

23 April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As you know there is an 'in principle' decision from the Minister that Wigan UTC will close on 31 August 2019. Given that your son/daughter is currently in Y12 it is important that you and he/she consider what Post 16 provision you would like him/her to attend from 1st September 2019. We appreciate that this is a difficult decision at a challenging time in his/her school career and we would like to offer you the specific support that you need to manage this process effectively. To this end Elaine Delahunt plans to meet every student in Year 12 next week to discuss what options they are considering and how we can facilitate a smooth transition. A key part of this will be to ensure that the programme of learning they have followed this year will transfer to their new provision or alternatively that it can be claimed as a final qualification before they leave the UTC.

These individual meetings will be followed by a phone call or meeting with parents to finalise this discussion and consider what specific support you and they need to make an informed choice about their future destination.

We have adjusted the delivery plan for the BTEC Engineering course to ensure we can claim a Level 3 foundation diploma in engineering - equivalent in size to 1.5 A levels by the end of the academic year for all of our engineering students. We are still investigating how best to support the students who are taking Health and Social Care and Science but we will have more information on that next week. As we have had to change the delivery plan there will be the requirement for students to attend additional sessions which may run outside of their current timetabled sessions. We have already explained this to the students and hope to have their support to complete their programmes of study.

We are keen to engage with parents as well as students in planning for the future. Once Elaine Delahunt has met with individual students you will be invited to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet with or talk to her to discuss the options available and what it is advisable to do next. We are keen that these meetings take place as swiftly as possible and preferably before Friday, 10th May so that students have some security about their future placement by the end of May.

Each of you will need very specific information to support you in making this critical decision. To support this we have posted information on our website on the curriculum offer in both Year 11 and 13 in each of the Wigan secondary schools, Bolton and Warrington UTCs, and Northern Schools Trust schools in Liverpool. This can be accessed through the Frequently Asked Questions on the Wigan UTC website.

We will support you in making applications to any of the above post 16 providers or indeed any other provider that you may wish to consider including Wigan and Leigh Further Education College.

Yours Sincerely

