



**University
Technical
Colleges**

An initiative of and promoted by the Baker Dearing Educational Trust



Introduction from **Lord Baker**

The Baker Dearing Educational Trust promotes a new model of technical schooling.
University Technical Colleges

- are 14-19, not 11-18 schools
- are sponsored by a university or an FE college
- require the involvement of employers.

The work of technicians and other highly skilled vocationally qualified people is vital to our economy. In the 21st century we will need to train more people right up to degree standard. This will start with the high level practical and technical education of the type which University Technical Colleges provide.

This movement has the support of the Government but it will not be driven by policies and decrees. We have commitment from our universities and employers who are working in 36 locations across the country to open UTCs and in the words of Michael Gove, increase our capacity to inspire and train the next generation of engineers, technicians, craftsmen and industrial innovators.

Kenneth Baker



“ UTCs are a fantastic innovation ”

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State for Education

“ I’m absolutely clear that every child should have the option of beginning study for a craft or trade from the age of 14 but that this should be complemented by a base of core academic knowledge. And the new generation of University Technical Colleges will help secure this route. UTCs are a fantastic innovation. ”



What are UTCs?

University Technical Colleges offer 14-19 year olds the opportunity to take a highly regarded, full-time, technically-oriented course of study. They are equipped to the highest standard, sponsored by a university and offer clear progression routes into higher education or further learning in work including apprenticeships.

The students combine hand and mind to learn in a very practical way, integrating academic requirements with the technical and practical elements. The College ethos and curriculum is heavily influenced by local and national employers who also provide support and work experience for students.

University Technical Colleges specialise in subjects that require technical and modern equipment, for example, engineering, construction, and land & environmental services. Nevertheless, they all teach business skills and the use of ICT.

University Technical Colleges have about 600-800 students so that whilst each student is known individually they are able to work with students of similar interests.

Universities can contribute by:

- developing the curriculum to ensure that it reflects the most up to date methods and prepares students for higher education;
- encouraging university staff to assist in the teaching of areas in which they have particular expertise e.g. teaching mathematics for engineers;
- supporting and mentoring students particularly those who might be considering or have the ability to consider entry to higher education;
- allowing the College to use university specialist facilities to inform and inspire the students.





Involvement of employers

Employers are encouraged to become formal co-sponsors or informal partners for the University Technical College. They are central to the development of the College. Opportunities are available to:

- ensure that the choice of specialisms for the University Technical College matches the needs of the local economy;
- help the College to produce a cost effective and innovative experience for students, questioning normal education structures and practices if necessary;
- work with the other sponsors to determine the ethos of the College;
- help to construct the curriculum so that it reflects the future needs of the particular sector in which they work;
- assist in the appointment of staff with the required specialist knowledge and experience;
- support and mentor students throughout their time in the College;
- allow the College to use their specialist facilities to inform and inspire the students to pursue a career or further study in their industry;
- provide high quality work placements.

Large, medium and small private sector employers as well as large public sector organizations such as hospitals all have a valuable part to play.

Involvement of the wider education community

Many FE colleges are supporting the development of University Technical Colleges and in some cases are leading their development. FE colleges have great expertise in the teaching of technical subjects at a high level and are important contributors to the UTC movement.

The very best UTC partnerships also include the local schools who appreciate that there are some students in their schools who have a passionate interest in the specialism the UTC is offering and would benefit from choosing that pathway.

If you wish to find out more about UTCs and how you could become involved please e-mail us at director@utcolleges.org



The Baker Dearing Educational Trust

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There are many
paths to success