

23rd July 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you to update you on the current position of NUAST and to look back on what has been a remarkable year.

It is now increasingly difficult to recall the days of NUAST being situated in temporary accommodation on Clumber Street! They were exciting times during which students formed enduring friendships and proved to us that NUAST was about more than simply a building. It was about a community of young people coming together through their shared love of Science, Engineering and ICT. The new facilities we moved to in December are fabulous. The equipment students have at their disposal is state of the art and it adds real depth to their classroom experience.

Over the course of the year we have hosted numerous high-profile visitors. On Tuesday this week we had the delight of hosting Martin Ivers, the Editor of The Sunday Times, who answered students questions about the future of online news and how he stays in touch with what his customers want to read. We have hosted similar visits by the CEO's of GlaxoSmithKline (Sir Andrew Witty) and Siemens UK (Juergen Maier). We believe that it is inspirational for students to meet these successful people and to realise how approachable and 'normal' they are. I mention this because it is a good example of how NUAST is delivering a different type of education.

The Board are more than satisfied with the progress made in NUAST's first year. Our former Principal, Mr Sohel, successfully managed the first 15 months of our development and it is not an exaggeration to say that we would not have achieved what we have without his contribution. Mr Sohel has decided to pursue his career as a Lead OFSTED Inspector. We wish him well and thank him for all he has achieved at NUAST.

The Board are pleased to welcome Mr Robert White into the Principal role and I would like to take this opportunity to tell you more about him. Over a successful career to date Mr White has run his own engineering company; taught engineering at three local schools; was a Chief Examiner for OCR; authored the Cambridge National Engineering Diploma and three engineering text books that are used in schools up and down the country. He also wrote the curriculum for JCB, the country's first UTC, and has advised Sheffield, Lincoln, The Black Country, West Midlands and Peterborough UTC's. In short Mr White is one of the country's leading UTC specialists. The unique offer of NUAST means that we are able to attract very high calibre candidates for teaching roles. Due to the sharp increase in student numbers NUAST will also be welcoming a number of highly qualified and experienced new teachers in September.

These are exciting times for NUAST. I look forward to working with you over the next year. In the meantime, I wish you and your families a very good summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Mr John Saunders
Chair Board of Directors