

Dear Parents / Carers and Learners.

I hope that you are all well. We are really pleased with how all our learners have quickly settled into the start of this new academic year. The studious atmosphere around the college with our learners' desire to learn new skills, knowledge and take part in opportunities is palpable and their efforts should be applauded. To ensure we are capturing the true feelings of our learners we will be issuing our first learner survey next week which will identify how the learners have settled back into their learning after the summer break. This will take place during form times and Learning for Life next week.

### Eradicating the Digital Divide

Hopefully by now you will have heard the exciting news that we have embarked on an ambitious plan to "Eradicate the Digital Divide". This program will be introduced over the next two years through three phases for which we would like all your support to ensure it is a success.

Phase one of the program will commence from Wednesday 24th September where all learners will receive on loan a laptop, charger and protective carry case all free of charge. Both Parents/Carers and Learners will be required to read and accept the conditions of the laptop loan agreement by signing and returning it to either their Form Tutor (if in Years 9 – 11) or their Head of Year (Years 12 and 13) Once the agreements have been returned learners will receive the equipment. So please return your signed agreements quickly.

Phase two of the program will be developed over the next 12 months where teachers will migrate their teaching and learning resources over to digital.

The third phase of the program will involve updating the LDE UTC servers so that all learners will have access to all of the high-powered industry software remotely i.e learners will have full access to the software not only in college as they currently enjoy but will have use of the same software at home or, in fact ,anywhere they have an internet connection with their laptop.

### The launch of LDE UTC's 2021/22 societies

I'm really pleased to be able to launch the 2021/22 societies to our learners. Being part of a society demonstrates learners' commitment to other activities outside of their studies which can be used to their advantage when it comes to applying to universities or employment. For example, memorable moments from your time at the club can make great discussion points in your interview.

Societies are optional and we would encourage all learners to take up these exciting opportunities. Please [click here](#) to view all of the societies available for this term and sign up for your preferred society or societies.

Yours sincerely,



Geoffrey Fowler,  
CEO &Principal