



UNIVERSITY
TECHNICAL COLLEGE BOLTON



Briefing paper

Welcoming Year 7s to UTC Bolton

What would this mean for our community?

UTC Bolton is proposing a change in admissions to allow Year 7 students to join our community from September 2020.

Current recruitment is into Year 10 and Year 12.





Background

Since the UTC opened in 2015, there is a great deal that we can be proud of.

Ofsted inspected us in 2019 and found that UTC Bolton is 'Good' in every area they judge. They commented that:

"Pupils make good progress during their time at UTC Bolton"

"Leaders have established a strong culture of safeguarding in the college."

"Pupils feel safe and well supported."

"The college's curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding of STEM subjects through GCSEs and vocational subjects."

"Pupils spoke very positively about the advice that they receive in choosing which subjects to study. Students have access to a broad programme of careers information, advice and guidance to support their next steps in education, training or employment."

"Students rightly acknowledge the harmonious surroundings."

"The Principal is well supported by his Senior Leaders and Governors. They have developed an inclusive community with a culture of high expectations that is shared by pupils and staff."

In addition, in the Summer of 2018 our students celebrated record results. Highlights included:

- Our Level 4 pass rate in GCSE English and maths is above the national average.
- The number of students achieving Level 5, or above, in GCSE English was also above national average
- BTEC 100% pass rate (98% of which achieved equivalent A* – B)
- 100% of students have secured a University, Apprenticeship place or work placement
- 86% of which achieved in "relevant" Health Sciences or Engineering





The proposal

As you may be aware, we recently consulted to changed our admissions policy, to accept Year 9 students.

During the consultation, the feedback from parents and our community was overwhelmingly positive. In fact, it became clear that there was demand for places from Year 7 onwards.

This is supported by the fact that:

The local picture is changing and there is a surge in the number of young people coming through the primary schools. Local authority need means that there will be a requirement to increase the Pupil Admission Numbers across Bolton for more school places.

We would like your views on our proposal to change the age range of the UTC and, as a result, to change the admissions arrangements in line with the Admissions Code.

Extending our offer to Year 7 students is a significant development, and your views are critical to help us shape the way forward. Our reasons for looking to do this are:

- The Department for Education (DfE) has written to all UTCs asking them to consider changing their age range to 11-19 and moving to a Year 7 intake instead of their usual Year 9/10 intake, as a way of benefiting the educational provision in their local area and better delivering their vision.
- Parents suggest that the opportunity to attend the UTC for longer would be a positive factor in consideration of school choices.

- Such a move will enable our students to start to master our area of specialism earlier. Engineering and Health Science are challenging subjects, and increasing exposure to the principles of the subject from Year 7 will allow our students to build a solid understanding of this subject before formally starting the course.
- Bolton is projected to have a significant deficit of available Secondary School places. We want to play our part in meeting this need.
- The change of status to 11-18 can be accommodated with some re-designation of existing spaces, and no new build.
- The national Progress 8 measure of student progress is designed to judge schools over a five- year period so this adjustment will help the UTC to comply.

We are proposing, therefore, to:

- Change the age range of the UTC from 14-19 to 11-19
- Introduce a Year 7 intake of 90 pupils from 2020/2021
- Remove the Year 9/10 admissions criteria from our admissions policy from 2022/23





What would the UTC be like for students in Year 7?

As a UTC it is right that our approach would be tailored to our specialism, but we would ensure that every young person followed a curriculum that was broad enough to support them to achieve their goals and ambitions – whatever they might be.

What will the curriculum look like for children starting in Year 7 (Key Stage 3)?

Our KS3 curriculum will aim to provide an engaging and holistic curriculum that is relevant to important real-world issues as well as developing our students learning skills. It would also equip all students to effectively transition to our unique pathways as they progress through the UTC.

The KS3 curriculum will be organised around a rigorous and thorough study of eight traditional subject areas. The eight subject groups will be:

- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Individuals and Societies (including economics, Psychology, Sociology, geography and history)
- Engineering, Health Science and the Arts
- Physical and Health Education (PSHE, RE, Culture and Lifeskills)
- Design
- Language Acquisition (MFL or Mandarin)

As you can see, this is a curriculum that focuses heavily on STEAM. This is an educational approach to learning that embraces Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking.

The ambition of the UTC is that students, in addition to great examination results, is that they will develop the future skills to be successful in this rapidly changing world – skills of communication, collaboration, global engagement and intercultural and digital literacy. Students will be given the opportunity to solve real problems and learn that 'life is what they make it'. Real problems will involve working alongside business and industry and global partners.

What will the school day be like?

For Years 9 and onwards, the UTC currently operates a working day. This is longer than the typical school day.

For our new Year 7, however, their school day will replicate a more standard school day. It will include five hour long lessons with form time and breaks. The day is anticipated to start at 9am and finish at 4:10 (Finish at 2.20pm on Thursday for Staff CPD)

Will there be a strong focus on pastoral care?

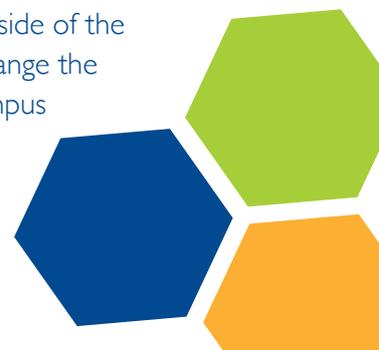
While our approach to the curriculum may be different, our view is that happy students will achieve their best personal outcomes.

There will be a strong network of personalised support available to every student, and students will follow the same behaviour codes as older students, which were praised by Ofsted.

Where will they study?

Our £10m campus contains some of the most up-to-date, cutting-edge health science, engineering, scientific and computer facilities in the country.

We have a range of workshop spaces, classrooms and labs, each purpose-built to create inspiring and engaging learning environments. While we will need to make changes to the outside of the school, for more play areas and to change the designation of several rooms, our campus already has the facilities to allow Year 7 students to excel.





How would the admissions criteria work?

UTC Bolton aspires to be the 11-19 establishment of choice for both students and employers across the region.

UTC Bolton is committed to an open, fair and transparent admissions process for our students and will act fully in accordance with the School Admissions Code the School Admissions Appeals Code and admissions law. These admissions arrangements support the wider ethos of the region.

This means that parents will apply for places through the Local Authority. For more information about our admissions policy, please visit our website.

How would the UTC ensure the Year 7 students are prepared and supported to join the UTC?

UTC Bolton operates a very successful application procedure. This includes a number of showcase events, complemented by technical specialism sessions supported by UTC staff, together with partner employers and universities.

A full programme of introductory activities is planned from September through to July for all students and parents in the year prior to entry into Year 6, when their secondary school applications will be made. This ensures that everyone is fully aware of what we provide and what they should expect regarding our educational provision.

Students and parents will be fully supported, including the opportunity to meet the Principal, learning support teams and teaching staff to ensure successful planning for inclusion and accommodation of learning needs. Our UTC has good links with the local authority Admissions and Inclusion/SEND teams and individual feeder schools to support effective transition following an application being made.

Once learners have been offered and they have accepted a place at the UTC, they will be invited to participate in a specifically tailored transition programme that will support learners in making the transition to the new ways of working that will be expected of them.

While the transition programme will help learners to understand just how different the UTC approach is, there will also be a period of induction to ensure that new entrants in Year 7 are afforded the best opportunities for success. This will involve an early assessment of their individual needs and an introduction to the team work approach that characterises all learning activity at the UTC.

The main aims of our induction process are to:

- help provide accurate pre-course advice and guidance to prospective parents, carers and students;
- provide a realistic taste of the curriculum to be studied and styles of curriculum delivery such as employer led projects;
- ensure parents, carers and students understand the demands of studying at the UTC;
- allow students the opportunity to meet other prospective students and staff prior to starting their course;
- ensure students are aware of the UTC policies and procedures;
- ensure students feel safe and understand how they should access support as required at the UTC;
- ensure all students are fully accommodated to meet their personalised learning needs.





Your Feedback

This is your opportunity to contribute your views and ensure that this new development serves the young people, parents and carers, educational community and employers of Bolton.



How to send us your comments

There are two ways for you to give us your feedback.

1. Go to our website and complete the online survey:
<https://utcbolton.org/year-7-consultation/>
2. Contact the UTC and ask for a paper copy of the form.

What will happen to your comments?

All feedback will be analysed and presented to the Department for Education. It will be used as part of the evidence taken into consideration when deciding whether to accept this proposal by the Trust.

A summary of feedback will feature on our website.

UTC Bolton will be responsible for the personal data provided to it during the consultation process.

If you have any questions about this, please contact:



	<p>UTC BOLTON - GOOD in all areas OFSTED (March, 2019)</p>	
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