



Thomas Telford UTC

AN EXCITING NEW COLLABORATION FOR WOLVERHAMPTON

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In the Autumn term, Thomas Telford UTC staff have been asked to focus primarily on the settling in, behaviour and routines and social impacts of the lockdown absence from education. Whilst working in a Tier 3 area, we have decided to not extend unnecessary contact without significant good reason and for many of our students this has meant a careful consideration of their transport arrangements and the timings of our day. For Y11 and Y13 students who will be facing exams this year, we have provided additional Intervention sessions each night until 4pm, for many students this provision is available for 5 evenings of the week. Intervention is organised carefully and targeted sessions are provided which are specific to the needs of identified learners. At all times we have ensured that there is little potential for bubbles to cross.

We have completed assessments with all year groups and identified for each subject, the catch up needs. We will increase provision to support the full range of learners once the pandemic is under a greater control locally. Our leaders and governors agree that additional intervention is negated quickly if we have groups of students forced to learn remotely through increased in-school contacts.

We have provided revision guides and subject guides for each subject where they are available for all Y11 and Y13 students and hope to do the same for Y10 and Y12 students. We are also pleased that to date, we have been able to provide laptops and internet access to students forced to self-isolate who do not have access otherwise. Our remote learning strategy is working well, and although never a replacement for face to face learning, a majority of lessons are taking place over Teams, with the remainder being recorded video's and electronically provided resources.

The UTC have identified 15 Y11 learners who are disproportionately effected in terms of outcomes by the lockdown and each has been assigned a 1-2-1 personal mentor from our most experienced and skilled staff.

In terms of wider issues, the UTC identify the importance of student aspirations at this difficult time and our role in balancing the messages from the wider media about the economic damage. To this end we have funded individual careers interviews for every single Y11 and Y13 student which will take place in January and focus upon routes and destinations and most importantly, on reassuring the students of the opportunities which will be available. In addition to this we have been keen to maintain our excellent levels of employer engagement and have purchased a license for Zoom, which has allowed a full range of activities such as presentations from industry, virtual work experience and mock interview sessions.

As we move forward and the pandemic comes under control, a full range of additional intervention for other year groups will be arranged making use of sessions up to 5pm in the evenings, holiday classes and weekend school. For Post16 learners, we are providing extended, in-depth tutorial sessions in subjects where they are needed throughout the next term. A full programme will be made available once levels within our community reduce and it is safe to do so.

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