

Date: 4th April 2017

**Re: Ofsted Announcement – Parents Forum**

Dear Parents,

UTC Bolton was inspected by Ofsted 28<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017. We have now received their report and a summary is attached to this letter. A printed copy of the full report is available from the school reception or you can download an electronic version from our website ([www.utcbolton.org](http://www.utcbolton.org)).

Whilst the report highlighted recent improvements in the quality of teaching and student levels of achievement, Ofsted’s judgement is that our school is currently ‘inadequate’ and recommended that we make rapid improvements in the following areas:

1. Improve the capacity of the governing body
2. Continue to improve the quality of teaching
3. Improve careers information advice and guidance
4. Improve safeguarding procedures

It is clear from the report that there is a lot to do and I want to reassure parents that we have already started work on making these improvements. For example, all Year 10 and 12 students will undertake a work experience placement next term, with Year 11 and 13 to follow once the exam season has concluded.

I am delighted that Ofsted recognised that students are making better progress this year and identified strengths in the teaching of English, science and computer science.

The wellbeing and safety of our students is our highest priority. We have taken swift action to address the procedural safeguarding concerns highlighted in the Ofsted report. We engaged external support to work with our existing team and the correct procedures are now in place and operating smoothly.

Moving forward we have the support of the University of Bolton, Regional Schools Commissioner, the Department for Education and Baker Dearing Educational Trust to make the necessary changes to meet the required standards. We are confident that at the next review point, the changes that are underway will have had a considerable impact.

UTC Bolton and its partners stand firmly behind our original vision to provide outstanding technical and academic secondary education for health sciences and engineering in the local area. I am committed to working with governors, staff, students and parents to ensure that the UTC Bolton delivers the first class education that it has been designed for.

I will be holding a series of meetings for parents on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017. These meetings are an opportunity to share progress made to date and for parents to ask questions. Please let us know if you will be attending a meeting by completing and returning the reply slip below to reception by Wednesday 5th April 2017.

Kind Regards,



**Liam McDaid**  
Acting Principal and Interim CEO

**Parents’ Forum – Reply Slip**

Name of Student(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which Parent’s Forum you would like to attend:

Year	Date	Time	Please tick
Year 11	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	5pm – 6pm	
Year 13	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	6pm – 7pm	
Year 10	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	5pm – 6pm	
Year 12	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	6pm – 7pm	

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to UTC Bolton Reception by Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017

## Bolton UTC

Deane Road, Bolton, Greater Manchester BL3 5AG

### Inspection dates

28 February – 1 March 2017

<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>Inadequate</b>
Effectiveness of leadership and management	<b>Inadequate</b>
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment	<b>Inadequate</b>
Personal development, behaviour and welfare	<b>Inadequate</b>
Outcomes for pupils	<b>Inadequate</b>
16 to 19 study programmes	<b>Inadequate</b>
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not previously inspected

## Summary of key findings for parents and pupils

### This is an inadequate school

- Pupils who started at the college in September 2015 express considerable disappointment with the promises that the college made to them and the reality of what they received.
- Courses were set up without any regard to pupils' abilities and needs. Leaders placed many pupils on inappropriate courses.
- Over the first year and in both key stages, teaching was very weak.
- In its first year, the impact of poor teaching and inappropriate courses resulted in very low levels of achievement across the college.
- Numbers joining the college this year dropped dramatically. A large number of current Year 11 pupils say that they will look elsewhere for their sixth-form education.
- Safeguarding is ineffective.
- The relationship between leaders at the highest level in the college began to break down early last year, causing them to be distracted from their core role of college improvement.
- Staff are confused about leaders' roles and are unsure to whom they should turn for support and guidance. Teachers' morale is currently very low.
- Governors have been ineffective in quickly addressing poor leadership because they have not had the systems or the capacity to make objective analyses of the performance of important aspects of the college's work.
- There is too much reliance on a single organisation to give the college support and guidance. Consequently, the college has not embraced the culture of a university technical college (UTC). Local industry is not represented well enough on the governing body. The college's links with local industry are limited and weak. Very few pupils receive high-quality work experience.
- Insufficient time is given to some senior and middle leaders to enable them to adequately fulfil their responsibilities.

### The school has the following strengths

- The college has recently appointed teachers and leaders with the potential to accelerate improvement. Teaching and achievement have shown some improvement this year.
- Governance has recently been strengthened. The recently appointed consultant has a very accurate view of the performance of the college.