

CUC NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN, WEEK 12

A very busy week with exams for our year 11 and 13s. Well done for working hard in preparation. Mock exams are an invaluable opportunity to test understanding and receive feedback from staff on how to improve before the summer exam series. Our other year groups have been exceptionally busy too, participating in project days which help them to understand our specialisms and build valuable future skills which support them to achieve a job, university place or apprenticeship. We have also enjoyed visits from students at our sponsor university and the amazing team at Grads in Games.

Your Child's Unifrog homework - Deadline 14/12/2023

- Ignite - Complete the Personality Profile
- Year 10 - Complete the Interests Profile
- Year 11 - Explore employability skills & How to ace your CV
- Year 12 - Explore Post-18 Choices, Choices
- Year 13 - Continue work on Personal Statements

The only way is UP! Reminder

From 8:40- 9:05 and from 3:40 – 4:15 each day the bottom of Greenland Street will be blocked for cars coming up the road and will only allow cars to exit onto Jamaica Street. Instead you will be directed to use New Bird street or the slightly wider Jordan street to join the one-way system. Can we also please ask that you do not stop on Jamaica Street as this causes a traffic jam for local businesses and puts students trying to cross the road at more risk.



Year 12 and 13 visit to the Courtrooms in Manchester Metropolitan University

On Wednesday we took a group of Year 12 and 13 students to the Courtrooms at Manchester Metropolitan University. The students took on different roles in a murder trial, based on a real knife crime case in London in 2012. They acted out live in the courtroom while the session facilitator explained the nuances of the courtroom and what was to happen at each stage. The students were excellent and were fully immersed in the experience. They also had chance to meet law undergraduates who worked with each team to assist in the courtroom and answer any questions the students had about the law courses or university life.



Liverpool Parenting Newsletter

The latest edition of the Liverpool Parenting Newsletter is now available for you <https://sway.office.com/LqVupCOOf8fW6p3x?ref=Link>

The Newsletter includes information on services that can support parents during the month of December and into the New Year.

Word of the Week - CANDIDATE

Definition: a person or thing regarded as suitable for or likely to receive a particular fate, treatment, or position:

Usage: "she was the perfect candidate for a biography"

Vaping – We would like to remind you that we do not allow students to bring items such as cigarettes, lighters, matches or e-cigarettes/ vapes into school.

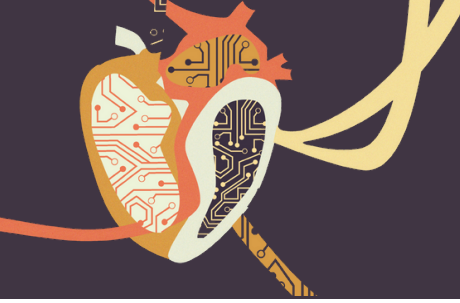
Zero Tolerance of Abuse - The NST has a zero-tolerance approach to abusive language, violence, aggression or harassment towards employees, governors and volunteers.



Christmas Appeal

We are raising £1000 to support families in our school community who need food parcels and gifts this Christmas.





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Bionow - Meet the Mentors Event

Last week, we welcomed 6 mentors from a range of our life science business partners for the Bionow "Meet the Mentors" event. Students on our Applied Science Pathway had the opportunity to apply to be paired with a mentor to develop employability skills. Many of the mentors have had long and distinguished careers in the sector. They participated in a speed-meeting format where each student got to spend 6 minutes speaking to each mentor before moving on. It was great to see the confidence with which the students introduced themselves to the mentors and in many cases it was difficult to get them to finish their conversations at the end of the 6 minutes! At the end, students and mentors had to indicate who they thought was the best match and we are now working on assigning each of the students a mentor.

Ignite - DNA Lab Project

Ignite have really excelled this week in the DNA lab project. Students have been using Industry Standard Bioline DNA Extraction Kits to extract and isolate DNA from animal tissue. The level of laboratory skills required to complete this successfully is outstanding. Students had to homogenise maggot tissue, accurately use a micropipette, balance centrifuges and follow a procedure with almost 20 separate stages in just under an hour. The level of care, attention to detail and professionalism on display from these year 9 students was amazing. We are now looking forward to visualising the results on agarose gels.

Year 12 BTEC Applied Science Pathway

Our Year 12 Applied Scientists have been developing their laboratory skills and manual dexterity through completing a microfossil hunt using our dissecting microscopes. Students had a quick tutorial on how to use the microscopes before searching through multiple samples from a beach in Japan which is rich in beautiful marine microfossils. Once the students had located the microfossils amongst the grains of sand, they had to use tweezers to isolate individual microfossils using the microscope. Each microfossil is millions of years old and around the size of a grain of sand so this required amazing skill and patience.

University of Liverpool Postgraduate Student Visit

On Wednesday, Postgraduate students from the School of Life Sciences at Liverpool University brought posters explaining their research to "Urban Brew". Our Students had the opportunity to extend their knowledge and practice their professional oracy by discussing the work with the students. Our students enjoyed the experience and the university staff were so impressed by the quality of our students' comments that they plan to extend the event to cover more university departments next year!

Year 10 Kitronik Robot session

Year 10 Computer Scientists have been putting coding theory into practice with our brand new Kitronik robots. The use of the robots is making theory more visual and highlighting real world application.

Games Work Experience

Year 12 and 13 took part in a week-long remote work experience with games studios Blizzard, Framestore and Egosoft. A brief was delivered on Monday, and on Tuesday the groups received their first part of industrial feedback. All teams pitched their concept, and one team from both years had the opportunity to pitch their final presentation to industry, concluding their work experience. Amazing job done by all.

Grads in Games

On Tuesday, the Grads in Games team visited Year 12 and 13 Games, Animation and VFX students to share amazing hints and tips on how to get a job in the industry and what studios are looking for both in technical skills and also social skills. It really was a masterclass for students preparing them to enter the workforce. They also covered portfolios and gave some great advice on how to best showcase your work for each discipline within games. Then, Phil Owen talked about specifics that his company d3t are looking for and emphasised the points about being prepared, being enthusiastic, motivated, passionate and determined if you want to have a successful career in the games industry. Again great advice and really helpful for students to understand just what is expected of them. Finally we introduced the search for a star project where all students can sign up to make a game based on an industry brief, mentored and judged by industry to help you again understand what is required to work in industry and also to help students stand out during their recruitment phase. Overall a great visit with lots of takeaways for students to help them build their portfolios and get ready for a career in the games industry.

