



University  
Technical  
Colleges

## AN INTRODUCTION FOR SPONSORS



## 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. ”



## Letter from **Lord Baker**

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.

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.

This movement has the support of Government but it will not be driven by policies and decrees. We have commitment from our universities and employers who are working in 40 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.*

We hope you will join us in addressing the need for good technical education so that England can compete and lead the world in technology and engineering.

*Kenneth A. Baker*



## What are University Technical Colleges?

University Technical Colleges are state schools for 14-19 year olds which provide the opportunity to take a highly regarded, full-time, technically-oriented course of study. They are sponsored by a university and are equipped to the highest standard. Clear progression routes are offered 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 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 and environmental services. They also 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, numbers allow for plenty of opportunity to work with students of similar interests.

The capital costs and recurrent costs of the UTCs are paid by central government but the Colleges also benefit from further support and guidance from the Baker Dearing Educational Trust to ensure they are able to deliver a high quality technical education.



## How are University Technical Colleges different?

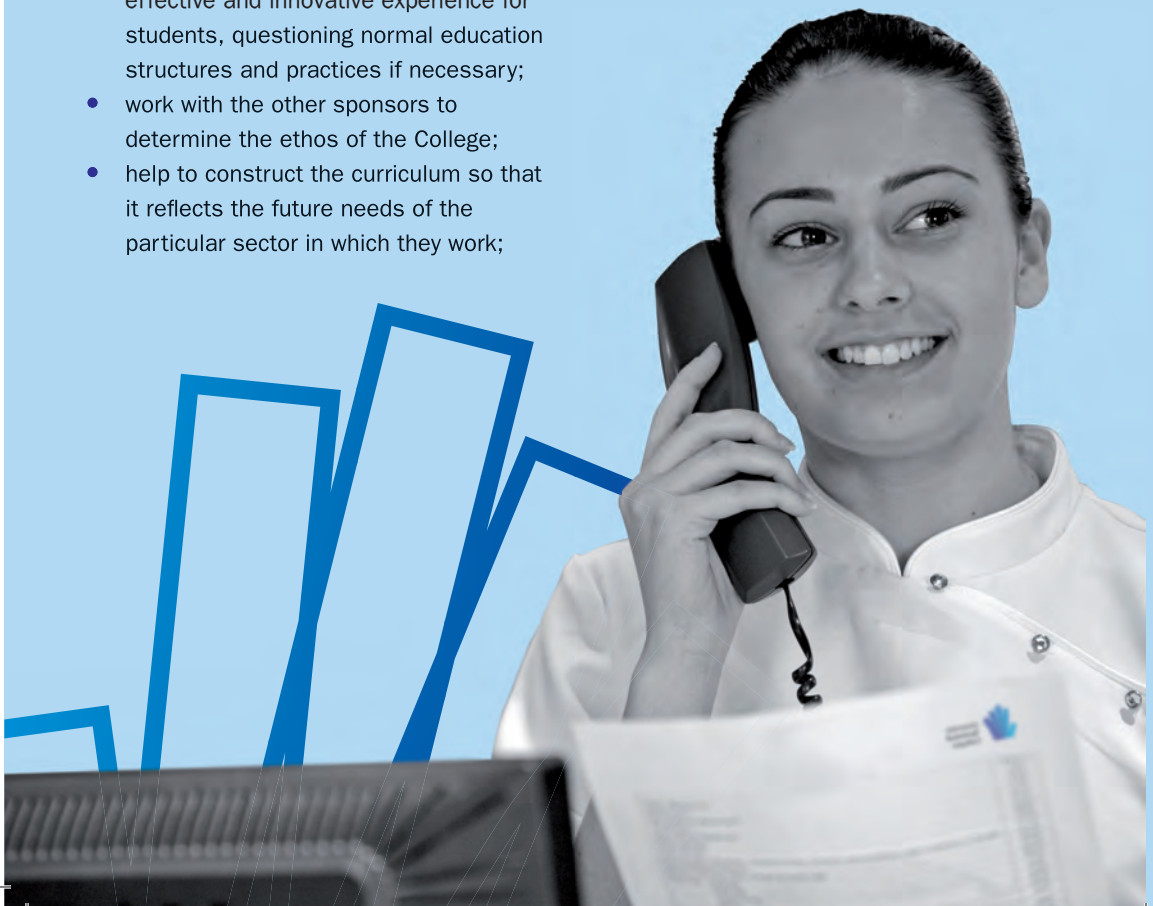
- Their school day runs from 8.30am to 5.30pm except for Mondays and Fridays when the finish is 4.30pm.
- They have a school year of 40 weeks with either four or five terms.
- Extra curricular activities are compulsory.
- There is a broad general curriculum, and the core subjects of maths, English and science are taught through highly demanding technical projects.
- The curriculum content is determined through a partnership of employers and universities.
- All students study a foreign language related to their technical curriculum.
- Experience of work is a central element of the curriculum
- Students study for qualifications which are recognized by employers.



## How do Employers contribute to University Technical Colleges?

Employers are encouraged to become formal co-sponsors or informal partners for the University Technical College. In either case, 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.



## How Does the Baker Dearing Educational Trust support University Technical Colleges?

We have a small, dedicated team undertaking a variety of tasks such as:

- travelling around the country to bring together universities, employers and FE colleges to discuss the possibility of a University Technical College in their local area;
- supporting these partnerships through the application process to the DfE;
- providing technical support for the securing and refurbishing of buildings to house the University Technical College;
- planning and supporting the curriculum framework;
- providing advice and guidance in the recruitment of principals and key staff for the UTC;
- providing advice on governance and employment contracts;
- negotiating cost effective procurement across all University Technical Colleges for items such as IT;
- representing the University Technical Colleges movement to central and local government;
- identifying local employer support for the University Technical College;
- providing a mechanism and forum for the University Technical Colleges to exchange ideas and support each other;
- ensuring the University Technical College Brand is consistent, motivating young people whilst providing for the needs of employers.

## How to get involved

**There are sponsorship opportunities in all sorts of areas including support for individual University Technical Colleges as well as financial support to enable the Baker Dearing Educational Trust to continue with its work.**

**To discuss this further, please contact us at:**

**[pmitchell@utcolleges.org](mailto:pmitchell@utcolleges.org)**

**Telephone: 020 7960 1555**

# The Baker Dearing Educational Trust

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## Day to day activities of University Technical Colleges are carried out by the Baker Dearing Educational Trust:

The Rt Hon Lord Baker of Dorking CH, Chairman

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**University  
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We are grateful to our sponsors for the support they give in so many ways:

