

Liverpool Life Sciences UTC

Spring Newsletter 2014

Letter from Principal, Phil Lloyd

With the end of the second term in sight, there is an overwhelming feeling around school that UTC students are making great progress and enjoying life. It's a pleasure to see the bonds that have formed and the leaps we are making both academically and technically.

We have worked hard to ensure delivery of our promise of a place at university, a job or an apprenticeship for every student who successfully completes their programme of study with us. Our recent Build My Future Festival was a massive success, with sessions from partner businesses, Novartis and Eden Biodesign, the Technical Apprenticeship Service, and staff and students from the University of Liverpool and Liverpool John Moores University. Although an eye opening experience for our year 12s, students now know what steps to take and can see the gaps they need to fill in their personal statements and applications.

Students have been able to get a feel for university life with visits, taster sessions at leading institutions including Balliol College, Oxford and masterclasses from top academics.

We are clearly seeing a direct link between good attendance and good performance. All students must aim for at least 95%. Good attendance doesn't only help students at school. Our business partners stress it as an important aspect of work. If you want to be considered for the best placement opportunities, you need to make sure your attendance is at its best.

We encourage you to continue to support the hard work of our students by getting involved in careers discussions, revising for mocks and encouraging good attendance.

Keeping students safe is always at the top of the agenda. This term we have had visits from Merseyside Police who have spoken with students about the dangers of drugs. The Brook Clinic visits each week to run drop in sessions on sexual health as well as other social issues. Susan Burke has also been in school to present on how to stay safe online whilst helping year 12 students prepare professional LinkedIn profiles.

As we prepare for the next intake of students, we've had a fantastic response from young people wanting to join us next year. We are happy to announce that we are heavily oversubscribed in Sixth Form with some places still available for Year 10.

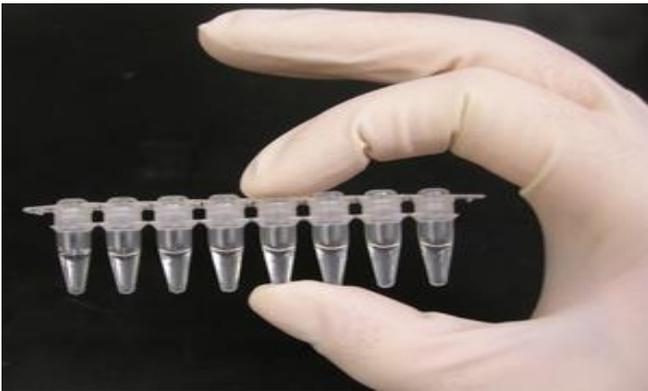
We have had an exceptional response to our recruitment campaigns for new teachers. I'm excited to welcome this talented group of teaching staff and look forward to the contribution they will make from September.

Have a great Easter break and see you in two weeks for another excellent term.



Innovation at the UTC

Students have worked on breath-taking projects this term, including anti-microbial properties in our Inspired by Unilever project and Synthetic Biology project proposed by the inspiring research team at Croda. If you would like to read more about what our students are doing in the innovation labs (and find out more about synthetic biology), you can stay up-to-date week by week at Professor Hornby's blog at <http://utcinnovationlabs.blogspot.co.uk/>



UTC Masterclasses

The UTC Masterclass programme has continued this term to offer students an insight into the world of work. The bi-weekly programme invites industry leaders, academics from across the country and local consultants, surgeons and specialist healthcare professionals to share their expertise through seminars and demonstrations. So far this term, we've had sessions focusing on the transmission and diagnosis of HIV from top doctor Mark Lawton from the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospital, an inspiring seminar about the importance of Cancer Research from Senior Research Nurse Jenny McCormick and a look into the food production system of aquaponics from Paul Myers of Liverpool University. Professor Valerie Edwards Jones, consultant microbiologist to Channel 4's Embarrassing Bodies also paid us a visit and made us squirm with her experiences.

These are just a few of the master classes that have been held over the past few weeks, allowing students to see that careers within the science and healthcare

sectors are well within reach, as well as the importance of the sector within the wider community. With the right amount of hard work and determination, our students will be well on their way to reaching their dream careers.

Visit from Sir Mark Walport – UK Chief Scientific Advisor

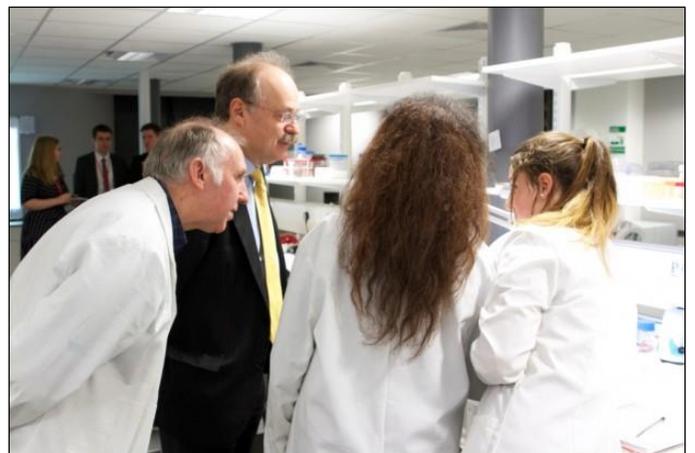
On 28th January, Liverpool Life Sciences had the honour of hosting Sir Mark Walport, the UK Chief Scientific Advisor to the Government, for a morning of demonstrations and experiments in the innovation lab.

Sir Mark Walport gave a fascinating and insightful masterclass on the future of science to our Year 12 students, stating that the UTC is the model for the future of UK science education.

Year 10 student Jordan Ray-Roberts was given the opportunity to talk about his new business enterprise 'Dangerously Nerdy Accessories' (DNA) to Sir Mark, even presenting him with a pair of crystal cufflinks that he designed and produced himself.

Sir Walport said that he thoroughly enjoyed his visit to the UTC, going on to say;

"The college has an exciting ethos. It embeds stimulating practical laboratory experience in a strong science curriculum. The strong and important links to universities and industry were evident as was the clear enthusiasm of the students and staff."



Liverpool Life Sciences UTC Placements

This term has seen some fantastic opportunities for work placements, six students had the opportunity to spend a month at Redx Pharma, the UK's fastest growing pharmaceutical company, 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 in Port Sunlight, Thermo Fisher, Croda and Nutricia. These opportunities are second to none and we encourage students to take full advantage of them.

Liverpool Life Sciences UTC in the News

This term the Life Sciences UTC were delighted to be asked to feature in The Financial Times. As always, our students were a credit to the school and the reporter from The Financial Times was extremely impressed that our students are tackling work usually reserved for PhD courses!

The Sunday Times also ran a feature on the school this month, during which they were invited into one of our Thursday afternoon science lessons in the innovation lab. Students showed their technical skills to the full whilst working on producing enzymes, and were again complimented on their professional behaviour. Year 12 student Rigsby Wadson said;



"I have always loved science but the college has given me a new way to explore it. I am now working hard and getting great results."

Robot Wars Challenge

A team of UTC students recently took part in one of the Robot Challenge Days being held by The Employment Skills Board of the Liverpool LEP and MerseySTEM. More than 50 schools participated in the event, competing by building robots with help from local engineers and manufacturers.

HR Manager, Alan Seeley from sponsor company Getrag Ford explained the aim of the event, saying;

"By helping young people engage with technology we're hoping to spark interest in subjects such as science, mathematics and engineering."

In an extraordinary twist of fate, the semi-final of the event saw our students go head to head with the participating team from The Studio! We were able to show them that Liverpool Life Sciences are the robot champions, winning the round and securing our place in the final.



Our team put on a great performance, coming second in the overall rankings and being awarded the runners-up prize. Year 10 student, Elizabeth Spellman said that she thoroughly enjoyed the day, and we are really proud of the work all of our students put into the competition, including those studying at The Studio!

Poetry Games Success

The English Department recently took part in *The Poetry Games*, a competition open to students aged between 11-18. Each entrant had to write a poem about a topic of their choice, with each entry being judged by an editorial team from the Young Writers organisation. The best poems were then selected to be published in a regional anthology. Our year 10 students did us proud, with five of their poems being selected to go to print in the published collection!

Our five soon-to-be published poets are all going to be included in the *Manchester and Merseyside* edition, which will be sent to the British Library. The school has also ordered each of the students a copy of the anthology to commemorate their achievement, which is scheduled to be published 31st May 2014.

Head of English, Louisa Herridge said that she is delighted that five of our pupils have had their poems published in the competition, after incorporating the opportunity for all pupils to write a poem into her English lessons for the purpose of entering the competition.

Gay? That's Ok.

Published poem by Chloe Blackwell Tomlinson

*You don't choose who you fall for they say so why is it frowned upon
to be gay?*

*Why do we live in a society full of hate? Where to be classed as
'normal' you've got to be straight*

Love is a blessing and should be celebrated

No matter what your sexuality you should not be segregated.

So don't be ashamed, you should be proud.

One day gay marriage will be allowed.



Congratulations to the five students selected;

Rolake Akinyande, Jayne France, Chloe Blackwell Tomlinson, Christine Skillen and Jerome Thompson.

World Book Day

This term has been a busy one for our Year 10 English students. If they weren't occupied writing poems for *The Poetry Games*, they were getting ready to celebrate World Book Day on 6th March.

Students took part in a literacy exchange, which allowed them to choose any book as a gift for their partner. Questionnaires were completed by each student to encourage them to find out what books their friends enjoy. They then used the World Book Day website and book retailers such as Waterstones and Amazon to find out more about similar books they might enjoy.



Each student selected a book as a gift to be ordered by the UTC on their behalf. The books are now being gift-wrapped and delivered to each pupil with the postcard explaining the choice.

Build My Future Festival

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

The three day festival focused on how to prepare for university, apprenticeships and employment. Students were invited to participate in various lectures and seminars, with each day emphasising the importance of difference aspects of employability.



With core career areas ranging from medicine, veterinary science and dentistry through to engineering and drug discovery, each session was delivered by an expert from the sector. Vice Principal Ian Parry was extremely pleased with the progress being made thanks to the help of external partners and academics:

He said: *"Our students have had an exceptional experience. Their work has been truly inspirational and will provide them with further opportunities to explore their chosen pathways and ultimately, give them unique advantages to source the careers that they aspire to."*

The event included students creating their own personal LinkedIn profiles, with assistance from social media and careers expert Susan Burke helping them craft a powerful online presence.

Mr Parry maintained: *"This is somewhat distant from the traditional careers support given to students, but doing so creates a direct channel of communication with*

thousands of employers looking to hire young graduates and apprentices."



Head girl Libby Radcliffe who is currently working towards a career in medicine agreed: *"You don't usually get the opportunity to create a LinkedIn profile until you have finished University and are looking for work. By doing it during the festival, I now have access to many more career prospects with great direct links to employers which will be really useful for me in the future."*



Balliol College Visit

Students in Year 10 and Year 12 had an amazing opportunity to become a Balliol student for a couple of days at Oxford University, and embraced every minute! Activities varied from lectures on Material Sciences, to discovering an Astrolabe and constructing their own to predict sunrise and sunset at any stage of the year. Students completed some chemical analysis in the Oxford Chemistry labs using NMR (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy) and Infra-red spectroscopy techniques to identify unknowns in organic compounds.



An introduction to Astrophysics taught us about the seemingly limitless number of opportunities for life to exist on similar planets other than earth and the impossibility of reaching these planets. Mock interviews for Biomedical Science, Medicine and Biology courses from the Heads of Faculty gave an extraordinary insight into what to expect from a University interview, and what the interviewer is looking for. The Biomedical Science tutors were highly impressed and commented on the insight shown by the UTC students reflected in the level of questions they were able to ask.

Wednesday Evening was spent in the wonderful Pitt Rivers museum watching a puppet silhouette film accompanied by vibrant live modern music. This was an interesting and very unique experience for the entire group. The stay at Balliol College was educational and very enjoyable. Our students left eager to research the array of opportunities Oxford has to offer, with some students having already applied for the Summer School since returning from the visit.

Liverpool Life Sciences UTC Partners

Again, the amazing opportunities our students have been able to experience this term have largely been made possible by the generosity of time and expertise of our partners. The Royal Hospital team have continued to offer workshops, masterclasses, placements and the opportunity to borrow specialist equipment when needed for teaching. Special thanks go to Joselito Marinas for managing the year 12 placement programme. We have also been donated an extensive amount of kit and consumables that help us to run experiments not traditionally carried out in a school setting. Eden Biodesign (now known as Actavis) have sent along willing young volunteers to present to our students about their roles in apprenticeships as well as reagents worth thousands of pounds. Students have visited Unilever, Nutricia, Eden Biodesign as well as Liverpool University. The team at Pro-Lab have continued to be on hand with support, cell cultures and equipment and their invites to the North West Microbiology Discussion Group have inspired and challenged us.

