

**Children, Young People and Families, Floor 5, North Wing,
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To Parents and Carers of all Year 9 students

Dear Parent or Carer

The Government recently approved legislation that requires all Local Authorities to inform the parents and carers of Year 9 children about any educational institutions in the area that offer admission outside the normal transition points, e.g. Reception and Year 7. I am writing to you because you have a child who is due to move into Year 10 in September 2017 and to advise you of other opportunities for education starting in Year 10 that are available. There are two University Technical Colleges (UTC) in Sheffield that have atypical admission ages so they take children at a different age to a typical 11-18 secondary school.

This does not mean that you are required to move your child from their existing school if this remains the best option for them.

UTCs are set up by universities and businesses and specialise in one or two technical subjects. At GCSE they offer a similar curriculum to a typical 11-18 secondary school, including basics of English, Maths and Sciences as well as their specialist subject.

Details of the two UTCs in Sheffield are provided below along with the link to their website where you will also find information about the admission application process and the admission criteria.

All schools have a statutory duty to secure impartial careers guidance for all Year 8 to Year 13 students to inspire young people to fulfil their potential and to make them aware of all opportunities open to them. We strongly recommend that your child discuss their options with a Careers Adviser in their current school.

If you decide that you would like to apply for a place at any of these schools for your child you will need to complete an application form. Application must be made directly to the relevant UTC (see website for details).

There are two UTCs in Sheffield: City Centre, specialising in Engineering & Advanced Manufacturing and Creative Digital Media and Olympic Legacy Park specialising in Health Sciences, Sport Science and Computing.

Both UTCs are for 14-19 year-old students, your son or daughter can join in either Year 10 or Year 12. Their aim is to ensure young people achieve excellent GCSE or A level results along with high value technical qualifications delivered via employer and university contextualised challenges, that support high level technical and employability skills.

- UTC Sheffield is sponsored by Sheffield College, Sheffield Hallam University and the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce & Industry.
- Students will follow a full range of GCSEs including Mathematics, English Literature and Language, Triple/ Combined Sciences and option choices from French, Geography, Product Design, Art, PE, Psychology and Computer Science. At Post 16 students study a range of A levels and/or the Technical Baccalaureate (see website for details).
- Alongside these subjects they will study one of the five technical specialist subjects at L2 or L3.
- Students will gain the qualifications and an understanding of the skills required in preparation for starting University, an apprenticeship, further education or work based training.

- The UTCs work with both Universities in Sheffield and a range of over 50 employers including Rolls-Royce, Siemens, Tata, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, Sheffield International Venues (EIS), Sumo Digital, Warp Films, Showroom Workstation, Finger Industries, Can Studios Ltd, Sheffield Sharks, Badminton England, The Floom and Sheffield United.

UTC Sheffield will be holding open evenings on: Wednesday 29 March at UTC Sheffield City Centre and Wednesday 5 April at UTC Sheffield Olympic Legacy Park from 5.30 pm till 7.15 pm.

Further information can be found for both at <http://www.utcsheffield.org.uk/>

I am sure that staff at both UTCs would be very happy to provide you with more information or arrange a visit if you would like to.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Bigley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Bigley
Manager, Admissions & Access
Inclusion & Learning Services