

Liverpool Life Sciences UTC

Spring Term Newsletter 2015

Letter from Principal, Phil Lloyd

Over the past term I have been impressed with the mature and motivated attitude being shown by our students, especially those in Year 11 and Year 13. As we advance towards the upcoming exam season it is clear that they are dedicated to working towards the end game of great results and inspiring plans for the future. They are working hard with their teachers to make these plans a reality.

We hope they will use the Easter break productively and look forward to seeing them at our revision sessions running daily through the holidays.

As we prepare for the Easter break, we also prepare to bid farewell to two of the original members of UTC staff. Both progressing to promoted posts, our Vice Principal Mr Goddard is taking on the position of Principal at the Bolton UTC and our SEND coordinator Mr Westwater is taking on a promoted post as part of the Senior Leadership Team at Archers Brook School in Cheshire. We wish them both every success for the future and they will be greatly missed.

Have a great Easter break and we look forward to welcoming you back for another great term.



British Science Week, 13th-22nd March



To celebrate British Science Week, the UTC Science team hosted a series of workshops focusing on 'chocolate'.

From looking at opportunities to use chocolate to support malnutrition in developing countries, researching the tensile strength of a Chomp bar in Physics to creating chocolate spheres in Chemistry, our students have learned a huge variety of lab skills throughout the week.

Nobel Prize Winner Visits UTC



We were extremely proud to welcome Nobel Prize winner, Sir Tim Hunt to Life Sciences UTC this term to spend time

exploring our innovation labs. Throughout the day, Sir Hunt met with staff and students providing the opportunity to ask questions about his research and career at the Cancer Research Institute in London where he continues to make important contributions to understanding switching and decision making in biological systems.

UTC Research Poster Conference



This term we held an academic poster exhibition in association with some of the UK's leading figures in the field of life sciences. We invited partners from the University of Liverpool, and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine to a scientific poster exhibition that displayed our students' research into Malaria, micro-organisms and infection.

Students were asked to prepare an academic poster detailing their research into a particular field where the most informative, industry ready, poster was chosen by the partners in attendance.

Congratulations to Matthew Dolphin who was selected as the overall winner for his research poster titled; 'A Rapid Diagnostic Test for Malaria.' He was awarded the £200 prize by Head of UK recruitment, Christine Todd from University of Liverpool.

UTC Transmits – HIV Seminar

In February we delivered the second instalment of 'UTC Transmits' – a series of masterclasses designed to educate students about the wider context of science and healthcare.

Life Sciences UTC students from Year 12 and 13 engaged with leading international academics, expert practitioners, leaders in drug discovery and people who live and work with HIV. Speakers included Professor Bill Paxton from the University of Liverpool Institute of Global Health, Dr Mark Lawton and Dr Mas Chaponda, Consultants from the Royal Liverpool Hospital Trust, Dr Jonathan Brown from Bristol Myers Squibb and Sahir House.



Phil Lloyd, principal, said:

"Events like UTC Transmits allow our students to discover new areas of academic thought, offering them a stronger understanding of key scientific and medical issues such as the treatment and prevention of HIV."

University of Liverpool NMR Masterclass



As part of their A Level Chemistry studies, students in Year 13 were invited to attend an NMR and IR analysis masterclass hosted by Dr Cate Cropper from Liverpool University. NMR spectrometry is a very powerful analytical technique that is used extensively in a huge variety of fields but is difficult to make accessible in schools.

With the support of the University of Liverpool we have become one of the first schools in the Northwest, and indeed the country, to have access to this technology. The NMR machine will be staying at Life Sciences UTC on loan in order to allow more students to gain a greater understanding of how compounds are analysed during drug synthesis. This experience is invaluable for our students, and we feel extremely lucky to be able to provide this opportunity.

World Book Day, 5th March

To celebrate World Book Day, students took part in an activity to give the 'Gift of Literacy'. Students were invited to attend a 'Book Speed Dating' session and divided into pairs to discuss their favourite books. Each student chose a book to gift to their partner, based on the information provided during the session.

We will soon hold a 'Gift of Literacy' ceremony where the gift book will be delivered to each student with a postcard from their partner explaining why that book was chosen for them.



PE Department Achievements

From training sessions for our school teams and organising match fixtures to introducing new sports to PE lessons; the PE department has been buzzing with activity this term! We are extremely proud of the hard work and determination of our school teams and wish them the best of luck in their upcoming fixtures.



Well done to the UTC Year 10 Girls Netball Team for their 5-3 win against Kingsway Academy!



Congratulations to the winners of the Inter-Form volleyball competition; Life Sciences UTC form group 10E!

LEGO Offers Students Building Blocks for the Future



Globally-respected brand, Lego joined us to inspire students with workshops delivered by

CEO of Lego Education, Dr Rene Tristan Lydiksen. Students were required to safely navigate model rockets and satellites across a scaled-down map of the Solar System.

Speaking at the event, Dr Lydiksen told students to follow the career pathways that they were passionate about, and complimented Liverpool Life Sciences' interaction with industry through Project Based Learning.

Apprenticeship Roundup

Congratulations go to Paul Walker who has been hired as an Advanced Apprentice by Renshaw Baking working in microbiology.

UCAS Roundup

As we approach the summer term, our Year 13 students have been working hard on their plans for life after the UTC, with great success. Of the students that have chosen to apply for University, 96% have already received positive offers, with 68% of offers coming from Russell Group Universities.

We have had a number of unconditional offers from universities impressed with students' placements and project based learning experiences including Andrew Barlow, Jade Edwards, and Jennifer Monkhouse. Students have also been offered places on some of the most competitive courses including Midwifery, Chemistry and Physics. Beth Gwyther has received an offer to study Medicine at St Andrews.

Hope+ Food Bank Support

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all who supported our collection for Hope+ Food bank. We made four drop-offs, which will make an incredible difference to the local community.

Build My Future Festival

Year 12 students at Life Sciences UTC attended the Build My Future festival last week and took their first steps toward landing the career of their dreams.

The week long, award winning festival focuses students on how to apply for university, apprenticeships and employment. Students participated in various lectures and seminars, with each day emphasising the importance of difference aspects of employability.



Year 10 students have faced a team working challenge to build key employability skills. They have worked with the local healthcare technology sector to devise a piece of life enhancing technology to support older people to live independently at home for longer. Students

have had masterclasses from industry experts and Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group and have had the chance to pitch their ideas to representatives from the sector.

Farewell to Vice Principal Mr Goddard

As this term comes to an end, we say goodbye to Vice Principal, David Goddard. David leaves us to take on the role of Principal at UTC Bolton, opening this September. We are very proud of his promotion and believe it is a testament to the immense impact he has had throughout his career and during the early days of the Life Sciences UTC.

Mr Goddard has worked tirelessly to help us launch a unique education experience. He has created a powerhouse of strategies and processes that consistently impress the teams that visit from the Department for Education, implemented opportunities for professional development and managed one of the most complicated school timetables on offer. His work in the background has allowed us time to be creative, opportunities to run projects and partnerships like no other school, and confidence in our work to go on and achieve STEM Assured Status in just one year. David has been unendingly supportive, strong in the face of adversity, and an inspirational leader. We wish him every success and happiness in his new role.

Placements Round Up

This term we have been able to offer some incredible work placements. Five students successfully completed a month at Redx Pharma, and others have spent time at Pro-Lab Diagnostics, Mast Group and at the Royal Hospital. In the summer term we have placements lined up with Unilever Research, Croda and Nutricia. These opportunities are unique to the UTC and have supported students in achieving unconditional and reduced offers from universities and apprenticeships. We encourage students to apply for these opportunities so they can benefit from the experiences.

Balliol College, Oxford Visit



UTC Students were able to experience life as a student at Balliol College this week on a 3-day residential to explore Oxford University. Students had the opportunity to meet Admissions tutors to discuss the process of applying to Oxford and practice interview questions. Students also participated in sessions with Academics to look at their

research. Students were encouraged to attend the July Open Days. If you are interested in going to the Open Days, please see Mr McCann asap. to coordinate your booking.

Year 11 Progression Plans



In Year 11, students are encouraged to understand more about different careers. This motivates students to work

hard towards their forthcoming exams, supports them to think about life post GCSEs and make good decisions regarding their Level 3 options. All Year 11 Students had a career interview with impartial careers advisor, Susan Burke and participated in a progression fair at the UTC to meet alternative sixth form and apprenticeship providers to support them in their plans for Post-16.