



2016/2017
SCHOOL AND SIXTH
FORM PROSPECTUS

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TOM DOWER
Principal
UTC South Durham

WELCOME

A very warm welcome to University Technical College South Durham

We are a new, state-funded, technical school for 14-19 year olds opening in Aycliffe Business Park in September 2016. This is an exciting opportunity for talented and motivated young people who are interested in high tech careers.

Every year the UK produces fewer engineers than it needs and employers, both locally and nationally, have opportunities for highly skilled young people. The University of Sunderland, Hitachi Rail Europe and Gestamp Tallent have joined together to found the school and to provide a fast track to a wide variety of rewarding professions.

We are a school, with a strong focus.

Our students will study academic subjects; a good range of GCSEs (including access to languages and humanities) and A-levels. We'll be inspected by Ofsted, employ qualified teachers and have very high expectations of our staff and students.

Additionally, we offer the opportunity for students to focus on developing their technical knowledge and skills and to work directly with employers. Our school will have fantastic facilities and state-of-the-art kit and students will have contact with top professionals and teachers with strong industry experience. We're forging close links with a wide range of employers and students will visit companies, take part in projects, go on placements and undertake design and manufacturing challenges.

We're a small school so we'll know our students well. Small class sizes mean that we're more focused on a student's individual needs and can provide in-depth support. Our curriculum is divided into pathways to ensure that all our students have a clear route to learn and thrive. These will open up a very wide range of career opportunities when they leave the UTC – university, apprenticeships, further study or direct employment.

There will be plenty of opportunities for you to meet us over the next year at our parent and student events and road shows. Please visit our website for details of our events. My aim is to meet every family personally who is interested so that I can understand your needs, explore if the UTC might be the right option for you and answer any questions. So please get in touch with me if you would like to find out more.

I look forward to meeting you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Dower'.

Tom Dower, Principal
UTC South Durham
tom.dower@utcsouthdurham.org



**University
Technical
Colleges®**

ABOUT US

UTC South Durham opens in September 2016 and will be the first University Technical College in the North East. UTCs are state-funded technical schools that give students the skills they need to innovate and invent.

Studying at a UTC provides young people with the opportunity to gain both an academic and technical education in an exciting and inspiring learning environment. UTC students work closely with employers to enable them to be qualified to work in sectors that are growing and looking for skilled staff. UTCs are smaller than traditional secondary schools and charge no fees. Students join either in Year 10 or Year 12.

At UTC South Durham, we'll specialise in advanced manufacturing and engineering, sectors that are vital to the future of the region offering opportunities for highly skilled young people. We'll provide an outstanding education for 14-19 year olds and an excellent preparation for entry into employment in these sectors, either directly or via higher education.





LOCATION AND FACILITIES

UTC South Durham will be built on Aycliffe Business Park, a business area where over 10,000 people travel to work every day.

The location deliberately reflects our specialism and places us next to some of the most advanced manufacturing and engineering facilities in the country, enabling students to access fantastic real-world work experiences on our doorstep.

The design of our exciting new building follows our focus with a triple-height specialist engineering block housing state-of-the-art kit. Students have access to science labs, classrooms, IT suite, gym and sixth form area. Our café will serve a range of appetising and nutritious, hot and cold food and drinks.

Building work begins in summer 2015 on Long Tens Way, Aycliffe Business Park, close to Hitachi Rail Europe's new plant.

We're committed to subsidising a number of existing and new public transport routes and are in discussion with public transport providers. Our website will outline further details about this as arrangements are confirmed.

WHY CHOOSE THE UTC?

We're a school and just like other schools we'll be inspected by Ofsted, employ qualified teachers and offer GCSEs and A-levels. Additionally, we offer the opportunity for students to focus on developing their technical knowledge and skills and to work directly with employers. You'll have contact with top professionals who operate at the forefront of technology and teachers with strong industrial experience.

FAST TRACK TO EXCITING CAREERS

Our three founding members, the University of Sunderland, Hitachi Rail Europe and Gestamp Tallent, are offering fast track routes to students who are successful at the UTC. This includes enhanced offers for UTC students who go on to study at the University, guaranteed interviews with Hitachi Rail Europe and Gestamp Tallent if suitable positions are available and apprenticeship places for Gestamp Tallent exclusively for UTC students. A recent survey of UTCs showed that 70% of UTC students felt that their prospects were better than if they stayed in a mainstream school.

STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

We're investing in a purpose-built high tech building with state-of-the-art kit. This means that you'll experience the latest industry-standard facilities and technology to support your learning. You'll gain relevant, up-to-date skills which mirror practice in the workplace.

INDUSTRY LINKS

We're forging close links not only with Hitachi Rail Europe and Gestamp Tallent but with a wide range of other employers ranging from small, local enterprises to multi-national corporations. You'll visit employers, take part in projects and undertake placements. Employers will get to know you and you'll find out what it's like to work with them.

A DIFFERENT ROUTINE

Small class sizes of around 20 students at the UTC will mean that we can be more focused on your individual needs and we can provide a flexible learning environment. The UTC day is longer than most schools. This means that you'll get used to working life and you'll be able to study independently whilst at the UTC and not take homework home.

THE PERSONAL TOUCH

We're a small school so we'll know our students well. Our Principal plans to meet all students' families himself so that he can get to know you and understand your needs. With our strong focus on preparing young people for their future, careers guidance will be central to your development. Whether you arrive with a specific job in mind or prefer to keep your options open, we'll help you select the right learning options, provide support and mentoring and review your progress regularly.

IS THE UTC RIGHT FOR YOU?

In addition to core academic knowledge and qualifications, you'll develop technical and workplace skills that will fast-track you to a wide range of exciting careers.

We offer a grown-up place to learn, bridging the gap between school and the workplace. You'll be ready and motivated for the challenge of work and understand the wide range of careers open to you.

Small class sizes (average 20 students) will allow flexibility in how you learn and a more focused attention on your individual needs.

The UTC day is longer than most schools, reflecting the business world we're preparing students for. This has two major advantages: it allows you to spend time in industry to experience the real working world; we'll also build independent study time into the day so that you'll learn personal responsibility and won't take homework home.



IT'S IDEAL IF YOU:

- Are excited by the high tech world of advanced manufacturing and engineering
- Are seeking substantial experience of real work
- Prefer hands-on practical learning linked to the working world
- Want to be surrounded by students, teachers and professionals who share your enthusiasm
- Want to take the first step into the industry right now
- Want to be treated like a young adult
- Would like to focus on technical subjects

You'll undertake the Duke of York Technical Award. Available only to UTCs, this is an acknowledgement of academic achievement and industrial experience at bronze, silver and gold levels.

FAST TRACK TO OUTSTANDING CAREERS

Our business partners need skilled young people and have agreed to provide placement opportunities and training.

A wide range of businesses will be actively involved in project activities and providing placements. They will build mentoring relationships with students and support them in taking the first steps in their careers. They are doing this because they want to employ young people from the UTC.

The University of Sunderland, Hitachi Rail Europe and Gestamp Tallent are committed to offering fast track routes to students who are successful at the UTC:

- Enhanced offer for courses at the University of Sunderland (reduced entry requirements)

- Guaranteed interview with Hitachi Rail Europe, if suitable positions are available

- Guaranteed interview with Gestamp Tallent, if suitable positions are available

- Apprenticeship places with Gestamp Tallent (places exclusively for UTC students)

Founding Members
of UTC South Durham



HITACHI
Inspire the Next



UNIVERSITY OF SUNDERLAND

The University of Sunderland is one of a new generation of civic universities, innovative, accessible and outward looking, with global influence and remarkable local impact. Excellent teaching, internationally recognised research and an extensive business engagement portfolio all contribute to the University's success.

"We want to create a new school that is of benefit both to the students and the wider community. We want the experience young people have to be life-changing, giving them the chance to learn the skills needed and attain the qualifications required to move into industries where there are jobs. We're particularly keen to see more young women in engineering and part of the UTC's role will be to expand the horizons of its students and open them up to the many opportunities for fulfilling careers that exist here in the North East."

PROFESSOR GARY HOLMES,
DEAN AND PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR,
UNIVERSITY OF SUNDERLAND,
UTC SOUTH DURHAM CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

HITACHI RAIL EUROPE

Hitachi Rail Europe Ltd is one of the most significant inward investors in County Durham. The company is a total railway system supplier offering rolling stock, traction equipment, signalling, traffic management systems, and maintenance depots. Hitachi draws on many years of experience as a leading supplier of metro, commuter and high-speed trains such as the Shinkansen (bullet train) for the Japanese and international markets.

"Hitachi Rail Europe will help establish UTC South Durham, along with the other co-sponsors Gestamp Tallent and the University of Sunderland, to ensure the students receive the very best education needed to help them into employment or further education. Our vision is that these young people will become the future engineers, technicians and managers at our Hitachi Rail Europe plant in Newton Aycliffe."

DARREN CUMNER,
MANUFACTURING PLANT MANAGER,
HITACHI RAIL EUROPE LTD,
UTC SOUTH DURHAM TRUSTEE

GESTAMP TALLENT

Gestamp Tallent Ltd is part of Gestamp Automocion, an international group dedicated to the design, development and manufacture of metal components and structural systems for the automotive industry. Today, Gestamp Automocion is present in 22 countries, has 95 production centres across the world and employs over 25,000 people.

In line with the demands of global customers for a global supply network, Gestamp is a truly international business, but the British operation has remained as robust as ever. As one of five plants within the UK, the Newton Aycliffe plant is one of the region's largest employers with a workforce of over 1,400 people.

"In Gestamp we rely heavily on people and it's crucial they have the right skills. Our plant in Aycliffe is no exception. The UTC will give future generations the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the career options available within our industry, as well as giving them the opportunity to learn key skills from an early age. There are large skills deficiencies within engineering and manufacturing across the UK so having the UTC here in Aycliffe is the ideal platform to address this."

PETER GALLONE, PLANT DIRECTOR,
GESTAMP TALLENT LTD

CAREERS

EXCITING CAREERS IN ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND ENGINEERING

Think 'high tech' when you hear 'advanced manufacturing', a field that makes use of cutting edge materials and innovative technologies to improve products and processes. Engineers are problem solvers and combine science and maths to find solutions. Many everyday items like kettles and toasters as well as high tech items such as mobile phones, cars, trains and space craft are designed and made by engineers. Where would we be without engineers?

Working in advanced manufacturing and engineering is all about making things better, faster, greener and safer. You'll find there are many exciting professions where you can get involved with new technologies, processes and materials in a variety of locations including offices, laboratories and outdoors on large sites.

If you enjoy exploring and piecing things together to find an answer and like using your imagination to make and build things then a career in advanced manufacturing or engineering could be a good fit for you.

HIGH SALARIES FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED ENGINEERS

The UK excels in high tech industries but we need engineers to make sure the UK stays ahead of our competitors.

UK engineering companies employ 5.4 million workers which is a fifth of all people employed in UK enterprises.

Every year, the UK produces fewer engineers than it needs. This shortage means higher than average starting salaries for highly skilled engineers. Graduates in engineering and technology have the second highest starting salary at £26,536, in comparison to the national starting salary of £21,725. Only medicine and dentistry has a higher starting salary. With the UK average salary of all in employment being £27,174, our graduates in engineering and technology start with a salary that is almost the same as the UK national average salary.

YOUNG WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

Women are underrepresented in engineering making up only 7% of the professional engineering workforce, yet women represent 42% of the UK's overall workforce. The UK has the lowest proportion of female engineering professionals in Europe.

Local employers in the engineering sector want to see young talent succeed in the workplace. In particular, they want to see young women in engineering, in well paid roles, with the skills to support the growth of their companies and to create a balanced workforce based on age and gender.

At the UTC, we believe that our specialism of advanced manufacturing and engineering provides a good route for a variety of rewarding career options for **both** young men and women. There's a misconception that engineering is oily, greasy work, but in fact it's an immensely high tech career using sophisticated electronics and mechanics. It's a career that's about communication, creative thinking and problem solving as well as project management and marketing. The Women in Science and Engineering Campaign has recognised the work that UTCs are doing to recruit more women into science and engineering.





Engineering and technology graduates
have the second highest average salary

£26,536

which is £4,811

more than the average salary of
all graduates which is

£21,725

Women
make
up just 7%

of the professional engineering
workforce, yet women represent

42% of the UK's
overall
workforce

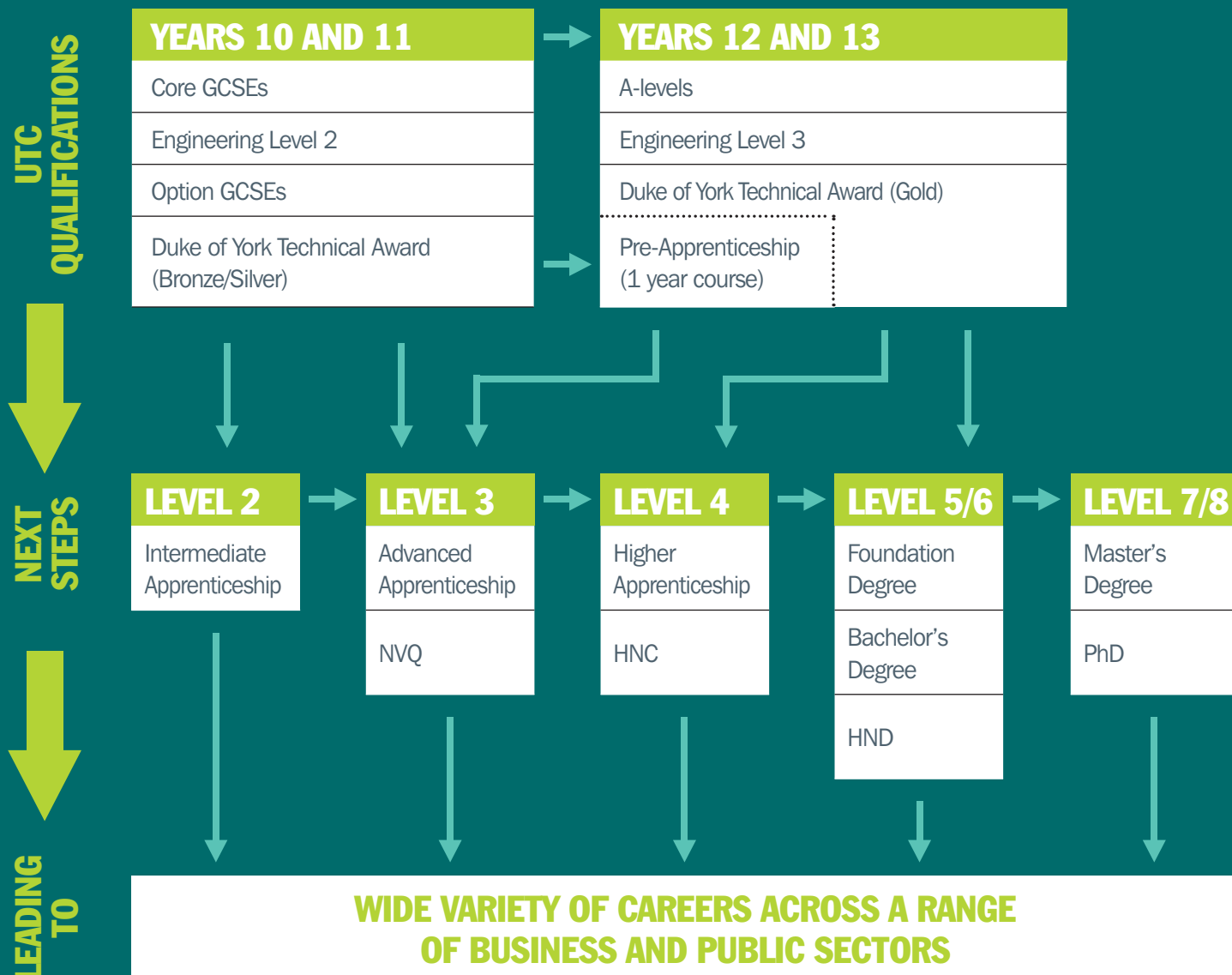
Information sourced from:

Engineering UK 2015, The State of Engineering,
www.engineeringuk.com

Women in engineering, Fixing the Talent Pipeline,
www.ippr.org

UTC PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

Students join us either in Year 10 or Year 12. Our curriculum is divided into pathways to ensure that whatever their starting points, all of our students have a clear route to learn and thrive. These will open up a very wide range of opportunities and our students will be guided and supported in making the right choice for their future.



YEARS 10 AND 11

At Key Stage 4, all students follow a core curriculum of English, Maths, Science, Engineering and Physical Education. Option subjects include Humanities and a language, meeting the government's EBacc requirement.

Our focus is delivered through high quality Engineering courses and enhanced by other option subjects such as Computer Science, Design and Technology and Business.

Our enrichment and guidance programmes support the academic curriculum. Themed projects bring the curriculum to life and ensure that students understand how all subjects are relevant to their future. Placements in businesses will develop confidence and the workplace skills which employers say are lacking in school leavers.

We'll meet all families before the start of the school year and gather information from previous schools so that we guide students to the right combination of subjects for them.

YEARS 10 AND 11 CURRICULUM

CORE SUBJECTS

GCSEs

- English
- Maths
- Science (Physics, Chemistry or dual)
- Physical Education

ENGINEERING

Double Level 2 Course

- BTEC Engineering **or**
- Cambridge National

OPTION SUBJECTS

Examples include

- Geography/History
- Languages
- Design and Technology
- Computer Science
- Business
- Electronics
- Graphics

BUSINESS FOCUS

- Range of visits
- Placements
- Industrial projects
- Duke of York Technical Award
- Workplace skills development

SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

Personal, social, health and economic education, Religious Studies, fundamental British values, study support, special educational needs support, careers guidance and interview and application support.

ENRICHMENT

Challenge competitions (eg GreenPower, Bloodhound, Royal Navy), Coding Club, sports teams and leadership, outdoor activities, literacy, numeracy and ICT.

YEARS 12 AND 13

YEARS 12 AND 13 CURRICULUM

Post-16 students follow one of three pathways, all involving a strong core of academic and technical subjects, project work and placements with businesses. These can lead to university, apprenticeships, further study or direct employment. Project work and placements will develop employability skills and confidence in real-world work situations.

Students will develop independent study skills and teamwork through flexible study time, challenge competitions and projects.

We'll meet all families before the start of the school year and gather information from previous schools so that we guide students to the right combination of subjects for them.

PATHWAY 1

Academic Focus

- A-levels (Maths, Physics, Option)
- Engineering (BTEC Level 3 **or** Cambridge Technicals)
- Duke of York Technical Award Gold

PATHWAY 2

Vocational Focus

- Core Maths (Level 3)
- Option A-levels
- Engineering (BTEC Level 3 **or** Cambridge Technicals)
- Duke of York Technical Award Silver/Gold

PATHWAY 3

1 Year Pre-Apprenticeship

- Resits of English/Maths
- Engineering Level 2/Performing Engineering Operations
- Additional GCSEs
- Practical Qualifications
- Duke of York Technical Award Bronze/Silver

BUSINESS FOCUS

Range of visits, placements, industrial projects and workplace skills development.

ENRICHMENT

Challenge competitions (eg GreenPower, Bloodhound, Royal Navy), Coding Club, sports teams and leadership, outdoor activities, literacy, numeracy and ICT.

Normal Entry Requirements

5 A*-C with **B+** grade in chosen subjects

5 A*-C with **C+** grade in chosen subjects

5 A*-E

Likely Progression

University degree course or Higher Apprenticeship

Foundation degree or Advanced Apprenticeship

Intermediate Apprenticeship or College course

PROJECTS AND PLACEMENTS

A wide range of businesses are keen to support our students because they know they are developing their future employees. We'll ensure that our students can experience a broad selection of industrial sectors and companies from small, local enterprises up to multi-national corporations. This will support students in making career decisions which are right for them.

Links with businesses will include:

- A range of **visits** to companies to see engineering and advanced manufacturing in operation
- Business-led **projects** in the UTC built into the structure of lessons, following specific themes and reaching across a range of subjects, making them relevant to the real world
- Extra-curricular **challenges** which might be designed by us or be part of national competitions such as F1 in Schools, GreenPower, Landrover 4x4 challenges, Duke of York Technical Awards
- Meaningful **placements** in order to spend more time with a business and study in detail how it operates, whilst building confidence in the workplace
- In addition, teachers will build links to employees of our partner businesses, working on areas of the curriculum which would benefit from external expertise. This may lead to employees becoming involved with teaching at the UTC.

Students will understand the skills needed to be successful at work and will receive feedback from employers so that they understand their strengths and know what they need to improve.

Businesses will help young people get started in their career by building a relationship with them as an individual. This may take the form of advice, mentoring or sponsorship.



SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

We know that young people need support and guidance as they grow into young adults. Our meetings with families before students start with us will set the tone; we're a small school so we'll know our students well and treat them as individuals.

Security, safeguarding and child protection will be our primary concern with clear systems and high quality education for students and staff. We'll work closely with families and Durham County Council to ensure that students feel safe and well supported.

Our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator supports students' additional learning needs, through 1:1 and group work on academic support, social development and confidence building.

Each year group will be organised into Companies which are the focal point for projects and competitions and provide pastoral and academic support. Our small class sizes will ensure that students are given in-depth attention by teachers.

Personal, social, health and economic education, Religious Studies and fundamental British values will be delivered through assemblies, small group sessions and visiting speakers.

With our strong emphasis on preparing young people for their future, careers guidance will be central to their development. Our focus on employability skills, as well as academic success, will mean that students develop the skills they need to thrive when they graduate from the UTC.

The support of parents and carers is a very important element of their children's success and we'll work closely with them to understand and support every student. We'll ensure that parents and carers can contact us easily and we'll respond quickly.





A DAY IN THE LIFE...

We expect a lot from our students. A positive and hardworking attitude is essential to take advantage of this fantastic education route. We know that our students will rise to the challenge.

THE WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES TYPICAL AT THE UTC WILL INCLUDE:

- Class work and learning theory
- Community work
- Computer Aided Design
- Meeting business mentors
- Practice interviews
- Practising exam papers
- Preparing a presentation in the boardroom
- Research into engineering and manufacturing technologies
- Science experiments and practical engineering
- Self-directed study to finish assignments (instead of homework)
- Sketching and idea generation
- Team sports and fitness activities
- Teamwork on competitions
- Visiting factories and manufacturing workshops
- Working on design projects

UNIFORM AND DRESS CODE

Our school uniform and dress code mirror the professional working environment and we expect our students to adopt a professional manner and appearance. In Years 10 and 11 students wear a business-style uniform. Post-16 students wear business-style clothing. All will wear appropriate protective clothing in practical lessons and workshops.

As it's our first year, we'll provide one set of clothing items marked with * **free of charge** for each student. All other items may be purchased from high street stores.



YEARS 10 AND 11 UNIFORM

CLASSROOM

- Dark grey suit*
- White shirt
- School tie*
- Lapel pin*
- Black socks, black/neutral tights
- Black shoes

OUTERWEAR

- Black showerproof coat
- Dark scarf
- Dark gloves

SPORTSWEAR

- Polo shirt*
- Black shorts/skort
- White socks
- Long sports socks*
- Black tracksuit trousers
- Hooded top*
- Football/hockey boots
- Trainers
- Black swimming trunks/costume/hat

WORKWEAR

- Dust coat*
- Safety boots*

YEARS 12 AND 13 DRESS CODE

CLASSROOM

- Business separates or suit in dark colour
- Plain, light coloured shirt
- Business-style tie
- Lapel pin*
- Dark socks, dark/neutral tights
- Dark shoes

OUTERWEAR

- Business-style dark showerproof coat
- Dark scarf
- Dark gloves

WORKWEAR

- Dust coat*
- Safety boots*

HOW TO APPLY

For students who join us in Year 10, there are no academic entry requirements. Anyone who applies can join us providing we have a space. For joining in Year 12, there are academic entry requirements for each pathway selected. We expect our students to be very motivated and determined to set themselves up for their future.

For the academic year 2016/17 we'll manage admissions for both Years 10 and 12 and application is direct to us. Application for entry in September 2016 for both Year groups opens on **1 September 2015** with two closing dates.

The main closing date, for applicants who wish to apply early to secure a place, is **1 December 2015**. There will be a follow up closing date of **1 March 2016** for parents and students who prefer to take longer to consider their application.

Details of our admissions policy and the application forms are available on our website. You can complete the application form online or download it and either email or post your form to us.



KEY DATES

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Application for entry in
September 2016 opens
1 September 2015

Application closing dates
1 December 2015
1 March 2016

PARENT AND STUDENT EVENTS

We'll be holding a number of parent and student events where you can come and find out more about us.

At these events, our Principal, founding members and employer partners will be available to answer any questions you may have. Please visit our website to see information about our events.

www.utcsouthdurham.org





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who will teach in the UTC?

All UTC staff will be suitably experienced and qualified in relevant subjects. The vast majority will be fully qualified teachers, while some industry experts may work with us on specific technical topics.

Is the UTC subject to Ofsted inspection and performance tables?

The UTC, like all schools, will be inspected by Ofsted and appear in performance tables.

How many students will there be at the UTC?

In our first year of opening there will be a maximum of 240 students distributed across Years 10 and 12. When we are fully operational in 2018/19 there will be a maximum of 600 students distributed across all four Year groups.

Will there be a uniform?

Years 10 and 11 students wear a business-style uniform. Post-16 students wear business-style clothing. All will wear appropriate protective clothing in practical lessons and workshops. As it's our first year, we'll provide one set of key clothing items free of charge for each student. All other items may be purchased from high street stores.

Isn't 14 too young to specialise in a career-focused education?

All students across the country choose GCSE options at 14; this is a natural point for them to be considering their future direction.

Our students receive a broad education including English, Maths and Science combined with practical and technical qualifications which are recognised by employers and universities. They may study the EBacc if they wish. Students will also have the opportunity to develop business, technology, enterprise, financial and management skills. Our students will be well prepared for a wide range of careers whichever route they decide to take when they leave the UTC – university, apprenticeships, further study or direct employment.

What will be a typical class size at the UTC?

The typical class size within the UTC will be 20-25 for theory and practical sessions, falling to 12-18 for vocational sessions.

What transport will be provided?

We're committed to subsidising a number of existing and new public transport routes and are in discussion with public transport providers. Our website will outline further details about this as arrangements are confirmed.

Will there be Physical Education lessons?

Yes, we have a Multi-Use Games Area and Hall on the UTC site. We may also partner with local schools for provision of PE. PE lessons will be compulsory for Years 10 and 11 students.

Will free school meals be available?

For all eligible students free school meals will be provided.

Who will run the UTC?

UTC South Durham is incorporated as a company under the name The Durham UTC Ltd. UTC South Durham is the name of the school to be set up under this company structure as an Academy Trust. The Academy Trust will become a charity when we open. It is controlled by a Governing Body which includes representatives from the founding members (University of Sunderland, Hitachi Rail Europe Ltd and Gestamp Tallent Ltd) as well as the Principal. The Governors have the strategic role of running the Academy Trust, acting as custodians of the ethos and values, establishing targets and ensuring that it is operated in a sound and business-like manner.

Do students have to sit an entrance exam or pay any fees?

For students who join us in Year 10, there are no academic entry requirements. Anyone who applies can join us providing we have a space. For joining in Year 12, there are academic entry requirements for each pathway selected. We are a state-funded school and there are no fees.

After we have submitted our application, what happens next?

Decisions on all applications will be notified to applicants within two weeks ie by 14 December 2015 for the first closing date and by 14 March 2016 for the second closing date. You will then be asked to confirm your acceptance of a place with us.

If my child was unsuccessful in securing a place, will there be a waiting list?

If we receive more eligible applications than there are places available, we will maintain a waiting list until the end of the first UTC term after the start of the school year. It will be open for any parent to ask for their child's name to be placed on the waiting list.



LEARN DESIGN MAKE YOUR FUTURE

Founding Members of UTC South Durham



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