



# **South Devon University Technical College**

## **Staff Information Booklet**

## **Principal's introduction**

Thank you for your interest in working at the South Devon UTC. This is an exciting opportunity to work in a non-selective school specialising in science and engineering that is designed to meet both a local and national need. Our particular focus is science, engineering, water and the environment. At South Devon UTC we passionately believe that the development of young people with the right skills and knowledge, for a career in science or engineering at all levels, is essential for the future economic prosperity of South Devon and the UK as a whole. South Devon UTC's young people will have such skills and knowledge combined with a unique high aspiration and high expectations outlook formed through their relationships with South Devon UTC staff and partner organisations.

South Devon UTC offers young people aged 14-19 the opportunity to undertake a highly regarded, technically orientated course of study in a state of the art UTC which will be the hub of their learning in South Devon. South Devon UTC is equipped to the highest standards and offers clear progression routes into higher education and the world of work.

South Devon UTC opened in September 2015 with 50 students in year 10 and 30 in year 12. We currently have 163 on role, in 2016/17 and within 5 years we aim to have 150 students in each of 4 year groups.

We deliver an education and opportunities for our young people that will inspire them to successful careers in science and engineering. We are therefore seeking outstanding professionals who have an energy and enthusiasm for learning and teaching, who are passionate about their subject and who are driven to make a real difference to the life chances of our young people.

## **Our Vision and Values**

### **Vision statement**

Developing new generations of engineers, scientists and environmentalists who will transform the world we live in.

### **Mission statement**

To present to the workforce resilient students who are competent, technically capable and innovative contributors to a just and tolerant society.

### **Values**

Our values derived from working with our partners:

- ◆ Determination, resilience and professionalism
- ◆ Honesty and integrity
- ◆ A tolerance of difference
- ◆ Politeness, courtesy and punctuality
- ◆ An expectation of consequence for our actions

## **What is a UTC?**

The work of scientists and engineers, whether they have degrees or apprenticeships is vital to the future progression of our country. The education and training of these people, however, is often undervalued and under-resourced. In the 21st century we will need to train more of all of these types of young people. This will start with the high level academic and technical education of the type that University Technical Colleges provide. Our smaller scale enables us to really focus on a personalisation that will drive the relationships between students, teachers and business.

University Technical Colleges are a new concept in education. They 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. The students combine hand and mind to learn in a very practical way, integrating national curriculum requirements with technical and vocational elements. The school ethos and curriculum is heavily influenced by local and national employers who also provide support and work experience for students.

South Devon UTC is a University Technical College sponsored by Exeter University and South Devon College. Our partners are MB Aerospace, Centrax Gas Turbines, South West Water, Galliford Try and the Environment Agency. We are also supported by the Devon County Council, Teignbridge District Council, South Devon Federation of Small Businesses, CIWEM and WaterAid. It is for these reasons that we believe the UTC offers a real tangible equal value but different pathway to mainstream schools. Outline information about our sponsors is available on our website at [www.southdevonutc.org](http://www.southdevonutc.org).

Partners – within the UTC partners are the local, regional or national employers who are involved to shape the curriculum to equip young people with the skills that they require. Their commitment to the UTC involves them sitting on various committees, giving time through their employees to shape challenge projects and also to provide work placements for young people. The Governing body will be made up of a significant number of senior partners so that the direction of the UTC may be supported to develop young people’s qualifications and employability skills.

Employability and professionalism are integral to the development of our students. All the people, staff and students, need to act, think and exemplify professionalism in everything they do. Professionalism is the way we portray ourselves to those looking in and the demeanour within the organisation that defines us all.

## **Working at South Devon UTC**

As a staff member at South Devon UTC you will be challenged and supported to give of your best every day. In ensuring we achieve excellence we are building a team of staff who are committed to:

- The Vision and Mission statement of South Devon UTC
- Model the school's core values and ethos of:
  - Respect and tolerance of others
  - Honesty and integrity
  - Determination, resilience and professionalism
  - Politeness, courtesy and punctuality
  - An expectation of consequence for our actions both from a positive and negative point of view
- The opportunity for students to further their learning on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, with revision sessions and enrichment options available to students from 15:30 to 16:30
- Learning and Teaching excellence
- Contributing to the challenge projects and extra-curricular, enrichment opportunities
- The re-enforcement at every level of employability skills
- Your own professional development – Mondays from 3.30pm to 5pm is dedicated to Curriculum Improvement Time and we also have extended sessions each term so we have fewer training days and an earlier finish in the Summer Term.

## **Professional Development**

All South Devon UTC staff are committed to their own professional development and therefore model their passion for learning to our young people.

Members of staff will be given the opportunity to work with partner organisations to develop their understanding of academic concepts in practice and thereby develop the quality of the challenge projects. There is also access to a broad range of external and internal training to support your professional development.

## **Working Environment**

Our building is a brand new, state of the art learning centre. We are equipped with workshops, studio spaces, science labs and classrooms, all of which are equipped with resources that has been discussed at length with our partner organisations. The ICT system is built into the fabric of the building with an industry standard wireless network. Students will have their own laptop/notebook or can have a HP Stream Notebook through a lease purchase scheme. Most software is cloud based so enabling a continuity of experience across platforms and locations.

We have some limited sporting facilities but do use local town based pitches, tennis and squash courts and leisure facilities. Students are being encouraged to use sustainable transport to travel to and from school, staff are also encouraged to do so. Car parking is very limited on site but there is assistance provided for public transport season tickets and parking permits.

Staff welfare is important to us so salary sacrifice schemes to enable staff the opportunity to buy bicycles and technical equipment at reduced rates are coming soon. There are also staff activities and outings from time to time.

### **Curriculum**

Our curriculum is predicated on strong academic underpinnings driving a technical curriculum that will provide a platform for students to become work or further study ready for the 21<sup>st</sup> century in science and engineering.

All students at KS4 will study core science and engineering skills. This will include core knowledge, skills and understanding, including practical skills that are required for progression into sixth form study in either science or engineering.

Mathematics learning will be applied to the science and engineering curricula to make strong links to deepen understanding.

All students will complete work placements during their KS4 study, this will consist of a weeks placement prepared for by a series of preparation days at the placement location.

A strong theme of the curriculum is the challenge project. These are problems set by our partners that will engage the students over a 6-8 week period for half a day a week in a real world challenge that needs a solution. Students will work in teams developing key generic employability and enterprise skills throughout their time at the UTC.

All students will develop a personal development log using their personal device, which will document how they develop their personal learning and thinking skills, their employability skills and their work based learning.

### **Start Here, Go Anywhere**

As an adult involved in the development of young people we always want the best for our students. Our UTC will give you an extra dimension to that desire. Whether it be working with partners on challenge projects, careers events, teaching sessions, managing relationships with sponsors or embedding activities in the schemes of work, you will have a breadth to your experience that will develop you even further into a highly flexible and capable member of staff.