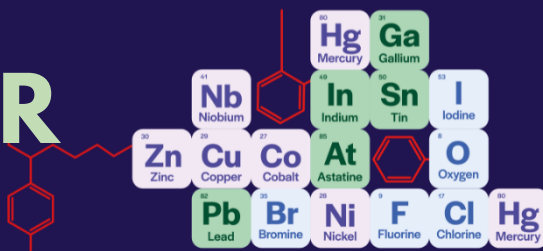


CUC NEWSLETTER

SPRING, WEEK 2



It has been fantastic to see so many parents this week at our Year 11 parents evening. It is always a very productive evening and a great opportunity to take on feedback from staff as students approach these important exams. We are looking forward to meeting with Year 13 parents next week. If you missed your appointment, please get in touch with your year head, Mrs Small

Reminder: Wednesday 25th January - Year 13 Parents' Evening. School will close at 3pm

Student Showcase - We are planning a Baltic Research Institute showcase event on Wednesday 29th March where we will invite employer partners to see some of the amazing project work produced during PBL sessions. All ignite and year 10 students will present their project work at the event as well as many groups from year 12, year 13 and year 11. We are also in the process of recruiting a new BRI leadership team to run the event, publish a peer-reviewed journal, lead education and outreach events including primary school visits and run the advanced manufacturing team.

Spirit VR Confidence and Mindfulness - Three groups across year 10 and 11 have been working on a project with local VR and AR app developer, Scenegrph Studios based in Birkenhead. Scenegrph make an app called Spirit VR and have loaned us an Oculus Quest VR Headset with the App installed so that CUC students can design controlled studies to test the effectiveness of their VR app across two different areas. Some of the students will be testing the Spirit VR confidence app which aims to improve confidence in public speaking through simulating the user giving presentations in either classroom or lecture theatre type settings. The user practices presenting to the crowd and controls a number of features including the number of people in the audience, where they stand on the stage and when to change the slides. Our students will test whether there are measurable improvements in public speaking confidence in their test subjects through designing and carrying out a controlled study. Another group will take a similar approach but with another app which aims to reduce levels of stress and anxiety through simulated VR mindfulness techniques. (see picture of David in VR headset sent separately).

Public Speaking Competition - On the 1st February we will be hosting our Public Speaking Competition. Students will be invited to give a one-minute speech on the theme Inspired and Inspiring. This is a fantastic opportunity to build key employability skills, as well as win some fantastic prizes. If you would like to get involved, If you would like to get involved, please pop in to room 4.03 to sign up.

Student Leadership Team

On Friday a large team of our leaders met with Amanda and Paul, our safeguarding leads, and learned how their roles support students in school. This was a very informative meeting. The team have organised the spare uniform collections. If anyone has anything they would like to donate please bring into reception. Alexander who is our Key Stage 5 Deputy Principal has sourced work experience and summer school opportunities which have been shared with our Year 12 students.

After School Clubs - You can access Singing with Lilly on Mondays in the Refectory, Chess on Mondays, CCF on Tuesdays, Drama on Wednesdays, Comics Youth Safe Spaces, Arabic and Creative Writing on Thursdays. If you have ideas for other clubs, please speak to Miss Mallo.

Zero Tolerance of Abuse of Staff - The NST has a zero-tolerance approach towards abusive language, violence, aggression or harassment towards our employees, Governors and volunteers.

Proposed Strike Action by NEU - As you may have seen in the news, members of the National Education Union (NEU) have voted to take strike action in February and March .

The dates of the proposed strikes are:

- **Wednesday February 1st**
- **Tuesday February 28th**
- **Wednesday March 15th**
- **Thursday March 16th**

Our schools will remain open on strike days as not all teachers are in the NEU, however it may cause some disruption to lessons.

At the moment, we are assessing the impact this may have and looking to put plans in place. We will inform you of these plans as soon as possible.



Word of the Week - CONTROVERSY

Definition: a lot of disagreement or argument about something, usually because it affects or is important to many people.

Usage: *There was a big controversy surrounding the use of drugs in athletics.*





Year 11 Art, Graphics and Photography students have begun their externally set exam, week by week schedules have been shared on Google Classroom as it is important that students stay up to date. **Also a reminder we host a Creative Boost session every Thursday 4 to 5 where food is available, this time is to allow students to develop their projects using specialist equipment.**

Health and Social Care: Key Stage 5 students have been doing their external exams last week and this week and are starting their new units. Year 11 have just sat their first full mock exam. Year 10 have been working on physical, emotional and intellectual development across the six life stages. Ignite students have been working on logical and reasoning puzzles to test their own brain development

Laparoscopy Workshop: We had a fantastic talk from and laparoscopy (keyhole surgery) workshop delivered by specialist vet Becky Keeble from ICR Vets in Edinburgh. 25 students from across the year groups attended and asked some outstanding questions. Erin in year 13 also presented her EPQ project to Becky where she has set up a veterinary training suite in the room attached to lab 0.01. Becky was blown away by Erin's project and the confidence with which Erin presented her veterinary skills training suite. Becky also commented on how impressed she was with the students who attended her presentation and workshop. Becky has helped us to develop a strong partnership with IVC Evidensia who have a large chain of veterinary practices across the UK. We have the opportunity for all students from years 9-13 who wish to pursue a career in veterinary science or nursing to gain a full week of work experience with one of three local practices.

History: Year 9 are studying the actions of the Suffragette's and Emily Davison. Year 10 have been learning about the Liberal Reformers and the impact of people in poverty. Year 11 have been focusing on the effects of the Great Depression and the Manchurian Crisis. Year 12 for their America module are studying the Boston Tea Party and have just began Henry VIII and The Break From Rome. Year 13 have been examining how revolutionary the American Revolution was and society and the arts in Elizabethan Society.

Psychology: Year 10 are learning about revision strategies they can use for psychology revision. They sat their perception end of topic assessment on Friday. Next week Year 10 move onto Development where they will learn about the brain and the nervous system. Year 11 psychology students moved onto their last paper 2 topic Brain and Neuropsychology. They learned about the nervous system and the fight or flight response. Year 12 completed their studies on research methods and next week will move onto their first paper 1 topic; Memory. Year 13 studied the evolutionary explanations of aggression this week along with the frustration aggression model.

Criminology: Year 12 students have been discussing the social construction of criminality plus viewing criminality from a genetic theory standpoint. Year 13 students have been analysing the two models of criminal justice and looking at the organisation and relationship between agencies in the criminal justice system.

Social Sciences Pathway: Year 12 pathway have attended a session with Michaela where they were able to use the microscope to look at fingerprints and focus on how these would be used in forensics and from a legal perspective. We are also currently finalising plans for our trip to Paris (Sunday 5th - Tuesday 7th March). Care Merseyside has offered us work experience and one session of creative writing work that is part of their programme of social prescribing and used to support vulnerable people in the community. This is a fantastic opportunity for those looking to explore either careers in psychology or English.

Chemistry: Year 11 chemists have been learning about the chemical tests we can do to identify substances.

Engineering: Our main push this week has been with careers in our CUC6 pathway. We have been visited by Mark Duffy from Sellafeld Limited who has been talking to our year 12 and 13 learners about their apprenticeship opportunities in Mechanical Engineering Design, Electrical, Engineering Design, Civil/Structural Engineering Design, Digital Engineering Design, Operational Research, Safety Case Engineering (New), Systems Engineering (New) based in their Warrington offices. We have also been privileged to have Rebecca Hooper and their CEO Kevin Johnson talking with our year 12 and year 13 students about the opportunities they will be offering for employment from September. They are also hosting 5 of our learners for another work experience week over the February half term.

