

Liverpool Life Sciences UTC

Winter Term Newsletter 2015

Letter from Principal, Phil Lloyd

We started the academic year with a celebration of the positive destinations reached by our first set of Life Sciences UTC graduates. We are extremely proud of their success and saying goodbye to our first ever cohort of students was made easier by the impressive range of destinations they accessed, including Medicine at the University of St Andrews, Nursing at the University of Birmingham, apprenticeships at Unilever and employment opportunities at Jaguar Land Rover and Pro Lab Diagnostics.

Now we are beginning to celebrate university offers received by our current Year 13 students as they prepare for their own next steps.

We have progressed to become one of the largest school based sixth forms in the region and as we welcome more students into the UTC each year, we are seeing a broadening range of future career plans. An increasing amount of students are applying to top universities and there has been a significant number of unconditional offers already received.

Meanwhile our specialisms in Science and Healthcare are continuing to attract new partners and employers interested in both sharing innovative opportunities and building talent pipelines to recruit new graduates through our partnership. For the second year running we were acknowledged at the Educate Awards and received the Eco School Project of the Year Award for our partner-led aquaponics project.

It has been an extremely busy term, with numerous extra-curricular visits and trips for our students including visits to Poland, Switzerland and Belgium. We are looking forward to many more in the new year and have already planned an international trip to rural India to build a school and health centre, a visit to Spain and a skiing trip to Austria. Our fundraising work is also set to continue after a successful year supporting a range of charities including Teenage Cancer Trust, the Royal British Legion, Lagan's Foundation, Macmillan Cancer Support and Young Minds UK.

Our newly appointed Junior Leadership Team and Head Boys and Girls have been working hard to bring positive change to the UTC and we are looking forward to what they will bring to our student body in 2016. Congratulations to all students who applied to join the Leadership Team, we were extremely impressed by the levels of maturity demonstrated throughout the whole process.

Enjoy the holidays and use the time wisely to prepare for January exams. We look forward to welcoming all students back into the UTC on Tuesday 5th January.



Educate Award Winners: Eco Project of the Year

Liverpool Life Sciences UTC have been recognised for the second year running at an annual awards ceremony hosted in Liverpool.

The UTC picked up the award for 'Eco School Project of the Year – sponsored by Vivark', awarded for the ongoing aquaponics project with Farm Urban. Students have been working with a team of PhD students from the University of Liverpool to deliver an inspiring and innovative aquaponics enrichment project which has provided a unique opportunity to engage with varying methods of sustainability and research.

Liverpool Life Sciences UTC were also recognised as runner-up in the Science Project of the Year category, for the work surrounding the Innovation Lab project focused on 'Bio-prospecting' and the search for new antibiotics.



Saturday Science Club Dates

In partnership with Science Education Merseyside and MEM, the UTC is hosting a second programme of Maths and Science Saturday Clubs for 11-14 year olds.

Upcoming Dates:

Saturday 16th January

Saturday 20th February

For more information and to reserve a place for any siblings or friends, please visit:

www.sciencemerseyside.co.uk

BioInfect Conference 2015

Students at Liverpool Life Sciences UTC were invited to attend a major one day life sciences conference held at Alderley Park earlier this term.

On Tuesday 10th November, a group of Year 13 students attended the BioInfect Conference to explore issues relating to the development of new anti-infectives and the endemic problem of resistance.



Students attended a series of seminars hosted by industry experts and were able to network with a wide range of academics and researchers.

Following the seminars, students from Life Sciences UTC hosted a poster exhibition at the Alderley Park conference to showcase their research into extracting antimicrobials from fruits and vegetables.

Healthcare Careers Masterclass

On 11th November students on the Healthcare pathway were invited to attend a masterclass exploring careers in Healthcare.

The masterclass was hosted by Jan Cooper from Alder Hey NHS Foundation Trust and enabled students to gain an invaluable insight into careers in healthcare, with a focus on working with children. Students from both Year 12 and 13 attended the session and were able to ask questions about their own career plans whilst hearing first hand from a practising healthcare professional.



Student Placement Diary

As a Year 13 student at Liverpool Life Sciences UTC I was able to take part in a placement at Broadgreen Hospital. For a full day I was able to shadow my mentor Catherine around Ward 5, which was brilliant. I wasn't allowed to provide any personal care to patients but this didn't stop me from learning loads and having a great time.

I learned that a patient being given a preference as to what they want is important so that they are happy and comfortable. I was able to put this into practice myself by asking a male patient what he would like to eat and drink for his breakfast and how many sugars he would like in his coffee. It was noticeable how quickly his mood improved and he was keen to talk to me. I gained experience across a large range of tasks and feel that I learned so much in just one day!

- Anna Mitchell-Edwards, Year 13

UTC Transmits: Cancer

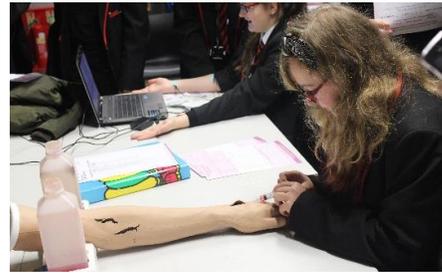
On Wednesday 25th November, Liverpool Life Sciences UTC hosted the third UTC Transmits Seminar at the University of Liverpool.

Hosted in the Muspratt Lecture Theatre, the focus of the programme was Cancer. Eight seminars covered topics including treatment, patient care, biology and drug discovery, with a line up of professors and academics exploring various themes. All students from Year 12 and Year 13 attended the programme to develop an understanding of the key scientific and medical issues surrounding cancer and breakthroughs in research and development.

Students were invited to engage with research and case studies relating to the illness and received a behind the scenes look at major research taking place within our city.



Medical Mavericks Masterclass



On Monday 14th December, Year 10 students took part in a Healthcare Masterclass to practice their skills and explore different uses of technology.

The session was hosted by Medical Mavericks and invited students to take part in a series of practical activities. These included performing an ultrasound scan, taking close up technical photographs of a retina, fitting an intubation tube and drawing fake blood from a simulation training arm.

Staff Brave The Shave for Teenage Cancer Trust

This term, teachers at the UTC said goodbye to their beards as part of a sponsored shave to support Teenage Cancer Trust. Staff and students came together to raise over £700 for the beard shave, after raising over £2000 through a sponsored head shave earlier this year.

The charity offers support to teenagers going through cancer treatment and has helped Shannon, a Sixth Form student at the UTC through her own treatment. Vice Principal Ian Parry shaved his beard as part of the fundraising event and said:

"Shannon's attitude during her journey through cancer treatment has been inspiring. She remained positive throughout the entire process and I am thrilled at how readily our students flocked to support her."

You can still donate towards the fundraiser for Teenage Cancer Trust using the link below:

www.JustGiving.com/UTCBraveTheShave



Hope+ Food Bank Collection

Thank you to everyone that has supported the Hope+ Food Bank collection over the past three weeks. We have collected a huge amount of food items and toiletries that will be distributed to those in need across Liverpool during the festive period. We could not have supported the cause without your help and generosity so thank you to everyone that took part!

Old Operating Theatre and Herb Garret Visit

Earlier this term students from years 11, 12 and 13 visited the Old Operating Theatre and Herb Garret in London to explore surgical history.



The museum is housed on the original site of St Thomas' Hospital and is one of the oldest surviving operating theatres in the world.



After the visit to the museum students went to see a West End performance of Mama Mia at the Novello Theatre. Anna from Year 13 said:

"The visit made us realise how lucky we are in 2015 to have such easy access to healthcare. We had a fantastic day in London and can't wait for the next trip!"

Exploring Switzerland and CERN technologies

Students made an international trip to Switzerland this term to explore the science and innovation exhibition at CERN.

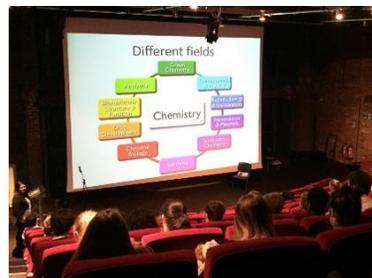
The group visited the cryogenetic testing facility at CERN and explored a variety of leading edge technologies that are used at the centre.



Students had a fantastic time and also had the opportunity to visit the Palais des Nations UN building, St Peter's Cathedral in Geneva and the Jet d'eau.

Communicating Chemistry with the Royal Society

Year 12 Chemistry students at the UTC celebrated Chemistry Week with a series of events hosted by the Royal Society of Chemistry.



Two research chemists from the University of Liverpool hosted a seminar on 11th November to discuss how chemistry is used in their work and across various research projects.

Dr Lawrenson, teacher at the UTC, said:

"When pupils are working towards their A Levels it can be easy to forget the wider context of the subjects they are studying. The event gave students the opportunity to speak with scientists who use chemistry on a daily basis and to explore vital areas such as drug discovery and material design."

Spanish 'Pincho' Tasting

A group of Year 11 students took part in a Spanish cuisine tasting trip at a city centre restaurant last month.

Students studying Spanish visited Roja Pinchos Spanish restaurant in Liverpool to sample a variety of the specialist dishes available on the menu. They sampled five different 'pinchos' which are a variation of tapas from the North of Spain. Joe B from Year 11 said:



"I had a brilliant experience immersed in the Spanish culture without even having to leave the country!"

2016 Term Dates

Spring Term Start Date: Tuesday 5th January 2016
Half Term: Monday 15th – Friday 19th February 2016
Bank Holiday: Friday 25th March 2016
Bank Holiday: Monday 28th March 2016
Spring Term Ends: Friday 1st April 2016