

PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR UTC OXFORDSHIRE



UTC
OXFORDSHIRE

THE UTC OXFORDSHIRE PROPOSAL 10 KEY FACTS

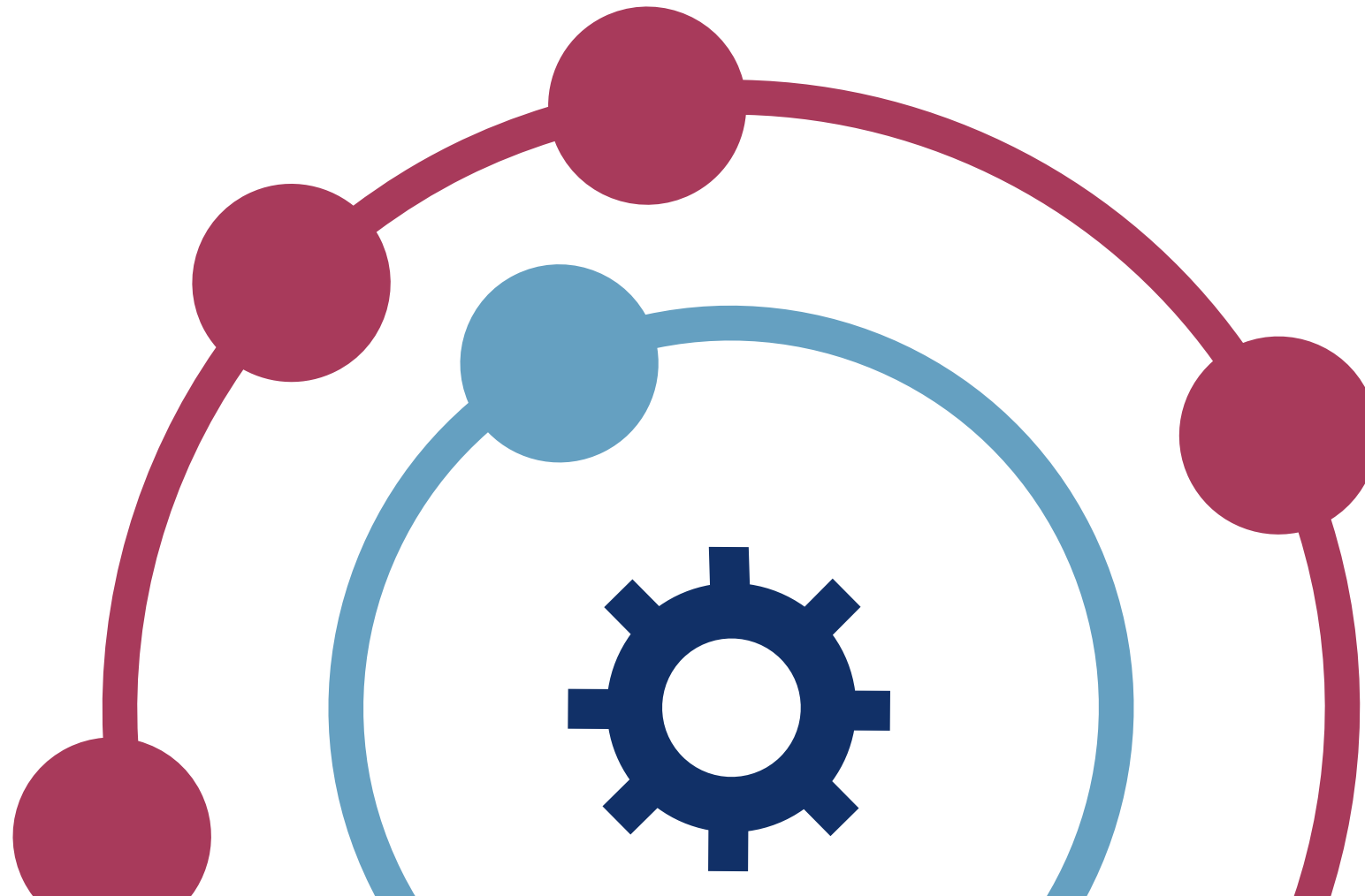
1. Opening in Didcot in September 2015
2. 140 places for boys and girls in Year 10 and Year 12
3. Will eventually grow to 600 students aged 14 to 19
4. No fees
5. No entrance tests for Year 10
6. 15 mile catchment area including Oxfordshire, Newbury, Reading, Aylesbury and West Wycombe
7. Supported by leading local employers to offer specialist learning and employer accreditation
8. Key Stage 4 curriculum - core GCSEs and options to include additional GCSEs and BTEC qualifications
9. Key Stage 5 options - A-levels, BTEC qualifications, specialist learning and a strong emphasis on leadership and employability skills
10. Clear progression for all students into higher education, further education, employment and apprenticeships

PURPOSE OF THIS CONSULTATION

- » To raise awareness and increase interest in the proposed UTC Oxfordshire
- » To formally consult with the public on the proposal, particularly relating to the catchment area and admissions policy
- » To enable stakeholders to shape the UTC and help with decisions that have not been made or finalised

CONTENTS

What is a University Technical College?	5
UTC Oxfordshire	6
Our mission, vision and ethos	8
An exciting curriculum, a new way to learn	10
The Key Stage 4 programme	11
The Key Stage 5 programme	12
The opportunity to specialise	16
Sponsors, partners and stakeholders	23
Benefits	24
Admissions	26
The consultation process	28
UTC Oxfordshire consultation questionnaire	31





WHAT IS A UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE?

UTC stands for University Technical College and is an innovative new approach to learning for 14-19 year olds that offers specialist programmes alongside a core curriculum.

A UTC is different from an average school because it has support and backing from the local business community and has high profile industry partners involved in the development of the curriculum. One or more universities are involved to make sure that the UTC really can offer students the best of both worlds.

This means students can take advantage of real-world based study of a UTC's specialist subjects while still taking the GCSEs and A-levels that they would at school. This way they benefit from the opportunity to specialise and at the same time keep their options open.

UTCs are for students aged 14 to 19 as this is the age when they'll have a better idea of what they are really interested in and whether they would enjoy learning in high-tech surroundings. At 14 students are likely to be ready to study in a real-world environment, where they can gain the practical experience and develop the skills that would lead them into work or university.

UTC Oxfordshire is associated with The Baker Dearing Educational Trust which promotes this new model of technical schooling. The work of technicians and other highly skilled vocationally qualified people is vital to our economy. This journey starts with the high level practical and technical education which UTCs offer.

This programme has the support of the government and has commitment from universities and employers who are working in 45 locations across the country to open UTCs, with more UTCs such as UTC Oxfordshire planned to open.

UTC OXFORDSHIRE

Proposal

We propose to open a University Technical College in Didcot in 2015 that would admit up to 600 boys and girls aged 14 to 19 living in the catchment area. The UTC will specialise in life sciences, physical sciences and engineering, alongside a broad and balanced curriculum. It would benefit from the support of local employers and two leading universities.

Our aspiration is for UTC Oxfordshire to provide scientifically focused and high technology education for a broad catchment area. Our science and engineering specialisms will also draw in young people from further afield, creating a regional centre of excellence.

Pledge

Free and non-selective, UTC Oxfordshire would give students a real chance of employment in the high-tech economy of Oxfordshire and would equip them to take their place in the global science and engineering sectors.

We would aim to provide every student who successfully completes their studies at UTC Oxfordshire with the opportunity to progress to one of the following:

- » further education
- » higher education
- » an apprenticeship
- » a relevant employment opportunity

Location and building

The site proposed for UTC Oxfordshire is Great Western Park, OX11 7TG. Great Western Park is a major housing development to the west and south west of Didcot. Didcot is immediately adjacent to the three science parks of Science Vale UK and has excellent transport connections by both rail and bus to Oxford, Abingdon, Wantage, Grove and other regional areas. This makes it an ideal centre to establish this science and technology focused UTC.

UTC Oxfordshire would provide advanced facilities for its science and engineering specialisms. The Department for Education has pledged funding to invest in the UTC's buildings, giving students an environment that would feel more like a company than a school, helping prepare them for employment.

Governance

Membership of the Board of Governors for UTC Oxfordshire would be drawn from the lead sponsors and the academic and industry partners in accordance with national requirements. This industry involvement would bring a valuable breadth and depth of experience to the provision of education and the efficient running of the UTC.

Teaching and support staff

To achieve the best results for students we would need excellent teaching and support staff to include:

- » academic teachers, outstanding in their field
- » former industry professionals who bring context to learning
- » support for students with special educational needs
- » mentors from the UTC's industry and academic mentors

Our teachers would spend time working in local companies to keep their specialist skills and knowledge current and to maintain the freshness and relevance of their lessons.



OUR ETHOS AND VALUES

UTC Oxfordshire would pioneer an industry-linked approach to science and technology education which would be inspirational and forward-looking.

The integration of advanced engineering and computing with science learning would extend the vision and capacity of our students. By promoting and supporting these approaches with its feeder primary and secondary schools, the UTC would aim to substantially enhance science and technology education across its catchment area.

Our vision is to develop resilient students who can be responsive to changing markets and evolving technological and scientific environments. Our students would develop interests, energy and passion in science and technology. Through industry placements and projects, students would become highly employable with a breadth of organisational relationship skills and commercial nous coupled with depth in technical expertise

The ethos of the UTC would be inclusive, enabling and non-hierarchical. Our expectations would be very high. Every student and member of staff would be encouraged and expected to continuously strive for improvement, setting themselves goals that are both personally challenging and constructive for the community as a whole.

We shall achieve this by:

- » Drawing on the expertise and resources of our academic and industrial sponsors: **Activate Learning** (the new name for the Oxford & Cherwell Valley College group from November 2013), **University of Reading, Royal Holloway, University of London, Culham Centre for Fusion Energy, RM Education, MINI Plant Oxford, IBM, Unipart, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Oxford Instruments and Oxfordshire Bioscience Network, International Satellite Applications Catapult.**
- » Building a technical curriculum that provides specialisms at Key Stage 4 and progression pathways at Key Stage 5 in:
 - life sciences (biotechnology and medical)
 - physical sciences (chemical, materials, cryogenics, nuclear)
 - advanced engineering (precision manufacture, control systems, high vacuum and include computer science as a core curriculum subject at Key Stage 4 alongside sciences, mathematics and English.
- » Creating a learning environment and timetable that reflects the flexibility of industrial and research work by emphasising both independent work time and group projects with industry focus and challenge.
- » Building, with our academic and employer partners, clear career progression pathways which will include apprenticeships, higher apprenticeships and full-time honours degrees leading to graduate traineeships.
- » Embracing the educational vision for University Technical Colleges, promoted by the Baker Dearing Trust, that provides:
 - a technical vocational choice for young people at 14+
 - learning delivered through practical work-related projects that foster both collaboration skills and independence
 - continuing sponsorship and guidance from university and industry partners

AN EXCITING CURRICULUM, A NEW WAY TO LEARN

Curriculum

The curriculum would prepare students for a career in science and engineering sectors while keeping other career routes open. It would aim to develop well-rounded and well-educated leaders, professionals and entrepreneurs of the future.

Students would study GCSEs and A-levels alongside vocational qualifications and have the opportunity to gain industry standard employer qualifications. They would be able to make the most of their talents and move on successfully to higher education, apprenticeships and employment.

Formal learning would be enhanced by a variety of enrichment activities in sports, arts and leadership building activities such as Young Enterprise and Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Learning experience

By blending different forms of learning, students would develop a wide set of transferable skills and be empowered to take charge of their learning.

Students would be coached by tutors and mentored by industry and academic partners. Projects would typically be multidisciplinary, drawing in knowledge and skills from several different subjects. Students from across the UTC would work together on projects to practise different job roles, preparing them for employment.

Where a student who has Special Education Needs (SEN) is being educated at the UTC, we would ensure that special educational provision for the student is secured so that the student engages in the activities of the UTC together with students who do not have SEN.

Learning environment

When our students leave the UTC and enter employment, they need to feel confident to work both independently and collaboratively in a professional environment. We therefore want them to spend a substantial proportion of their working week at the UTC experiencing and gaining skills in a similar context. Group project and independent assignment work would therefore be scheduled not in traditional classrooms, but in environments that reflect the layout and norms of modern corporate offices and workspaces.

The working day will be longer than a traditional school with learning starting at 8.30am and ending at 5pm each day. Equipment and facilities would be industry standard as specified by our industry partners.



CCFE NEEDS TO DELIVER NEW TECHNOLOGY AND CHALLENGING PROJECTS TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF FUSION RESEARCH. THE UTC HELPS US TO SOLVE THE SKILLS SHORTAGE BY PROVIDING YOUNG APPRENTICES, TECHNICIANS AND ENGINEERS TO KEEP CCFE AT THE FOREFRONT OF FUSION TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE.



David Martin, Operations Director,
Culham Centre for Fusion Energy

THE KEY STAGE 4 PROGRAMME

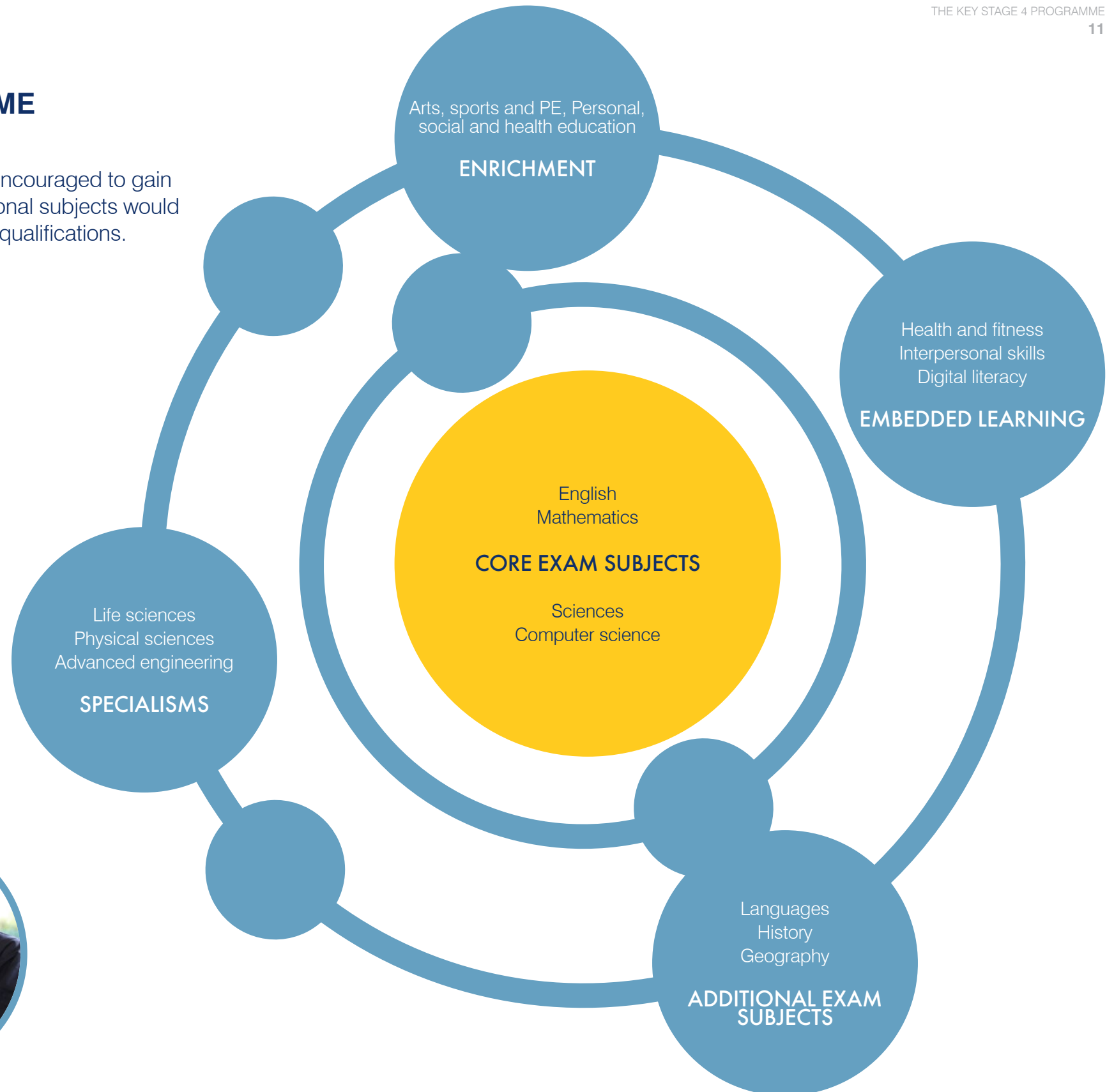
Students would study core subjects and be encouraged to gain a minimum of five GCSEs grade A* - C. Optional subjects would include additional GCSE subjects and BTEC qualifications.

All students would choose one of three specialisms:

- » life sciences (biotechnology and medical)
- » physical sciences (chemical, materials, cryogenics, nuclear)
- » advanced engineering (precision manufacture, control systems, high vacuum)

At Key Stage 4 students would:

- » learn predominately through tutor-led seminars
- » develop effective individual learning techniques
- » experience working life with our employer sponsors
- » be encouraged to set ambitious career goals
- » practice what they have learnt on real-life projects



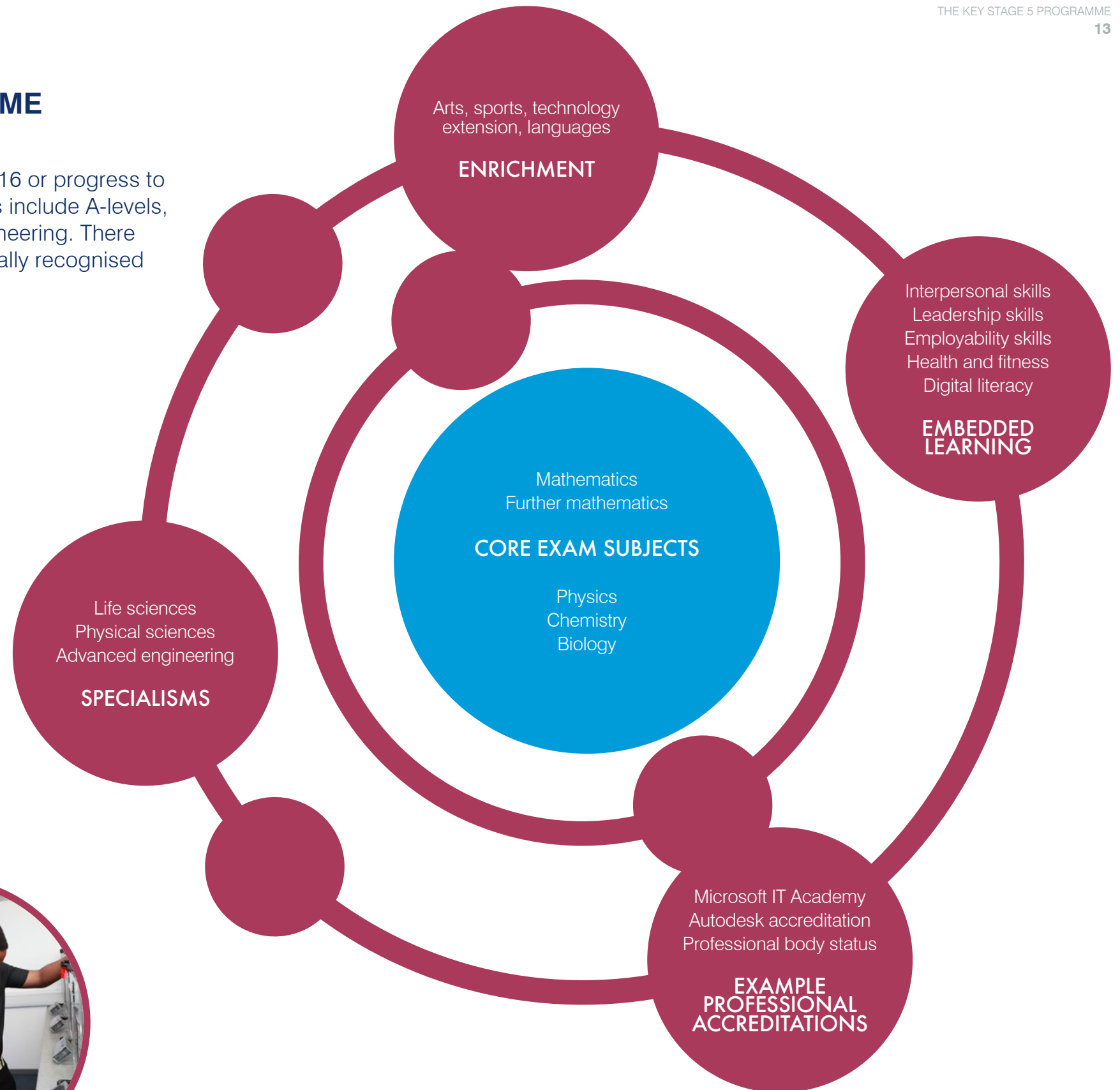
THE KEY STAGE 5 PROGRAMME

Students would be able to join the UTC at 16 or progress to this stage from Key Stage 4. Core subjects include A-levels, BTEC diplomas in applied science or engineering. There would also be the opportunity to take globally recognised employer accreditations.

The embedded learning and enrichment activities at this stage would be specifically targeted towards developing the skills and attitudes that make students employable.

At Key Stage 5 students would:

- » study through increased project-based work and individual learning
- » participate in highly relevant onsite work experience
- » expand enrichment activities, including community work
- » develop self-supervising skills



THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPECIALISE

Alongside the core curriculum, students would have the opportunity to specialise in an area of specific interest:

Specialism	Assisted by industry partners
Life sciences	Oxford Instruments OBN (formerly Oxfordshire Bioscience Network)
Physical sciences	Culham Centre for Fusion Energy RM Education IBM Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Satellite Applications Catapult
Engineering	Culham Centre for Fusion Energy MINI Plant Oxford Unipart

All specialisms are designed to enhance skills and knowledge as well as increase the opportunity for success in the core subjects, GCSEs, A-levels and BTEC qualifications. Specialist study would provide a valuable differentiator for students when they are applying for higher education or employment.

Focusing on a particular specialism would not reduce a student's options in the future. As well as sciences and engineering, the courses available at UTC Oxfordshire would enable students to access a variety of science, engineering and even humanities subjects at university and offer multiple pathways to employment.

Specialisms will be delivered through:

- » a blended combination of instructor led seminars
- » project-based learning
- » employer expert input, either onsite, via video conferencing or through mentors visiting the UTC
- » independent learning assignments

The project-based approach will allow students to progress at a pace that challenges and engages them.



SPONSORS, PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Sponsors

Activate Learning (lead sponsors)

The Oxford & Cherwell Valley College group is re-launching as Activate Learning. The group brings together secondary, further and higher education, training and management consultancy, commercial businesses and social enterprise throughout Oxfordshire and Berkshire. It is the lead sponsor of UTC Reading which opened in September 2013. Its mission is to transform lives through learning.

Industry and academic partners

Our academic partners are:

- » **University of Reading**
- » **Royal Holloway University of London**

They are working with the sponsors to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place for the creation of an exemplary science and engineering specialist UTC that is ready to open in September 2015.

The key industry partners are:

- » **Culham Centre for Fusion Energy**
- » **RM Education**
- » **MINI Plant Oxford**
- » **IBM**

We are liaising with these industry partners to confirm their involvement in the operation of the UTC in a number of ways:

- » consultancy and advice on curriculum design and content
- » employer accreditations
- » employer-led projects and challenges
- » coaching and mentoring
- » work experience opportunities
- » product donations

Industry partners would enable students to study specialisms and gain globally accepted professional qualifications.

For further details of our industry and academic partners, please visit ADD URL.



SOUTH OXFORD AND VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCILS ARE WORKING TOGETHER WITH OTHER PARTNERS TO REALISE THE FULL POTENTIAL OF THE SCIENCE VALE UK ENTERPRISE ZONE. THIS AREA OF SOUTHERN OXFORDSHIRE HAS THE UK'S LARGEST CLUSTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES AND ORGANISATIONS. A SKILLED WORKFORCE IS CRITICAL TO A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE FOR SCIENCE VALE UK. THE COUNCILS STRONGLY SUPPORT THE UTC BECAUSE IT WILL PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN PROVIDING THAT WORKFORCE.

Catherine Scotting,
South Oxfordshire District Council

Supporters

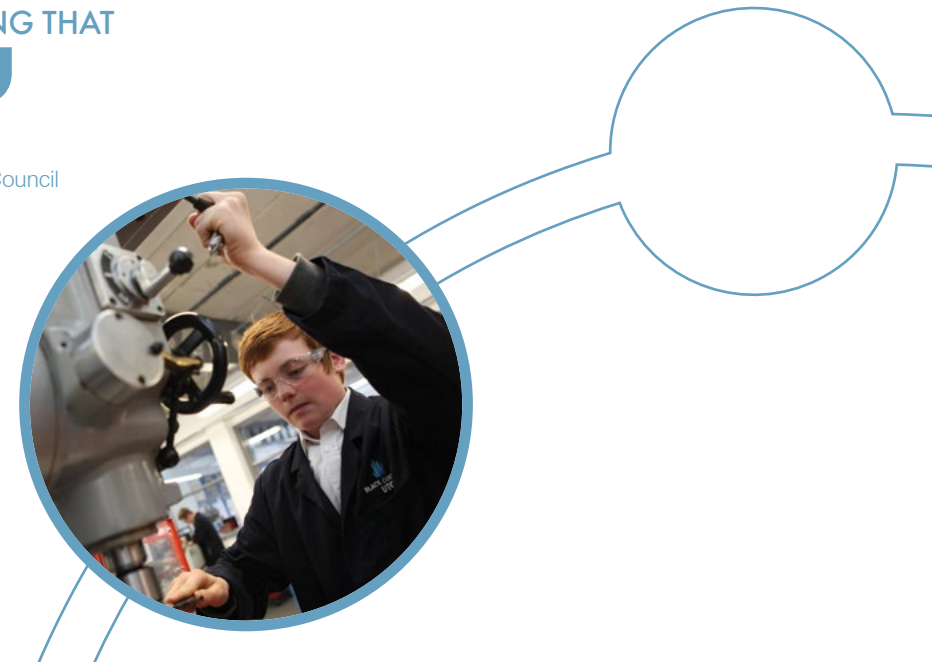
The local authority, Oxfordshire County Council and the two district councils, South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse have been strongly involved in the planning group for the UTC and are active supporters of the project.

Stakeholders

Our links with local schools would be very important and developing these would be a key focus of UTC Oxfordshire. It would be important that opportunities are available for school pupils to try out the UTC while at Key Stage 3 and that the transition into the UTC for Year 10 pupils is well managed.

Other stakeholders that we wish to include are:

- » other local authorities represented in our catchment area
- » professional bodies that represent employers
- » local community groups
- » parents and carers



BENEFITS

Benefits to students and parents

Students at UTC Oxfordshire would benefit from:

- » the option to keep career and study routes open while growing and developing an interest in science or engineering
- » a small, nurturing environment where learning is personalised and students are supported to aim high and achieve their best
- » a strong focus on developing the whole person so that each student becomes a well-rounded young person with the values, attributes and attitude that will distinguish them from their peers
- » contact and collaboration with leading employers to learn the habits and professional standards that are required to succeed in the workplace

Benefits to the community

UTC Oxfordshire represents a huge investment in the education of young people in Oxfordshire. The UTC sponsors are committed to making facilities available to the local community and intend to work in partnership with local community groups to support their activities.

Benefits to the economy

University Technical Colleges have been introduced to train highly skilled and vocationally qualified professionals to close the skills gap that exists in the UK.

The supply of work ready, talented, skilled young people would enable the UK to become a key player in the high-tech science and engineering industry and remain competitive in an increasingly global and fast-moving business environment.

UTC Oxfordshire offers a unique opportunity for education and business to join forces in Oxfordshire and develop the skills that would be needed by leading companies, both today and in the future.



ADMISSIONS

In line with its vision, we propose that UTC Oxfordshire would recruit a balanced intake of students across the ability range in each year of entry. In 2015, there would be 60 places for students in Year 10 and 80 places for students in Year 12.

The proposed catchment area would cover an area within a 15 mile radius of Didcot. Grouped postcode areas would be used to ensure a geographical spread. A set proportion of places would be allocated to young people living in each postcode area. This means that applicants living anywhere in the catchment area would be given equal consideration regardless of the proximity of their home address to the UTC.

Where the number of applicants for admission is greater than the published admissions number, applications would be considered against the criteria set out below. After the admission of pupils with statements of Special Educational Needs where UTC Oxfordshire is named on the statement, the criteria would be applied in this order:

- » looked after children
- » siblings of students in attendance at the UTC in Years 10 to 12
- » 30% of places to applications within catchment area one, which includes all postcodes in OX10, OX11 and OX14
- » 30% of places to applications within catchment area two, which includes all postcodes in OX1, OX4, OX12, OX13, OX44, OX49, RG14, RG18 and RG20
- » 30% of places to applications within catchment area three, which includes all postcodes in OX2, OX3, OX9, OX18, OX28, OX29, OX33, RG4, RG8, RG9, RG17, RG31 and SN7

The remaining 10% of places would be allocated to pupils living outside of the postcodes listed above, with those living closest to the front gates of the UTC (straight line distance) being admitted.

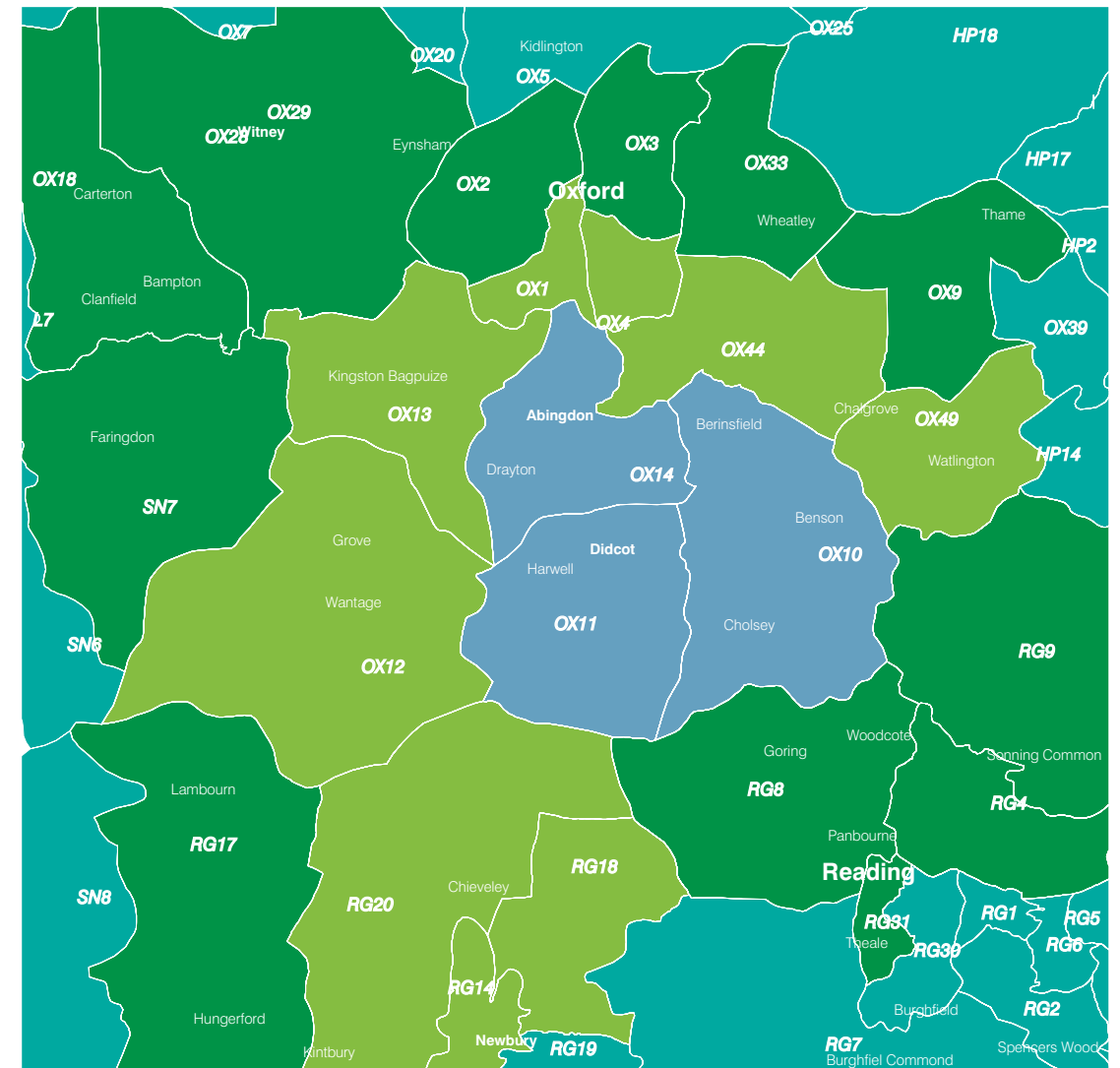
If any of the areas are undersubscribed, the places from such areas would be randomly allocated to applicants in oversubscribed area/s.

UTC Oxfordshire would operate a Sixth Form of 300 students.

Students would be able to progress from Year 11 at UTC Oxfordshire to a suitable programme of study within the Sixth Form of the UTC. In the event of places becoming available for external candidates in Year 12, these candidates would be expected to meet specific entry requirements appropriate to their intended programme of study.

ELIGIBLE LOCATIONS

- **Area one:**
OX10, OX11 and OX14
- **Area two:**
OX1, OX4, OX12, OX13, OX44,
OX49, RG14, RG18 and RG20
- **Area three:**
OX2, OX3, OX9, OX18, OX28,
OX29, OX33, RG4, RG8, RG9,
RG17, RG31 and SN7



THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

We want to hear your views about these proposals.

Consultation meetings will be arranged with specific groups of stakeholders. Public consultation meetings and a consultation drop-in session will take place during October and November 2013.

At these meetings sponsors and partners will be available to discuss the developing proposals for UTC Oxfordshire and answer any questions.

How to have your say

- » attend one of the public consultation events
- » complete and return the consultation questionnaire in this brochure
- » complete and submit the consultation questionnaire online at ADD URL

The consultation period closes on 29 November 2013.

ADD ADDRESS AND EMAIL

Public consultation events

Consultation meeting

Monday 14 October 2013, 5.30-6.30pm

Didcot Civic Hall

Britwell Rd

Didcot OX11 7JN

Consultation meeting

Wednesday 23 October 2013, 6.30-7.30pm

North Oxford Association Community Centre

Diamond Place

Summertown

Oxford OX2 7DP

Public drop-in session

Thursday 14 November 2013, 3-7pm

Didcot Civic Hall

Britwell Rd

Didcot OX11 7JN



UTC OXFORDSHIRE CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE (TEAR-OFF SLIP)

Activate Learning (the new name for the Oxford & Cherwell Valley College group), together with its academic and industry partners is proposing to open a University Technical Academy in Didcot in 2015. We are carrying out a public consultation on the proposal.

The consultation consists of this questionnaire and a range of public meetings. The findings of the consultation will be used to develop the policies and practices of the UTC.

We value your views and look forward to receiving your completed questionnaire. Please fill out this tear-off slip and send it to us by 29 November 2013. This questionnaire can also be completed online at ADD URL.

About you

My postcode is:

I am: (Please tick only one box)

- a pupil/student
- an employer
- a parent/carer
- a member of the local community
- an education professional
- other, please state: _____

If you fall into more than one group please choose the group you wish your views to be recorded against.

Ethos and curriculum

1. Do you support the idea of developing UTC Oxfordshire as a way of broadening choice and improving success of local 14-19 students?

- Yes No

Comments: _____

2. Do you agree that the Department for Education should enter into a funding agreement to enable UTC Oxfordshire to open in 2015?

- Yes No

Comments: _____

3. Do you agree that life sciences, physical sciences and engineering are the right vocational areas for this UTC?

- Yes No

Comments: _____

4. Do you like the concept of the proposed vision and ethos of UTC Oxfordshire? Please put any comments below:

- Yes No

Comments: _____

Admissions

5. Do you agree with the proposed admissions arrangements?

a) Have the postcodes been placed in the correct areas?

- Yes No

Comments: _____

b) Are there additional postcodes which should be included?

- Yes No

Comments: _____

c) Are there postcodes which should be taken out of a catchment area?

- Yes No

Comments: _____

6. Have the appropriate weightings been given within the oversubscription areas?

- Yes No

Comments: _____

7. What is the general view on the use of postcodes to set the oversubscription criteria compared to applying a distance based criteria?

8. Do you have any other comments on the proposed UTC Oxfordshire?

9. How interested are you in attending / sending your child to UTC Oxfordshire?

- very much to some extent not very much
 not at all don't know

I would like to be kept informed of development with UTC Oxfordshire

Email: _____

Postal address: _____

Thank you for completing the questionnaire.

Business Reply Plus
License Number
RTGA-LRSA-LJUR



UTC Oxfordshire
Oxford & Cherwell Valley College
Oxpens Road
Oxford
OX1 1SA

