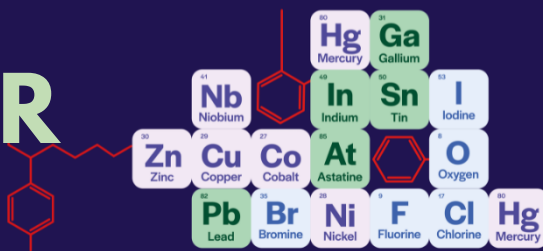


CUC NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN, WEEK 7



The speed at which we reach the Autumn Half Term always reminds me just how quickly we get settled into change. Just a few weeks ago over half of our students were brand new to the building, to the staff team and to each other. Now it feels like they are exactly where they belong, settled into routines, getting on with learning and taking full advantage of the many life-changing opportunities on offer to them. It has been wonderful to hear from so many parents about how they have seen such a positive change in their young people over this time.

I hope you enjoy a break over half term and very much look forward to welcoming everyone back on the 31st October.

Mock Exams: Year 11 and 13 students are currently preparing for Pre-public exams. Exams will take place the week of the 21st and 28th November. Half term is a fantastic time to get revising and ensure students are well prepared for these important assessments.

Masterclass from Dr Yogesh Kumar: Life Sciences Pathway students had the opportunity this week to join a masterclass from Dr Yogesh Kumar, an applications scientist working in the medical diagnostics industry for Helena Biosciences based in Gateshead. He develops instruments used to detect Sickle Cell Anaemia, Parkinsons Disease and Thalassaemia.



New After School Opportunities: Come along on Mondays at 4pm to join our new music club with Lilly Boughey, singer and musician. Meet in the Piano Refectory to get involved. Feel free to bring your own instruments and ideas and get involved.

We also have a new programme with **Comics Youth**, starting at 4pm on Wednesday 2nd November. Meet in reception at 4pm to join in.

After School Creative Writing Workshops: Thursdays in Room 3.04 Charlie from Read Now Write Now will be running after school creative writing workshops on Thursdays from 3rd November, 4pm to 5pm, for those who love writing or need a bit of help.

During the sessions students will write a short modern day retelling of A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens looking at the central themes of social justice, poverty and redemption, the rebirth plot to help plan stories and how to apply literary techniques such as foreshadowing/prophecy, the rule of three and show not tell to help with setting scenes, creating characters and using dialogue to write brilliant and powerful stories of life in the UK in 2022.

Student Leaders: This week applications have opened for our Junior Leaders to apply for different positions that make up our senior team. Students need to submit an online application following the criteria. The student leaders in 10 and 11 have also been making plans to kick start our Christmas appeal and organising all our donated gifts. We are accepting donations which can be brought to the school reception of tinned food items, toiletries or gifts.

Important Dates for Next Half Term:

School returns - 31st October
Year 13 Parents Evening - 2nd November
Year 11 into Sixth Form Evening - 16th November
Head of Year Surgeries - 17th November
Principal's Surgery - 24th November
Year 11 into Sixth Form One to Ones - 19th and 20th December
Inset Day - 21st December

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Bionow Mentoring Programme:

Congratulations to all students who participated this week in interviews to be part of the Bionow Mentoring Programme. We were incredibly impressed with your confidence, preparation and communication skills. Well done! We are really looking forward to the Mentor Matching event in November.



Visit from Paula Barker, MP for Wavertree:

Year 12 Social Science Pathway students have this week received a visit from Paula Barker, MP for Wavertree to hear about a career in Politics.

Word of the Week - BIODIVERSITY

Definition: the variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable.

Usage: *The biodiversity had yet to recover from years of commercial fishing practices.*



Chemistry: Year 10 have started exploring the development of our theories of the structure of the atom and are moving to look at the detail of the structure of the atom we know today. Year 11 have been exploring rates of reaction and have undertaken an investigation into the effect of concentration on rate by doing a disappearing cross experiment. Year 12 have been exploring structure and bonding and have also undertaken their first required practical in which they made a standard solution and used it to determine the concentration of a solution of hydrochloric acid. Year 13 have been exploring the chemistry of period 3 elements and their oxides.

Biology: Year 12 are looking at protein synthesis, from initial chains of amino acids to complex, 3D tertiary structures. This follows on from an in depth look at other biological molecules such as carbohydrates and lipids. They have just completed their first summative assessment and one required practical. Year 13 are about to begin detailed study of the kidney as part of their homeostasis topic. This will entail looking at the structure and function of the nephron and how it is involved in the reabsorption of glucose, the balancing of sodium and chloride ions and the reabsorption of water.

Film: Ignite students have completed their first videography project making their 60 spooky second shorts. They have taken part in pre-production, production and post-production activities and their final cuts will be showcased around school on Halloween. Year 10 have started their coursework by coming up with initial ideas for a genre film. They have been working on the Five Ws of storytelling. Year 13 have been learning about the legendary Jean Luc Godard, studying their French New Wave film *Vivre sa Vie*.

History: Year 9s have been learning how Islam spread along the Silk Roads. Year 10 have been studying William Harvey and circulation of the blood and John Hunter and how he collected the bones of a giant man. For Year 11, it is America week and they have been focusing on prohibition and Al Capone. Year 12 have been studying rebellions facing Henry VII. Year 13 have been working on a mix of Mary Tudor and why she was called 'Bloody Mary' and their sources for their hundred years of antisemitism coursework.

Engineering: Year 12 students enjoyed a visit from David Bundred, Chairman at Surface Transforms and Rebecca Hoop-Rhind, HR Manager. Students Hariksan and Mika will be joining Surface Transforms on work experience next week where they will learn about DFMEA, Quality control, simulation and complete a design task. Year 13 have been using the state-of-the-art Central Teaching Labs at our sponsor university, the University of Liverpool. They looked at the inverse square law for gamma radiation. Thanks to Helen Vaughan for making this possible. Students, Hannah and Teo had coffee with Stuart Brown, Construction Director at Vinci Construction, Kenny O'Brien and Danny Sinclair, Directors from AJP Partnership based in Liverpool. We discussed how we can put a plan together to help our students access careers within the built environment sector of the Liverpool City Region. Both Vinci and AJP are keen to offer work placements to students, setting our students projects, providing mentoring opportunities and eventually hopefully taking some of our learners on as apprentices.

Graphics: Year 11 Graphics students have been learning how the artist Justin Maller creates portraits using Geometric Shapes.

Art: Year 12 have been working on two-week challenges. This helps them to prepare to work on creative briefs that may be set by a client. Some have worked on a colour palette challenge, others on current events or food challenges.

English: Ignite are completing their study of their This is Me module and Year 11 have completed their study of Romeo and Juliet. They have been given revision for their upcoming PPEs for over half term

