m and 400m races were equally intense, with strong performances from Turing, showcasing their speed and stamina. However, the 800m and 1500m proved to be a true test of endurance, with the athletes powering through the distance challenges in both tactical and explosive runs. The field events also provided some incredible action. In the shot put, Upton and Turing's powerhouse athletes dominated, while the javelin saw some impressive throws from both Clark and Staff teams, leaving spectators in awe of the precision and power. The high jump and long jump events had everyone on the edge of their seats, with record-breaking jumps from several competitors.

In the end, it was a closely contested day, with all teams showing remarkable sportsmanship, determination, and a true love for the competition. Each team displayed exceptional talent, making the event a highlight of the year. We are incredibly proud of all the students who took part in this year's Sports Day. Their effort, determination and team spirit made it a brilliant day for everyone involved. A huge thank you to all the staff who supported throughout the day, with a special mention to our PE team who planned and delivered a smooth and exciting event from start to finish.

Year Group Champions

Year 7 – Girls: Upton | Boys: Turing

Year 8 – Girls: Upton | Boys: Upton

Year 9 – Girls: Upton | Boys: Turing

Year 10 – Girls: Turing | Boys: Turing

Overall Champions

Girls: Upton

Boys: Turing

Total Points

Upton – 1147

Turing – 1175



2025 Overall Sports Day Champions – Turing

Clark also delivered an outstanding performance in the traditional Staff vs Clark race, winning by a landslide.

Well done to everyone involved for making it a memorable and successful day for Leigh UTC.



Making a Difference: My Experience as Part of the Student Voice Team

Being a part of the Student Voice team at Leigh UTC has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my time at school. This year, we've worked hard to be more than just a group of students with opinions, we've taken action to make our voices count by presenting in SLT where we pitched our ideas for the future all in the aim to help shape a better community, both inside and outside the academy.

Helping Out at DBCPS Sports Day

One of the highlights for me was supporting Dartford Bridge Community Primary School with their Sports Day. We were trusted with tasks like running events, keeping scores, and making sure everything went smoothly. It felt amazing to help out the younger students and be part of their big day. We took our roles seriously, and the primary school staff said how impressed they were with our attitude and leadership. That meant a lot to us.

Celebrating Culture and Curiosity

Another big focus for us this year was promoting cultural understanding. As a team, we helped deliver assemblies for 'Culture Curiosity', where we explored different traditions, identities, and backgrounds from around the world. Instead of the team presenting these, we created google forms to see what students wanted to get involved and we were overwhelmed by the amount we received and the standard of their presentations.

Fundraising for Charlie's Promise

One of our most important projects was raising money for Charlie's Promise, a charity focused on raising awareness around knife crime. We held a 'Wear Blue Day', baked cakes to sell, and completed a virtual bike ride covering over 118 miles, exceeding the distance from Dartford to Calais. Everyone got involved, and the atmosphere on the day was incredible. Knowing we raised money for such an important cause made all the effort worthwhile.

Having a Say in PSHE

This module our Teaching & Learning team observed PSHE lessons and fed back to staff. It was good to see what was working well and where lessons could be improved. It felt like our opinions were really taken seriously, and it showed how committed our school is to giving students a voice in how we learn.

Why Student Voice Matters

Being part of this team isn't just about meetings, it's about making real changes. Whether it's supporting younger students, raising awareness for important issues, or helping to shape lessons, we've had the chance to lead and be heard. I'm proud of what we've achieved, and I know we've made a difference.

Online Safety

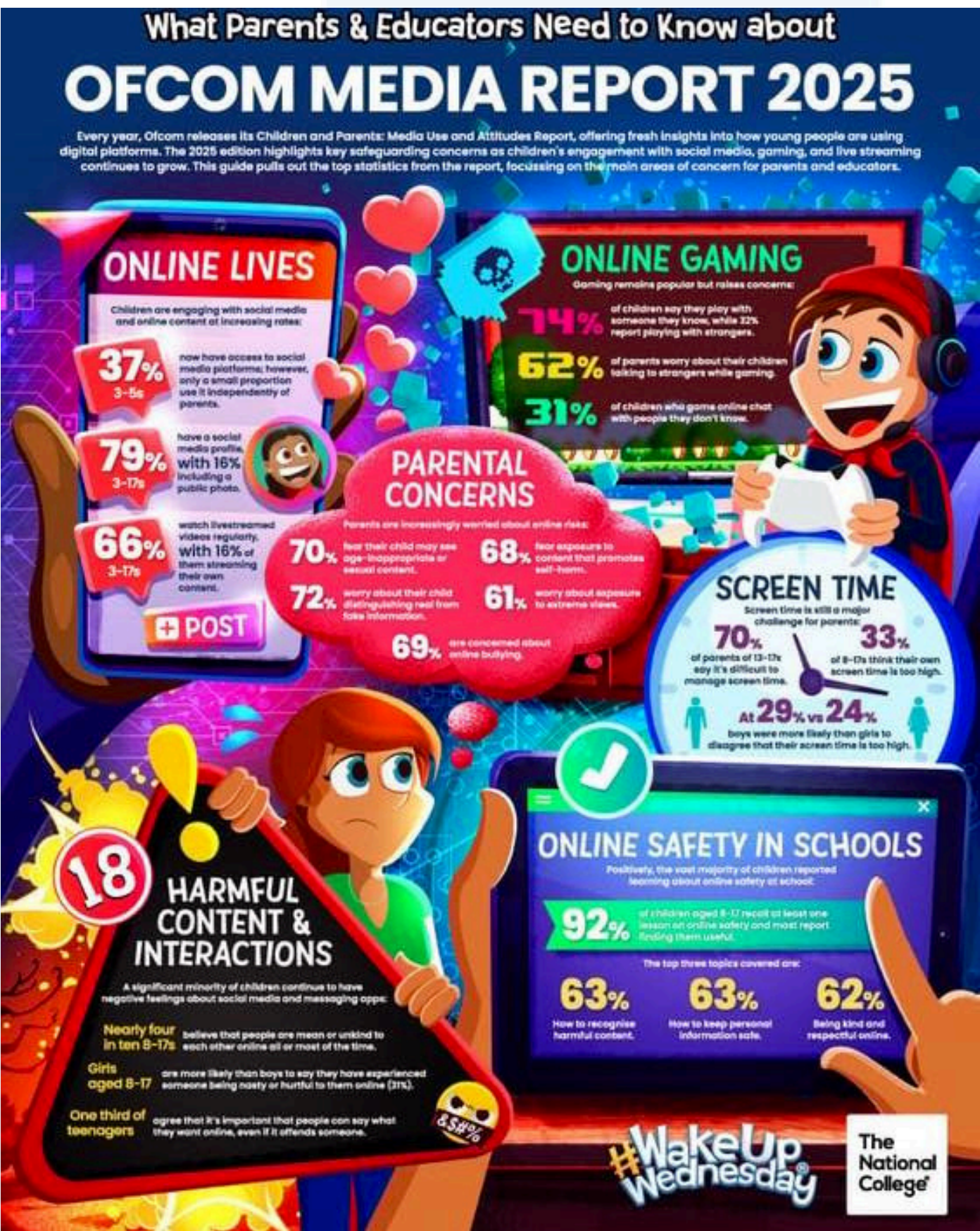
OFCOM Media Report 2025

79% of 3–17-year-olds now have a social media profile and their online habits are changing fast.

The latest Media Use and Attitudes Report 2025 from Ofcom revealed how young people are increasingly using digital platforms for livestreaming, gaming, and more. With screen time rising and children engaging in online spaces from an earlier age, it's more important than ever that we stay informed.

The guide on the image attached included a guide, created by @NationalCollege, highlighting key findings from the report – helping educators and families understand the latest trends, online behaviours, and potential risks.

Stay informed. Stay safe. Support our students in the digital world.

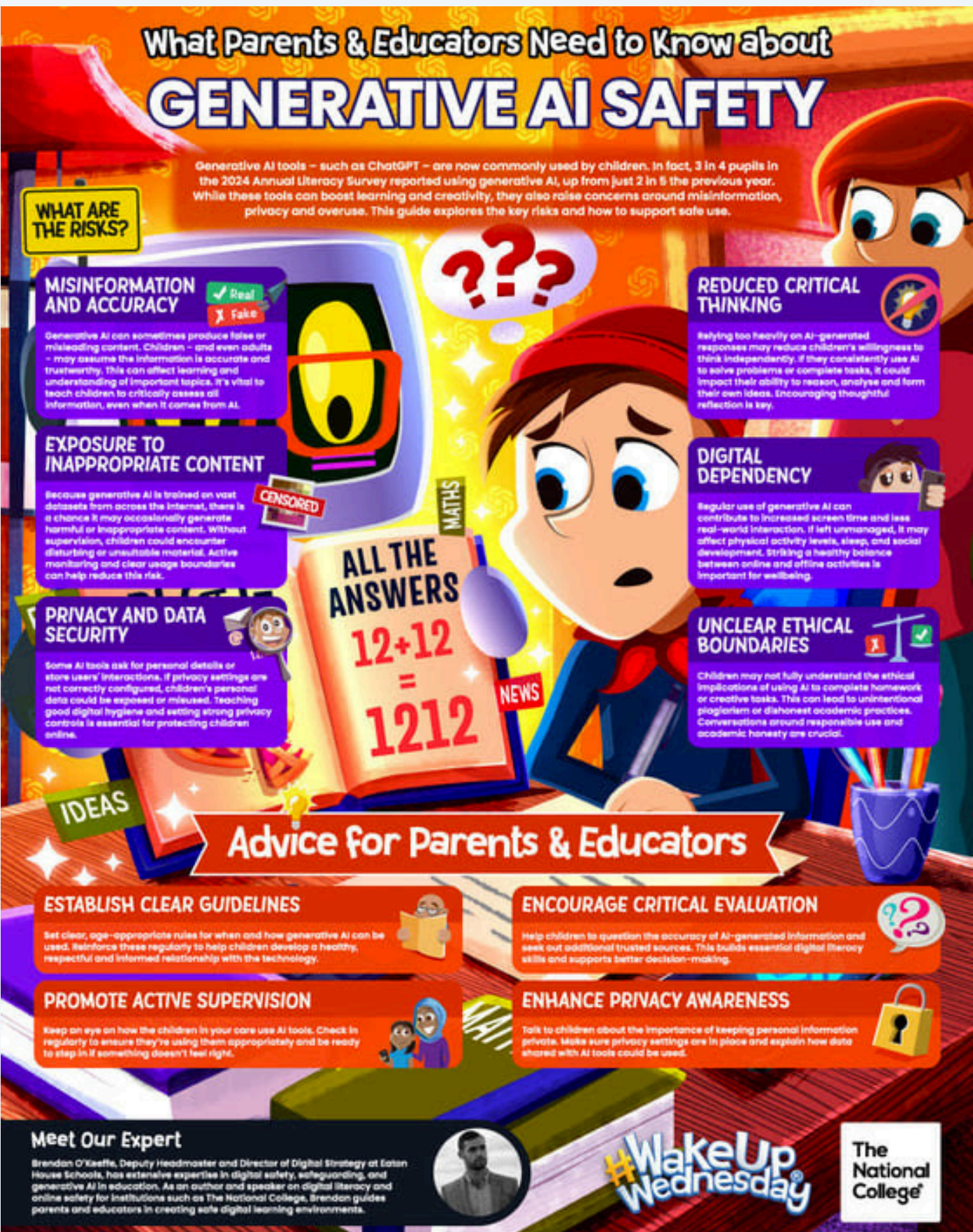


Generative AI Safety

Generative AI has become a widely used tool for creativity and learning, but it's not without its risks.

With 3 in 4 pupils now using generative AI (up from just 2 in 5 last year), it's more important than ever for parents and educators to understand how to guide safe and responsible use.

This free #WakeUpWednesday guide from The National College highlighted the key safety concerns surrounding generative AI tools and provided expert advice for keeping young users protected. From encouraging critical thinking to maintaining privacy, it's a must-read for any parent navigating this fast-changing digital space. Let's work together to help our students use AI safely and smartly.



Online Safety

Online Safety Tip of the Week – For Parents and Guardians in partnership with The National College

New name, new features... same concerns?

The Nintendo Switch 2 is the latest console from the Japanese gaming giant, offering exciting updates for gamers but also raising new safety considerations for families.

With the introduction of real-time GameChat, a built-in camera, easier access to mature content, and increased opportunities for in-app spending, it's vital that parents and guardians stay informed.

This week's [#WakeUpWednesday](#) guide from The National College explains what adults need to know and how to support children in safe and responsible gaming.

Let's work together to make online gaming safer for our students at The Leigh UTC

This infographic provides a comprehensive overview of the Nintendo Switch 2, highlighting both its new features and the associated risks for parents and educators. It features a central illustration of a child wearing a headset and holding a Switch console. The infographic is divided into several sections:
- **WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**: A summary box at the top left.
- **EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT**: Discusses the 18+ rating and the ease of accessing mature games.
- **IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES**: Explains how the new system makes it easier for children to make purchases.
- **UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES**: Notes that while GameChat is a feature, it also allows for unrestricted online play in some titles.
- **GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION**: Details the new voice chat feature and the risks of cyberbullying.
- **CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS**: Discusses the optional camera and the risks of sharing personal information.
- **POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS**: Mentions the inclusion of popular Nintendo characters like Mario and Link.
- **Advice for Parents & Educators**: A central section with four key points:
 1. **CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS**: Emphasizes the importance of checking age ratings and using parental controls.
 2. **REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS**: Advises parents to regularly check their child's friend list and chat settings.
 3. **REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS**: Warns against accidental spending by removing credit cards from the device.
 4. **ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS**: Encourages parents to have open dialogues with their children about online gaming.
- **Meet Our Expert**: A section featuring a photo and bio of a gaming expert.
- **#WakeUpWednesday** and **The National College** logos are at the bottom right.

AI Scams

AI can be an incredible tool for learning and creativity but it has also become a powerful weapon for online scammers.

This guide from The National College explored the darker side of AI, revealing how it's being used in phishing emails, fake voice calls, deepfake videos, and influencer-style scams aimed at younger users.

From AI-generated romance scams to increasingly convincing fraud tactics, it's never been more important for families to stay alert.

This guide offered essential insights and practical advice to help children and young people stay safe while navigating a rapidly changing digital world.

This infographic explores the dangers of AI-enabled scams, featuring a central illustration of a child looking at a smartphone. The infographic is divided into several sections:
- **WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**: A summary box at the top left.
- **PHISHING EMAILS: BETTER & QUICKER**: Discusses how AI is making phishing emails more convincing.
- **ONLINE MARKETPLACE FRAUD**: Explains how AI is being used to create fake profiles and reviews.
- **VOICE IMPERSONATION**: Details how AI can be used to impersonate a person's voice.
- **EMPLOYMENT SCAMS**: Discusses how AI is being used to create fake job offers.
- **INFLUENCER & INVESTMENT SCAMS**: Explains how AI is being used to create fake influencers and investment opportunities.
- **ROMANCE SCAMS & EXTORTION**: Discusses how AI is being used to create fake romance relationships.
- **Advice for Parents & Educators**: A central section with four key points:
 1. **THINK CRITICALLY**: Encourages parents to teach their children to think critically and not to be easily fooled.
 2. **USE TRUSTWORTHY SITES AND SERVICES**: Advises parents to encourage their children to use reputable websites and services.
 3. **SEEK TO VERIFY**: Encourages parents to help their children verify information before sharing it.
 4. **REPORT IT**: Encourages parents to report any suspicious activity to the appropriate authorities.
- **Meet Our Expert**: A section featuring a photo and bio of an AI expert.
- **#WakeUpWednesday** and **The National College** logos are at the bottom right.

Competitions and Community

Local Schools Free Season Tickets

A message from Erith Belvedere FC:

As per last season we are delighted to confirm that we will be offering our free season ticket initiative for school students in Bexley, Greenwich, Bromley and Dartford.

Please see the flyer for more details and please don't hesitate to contact the club to secure your ticket!

Contact Us:

Erith & Belvedere
74 Heversham Road
Bexleyheath
07890927261
brian.spurrell@yahoo.com



E-Scooter Awareness

E-scooters are vastly becoming a popular and sought after commodity, especially as a gift with even more young people wanting one.

Kent Police have released a flyer warning of the danger of these scooters and the illegal consequences of owning one.

These scooters are often manufactured very cheaply by unqualified people and they present several dangers, including increased risk of accidents and injuries due to falls, collisions, and potential for fire hazards from lithium-ion batteries. Specifically, head injuries are a significant concern, as helmets are often not mandatory, and e-scooters can be unstable on uneven surfaces. Additionally, battery fires can occur, especially with substandard or damaged batteries, leading to intense fires and toxic gas emissions.

We all have a duty to protect each other to keep ourselves and each other safe and responsible.



Competitions and Community

Join The Summer Book Writing Festival 2025



For applicants aged 8 -16. Use the QR Code to sign up!

Unlock your creativity this summer, with writing, illustration and publishing.

Through storytelling, you can share your ideas, grow your confidence and find your voice.

Submit your manuscript **online (its free!)** and showcase your writing talent to the world!

Winners announced in September!



BriBooks Presents



World's Largest FREE Online Book Writing Summer Camp

Win trophies, prizes, certificates and maybe even an interview on BB TV!



Spend your Summer holiday doing some creative writing!

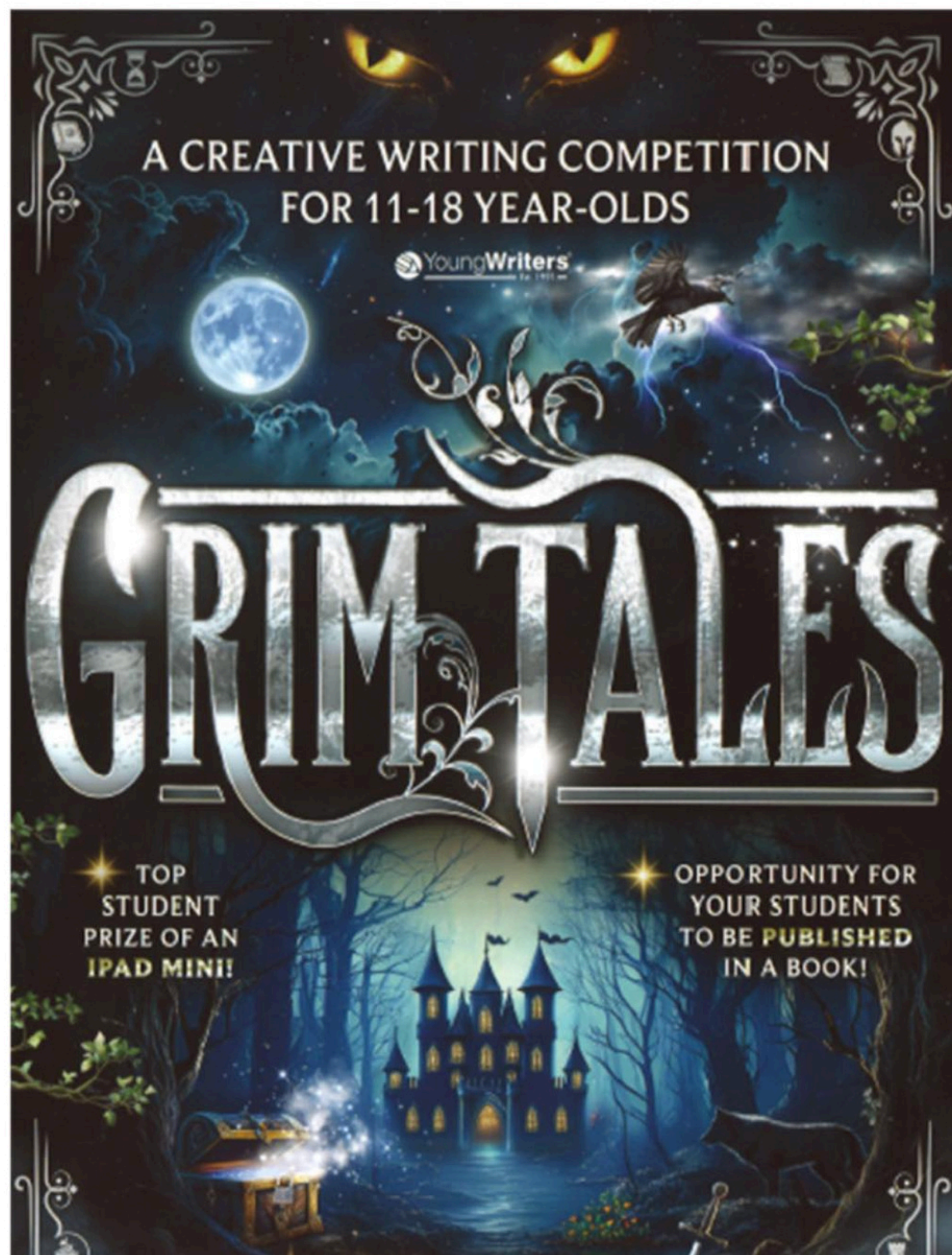
Literacy charity, Bri Books is hosting The Summer Book Writing Festival 2025 and its free and online!

It's the largest writing summer camp in the world and they want to find their next writing star!

Applicants aged 8 - 16 can get creative with writing, illustrating and publishing skills. Through storytelling you can share your ideas, grow your confidence and find your voice. You can write about whatever you're passionate about or create a story. Some fantastic prizes are up for grabs, including trophies and interviews for their social media channels! Submit your manuscript online. Use the QR Code to sign up and follow the instructions! Good Luck!

Competitions and Community

Use your knowledge of fairy tales, folklore, myths or legends to inspire your story or mini saga but told in up to 100 words.



What does a modern fairy tale look like? Will you write from the villain's point of view, or tell us what happens after 'happily ever after'? Or will you write an entirely new story? Every student will have the opportunity to see their story published in a book! There are also incredible prizes: the top story will win an iPad mini and a trophy, and 4 runners-up will each get £50 and a trophy. Plus the best school will win £1000!

Rules of the competition:

- Only **one** entry per student.
- Students must ensure their name, age and school name are included.
- 100-word limit.
- If a story starter/ending is used, it must be included in the 100-word limit.
- Students' stories **must** be their own work! No AI.



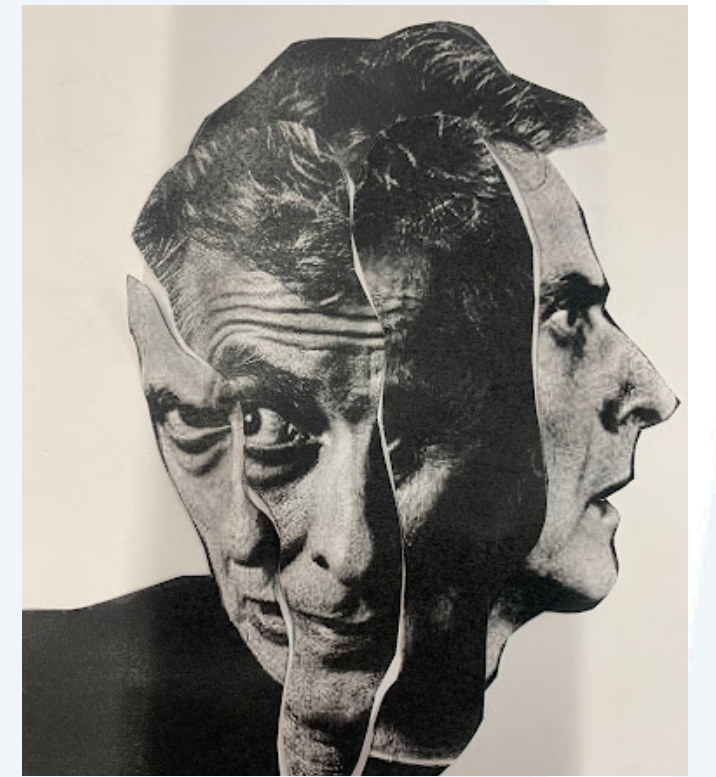
TO ENTER: Use QR CODE or FOLLOW THE LINK <https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/new-uploader?type=parent>, COMPLETE ENTRY FORM AND UPLOAD A WORD DOC OF YOUR ENTRY

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: **Friday 25th July 2025**

Department News - Art

Year 7: This module, Year 7 has been exploring Tone and Form Through Portraiture. Currently, students are making collage works inspired by modern cubist artist Jesse Draxler.

Students have gained an understanding of the key cubist principles and will soon be making their final pieces inspired from collage works.



Parker C, Year 7

Year 8: Year 8 have been working on an exciting architecture project, where they will be making decayed architecture that shows how the world might look after a zombie apocalypse. They will then go onto photographing these to look like set designs. Keep up the good work year 8.

Year 9: Year 9 has been fully immersed in their project on consumerism. Students have been designing anti-consumerism posters that reflect a thoughtful and critical understanding of the world around them.



Oliver G, Year 9

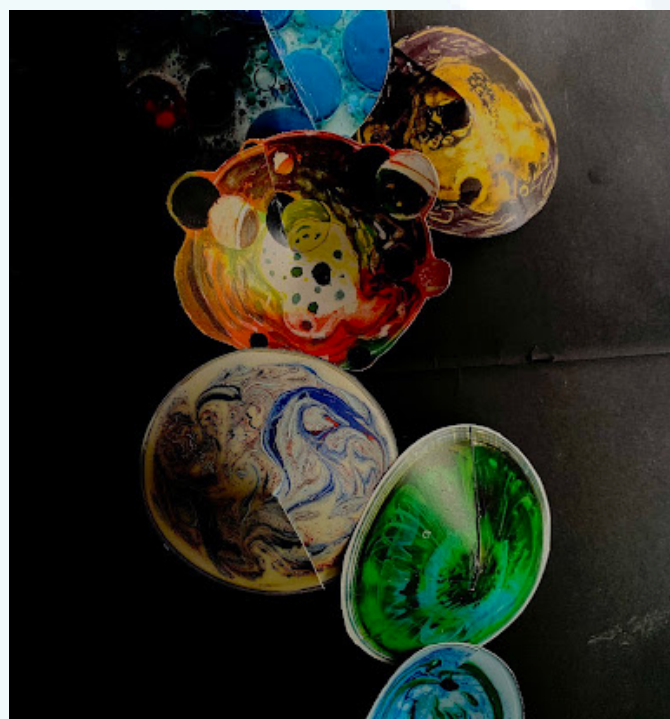


Oliver C, Year 9

Year 10: Year 10 students have been enthusiastically diving into their new project on 'Change.' Drawing inspiration from the science-inspired artwork of Klari Reis, they have been creating their own dynamic, experimental pieces that explore transformation through colour, texture, and form.



Ava R, Year 10



Maria G, Year 10



Ameerah M, Year 10



Corina S, Year 10

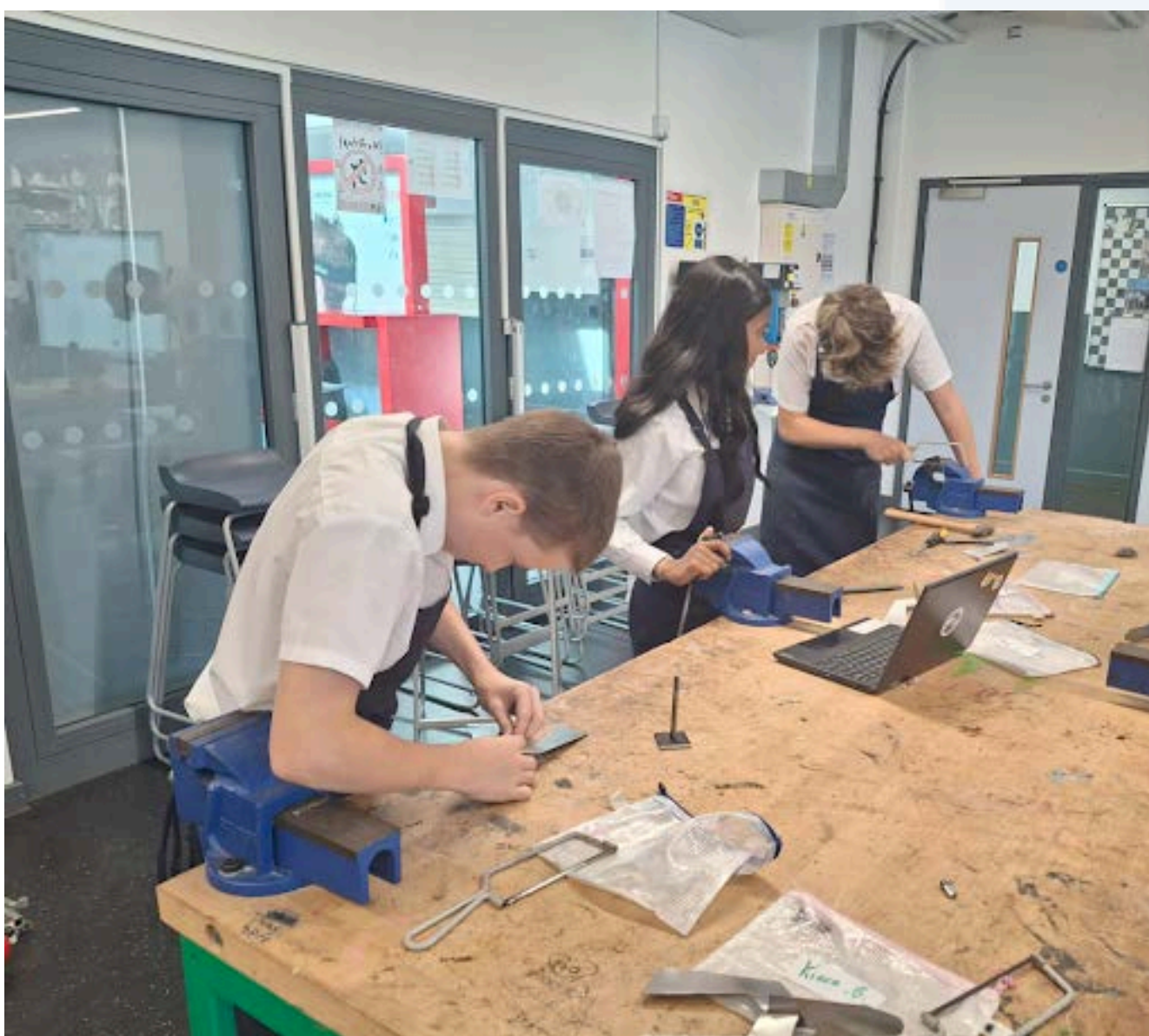
Department News - Design and Technology

Balance Rocket Project (Year 9)

Balance and rotary movement together describe how an object can rotate around an axis while remaining stable and controlled. Whether it's a machine or a person, managing these two factors together is key for smooth, efficient, and safe motion.

In Mechanics and Engineering:

- Balance refers to the even distribution of weight or mass that allows an object to remain stable and not tip over. In machinery, balance is crucial to reduce vibrations and ensure smooth operation.
- Rotary Movement (or Rotational Motion) is movement in a circular path around a central point or axis. Examples include wheels turning, fan blades spinning, or gears rotating.
- Combined Concept: In machines like engines, balance in rotary movement is critical. For example, in a car engine, if rotating parts like the crankshaft aren't balanced, the whole system may vibrate excessively or wear out quickly.



Year 9 Students manufacturing their balance Rocket



A complete Balance Rocket

Department News - Design and Technology

Food Technology - Food for Thought

This term in Food Technology, the kitchen has been alive with energy, flavour, and purpose. Our students have rolled up their sleeves to master new dishes. From homemade churros and spicy curries to chilli con carne, pizzas, and freshly pressed tortillas. With every flip, fry, and knead, they've sharpened their practical skills while learning the importance of hygiene, timing, and teamwork.

Beyond the kitchen, we've turned our attention to the world, investigating powerful topics like why we eat what we eat, water pollution, and world hunger. These lessons have encouraged students to think globally and act responsibly, both in and out of the classroom.

And now, the countdown begins. With chef hats nearly earned and stamps proudly collected, students are preparing for our highly anticipated end of term MasterChef Challenge. A high energy competition where teamwork, creativity, and culinary skill will take centre stage. Over two exciting hours, selected students will plan, prep, and plate their best two course meal using mystery ingredients all under the watchful eyes of our guest judges.

It's more than a competition, it's a celebration of how far they've come!

Quote of the module: "The best dishes come from those who cook with purpose."



Department News - Computing

As we reach the final term of the academic year, it has been a great pleasure to teach all students across the Computer Science curriculum. Students have shown strong engagement and enthusiasm throughout, demonstrating clear progress and a growing confidence in key areas such as Artificial Intelligence development, web design, and game development.

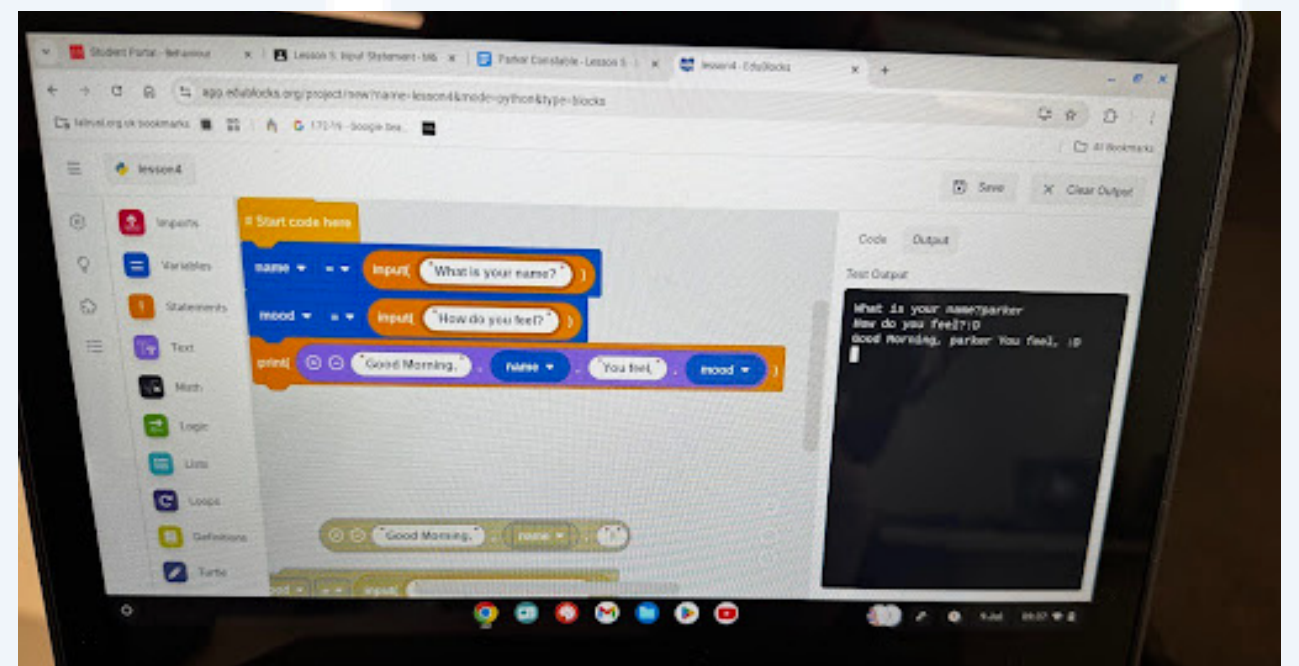
The curriculum has been carefully designed to ensure skills are built sequentially, laying strong foundations for future pathways including GCSE Computer Science, T-Level Digital Production, A level Computer Science and GCSE Creative iMedia.

Year 7 – Introduction to Python Programming

This module, Year 7 students have been introduced to Python, with a strong emphasis on understanding the core principles of programming. To support this, we integrated block-based coding tools (such as Edublocks) to ease the transition into text-based Python programming in year 8.

Students developed the following skills:

- Use of print() functions
- Creating and using variables
- Applying the input() function
- Basic selection (if/else statements)



These foundational skills provide an excellent base as students progress into more complex problem-solving and project work next year.

Year 8 – Developing Proficiency in Python

Building on their experience from Year 7, Year 8 students continued their journey with Python. This year's curriculum focused on:

- The transition from block coding to text-based Python
- Enhancing coding confidence through project-based learning
- Tackling more complex concepts such as loops and nested selection

Students demonstrated increased independence and accuracy when writing code, showing readiness for more advanced programming challenges ahead.

Year 9 – Web Development and Programming Application

Year 9 students applied their prior programming knowledge to web development projects, creating functional and visually engaging two-page websites using:

- HTML for structure
- CSS for styling
- An introduction to JavaScript to explore interactivity

This unit not only reinforced the principles of coding but also introduced students to front-end development, helping them understand how their skills are transferable to both creative and technical pathways, including T-Levels and GCSE Computer Science.

Department News - Computing

T-Levels - OS Projects

T-Level students have recently completed their Core Exams and are now preparing for the next exciting and challenging stage of their course: the Occupational Specialism Project (OSP).

This project is a vital component of the T-Level in Digital Production, Design and Development. It provides students with the opportunity to apply their technical knowledge in real-world scenarios, demonstrating both technical competency and the ability to meet business requirements.

Over the coming weeks, students will be developing key industry-relevant skills, including:

- UX/UI Design – learning how to create user-centred, accessible and visually effective digital experiences.
- Front-End Web Development – designing and coding interactive webpages from scratch.
- Back-End Development – building databases using SQL to support dynamic content and functionality.

The OS Project is designed to build confidence, independence and professionalism, and we look forward to seeing students grow into capable digital practitioners ready for industry or further study.



Guest Speaker Session – Inspiring Future Digital Professionals

Our Year 12 T-Level Digital Production, Design & Development students recently had the opportunity to attend an enriching online session with Mr. Ahsan Qamer Sheikh, Planning Engineer in Germany and Chair of IEEE Young Professionals Germany.

The session offered valuable insights into IEEE's global network, student opportunities, and Mr. Sheikh's personal career journey.

It was an inspiring experience that helped students connect their learning with real-world industry pathways.



Department News - Engineering

Year 12 T-Level Engineering

Our Year 12 T-Level students have made excellent progress this term. They began the module by completing their core 1 and 2 examinations, and have since shifted focus to their occupational specialism, which started immediately after the assessments.

Students have already shown great enthusiasm and skill development in the manufacturing aspect of their course. As part of their practical training, they have been working on the design and production of articulated vices, honing precision and craftsmanship.

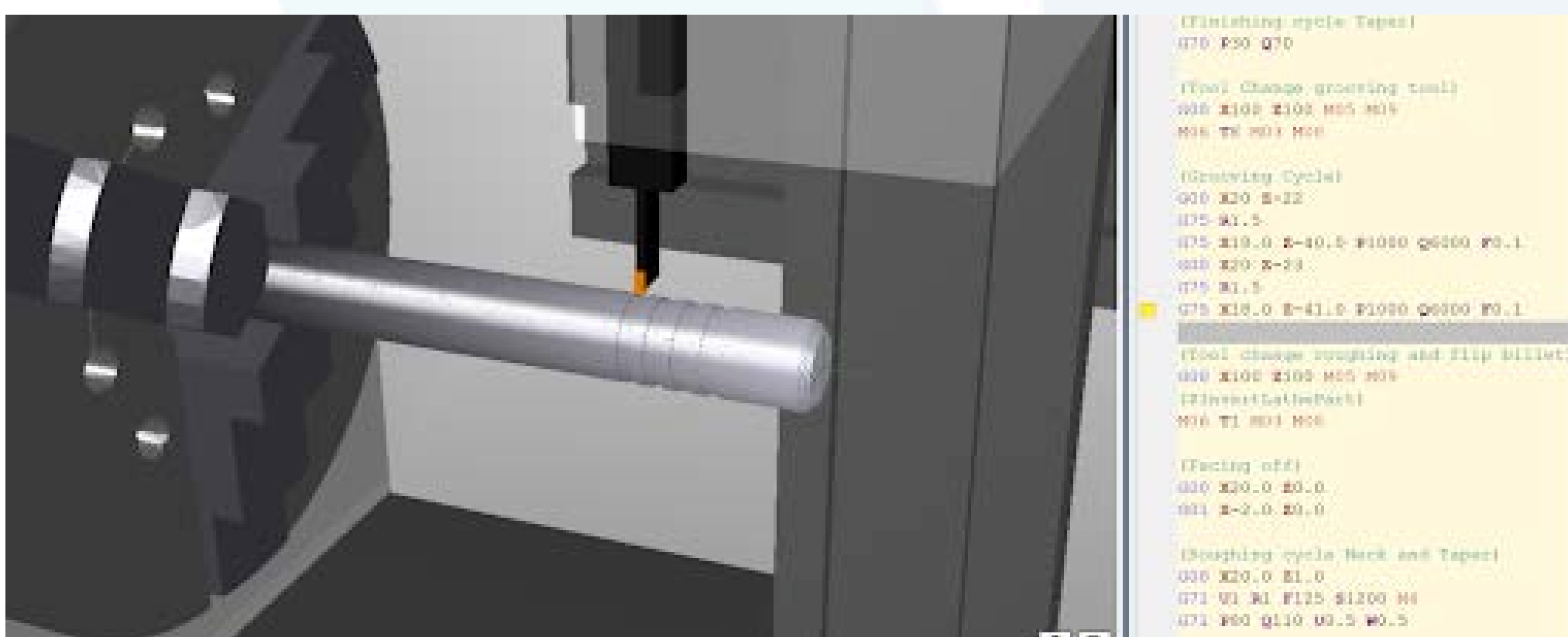
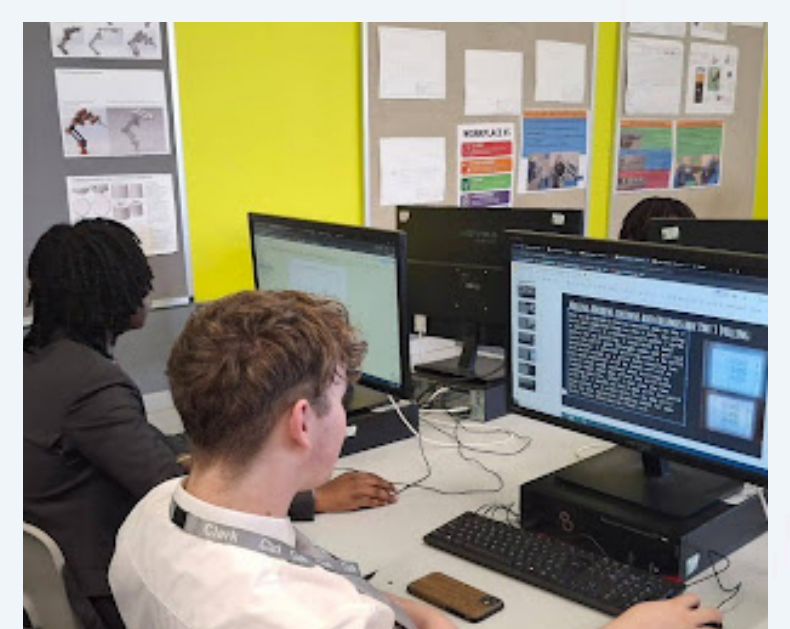
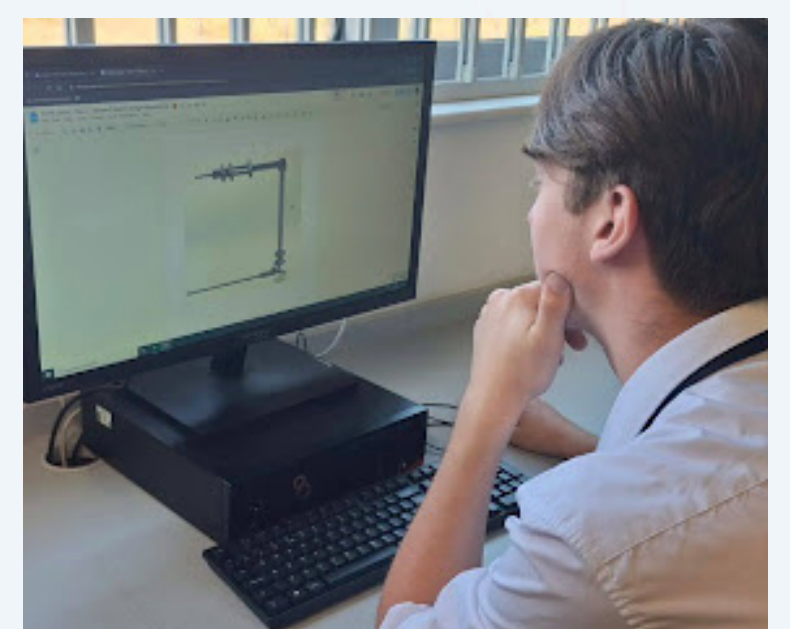
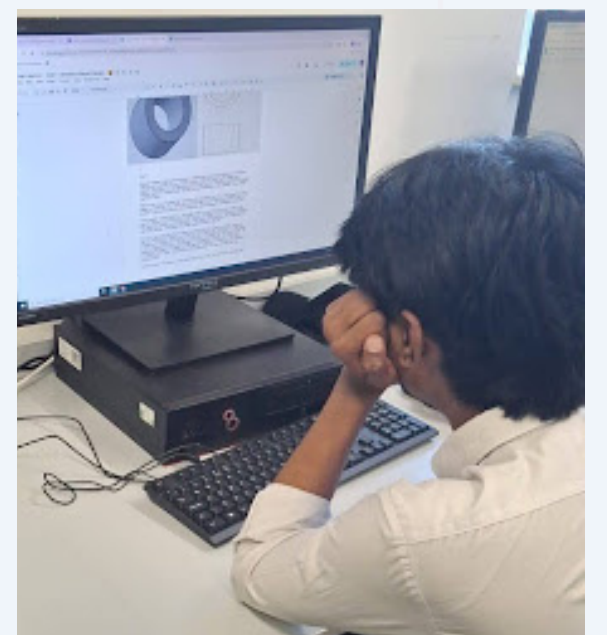
A key highlight has been the creation of setting hammers, one of several tools students produce themselves and will use throughout the course. These hammers are not only functional but serve as personal tools to support ongoing practical work. The hammer heads are being manufactured on the lathe, where students have learned to use radiused cutting tools to achieve smooth, rounded ends. They've also developed their skills in bar drilling using the milling machine, gaining greater confidence in setup and accuracy.

Another exciting aspect of their learning involves programming CNC lathes using specialist simulation software. Students are preparing programs which will be transferred to the Harrison Alpha lathe, where they'll then machine their hammer heads. To deepen their understanding and prepare for assessments, they are also peer-assessing each other's work, simulating real exam conditions.

In addition, students have been using CAD/CNC software to draw and manufacture nylon inserts, which form the soft striking ends of their hammers combining both digital and manual engineering skills.

Finally, learners have taken part in a "blocking" challenge, where they competed to achieve exceptional precision, working to tolerances finer than industry standard down to one-thousandth of a millimetre.

This challenge has sharpened their attention to detail and technical discipline.



Department News - Engineering

Year 12 BTEC Engineering

Our Year 12 BTEC Engineering students have recently completed their Unit 3 Design Exam and have since turned their attention to an exciting and highly practical fabrication project.

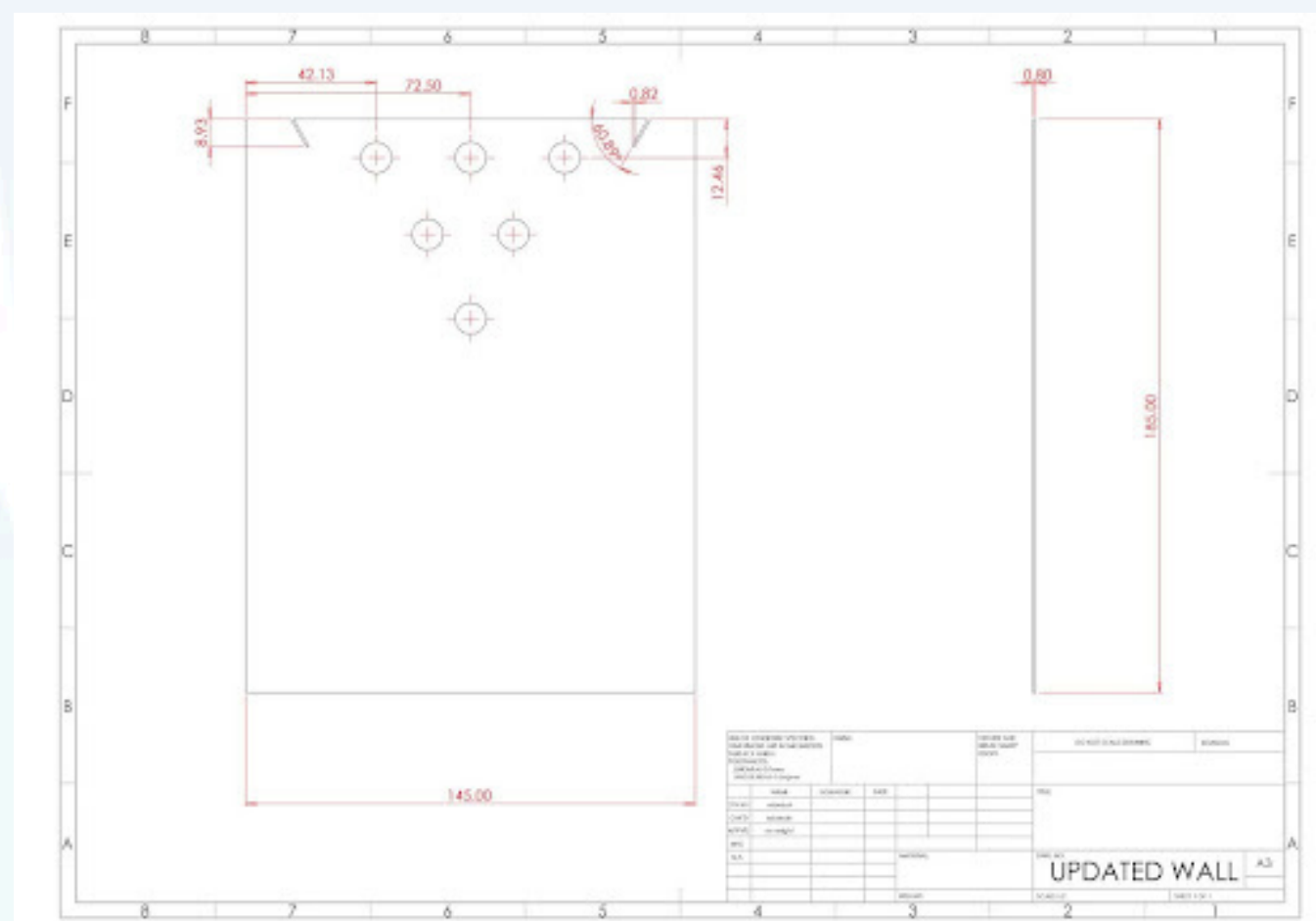
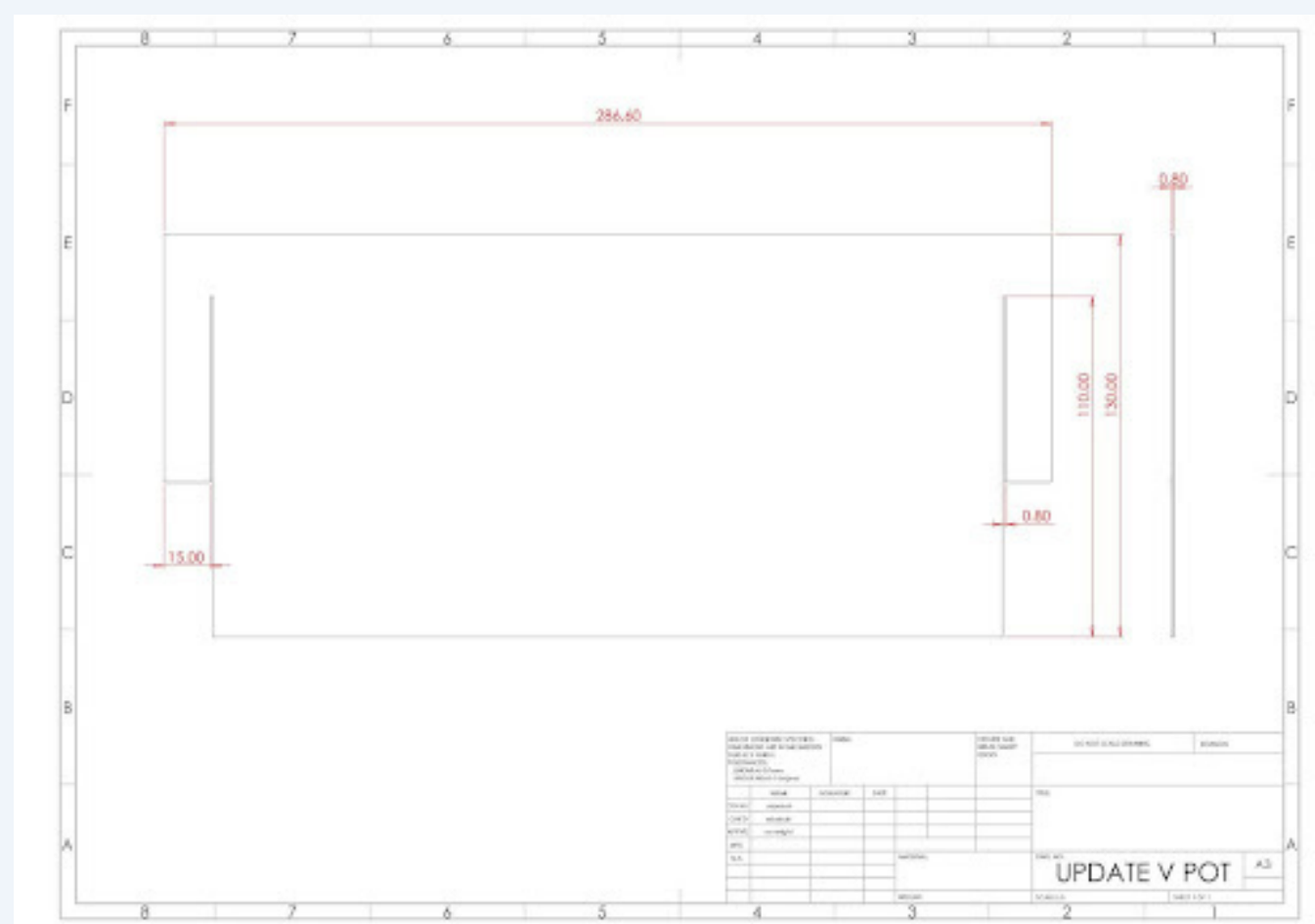
As part of this task, students have been challenged to design and manufacture a compact barbecue intended for use on Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. The key design requirements are:

The barbecue must be no larger than A4 size in footprint and height when fully assembled.

It must be collapsible or foldable for easy transport and storage, fitting into a standard rucksack.

This project has encouraged students to combine creative problem-solving with real-world design constraints, applying both their CAD and fabrication skills. Below are some of the CAD concepts and fully dimensioned technical drawings that students have developed as part of their initial design phase.

This project not only strengthens their design and manufacturing abilities, but also demonstrates how engineering solutions can be tailored to meet specific, practical needs in everyday life.

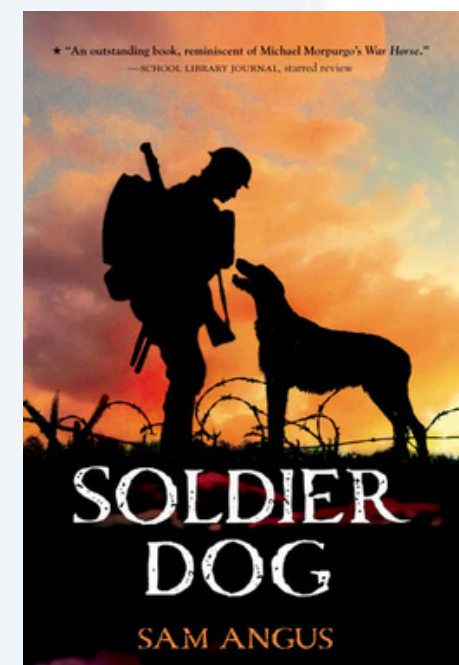


Department News - English

KS3

Key Stage Three have had an excellent close to their summer term of learning.

Year 7 have finished their study of the war novel 'Soldier Dog' by Sam Angus, and have loved learning about Stanley's journey back to Solider. They have worked incredibly hard on their analysis in this Module, and produced some excellent work on the conditions of the trenches in World War 1.



Year 8 have continued their study of the play 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell, and are loving sinking their teeth into the rough streets of Liverpool in the 1960's. They have excelled at reading the play out loud, and have all become much more confident actors!

Year 9 have continued their study of a range of short stories under the title 'Diverse Experiences in Literature', but have now also looked at connecting real life events. They have really enjoyed learning about events such as the Grenfell Tower Disaster, and the Hillsborough Disaster, and considering how these events are presented to us through the media.



KS4

Module 6 saw us bid farewell to our lovely Year 11 cohort. We have loved working with them this year, and can't wait to see all that they go on to achieve!

Year 10 have had an incredibly busy module, with Work Experience, mock exams and a Speaking and Listening presentation. They have worked extremely hard, and we look forward to moving into Year 11 together!

The English Team would like to thank all of our students for their hard work and dedication during the school year - we have loved working with you all! We look forward to seeing you all after a well deserved summer break.

Department News - German

Year 7: Talking About the Past

Our Year 7 students have been busy mastering how to talk about their weekends and holidays. They have learned to use past tense verbs and key phrases to describe the fun and memorable things they did. From visiting family, going to the park, watching movies, to trying new hobbies.



Year 8: Planning for the Future

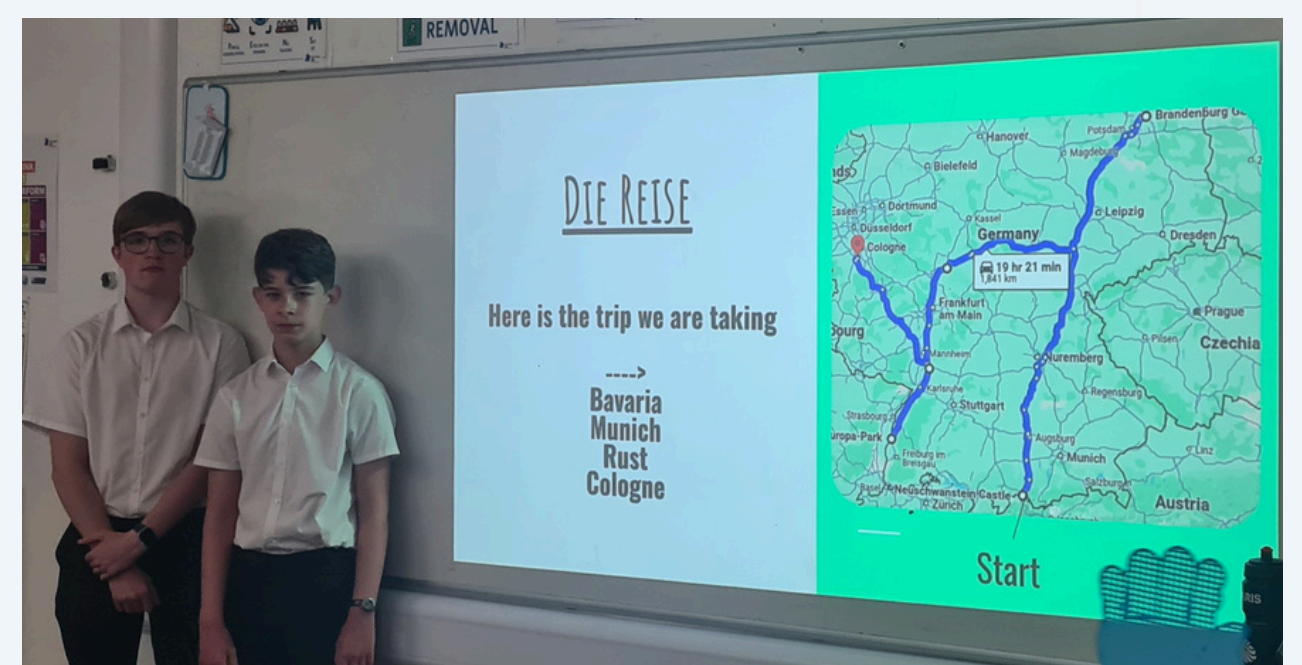
Meanwhile, Year 8 has taken a different approach by focusing on leisure activities and their plans for the upcoming summer holidays. They've been practicing how to use the future tense and modal verbs to talk about what they will do. Whether it's traveling to exciting destinations, participating in sports camps, or simply relaxing at home, Year 8 students are learning how to communicate their hopes and intentions effectively, using the Future Tense.



Year 9 Embarks on the Rucksack Project: Planning a Holiday to a German-Speaking Country

This term, our Year 9 students took on an exciting and practical challenge called the Rucksack Project. The task? To plan a complete holiday to a German-speaking country, putting their language and research skills to the test. Students began by choosing their destination, whether it was vibrant Berlin, scenic Salzburg, or historic Zurich; and then dived into gathering information about their chosen place. They researched popular activities, cultural highlights, and local attractions to create an engaging itinerary.

But the project didn't stop there! Year 9 learners also planned practical details such as the best means of transport to and within the country, suitable accommodation options, and the essential luggage they would need to pack for their trip.



Another important part of the project was budgeting, the students calculated the costs involved, from flights and hotels to meals and entrance fees.

The grand finale saw students presenting their holiday plans to the rest of the group. These presentations gave them the opportunity to practice speaking skills, share their ideas, and answer questions from classmates, making the experience even more interactive and rewarding.

Department News - History

In modules 5 and 6 Leigh UTC Historians have been engaging with the concept of Protest in their respective time periods. Year 7s have been grappling with the difficult concept of Medieval Rebellious Women. As a whole medieval women are something we don't know an awful lot about due to the sources ultimately being very scarce. Students collaborated in groups to explore four women in the Middle Ages who could be considered 'rebellious' in that they went against the social norms of the age they were: Eleanor of Aquitaine, Queen of England, Joan of Arc, Christine de Pizan and Hildegard of Bruning.



Year 8s have been working on the sensitive subject of the Peterloo Massacre of 1819 where 60,000 protesters assembled in St Peter's Square demanding the extension of the franchise (right to vote) to the working classes. The peaceful protest resulted in 18 people killed. Students will be working together to come up with innovative ways for Manchester to educate the local community as well as tourists about the events of the Peterloo Massacre.



Year 9s have worked really well examining the topic of Ireland and the Troubles and the British government's reaction and response to the violence in Northern Ireland. Between the 1960s and 1990s Northern Ireland saw huge amounts of conflict between the Catholics and the Protestants, exacerbated by the arrival of British troops.



It has been an exciting year overall with new topics taught at different intervals, students have grown in confidence in the subject and I hope the new Year 8s look forward to studying Tudor England upon our return and for the new Y9s it will be a study of The Holocaust. I wish all students a pleasant summer break and look forward to seeing you in September.

Mr Hicks

Department News - Geography

A huge thank you to all the talented students at Leigh UTC who submitted entries for the LAT Geography Photo Competition! We were so impressed by the creativity and keen eye demonstrated in all 25 entries we received. Your photographs truly captured the spirit of Geography in the area where you live. We also want to extend our sincere gratitude to all the parents and carers for their unwavering support, which undoubtedly encouraged such fantastic participation.

Here are our top three photos:

Name: Harry S

Location: Dartford Park

Description: I love this part of our great community because even though it is in the centre of the busy town, it is so peaceful and full of nature. The physical geography that you can see is the river that runs through town past Holy Trinity church and out to Brooklands lake through Dartford Park. The river flows fairly slowly here and is not very powerful, there are lush green trees in the background and all the different shades of green and shapes make this a very relaxing place to be.



Name: Stanley H

Location: TR066249///readings.fairy.quilt (on 'what three words' app)

Description: Elements at the Beach. Waves significantly shape the coastal shoreline, as waves approach the shore they transform and as you will see from photo 1 when they enter shallow waters their orbital motion causes friction with the seabed and decreases its velocity and wavelength. The wave crests then moves faster than the troughs and topples and breaks. Stones and shells found on beaches are formed through erosion and deposition. They initially form part of the land but are broken down by the waves and are then carried along the shoreline and deposited back when the waves lose energy. Shells are gradually broken down and then end up forming part of the sand. Various things are washed up on the beach that could have been carried for miles and miles.



Name: Amelie M

Location: TN14 6BA

Description: This photo shows a daffodil, from the Narcissus genus, captured in the Tulip Meadow at Emmetts Garden on a late spring afternoon. The soft sunlight illuminates its pale yellow petals, while in the background, flowers bloom and grass gently sways in the breeze. Emmetts Garden sits on a hillside in Kent, where the acidic loam soil - a rich mix of sand, silt, and clay - provides ideal growing conditions. The gardens are part of a larger managed landscape overseen by the National Trust, helping plants like this thrive. This daffodil is one of many local flowers in the area that support pollination and benefits our ecosystem. The late April weather, typically cool, wet, and mild, creates perfect conditions for the flowers, making the landscape come alive with colour and life.



Department News - Mathematics

Nearly another academic year completed in the Maths Department and what a year it's been! Module 6 has been exam preparation central for all year groups, here's just some of what's been going on with the 'numbers team':

Key Stage Three

For our Year 9s its bye bye MYP, hello AQA GCSE syllabus! With the impending MYP Graduation Ceremony, our Year 9 students have been completing their final A, BC, and D assessments with revision now embedded into our curriculum to give them the best chance at success.

And they're not the only ones! Year 7 and Year 8 have also been completing their end of year assessments ahead of the summer break with an opportunity to recap key learning and ensure readiness for their step up in September.

Aside from exams, Year 7 have been particularly busy with their interdisciplinary work with the Art Department. At Leigh UTC we want to show how cross curricular collaboration can be vital when it comes to learning and this has been a perfect example of the Year 7s being able to demonstrate their creative flair, while understanding core mathematical concepts.

The Year 7s have also had a dose of Maths with the Year 8s during their Local Election competition during STEAM week. Students were each assigned a political party and given £50 million pounds to develop Dartford. It was fantastic to see, with the assistance of our Financial Consultant Mr Arnould, how considerate the students were about where they would put their money to improve the town they live in (or close to).

Year 10/12 Mocks

Just as our 11s and 13s have been busy, so have our 10s and 12s as Mock season has been in full swing. For the Year 10s it's been the first simulation of the total exam experience with students sat in the hall to complete Maths and Statistics papers. For the Y12s, a chance to zero in on their chosen A-level and Level 3 offerings. The data from these results will be used to inform the best course of action for Y11 and Y13, with teachers providing students with bespoke question analysis regarding where they can improve.

Year 11/13 Mocks

We said a fond farewell to our examination cohorts of 24/25. The students were happy with how the papers went, globally, across GCSE Maths, Finance, Statistics, Further Maths, Core, and A-Level. We offered drop-down sessions for all the SIX qualifications above to ensure everyone was in the right mindframe and used predicted papers to mitigate any nasty surprises on the day.

Both year groups have been exemplary from start to finish and we wish them nothing but success on their respective results days in the summer.

Overall, it's been a successful year in Maths and I'd like to thank parents and guardians for your continued support. See you next academic year!

Department News - Physical Education (PE)

Striking and Fielding in KS3 Lessons

During Key Stage 3 PE lessons, students have been developing their skills in striking and fielding games such as rounders and cricket. These sessions focused on building core techniques including batting, bowling, throwing, and catching, while also helping students understand positioning, tactics, and teamwork.

Students showed great progress in their ability to strike the ball with accuracy and power, learning how to adapt their shots based on field placement. Fielding skills also improved significantly, with pupils demonstrating better coordination, quick decision-making, and effective communication as part of their defensive strategies.

Lessons were not only physically engaging but also encouraged critical thinking, resilience, and fair play. The emphasis on working together as a team helped strengthen collaboration and leadership among students, contributing to a positive and inclusive sporting environment.

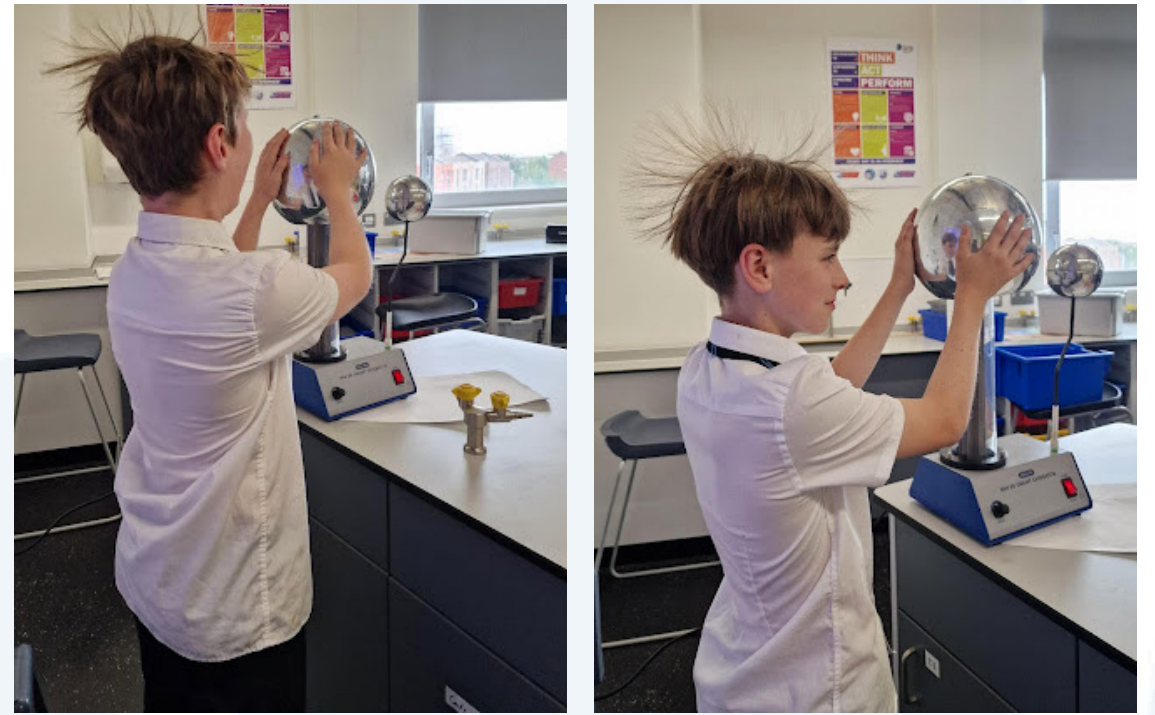
Overall, KS3 striking and fielding lessons provided a fun, active, and challenging way for students to build confidence and develop a wide range of athletic and social skills.



Department News - Science

Y7 students get 'charged up' with static electricity.

This term, our Year 7 students have been buzzing with excitement as they explored the fascinating world of static electricity in Science. They engaged in hands-on experiments and captivating demonstrations that show how invisible forces can have powerful and hair-raising effects (literally). One of the highlights was the chance to use the Van de Graaff generator.



Students eagerly volunteered to place their hands on the dome, to feel the tingling in their arms and feel their pili muscles cause their arm hairs to stand up. The classroom was filled with "oohs" and "ahhs" as they watched the effects on themselves and their classmates, turning a complex scientific principle into a memorable and fun experience. Students also learned an amazing magic trick on how to bend water! Yes, you read that right, we can bend water. When a ruler is charged, the water curves towards the ruler without even being touched! Why don't you ask them to demonstrate this magic trick at home and see if you too can bend water using static electricity.

KS4 and KS5

Sadly, we no longer have our Y11 and Y13 students as they have completed exams so it falls to the next cohorts in y12 and y10 to pick up the challenge and work towards their goals in science. This module sees Y12 biologists looking at the complexities of genetics and inheritance and looking to make sense of it all through the application of statistics (maths). They are building on their knowledge of genetics from GCSEs and learning how to explain the more complex mechanisms behind the inheritance of characteristics like hair colour (Labradors) so they can explain why some characteristics are more likely to be inherited than others.



Labrador coats are an example of Epistasis; when one gene masks the expression of another.

Meanwhile in Y10 students have been looking at our local environment through the study of ecology and the far reaches of deep space! There are a number of surprising parallels between these areas. For example, by studying ecosystems on earth in ecology we know what conditions to look for in the search of life in outer space! (it is mostly liquid water and a stable temperature, plus a few chemicals). Knowledge of the electromagnetic spectrum helps us find the conditions needed for life on other planets

This is also a chance for students to reflect on the impact of an increasing population and higher standards of living on the environment and look at how we can lead more sustainable lives for a more stable future on Earth.





Athletics Club helps you to set goals, challenge your boundaries and hone your physical skills

Athletics Club

The Athletics Club has been an essential part of our preparation for both Sports Day and the District and Trust athletics competitions. Over the past term, students have dedicated themselves to rigorous training, refining their skills across a range of events including sprints, middle-distance, long-distance, and relay. Our club has been held at The Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy (SGLA) every week, we are so grateful to them to allow us to use their facilities. We have focused on improving their technique, speed, and endurance, working on everything from explosive starts in the 100m and 200m to pacing strategies in the 800m and 1500m.

The lead-up to Sports Day has saw a strong sense of camaraderie within the club, with athletes encouraging one another and sharing tips to improve. The sense of unity and team spirit has been evident during every training session, as athletes know that their hard work will not only contribute to their individual success but also to the overall success of the school team.

In preparation for the District and LAT Trust athletics competitions, athletes were more confident in their abilities, with many looking forward to representing at a higher level. The commitment, effort, and passion shown during these training sessions have set the foundation for what promises to be a thrilling and competitive athletics season. Join us on **Tuesdays at Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy from 3pm until 4.30pm**

Basketball Club

Basketball training at Leigh UTC continues to be popular this term, with a fantastic buzz around the club and numbers continuing to grow each week.

The sessions have been full of energy, enthusiasm, and commitment from students across all year groups, showing just how much momentum the sport is gaining within the school community. This is the highest attended extra curricular club with over 60 students signed up and numbers of 30 plus attending every Thursday in the sports hall.

We have a core team of female players, but we need more! Its open to girls and boys, so come join us on **Thursdays, at 3:15pm in the IA Sports Hall.**

Basketball Club is the place to play the game, learn resilience, skill and team spirit





Board games Club is a club to practising strategizing, teamwork or individual competitiveness

Board Games Club

A lunchtime board game sounds like a fantastic way to make the most of your break! Here is exciting news for you. We have launched Lunchtime Board Games club which is quick to play and can be wrapped up within a lunch break.

What are the Benefits of Board Games?

- develop social skills: patience, taking turns, sharing, coping, compromising, flexibility
- develop social emotional skills: setting and achieving goals, decision making
- improve cognitive function: concentration, memory, critical thinking, focus, logic, strategy, spacial awareness

So why to wait for this wonderful opportunity. Just come and join in at **lunchtime in the Library on every Friday.**



Boxing Club

Our Post-16 students are running a Boxing Club!

If you want to learn the rules and skills of defence by learning the sport of boxing, then you will gain critical thinking skills by being able to anticipate your opponents' moves and gain some precision in your agility and how to build up your muscles safely.

Plus you will have fun and be with friends whilst engaging in some healthy competition!

Join in on **Fridays at 3.15pm in the IA Canteen.**

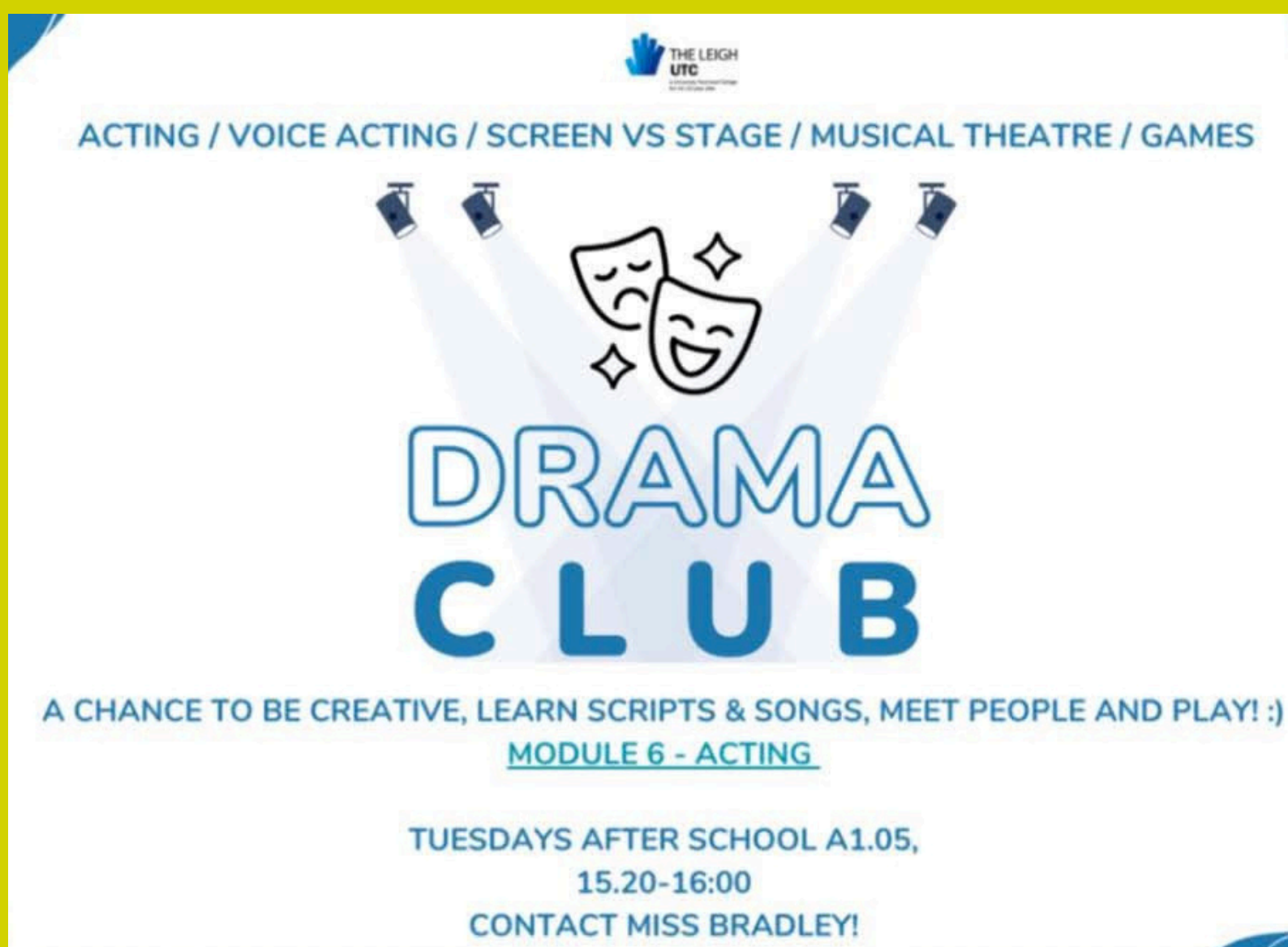
Boxing Club is a club to practise your agility skills and be able to anticipate your opponents' moves





Drama Club is the place to develop self-confidence with speaking aloud and have fun!

Drama Club



Join Drama Club to practice your acting skills, learn a new dance, develop your voice skills and projection, learn about the differences between acting for acting and screen and have fun with warm-up games and musical theatre to help build your confidence and public-speaking skills!

Join us on **Tuesdays in Room A1.05, right after school from 3:15pm.**

E-Sports Club

For the first time ever, Leigh UTC hosted an eSports exhibition match, and what a way to kick off our competitive journey!

Going head-to-head with Strood Academy in a high-octane game of

Fortnite Zone Wars, the atmosphere was electric as both schools geared

up for three intense rounds of 5v5 gameplay. The teams were mixed into Team A and Team B, adding a unique twist to the action. In Round 1, despite some valiant efforts; particularly from Joey, who delivered a few highlight-worthy clutches we suffered quite a defeat in each match. Strood took the round 5-0, showing tighter synergy. Round 2 played out with similar intensity. Both Team B groups are now playing. Key Strood players proved dominant again, leaving us just short of turning the tide. Determined not to go down without a fight, our players regrouped in Round 3. What followed was a display of sheer resilience; clawing back several matches with improved teamwork and sharper strategy especially from Wiktor. Unfortunately, it wasn't quite enough to take the round or the match. Final score: 3-0 to Strood Academy.

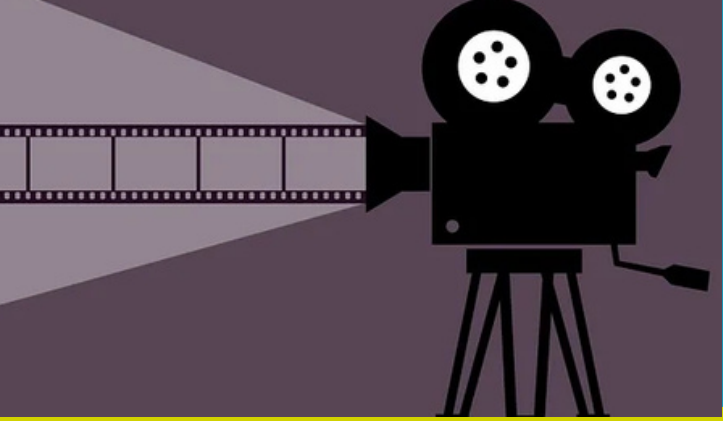
But this wasn't just about the scoreboard. It was a fantastic opportunity to build bridges, showcase talent, and embrace the spirit of eSports. Our players showed grit, growth, and great sportsmanship; all signs of a strong team in the making.

We hope to commence again before the end of the year and look to develop a strong team to enter The British Esports Student Championship.

Join us on **Thursday, 3.15pm in room 2.13 UTC Building.**

Esports! Play, sports, dance and be entertained, whilst gaining social, people and coordination skills simultaneously





Film Club is the place to be for the love of books and film adaptations!

Film Club

This module, Film Club watched the 1996 Baz Luhrmann version of Romeo and Juliet, as well as the 2011 animated movie Gnomeo and Juliet. Students loved comparing the two films, and looking for similarities and differences between the original, and the animated!

So, for whatever reason pupils want to attend, there is a seat for everyone in our UTC cinema on Thursdays. The choice is yours so grab your popcorn, bring your thoughts, and let's chat about books and movies on **Thursdays in A1.11 at 3:15pm**



Gaming Club

Gaming Club is an opportunity to build stamina and competitive ability



Module 6 has seen our focus change to Nintendo and Playstation 1.

The students thoroughly enjoyed Mario Kart, Smash Bros and Cuphead. Cuphead was definitely a hit as this was reminiscent of retro 2D shoot-em-up side scrollers. With the hand drawn animation styles and multi-dimensional combat styles, this was definitely a great addition to the retro games club.

Playstation 1 was a big hit with Marvel VS Capcom as students still love a classic fighting game.

Join us on **Mondays in Room 2.02, right after school from 3:15pm to 4:10pm.**



Girls' Football Club is the place to play the game, learn resilience, skill and team spirit

Girls' Football Club



Girls' football has been very enjoyable this module, with hot weather and rain showers, making our sessions fun and challenging. We've been focusing on confidence, developing our defence, fielding and striking skills to build up confidence for competitions.

Join us on **Mondays, at 8.15 -9.00am in the IA playground.**

Library Club



Library Club encourages an inclusive environment, cherishing the treasures of story-telling and imagination to keep reading, enabling our students to build the skills to become the creative and analytical leaders of tomorrow



For Module 6 Library Club has been focused on Information Literacy whilst developing our creative and critical thinking skills and independent learning skills by catching on homework tasks, listening to audiobooks, reading magazines and stories and setting reading challenges but also researching for science or history projects including a space to practice language skills with Languagenut!

Looking forward to the next academic year, with a new Y7 cohort and seeing them discover a love of reading in our safe, inclusive library that has something for every reader!

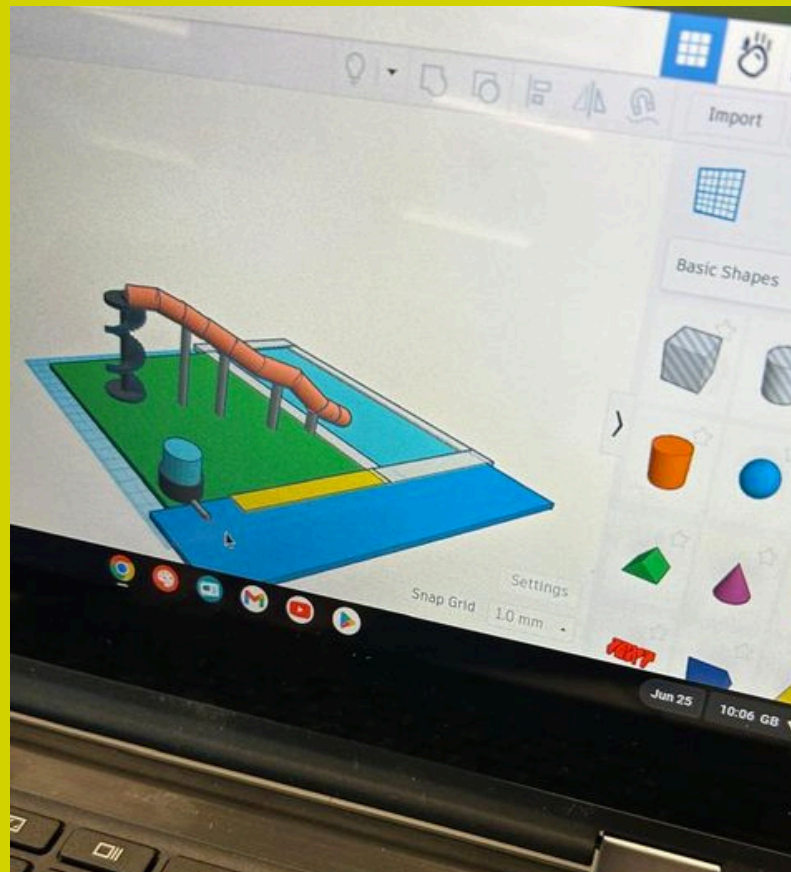
Join us every Y7 & Y8 Lunchtime.

Makers Club allows students to explore coding and creativity simultaneously using Micro:bit!

Makers' Club

This module in Makers' Club, students explored creativity and problem-solving by working with LEGO. They built a variety of imaginative and functional objects, developing teamwork and design skills along the way. We were excited to see a rise in student participation this term, with more pupils getting involved and enjoying hands-on learning through construction and play.

Join us on **Tuesdays, at 3.15pm in room 2.02 UTC Building.**



Mindful Colouring Club

Mindful Colouring Club is a chance to be creative and practice relaxation and mindfulness!



The Year 8 Mindfulness Colouring Club continues to be a vibrant and relaxing space for students to unwind and explore their creativity.

Over the past few weeks, members have been working on intricate mandalas and themed mindfulness designs, using soft tones and bold colours to express their emotions and focus their minds.

Whether you're looking for a calming break from schoolwork or a way to enhance your focus, the club welcomes new members to join in and experience the benefits of mindfulness colouring!

Come and join us during **year 8 lunch time, in the library every Thursday!**





Python Club is a hub to explore the excitement and complexities of coding to help students gain an understanding of the developing technology of our world

Python Club

Students are currently learning about the creation and use of Python functions. Students have been discovering how functions can be used to perform a variety of calculations using the integer Data type.

Students have also been integrating a range of variables in the use of their create function where whole numbers are entered by the end user and then used in a function calculation. Key arithmetic operators used include addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Join us on **Tuesdays, UTC 2.02 at 3:15pm**



STEM Club



Stem Club is a unique experience to experiment and understand the science of past, present and future



In STEM club this module students have continued looking at nature seeing what sort of insects are present in the school grounds using microscopes to look much closer at them. We have now moved on to understanding about the periodic table looking at the various different elements that we have in stock in science as well as carrying out flame tests to determine different metals by the colours they produce when they are burned using a Bunsen burner.

STEM Club, Thursdays between 3:15 and 4:15 in a2.11 science lab.

Group→1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
↓Period	The Periodic Table of the Elements																	
1	1 H																2 He	
2	3 Li	4 Be											5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne
3	11 Na	12 Mg											13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar
4	19 K	20 Ca	21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr
5	37 Rb	38 Sr	39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe
6	55 Cs	56 Ba		72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn
7	87 Fr	88 Ra		104 Rf	105 Db	106 Sg	107 Bh	108 Hs	109 Mt	110 Ds	111 Rg	112 Cn	113 Nh	114 Fl	115 Mc	116 Lv	117 Ts	118 Og
Lanthanides		57 La	58 Ce	59 Pr	60 Nd	61 Pm	62 Sm	63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb	71 Lu		
Actinides		89 Ac	90 Th	91 Pa	92 U	93 Np	94 Pu	95 Am	96 Cm	97 Bk	98 Cf	99 Es	100 Fm	101 Md	102 No	103 Lr		

Employer Engagement at Leigh UTC Dartford

Work Experience 2025

Year 10 students participated in work experience 23-27th June 2025. This is vital experience for the students not only to gain practical experience of the different industries but it also helps reinforce their future career plans.

There were a wide range of placements, some sourced directly by the students, whilst others were allocated a placement through the Medway Education Business Partnership, who were used to verify all placements were fit for purpose and safe for our students to attend.

Some of the placements were with companies such Morgan Stanley and August Robotics. The students that attended these sort of placements stated that “it was a real insight into the working environment”. This reinforces the importance of work experience.

One of our very supportive business partners, FM Conway, put a bespoke work experience on for 6 of our students. FM Conway made the students complete an application form and used this to help tailor the activities for the week to meet the needs of the students. The students had a great experience working in all aspects of the company.

Work Experience is a vital part of our career curriculum which is to ensure that all students have at least one week’s work experience by the end of year 11 which is in line with the Gatsby Benchmarks for a good career provision.

Looking forward to our current year 9 students embark on their work experience journey next year.



Wellbeing at Leigh UTC Dartford

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 via Action for Happiness, who promote a monthly calendar of daily happiness and kindness tips, including:

- 'Jump Up July' - some tips and tricks to gain more energy and be productive!
- 'Altruistic August' - some tips and tricks to be more empathetic and connect!

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.



In School

If a student is concerned about anything regarding their life in school and out of school, for example, bullying, they can contact their Student Services Manager (SSM) or email;

stop@theleighutc.org.uk



Wellbeing at Leigh UTC Dartford

‘Jump Up July’ - some tips and tricks to gain more energy and be productive!

Jump Back Up July 2025

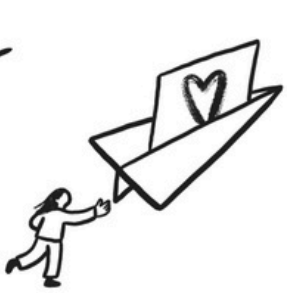
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 1 Take a small step to help overcome a problem or worry	2 Adopt a growth mindset. Change "I can't" into "I can't...yet"	3 Be willing to ask for help when you need it	4 Find something to look forward to today	5 Get the basics right: eat well, exercise and go to bed on time	6 Pause, breathe and feel your feet firmly on the ground	
7 Shift your mood by doing something you really enjoy	8 Avoid saying "must" or "should" to yourself today	9 Put a problem in perspective by seeing the bigger picture	10 Reach out to someone you trust and share your feelings with them	11 Look for something positive in a difficult situation	12 Write your worries down and save them for a specific 'worry time'	13 Challenge negative thoughts. Find an alternative interpretation
14 Get outside and move to help clear your head	15 Set yourself an achievable goal and take the first step	16 Find fun ways to distract yourself from unhelpful thoughts	17 Use one of your strengths to overcome a challenge today	18 Let go of the small stuff and focus on the things that matter	19 If you can't change it, change the way you think about it	20 When things go wrong, pause and be kind to yourself
21 Identify what helped you get through a tough time in your life	22 Find 3 things you feel hopeful about and write them down	23 Remember that all feelings and situations pass in time	24 Choose to see something good about what has gone wrong	25 Notice when you are feeling judgmental and be kind instead	26 Catch yourself over-reacting and take a deep breath	27 Write down 3 things you're grateful for (even if today was hard)
 28 Think about what you can learn from a recent problem	29 Be a realistic optimist. Focus on what could go right	30 Reach out to a friend, family member or colleague for support	31 Remember we all struggle at times - it's part of being human			

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

‘Altruistic August’ - some tips and tricks to be more empathetic and connect!

Altruistic August 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 4 Ask someone how they feel and really listen to their reply	 5 Spend time wishing for other people to be happy and well	 6 Smile and be friendly to the people you see today	 7 Give time to help a project or cause you care about	1 Set an intention to be kind to others (and yourself) this month	2 Send an uplifting message to someone you can't be with	3 Be kind and supportive to everyone you interact with
11 Share an encouraging news story to inspire others	12 Contact a friend to let them know you're thinking of them	13 No plans day! Be kind to yourself so you can be kind to others too	14 Take an action to be kind to nature and care for our planet	8 Make some tasty food for someone who will appreciate it	9 Thank someone you're grateful to and tell them why	10 Check in with someone who may be lonely or feeling anxious
18 Today do something to make life easier for someone else	19 Be thankful for your food and the people who made it possible	20 Look for the good in everyone you meet today	21 Donate unused items, clothes or food to help a local charity	15 If someone annoys you, be kind. Imagine how they may be feeling	16 Make a thoughtful gift as a surprise for someone	17 Be kind online. Share positive and supportive comments
 25 Give your time, energy or attention to help someone in need	26 Find a way to 'pay it forward' or support a good cause	27 Notice when someone is down and try to brighten their day	28 Have a friendly chat with someone you don't know very well	22 Give people the gift of your full attention	23 Share an article, book or podcast you found helpful	24 Forgive someone who hurt you in the past
				29 Do something kind to help in your local community	30 Give away something to help those who don't have as much as you	31 Share Action for Happiness with other people today

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

Year 11 Leavers 2025

The final week of Year 11 was a fantastic celebration of our students' hard work, friendships, and achievements. A packed programme of events gave everyone the chance to mark the end of an era in style.

The week kicked off on Monday with a well-attended leavers' BBQ, complete with shirt signing and an awards assembly full of laughter, nostalgia, and recognition of individual successes. Thursday saw students bouncing into Gravity for a lively and energetic trip that brought plenty of smiles. The week culminated in a stunning Prom on Friday evening, featuring welcome drinks, a photo booth, live DJ and — much to everyone's delight — a surprise magician who kept the crowd thoroughly entertained.

We wish all of our Year 11 leavers the very best for their summer results, and we look forward to welcoming many of them back in September as they begin the next chapter with us in Year 12.



Raising the Profile of Post 16

Routes to Success: Opening Doors to Future Careers

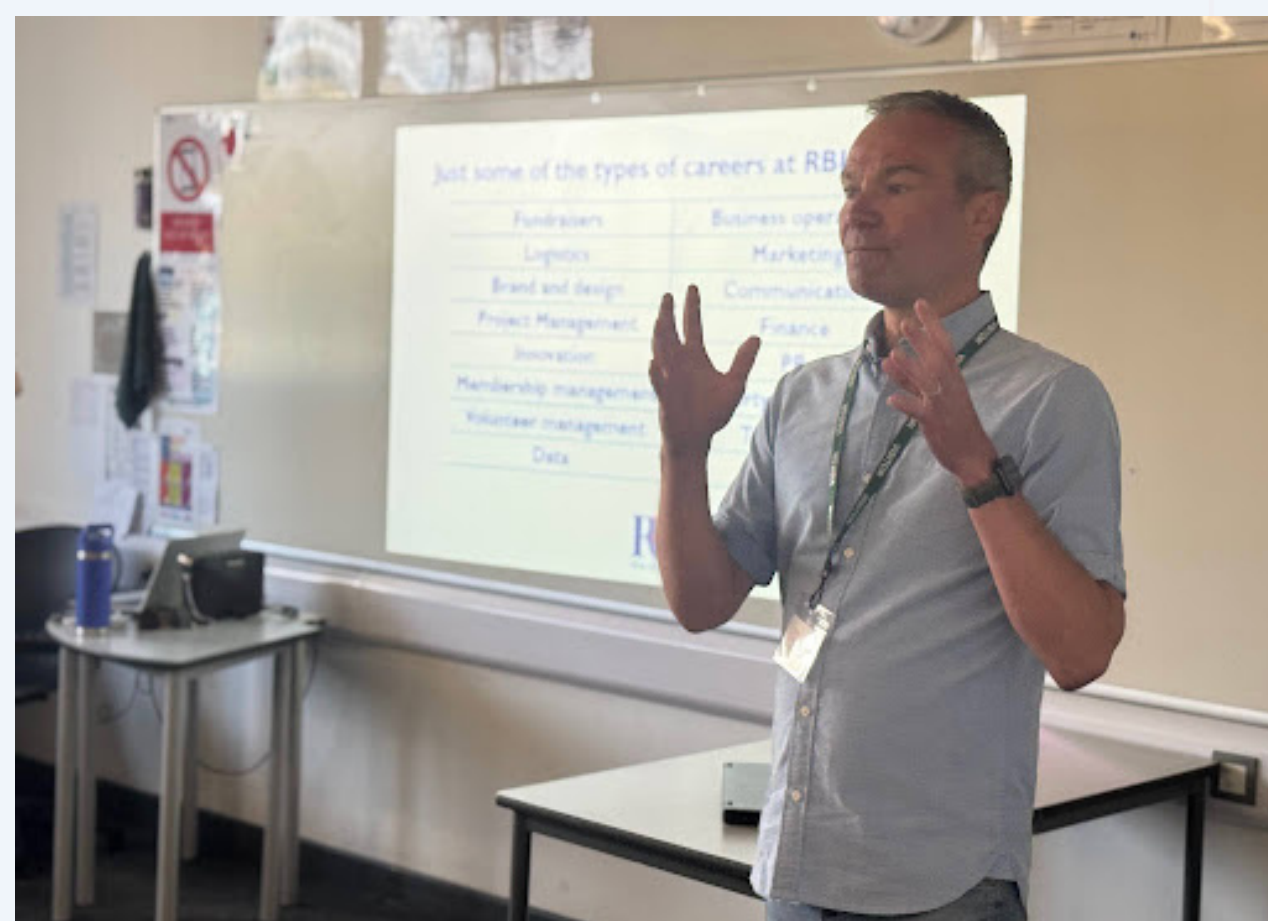
Leigh UTC's prestigious Routes to Success program launched this module, marking an exciting milestone in our commitment to preparing students for their future careers.

This comprehensive initiative brings together four distinguished business partners; BAE Systems, FM Conway, Royal British Legion, and European Springs and Pressings, to provide students with authentic, real-world experience in professional environments.

The program begins with students engaging directly with representatives from these industry-leading organisations, gaining invaluable insights into diverse career pathways and industry expectations. Following these initial meetings, students will participate in targeted application writing and CV development workshops, equipping them with essential skills for the competitive job market.

The experience culminates in genuine interviews conducted at each company's premises, where students will present themselves professionally and receive feedback from industry experts. This authentic interview process not only builds confidence but also provides students with a realistic understanding of recruitment procedures. Additionally, students will explore primary sources during their visits to develop comprehensive portfolios for their Extended Project Qualifications (EPQ), demonstrating their research capabilities to potential employers and universities.

The program also includes an engaging treasure hunt activity designed to help students identify universities that align with their career aspirations and academic goals. Through Routes to Success, our Leigh UTC continues to bridge the gap between education and industry, ensuring our students graduate with both academic excellence and practical experience that sets them apart in their chosen fields.



Raising the Profile of Post 16

Year 12 Transition Day: A Resounding Success

Students Embrace Global Economics Theme in Record Numbers

9th July 2025 - The annual Year 12 Transition Day proved to be an outstanding success, with higher participation rates than ever before as students engaged with this year's ambitious theme: "The Global Impact of Economic Policies: Trade Wars, Tariffs, and Consumer Culture." The day, designed to help incoming Year 12 students transition smoothly into their A-Level studies, saw unprecedented engagement across all activities. Students participated in a diverse range of team-building exercises and subject taster sessions, all carefully crafted to introduce them to the complex world of global economics while fostering new friendships and academic curiosity.

A Day of Discovery and Connection

The atmosphere throughout the school was electric, with students diving enthusiastically into workshops exploring international trade relationships, the ripple effects of tariff policies, and how consumer behavior shapes global markets. The interdisciplinary approach allowed students to see connections between economics, politics, geography, and business studies in ways that textbooks simply cannot convey. "The school had an amazing vibe," remarked one enthusiastic participant, capturing the sentiment shared by many throughout the day. The carefully structured activities not only introduced students to challenging academic concepts but also created natural opportunities for peer interaction and collaboration.

Building Tomorrow's Global Citizens

The team-building activities were particularly well-received, with students working together to solve complex economic scenarios and debate the merits of different trade policies. These collaborative exercises served a dual purpose: introducing students to the analytical thinking required for A-Level study while helping them form the social bonds that will support them throughout their academic journey. Another student reflected on the personal impact of the day: "I have made lots of new friends and enjoyed the taster sessions." This combination of academic stimulation and social connection represents exactly what the transition day aims to achieve.

Looking Forward

The success of this year's transition day, with its focus on global economic themes, demonstrates the school's commitment to preparing students for the interconnected world they will inherit. By engaging with complex topics like trade wars and consumer culture, students are already developing the critical thinking skills that will serve them well in their A-Level studies and beyond. The higher participation rates signal growing student enthusiasm for the transition program, suggesting that word-of-mouth recommendations from previous cohorts are drawing more students to take advantage of this valuable opportunity. As these new Year 12 students prepare to begin their A-Level journey, they do so with new friendships, a taste of the academic challenges ahead, and a broader understanding of how economic policies shape our daily lives. The foundation laid on 9th July promises to support their success throughout the coming academic year and beyond.

