



Executive Principal Parent Update

Dear Parent/Carer

As we enter 2018, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you and your families a happy and healthy New Year. Of course, this is also a time to reflect upon the achievements of the previous year and set goals for 2018; this is also true of the UTC.

Review of priority areas from 2017

Create Leadership Capacity to support rapid improvement. The Leadership Team comprises of Joanne Harper (Executive Principal), Jon Oliver (Principal), Hollie Danby (Assistant Principal) and Nick Mitchell (Director of Teaching and Learning). This team now has the necessary capacity and skills to continue with the improvement in 2017.

Improve the Quality of Teaching and Learning. All staff have completed formal Teacher Enhancement and Effectiveness training and we have also appointed a number of new experienced staff. The quality of teaching has improved but this will continue to be a key focus.

Review the curriculum making better use of industry partners to bring this aspect of our provision to life. We have already had many more industry partner experiences in the first term of 2017/2018 and many more planned for this academic year. In addition we are also planning the industry involvement for 2018/2019.

Establish a culture of Engineering Excellence. This is still a work in progress, although we have made a start on the refresh of the building, further work will take place during the Easter and summer of 2018.

Developing employability skills. All students will complete a work experience in Year 10 and Year 12. Students now also have access to GroFar an IT package for them to review their career plans and development of employability skills.

Reviews of Governance and Pupil Premium. Both reviews have taken place. There will be a further review of governance organised through Activate Learning Education Trust in the next term.

Improve Attendance. Attendance is now in line with National averages for the age groups of the students we teach. This continues to be a priority.

Priority Areas for 2018

- Maintain and further develop the key focus upon improving the quality of teaching and learning across the UTC.
- Improve behaviour for learning to ensure that students make the most of all lessons and reducing low level disruption to a rare occurrence.
- To review and enhance the students' experience of employer engagement.
- To maintain and enhance a highly focused student recruitment strategy.
- Ensure attendance remains better than National Averages for the age group across all groups of students.

Making the most of Parents' skills

I am very aware that we have a very talented group of parents who will possess many skills that could benefit the UTC. These could be:

- As a parent governor (currently no vacancies but if anyone is keen to discuss please contact me)
- To deliver a talk to students about their careers, especially if in the Engineering or IT sector
- To act as critical friends when we are considering new initiatives or reviewing current practice
- As STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) ambassadors
- To introduce the UTC to your company as potential industry partners
- And more...

If you have skills and a little time and feel you could support the UTC in any of the areas above or indeed any other areas you feel would be valuable, please do drop me an email (joanne.harper@alet.org.uk) and we can then discuss further.

Parent Survey

As we take time to review 2017 and set goals for 2018, now is a good time for us to seek the views of our key stakeholders. I would be most grateful if you could take a few moments to complete a survey which will help the UTC to improve further. In my next update I will give some feedback on the survey and what the UTC will be prioritising as a result of all stakeholder views.

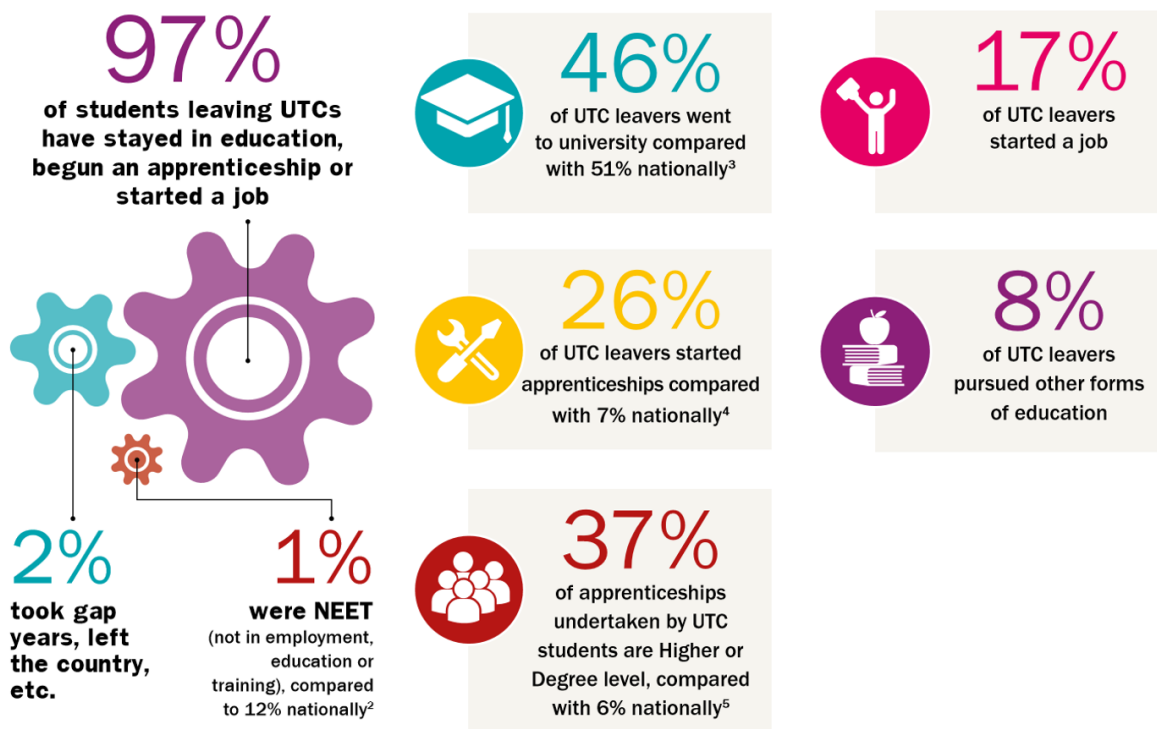
Please [Click here](#) to complete a survey.

Second Specialism

The UTC is formally launching a second specialism of Digital Technology to start teaching in September 2018 in both Year 10 and Year 12. We are currently working with our industry partners to review the curriculum to ensure that we are providing the skills that we are told are needed by employers. More details to come in the next update or via Jon Oliver's monthly parent update.

UTCs Prepare students for their futures

The 33 open UTCs across the country who had students complete their study at the end of Post 16 have compiled a set of impressive statistics regarding the students' destinations, see below:



Jon Oliver will be sending out his usual parent update containing important information to enable you to support your child as they approach coursework deadlines and examinations in the Summer Term.

Kind regards

Joanne

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