

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What is a UTC?**

A UTC is a school for students aged 14 to 19 which specialises in professional and technical studies. The Hackney UTC will specialise in Digital and Health technologies. The UTC will be an exciting alternative study environment for 14-19 year-olds. Students will follow a curriculum of professional and technical study in a specialist area, alongside GCSE-level qualifications in core subjects. The detail of the curriculum will be influenced strongly by partner employers and the university to make sure that students have the best possible chance of a successful future in higher education and/or work.

### **Who is the Sponsor of the UTC**

The lead Sponsor of the UTC is Hackney Community College. The UTC will also benefit from its partners' expertise and facilities: BT Group, the University of East London, the Homerton University Hospital NHS Trust, The Learning Trust and the London Borough of Hackney.

### **What are the features of a UTC curriculum**

There is a broad general curriculum, and the core subjects of maths, English and science are taught through highly demanding technical projects.

- Pre-16 students will spend about 60% of their time on academic subjects and 40% on technical ones. Post-16 the percentage is reversed with about 40% academic teaching, 60% technical.
- The curriculum content is determined and shaped through the partnership of employers and universities.
- All students have the option to study a foreign language related to their technical curriculum.
- Experience of work is a central element of the curriculum. The Government is fully supportive of ensuring that students combine work and study.

### **Why is it important for students to learn work-related skills?**

To get a job and keep it! In a recent Employers' Skills survey, the skills they said were most in need of improvement were technical, practical and job-related skills

### **Why specialise in health and digital media?**

Because that's where local job opportunities are robust and growing.

### **What are the job opportunities in digital media?**

The majority of the UK's TV, film, photography, video, animation and computer games firms are based in London. It's estimated that 70,000 new jobs will be created in the UK's creative services industry by 2020.

### **What are the job opportunities in health technologies?**

The health sector is the largest employer in the UK. The sector includes hospitals, doctors' surgeries, nursing homes, complementary medicine and other health practices. In 2010, vacancies in health and social work accounted for 12% of all London's vacancies. By 2017, over 100,000 qualified people will be needed to fill jobs in this sector. Health technology is of growing importance to patient care.

### **What sort of facilities will be offered to students at Hackney UTC**

It's important that students get the feel of a real work environment. So facilities on campus will be high-specification and industry-standard. Students will also have the opportunity to get experience in our partners' workplace premises. This will give them the best possible background and experience to make sure they are set up for a successful career.

### **How can I be assured of the high quality of Hackney UTC's provision?**

The sponsor of Hackney UTC is Hackney Community College. Quality and success rates have risen consistently over recent years. Ofsted graded the college 'Good' in 2010 and the college has a strong reputation in the education sector.

### **Will we have to buy a new uniform?**

All pupils entering the UTC will be issued with a new uniform; this will be free of charge.

### **Will free school meals continue to be available?**

Yes – all pupils that are eligible for free school meals will still have that entitlement.

### **Will the UTC select children according to their ability?**

No - the proposed UTC will be a comprehensive and inclusive school, open to pupils of all abilities. University Technical Colleges are not allowed to select children by their academic ability. It is important though that all UTC students are prepared to work to the very best of their ability and to reach their potential.

### **My child has special educational needs? How will those needs be catered for?**

The UTC will ensure that pupils with SEN are admitted on an equal basis with others in accordance with its admissions policy. The proposed academy will continue this work and will include children with Special Educational Needs throughout the curriculum.

### **How can we keep up to date with what is happening?**

We will be holding a number of events including taster sessions for interested parents/carers and students starting in September 2011. Further information will be published on our website:

<http://www.hackney.ac.uk/about/hackney-utc/>

### **How can I apply to the UTC?**

Detailed information on the admissions process are published in the Hackney Secondary Admissions and 14 to 19 brochures, September 2011. Please email [utc@hackney.ac.uk](mailto:utc@hackney.ac.uk) and we will guide you through the process.

### ***FAQs updated August 2011***