

Scarborough UTC News Flash

Friday, 8th September 2023

INTRODUCTION

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fabulous week. I want to thank the students in particular, who have been patient and professional in all regards. Their conduct has made things so straight forward for all of us in a week of planning for a Year 7 intake, thank you.

For the first time this week we have had all the UTC students together in the Hall. Some staff were really moved, the concept that our Hall was full to bursting is a testament to all their hard work in moving the UTC to being a fully recognised successful educational offer in Scarborough.

Can I say how lovely is to receive message like these, received this week from parents (names changed, some older parent might recognise the theme). I have a "happy file" where I store these type of things as they are worthwhile to share and boost staff morale, recognise their efforts and also share with inspection teams, thank you to the parents who have taken the time to write:

Dougal is enjoying UTC very much, both me and Florence have noticed a complete change in him, he is alot happier when he is at home too, compared to his old school which he suffered with bullying etc and every day was a struggle for him and was always down in the dumps. Thanks again to you and the staff at UTC it's a wonderful place and I do hope Dougal does well in his time of education with you.

As a result of a phone call: I thought I would share some feedback from Brian's mum. I spoke with her this morning and she told me that Brian is really enjoying college and is getting up at 06:30 and getting dressed quickly and excited to get to college. He especially enjoyed playing chess the other day and couldn't stop talking about it at home. Mum is really happy that Brian is settling in.

Not sure when you'll get this but just wanted to say thank you for the support put in place for Rosalie by staff at UTC. Last year she was too nervous to travel to visit her aunt with her grandparents for a few days. This year she attended a camp as a helper over 5 hours away from home, on her own and knowing no one. This was a massive challenge in so many ways for Rosalie and I'm certain it would not have been possible without the input from UTC. You've had such a positive impact on her, please pass on our thanks to all involved.

Important reminders:

- 1) Vaping is not permitted in college, on the way to and from college or on the buses. Students with vapes will have them confiscated and parents asked to collect them. Students seen vaping in any circumstance above will face time in isolation.

- 2) Please can I request that parent DO NOT use the school car park to drop off or collect students (unless exercising their rights as a disabled person). Please travel up the hill beyond Coventry university where you will find space to drop your child and turn.
- 3) Uniform rules clarity: Skirts must be worn at their planned length and not rolled up. A number of students are rolling skirts which leaves them very vulnerable to exposure or burns and spills when in physical activity in the workshops and science. Students persistently testing this rule will be asked to wear trousers instead.
- 4) Social media has become a high focus of the new 2023 Keeping Children Safe in Education rules from the Department for Education. On the image below is a very useful summary from the National Online Safety team in relation to Tik Tok use (I suggest you take a copy and expand it if your eyesight is like mine)!

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION 13+
(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-16 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18 CENSORED

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the "blackout" trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app, it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99. TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthday.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

TikTok can be addictive, especially for young people: compulsive repeated use can interfere with sleep patterns and be a distraction from other activities. The platform recently introduced default usage time limits of 60 and 100 minutes for new members under 18 (in the UK, children with TikTok average 102 minutes per day on the app), but these restrictions can easily be removed in the settings.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the "TikTok Now" feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-16s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

[@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety) [/NationalOnlineSafety](https://facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety) [@nationalonlinesafety](https://instagram.com/nationalonlinesafety) [@national_online_safety](https://tiktok.com/@national_online_safety)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 02.03.2023

Clarity: It appears my letter, combined with Mr Robertson's, in regard to Scalby has caused some confusion. Students went home early today. Next week is a normal week, starting 8:45 on Monday and finishing each day at the normal time. My apologies if the phraseology was unclear. (It is the Scalby pupils who will start with us on Thursday).

Thank you for your continued support,

H Dowds

Principal

TEACHING AND LEARNING@SUTC

The start of the academic year is an exciting time for teachers as we have the opportunity to apply and trial the schemes of learning and lessons planned during the summer term and break, in addition to meeting our new students. The first half term is a busy one where we identify student learning trends and adapt our approaches to meet those. All of our older students will also have a busy time this half term with a focus on successfully sourcing work experience placements for week 23-27th October (Y11 and Y13 students) and week 4-8th December (Y10 and Y12 students). Work experience is an essential part of what we do at Scarborough UTC, enabling students to develop and enhance employability skills for their future. This experience is much more useful if a student has located a placement themselves with an organisation of their choice, which is why we encourage students to do that. Well done to those Y11 and Y13 students that have met today's deadline to secure their placements. Those students that haven't done that will need to complete forms next week and will be allocated placements based on that information, please do discuss work experience with your children and emphasise the benefits of such a great opportunity. Our Y10/12 students must have placements confirmed, with appropriate documentation completed, in a few weeks time which will be discussed in detail with them in the coming weeks. Please do encourage and support your child in getting this task complete ASAP. If you have any queries don't hesitate to contact us.

ORGANISATION AND EQUIPMENT

Organisation and Equipment

It is essential for safeguarding purposes that Lanyards and identity cards are worn at all times. In addition to our business dress, this is a very important expectation. Students who forget such items have to sign into college manually and this adds to workload. It is our students responsibility to ensure they are prepared for each day.

Being prepared and study ready includes equipment. Carrying the correct equipment and the stationery for each day is essential – a reading book, a clear pencil case with a pencil, black and green pens, ruler, maths equipment and importantly, a **scientific calculator**.

TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE

News from Programmable Systems this week: Wow! What a week, it is fantastic to see everyone after the summer break, and so good to see a new cohort of year 9, 10 and 12 students joining us in engineering.

A lot of our first lessons have been introductions and about expectations, and it has been universally impressive to see how well students have conducted themselves in the electronics workshop and computer aided design (CAD) rooms. Year 9 have had an introduction to prototyping or robotics, Year 10 and 11 have seen what their coursework set task is and understand something of the structure of the unit and how we are planning the unit this year, The new thing within programmable systems that we are trying out this year is an app where for some of the examination content I have created sequences of flashcards which are superb for home learning and practising some of our content which will be in the Principles of Programmable Systems exam - a long way away from where we stand now so this is why all Year 10 and all Year 11 have been given a homework to access google classroom, and a link in GC to access their relevant homework. For new students in Y10 who are not yet in Google Classroom – I have sent an SMS with the classcode and links to use.

Technical Excellence and Employable Graduates - A focus this week has been on the excellence part, about learners being their best versions of themselves, and how important attitude towards learning is.

Well done to Year 9 students JS, JM, KD, IO, PM, NP for your work in robotics this week - really great to see you getting involved with using a virtual robot to knock down buildings and cause general destruction, as well as in some cases, successfully drawing initials with a virtual robot and a pen on a grid - a really promising start!

Have a great weekend, from Mr Brown

MONITOR, REPORT & ENCOURAGE

All students have been issued with emails and online accounts and all are reminded of the importance of maintaining security using college account usernames and passwords and to report concerns if they feel that accounts have been compromised.

The ability to manage work as a young professional at Scarborough UTC is essential to manage learning. As with all online work and personal accounts passwords and usernames should not be shared. This is critical as learning platforms hold essential records of both classwork and coursework and the integrity of this work.

AUTUMN REWARDS

Students have made an excellent start this week. Student's positives are identified and can be viewed on BROMCOM MCAS. The points identify the elements of our college ethos and that of being a "Young Professional ". We encourage students to review progress regularly. Reward vouchers are issued at the end of each half-term.

LOCKERS

Lockers and Mobile Devices

Each student has been assigned a locker and this must be used to store all bags, equipment, and mobile devices

Use of padlocks provides essential security for valuable items including mobile devices, smart watches and ear buds etc etc. Storing mobile devices correctly in the locker prevents confiscation in line with our policy. On the first occasion the device is stored and returned at the end of the day. Each subsequent occasion, the device is collected by parents. To prevent inconvenience and control access to on-line apps, please ensure padlocks are available and devices are stored correctly.

Mobile device procedures protect students from on-line access and messaging throughout the day to ensure focus is on college work, social interaction and the break and lunch activities that provide opportunities for mental and physical well-being.

SAFEGUARDING

We are committed to our students and families and we continue to provide support and points of contact.

Should you be concerned and feel that you need to share information please contact and refer information to the following email: dsl@su.coastandvale.academy

SUTC Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead monitor the email.

Resources

[The Go-To - Emotional wellbeing and mental health \(thegoto.org.uk\)](http://thegoto.org.uk)

NHS – Scarlet Fever Scarlet fever: symptoms, diagnosis and treatment

Email: info@community-counselling.org.uk

Website: www.community-counselling.org.uk

Telephone: 01653 690124

[Mobile phone safety | Childline](#)

[Physical activity and mental health | Mental Health Foundation](#)

[Kooth for Children & Young People - Kooth plc](#)

ATTENDANCE

Attendance will always be a continual reminder. It is the first critical area that provides our support and Early Help. Excellent attendance directly contributes towards positive outcomes. Excellent attendance is above 96.5%. It is important that all students work hard to continually improve, this contributes significantly to maintain and improve overall progress and attainment.

It is very important to ensure that all medical and illness absences are reported daily by parents using our absence line or enquiries to Miss. Brown our attendance and data officer. The agreed college target is 96.5% for each student.

We work closely with NYCC attendance team to address attendance concerns.

ACADEMIC YEAR DATES

Professional Development Day	Thursday, 12 th October 2023
Autumn Half Term Holiday	Monday 30 th October 2023 – Friday 3 rd November 2023
Professional Development Training Day	Friday 1 st December 2023
Christmas Holiday	Thursday 21 st December 2023 – Thursday 4 th January 2024
Professional Development Training Day	Wednesday 3 rd January 2024
First Day of Spring Term for Students	Thursday 4 th January 2024
Spring Half Term Holiday	Monday 12 th February – Friday 16 th February 2024
Easter Holiday	Monday 25 th March – Friday 5 th April 2024
First Day of Summer Term for Students	Monday 8 th April 2024
Bank Holiday	Monday 6 th May 2024

Summer Half Term Holiday	Monday 27 th May – Friday 31 st May 2024
Term Ends	Friday 19 th July 2024
Professional Development Training Day	Monday 22 nd July 2024