

Dear Parent/Carer

ARe/JWa

27 September 2016

Firstly, I would like to express my thanks to you in supporting the fantastic start to the year at UTC Sheffield, City. The building is busy with almost 500 students now on roll. The Climate for Learning is again excellent, supported by the very mature and enthusiastic attitude of our students. Current feedback from the many students, parents, employers and community stakeholders has been extremely positive. One important aspect to support the UTC is making sure your child brings their computer or tablet to the UTC on their technical days to support the effectiveness of Project Time. Students who have genuine barriers to owning a device should contact their Learning Manager who will make sure one is available for them during these sessions. Please note that phones are not a suitable device and should be kept turned off in bags during learning time.

During the start of the new academic year we are focusing on punctuality, can I please ask you to support this by ensuring all students arrive at the UTC **by 8.25am** ready for registration. We have made allowances for those arriving on trains very close to this time by informing tutors. All other students should arrive promptly to avoid missing vital learning time. Please also avoid booking holidays during term time, our evidence shows this does have a real impact on achievement and can also clash with the many examination dates throughout the year (January to July).

### **Exam Results**

The recent examination results for Y11 students have shown strengths, particularly in STEM subjects. The attainment and progress of students at the end of Y11 was strong with (79%) of students achieving A\*-C in Mathematics and (72%) achieving 2 GCSEs at A\*-C in Science. This was supported by both technical specialism, Engineering achieving a (97%) pass rate and Creative Digital Media (100%) pass rate. English outcomes were also strong with 66% of students achieving A\*-C.

Post 16 outcomes for Y13 were also strong, particularly from students starting points. Y13 performance for technical learning subjects was better than the national average. Engineering with 97% and Creative Digital Media, with 100% pass rate. CDM were particularly strong with 88% of students achieving A\*-B equivalent. A Level performance was also strong which saw a 94% pass rate, with 24% achieving A\*-B, compared to an 11.5% ALPS target (top 25% of schools). In particular, A Level Mathematics, which is a critical A Level supporting our technical specialisms, saw a 94% pass rate, with 40% of grades at A\*-B.

### **Mock Exams**

Dates will be confirmed with your child in the coming weeks. Please help your child prepare accordingly.

### **Destinations**

The great success for the UTC is in the destinations for both Y11 and Y13 students. This is demonstrated by the excellent outcomes in all students gaining their chosen pathways to apprenticeships, work-based training, sixth form, further education or university. This clearly shows students are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage of their education, training or employment and have attained relevant qualifications. All the Y13 students who applied to university were successful in securing their place, including Russell Group destinations. In addition, students have achieved apprenticeships including Toyota, Jaguar Land Rover, The Showroom, The Workstation and AMRC. We celebrated their success

with an awards ceremony at the Cutlers' Hall in September. For our current Y11 and Y13 students, please keep **Thursday 14 September 2017** free for their celebration event.

**Showcase Events** – If you have friends or family interested in a place at UTC City, please contact us regarding Y10 applications. Our **Post 16** showcase event is:

**Wednesday 19 October 2016** – 5.30 to 7.30 pm

**Closing dates for Applications for September 2017 entry**

**Y10 – 31 October 2016**

**Y12 – 31 January 2017**

**Parents Evening: Wednesday 5 October 2016 – 4.00-7.30pm**

We would also like to take this opportunity to keep you informed of forthcoming important dates. The first being to meet your son or daughter's tutor to discuss how well students have started life at the UTC or moving into their second or third year here. The evening will allow time for tutors to pass on important information about your child and to raise your awareness of key UTC activities and processes including progress tracking, reports and parent consultation evenings. To book an appointment to see your child's tutor please use the following link <https://utcsheffield.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>. Log in using your child's name and date of birth. School photographs will also be given to you. A Parent Voice drop-in desk will be available near reception for you to complete a questionnaire. In addition, our Parent Governors will be in attendance.

### **Parent Governor Vacancy**

We have a Parent Governor Vacancy on the UTC City Governing Body. Our current Parent Governor, Mr Simon Jackson will be available in the Creative Exchange from 6.00-7.00 pm on parents evening. He would be pleased to discuss what the role involves and any questions you may have.

### **Key upcoming dates:**

**Wednesday 5 October 2016: Tutor meeting (4.00pm-7.30 pm)**

**Wednesday 12 October 2016: Careers Evening, including introduction to the UCAS Progress application process for Y11 students, all students and parents/carers welcome 5.00-7.00 pm**

**Week commencing Monday 19 October – Y11 Work Experience**

**Wednesday 19 October 2016 Post 16 Showcase (5.30-7.30 pm)**

**Friday 21 October 2016: break up for ½ term holiday**

**Monday 31 October 2016: Inset staff training day (closed to students)**

**Tuesday 1 November 2016: students return back to UTC**

**Friday 4 November 2016: Progress Tracker 1 issued**

**Wednesday 9 November 2016: Progress Tracker 1 Consultation Evening (5.30pm- 7.30pm)**

**UTC OLP**

The Olympic Legacy Park, Sheffield's second UTC opened its doors to students on Monday 12 September and has since transitioned into the new building today, Monday 26 September 2016. Students have been able to access a wider provision of subjects due to the opening of the new facility.

**Business Dress**

Please could we ask for parent/carer support in ensuring your child is appropriately dressed in business attire, including black shoes **not** trainers. This is always recognised by our employers/stakeholders as a positive reflection of UTC students.

**Car Parking**

Can I please ask that if you drop your child off at UTC Sheffield by car that you do not drop them off on the ring road. This has caused congestion around the UTC in the morning over the last few days. Please can I ask that you drop your child off on the side roads behind UTC Sheffield City Centre.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Reynolds', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Alex Reynolds**  
**Principal**