



2017/2018

**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 which opened on Aycliffe Business Park in September 2016. Our focus is to help young people get ready for the world of work and find meaningful 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 create the UTC and to provide a fast track to a wide variety of rewarding professions.

We are a school, with a strong focus. There are three clear strands to our students' experience:

- Academic subjects – you will study GCSEs, A-levels or nationally recognised equivalent qualifications
- Technical education – all students will study engineering, have a choice of other technical subjects and use state-of-the-art equipment
- Workplace learning – all students will undertake visits and placements in companies as well as projects within the UTC. We will aim to give you a wide experience initially and then to help you focus in on the type of work you'd like to do.

A large number of companies from across a wide range of sectors are supporting us and will give our students an excellent experience in order to build their skills and confidence.

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. We will meet every family individually so that we 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 us if you would like to find out more.

I look forward to meeting you.

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

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



University
Technical
Colleges®

ABOUT US

UTC South Durham opened in September 2016 and is 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 specialise in advanced manufacturing and engineering, sectors that are vital to the future of the region offering opportunities for highly skilled young people. Our vision is to inspire young people to become future engineers, technologists and scientists. We 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 is situated on Aycliffe Business Park, a thriving place 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 will use our science labs, design studio, CAD suite, workshops and resource centre. Our café serves a range of appetising and nutritious, hot and cold food and drinks throughout the day.

Students are coming to us from a wide geographical area, using public buses and trains, car, bike, scooter and our own minibuses. Each individual student's situation will be different so if you are considering joining us and would like to discuss how to get to the UTC, then please contact us.

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. 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've invested 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 have 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 at the UTC 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 know our students well. Our leadership team meets all students and their families individually so that we 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've also built 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 manufacturing, engineering and science
- Are seeking substantial experience of real work to build your skills and work out what you want to do
- 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 are actively involved in project activities and providing visits and 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.

Most importantly, spending time with a wide range of businesses will allow our students to explore different career routes. How can a young person possibly know what they want to do unless they have experienced a range of opportunities themselves? Our students will leave us understanding their own skills and interests and the options open to them. We expect our employer partners to look to the UTC first for their young employees.

Founding Members of UTC South Durham



lifechanging



**University of
Sunderland**

EMPLOYER PARTNERS

We are working with a wide range of businesses to give our students a fantastic insight into future careers. Here are a few examples:



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 STEM careers 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 5.5 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 £27,079, in comparison to the national starting salary of £22,205. Only medicine and dentistry has a higher starting salary. With the UK average salary of all in employment being £27,271, 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 under represented in STEM jobs, making up only one sixth of the engineering company workforce in the UK and only 7% of professional engineers. The UK has the lowest proportion of female engineering professionals in Europe. But this is changing.

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.

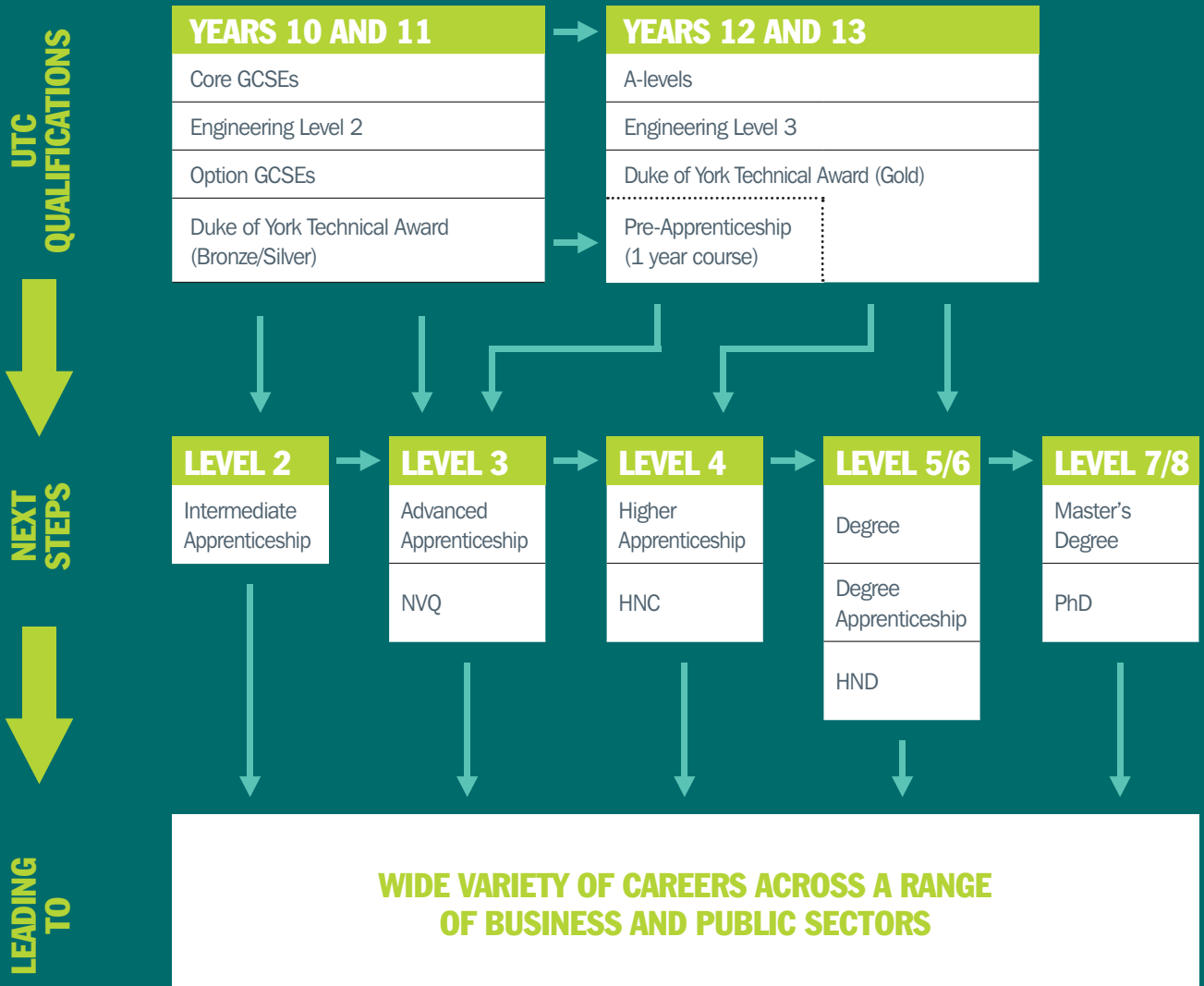
At the UTC, we believe that our specialism of advanced manufacturing and engineering provides a good route for a variety of rewarding career options for both young men and women. There's a misconception that engineering is oily, greasy work, but in fact it's an immensely high tech sector using sophisticated 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 this important area.

Image: courtesy of UTC Reading



UTC PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

Students join us either in Year 10 or Year 12. We have clear 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 and Engineering.

Our focus is delivered through high quality Engineering courses and enhanced by other option subjects such as Geography, Computer Science, Product Design 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. Visits and placements in businesses develop confidence and the workplace skills which employers say are lacking in school leavers.

We 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, Biology or combined)

ENGINEERING

Double Level 2 Course

- Cambridge Nationals in Manufacturing, Design or Systems and Control

OPTION SUBJECTS

Include

- Geography
- Computer Science
- Product Design
- Business

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), robotics, STEM clubs, fitness, sports teams and leadership, Duke of Edinburgh, literacy, numeracy and ICT.

YEARS 12 AND 13

Post-16 students follow one of two pathways, both involving a strong core of academic and technical subjects. These can lead to university, apprenticeships, further study or direct employment.

Project work and placements develop employability skills and confidence in real-world work situations.

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

We 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 12 AND 13 CURRICULUM

LEVEL 3 PATHWAY

Academic and Vocational Focus

- L3 Maths (A-levels or Core)
- Technical Level Engineering
- Option A-levels (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computer Science, Product Design)
- Vocational Options (Business, IT, Applied Science)
- Duke of York Technical Award Gold/Silver

Normal Entry Requirements

5 A*-C

Likely Progression

- University degree course or Apprenticeship (Advanced or Higher)
- Degree Apprenticeship

LEVEL 2 PATHWAY

1 Year

Pre-Apprenticeship

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

Normal Entry Requirements

5 A*-E

Likely Progression

- Intermediate Apprenticeship or College course

BUSINESS FOCUS

- Range of visits
- Placements
- Industrial projects
- Workplace skills development

ENRICHMENT

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) or European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL), Challenge competitions (eg GreenPower, Bloodhound), robotics, STEM clubs, sports teams and leadership and Duke of Edinburgh.

PROJECTS AND PLACEMENTS

A wide range of businesses are keen to support our students because they know they are developing their future employees. Our students 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 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, our teachers 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.

Our employer partners have defined the skills they want to see in their young employees. Students will develop 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.



EXAMPLE PROJECT

Challenge: Design the interior of the new Hitachi train.



CREATE THE TEAM

Site visit

Mentor
from Hitachi

UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM

CONCEPT DESIGN

Product Design

DETAILED DESIGN

Business

Engineering
Maths
Physics
Chemistry

BUSINESS ISSUES

MODEL/PROTOTYPE

English

Engineering

REPORT AND PRESENT

REVIEW SKILLS AND TEAMWORK





WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE?

We expect a lot from our students and your days will be full. A positive and hardworking attitude is essential to take advantage of all of the activities available. It will feel more like work than school, with a long day, business dress, lack of bells and being on first name terms with staff.

You'll have a timetable which will split into sessions to cover the subjects you'll be studying. All the staff will be working on making topics interesting and relevant to the world of work. You'll do plenty of practical work to bring the theory to life and develop the skills that employers are looking for.

One day a week will be your project day – you'll get out into companies on visits and placements as well as working in teams to solve challenging real-world problems. You can join a range of clubs focused on aspects of STEM education which interest you and can be involved in setting up new groups to develop new skills.

All students will have independent study time, an opportunity to work with your project team, continue with some designing or research topics which interest you. You'll be able to book out a laptop and find somewhere to develop your Computer Aided Design or coding skills. What an opportunity to boost your confidence and get ready for a fantastic career!

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 know our students well and treat them as individuals.

Security, safeguarding and child protection is our primary concern with clear systems and high quality education for students and staff. We 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.

Our small class sizes ensure that students are given in-depth attention by teachers.

A wider programme of moral, cultural, health and social education will help our students develop as thoughtful young citizens.

With our strong emphasis on preparing young people for their future, careers guidance is central to their development. Our focus on employability skills, as well as academic success, 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 work closely with them to understand and support every student. Parents and carers can contact us easily.



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 of their choice. All will wear appropriate protective clothing in practical lessons and workshops and when visiting companies.

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

WORKWEAR

- Polo shirt*
- 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

- Polo shirt*
- 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 course selected. We expect our students to be very motivated and determined to set themselves up for their future.

For the academic year 2017/18 admissions for both Years 10 and 12 is direct to us. Application for entry in September 2017 for both Year groups opens on **1 September 2016** with two closing dates.

The main closing date, for applicants who wish to apply early to secure a place, is **1 December 2016**. There will be a follow up closing date of **1 March 2017** 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

Application for entry in
September 2017 opens
1 September 2016

Application closing dates
1 December 2016
1 March 2017

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, staff, 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 teaches in the UTC?

All UTC staff are suitably experienced and qualified in relevant subjects. The vast majority are fully qualified teachers, while some industry experts 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. The UTC's first Ofsted inspection takes place in 2018/19.

How many students are there at the UTC?

In our first year of opening (2016/17) there will be a maximum of 240 students distributed across Years 10 and 12. For entry in 2017/18 we will admit up to 300 students 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.

Is there 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. 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. 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 is a typical class size at the UTC?

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

What transport is provided?

Most students make their own way to the UTC on public transport or by car or bike. We recognise that public transport is difficult from many locations and we are committed to help you reach us. We use our minibuses to pick up from some hard to reach areas. Each individual student's situation will be different so if you

are considering joining us and would like to discuss how to get to the UTC then please contact us. We subsidise transport costs for students eligible for free school meals. Please visit our website to see information about travelling to the UTC.

Are there Physical Education lessons?

Yes, Year 10 students have sport and fitness sessions and all students have access to our facilities. We have a Multi-Use Games Area and Hall on the UTC site. We also have access to local sports facilities.

Are free school meals available?

For all eligible students free school meals are provided.

Who runs 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 that operates under this company structure as an Academy Trust. The Academy Trust also has charitable status. 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 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 course 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 of our deadlines ie by 14 December 2016 for the first closing date and by 14 March 2017 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, is there a waiting list?

If we receive more eligible applications than there are places available, we maintain a waiting list until the end of the first UTC term after the start of the school year. It is 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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