Year 7 at North East Futures UTC

D Sydes June 2020

**The Trustees of Tyne Coast Academy Trust (TCAT) and the Local Governing Body of North East Futures UTC are consulting relevant stakeholders and partners on a proposed change to its admissions arrangements. The proposal is to admit up to 30 Year 7 students per year to the UTC from September 2022 whilst continuing to admit students at Year 10 and 6th form.**

The consultation period runs from 1 September 2020 to 13 October 2020.

# University Technical Colleges

North East Futures UTC is a specialist technical school and 6th Form based in central Newcastle. It is part of a network of nearly 50 University Technical Colleges across the country. It opened in September 2018 and focuses on healthcare science and digital technology education for those who want to move on to careers in those sectors, either via university or directly into apprenticeships or employment.

UTCs were set up as 14 to 19 schools, with the main entry point into Year 10. This was because research by the Baker Dearing Education Trust showed that at age 13 most students are making decisions about GCSE option subjects and after two years of secondary school it’s a good time to decide to focus in a more specialist direction.

Several UTCs have moved away from this enrolment age and either started at Year 9 (approx. 30% of UTCs) or Year 7 (3 UTCs with more expected). The reasons usually given around traditional student recruitment pathways at age 11, having more time to get to educate students and to ensure excellent levels of academic and technical progress, and the benefits of starting a technical education earlier.

# Rationale

Currently the UTC recruits up to 120 students into Year 10 (usually aged 14), as well as recruiting to the 6th Form, from across a wide region including Newcastle, Gateshead, Northumberland, County Durham, Durham,. Sunderland, South Shields, North Shields and Teesside. The proposal is to recruit up to 30 students at age 11 (the start of Year 7) and to continue to recruit the majority of students at age 14 (into Year 10) and for 6th form (into Year 12).

There are significant educational advantages for students starting earlier and this has been demonstrated in several other UTCs around the country:

* This change will provide more Secondary places in Newcastle and the region and give parents/families more choice for their child’s education
* It will allow students of a younger age to build a core of key technical knowledge and skills in the fields of Healthcare Science and Digital Technology and to sample specialist areas which are new and increasingly important in the regional economy.
* Students will also be introduced earlier to the workplace skills and careers opportunities whilst maintaining the expected broad and balanced curriculum for this age group which mean that they are better informed and more focused when it comes to planning their career routes.
* The UTC will be supported by existing Year 7 provision across TCAT to ensure a high quality of curriculum and education

In addition, economy of scale savings from a larger student body allows for improved provision, particularly in career related activity such as visits to companies, technical facilities and project experiences.

Because the current UTC entry ages are not a common time to move schools, some parents and students might not be aware that it is an option for them. Parents/carers of children in Y6 are choosing their schools and the local authorities are required to make clear all the option choices available to them as parents/carers. This will help the UTC to grow up to capacity.

To maintain the culture and ethos of the school the entry points at Year 10 and for 6th form will remain.

# Feasibility

An analysis of the feasibility of incorporating an additional year group has been undertaken. This has looked at how other UTCs have added Year 7 entry points or changed admissions as well as feasibility analysis of adding basic need places in the Newcastle area. Key factors include:

* Because the building is designed for up to 600 students, the facilities are in place already to accommodate this small additional cohort. Classroom capacity, lockers and dining capacity are available.
* No capital investment or additional funding are required to implement this proposal.
* The teaching requirement will increase as new year groups are added to the UTC. This is in line with existing plans to increase teaching staff as the UTC grows year on year.
* Non-teaching staff and leadership capacity is already in place to manage this natural growth. There will be an internal appointment of a pastoral lead for Key Stage 3 to support additional need in this area.
* This means school revenue is expected to cover the costs of this significant change in admissions for the UTC and therefore the project is feasible.

# Proposed curriculum

Students signing up to join the UTC in Year 7 will be undertaking a broad and balanced Key Stage 3 curriculum with a specialised focus on Healthcare Science and Digital Technology.

The curriculum will be engaging, challenging, robust, broad and with a ‘UTCness’ flavour. NE Futures UTC will draw inspiration from existing UTCs that have launched KS3 offers.

UTCness includes projects and work with the UTC’s industry partners supporting work class careers education.

Year 7 students would have reduced hours compared with Y10+.

Example timetable for Year 7 - 9:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Mon** |  | **Tue** | **Wed** | **Thur** |  | **Fri** |
| *9:00-9:20* | Tutor | *9:00-9:50* | P1 | P1 | P1 | 9:00-9:20 | Re |
| *9:20-10:10* | P1 | *9:50-10:40* | P2 | P2 | P2 | 9:20-10:10 | P1 |
| *10:10-11:00* | P2 | *10:40-11:00* | break | break | break | 10:10-11:00 | P2 |
| *11:00-11:20* | Break | *11:00-11:50* | P3 | P3 | P3 | 11:00-11:20 | Break |
| *11:20-12:10* | P3 | *11:50-12:40* | P4 | P4 | P4 | 11:20-12:10 | P3 |
| *12:10-12:50* | Lunch | *12:40-13:30* | P5 | P5 | P5 | 12:10-13:00 | P4 |
| *12:50-15:00* | *Offsite Health and fitness* | *13:30-14:10* | *Lunch* | *Lunch* | *Lunch* | 13:00-13:40 | Lunch |
|  |  *End 3:00pm* | *14:10-14:30* | Tutor | Tutor | Tutor | 13:40-14:30 | Enrichment |
|  |  | *14:30-15:20* | P6  | P6 | P6 |  | *End 2:30* |
|  |  |  | *End 3:20* | *End 3:20* | *End 3:20* |  |  |

* Maths – 4 periods per week
* English – 4 periods per week
* Biology – 2 periods per week
* Physics – 2 periods per week
* Chemistry – 2 periods per week
* Computing – 3 periods per week
* Creative Arts – 2 periods per week
* Humanities – 2 periods per week
* Modern Foreign Languages – 2 periods per week
* Personal Development 1 period per week
* Technical Studies – 1 period per week
* Health and Fitness – 1 extended period per week

**All courses will follow the National Curriculum for Key Stage 3**

*Note: Science and Computing allocations are higher than typical to reflect the UTC’s specialism in Digital Technology and Healthcare Science enabling a broader and deeper curriculum with more curriculum time to focus on Technical Education and UTCness project based learning.*

*The personal Development session will cover important areas such as Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE), Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education (SMSC), Sex and Relationship Education (SRE), Careers Education and Religious Education.*

The Technical Education session will be used to give students a range of real world useful technical and work-ready skills by completing projects from our industry Partners such as Accenture, the NHS and Sage. Technical skills will include software development, cyber security and VR in the Digital Technology specialism and First Aid and Biomedical Science in the Healthcare Science specialism. Work Ready skills that will be developed include teamwork, communication, problem solving and leadership skills.

Tutor time will be used to support pastoral intervention, the love of reading, academic support, positive parent/carer relationships and high attendance as well as a first stop for students to get their concerns and queries addressed

Students will be expected to complete up to 3 hours of further Independent Learning Time (ILT) offsite per week

# Behaviour and Pastoral Care

NE Futures UTC has specialisms in Healthcare Science and Digital Technology – teachers in the UTC have come from a School rather than FE background with experience of teaching Y7, 8 and 9.

There are Y10-13 students that require structured intervention for behaviour at the UTC and the UTC has met these student’s needs with systems such as ‘warning, move seat, callout’ and use of Leadership Team removal rooms. These systems are will meet the needs of behaviour for Y7-9 as well.

The UTC will draw on the support and experience of other secondary schools in the Trust

There will be a dedicated member of the pastoral team leading the specific pastoral needs for the Y7-9 cohort. This is expected to be an internal appointment if possible.

The Y7-9 will have a ‘base room’ where the majority of their lessons will be taught.

There may be some challenges with students in the first year as the age between them and the Year 10 students will be quite significant. However, the UTC fosters a culture of mutual support and respect, and it will be expected that the older students are positive role models for the year 7 students.

# Proposal for Pupil Admissions Numbers (PAN)

The Pupil Admissions Number is the stated maximum number of student places each year for each age group. The proposal is to set the PAN for Year 7 at 30 students. This small number represents a stepped growth for the UTC that will ensure that quality and the UTC ethos can be maintained.

Post 16 capacity will be kept flexible to ensure that the overall daily capacity of the building at 600 is maintained. It is recognised that some Year 12 students are undertaking 1 year courses and Post-16 students have a flexible timetable around their lesson commitments.

*Note – the UTC has not yet reached PAN in the existing year groups, but the modelling below shows that the capacity to add a Year 7-9 provision in small numbers in clearly there.*

## 2021

Unchanged from 2020

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year group** | Current PAN | Proposed PAN with Year 7 entry |
| **7** |  |  |
| **8** |  |  |
| **9** |  |  |
| **10** | 120 | 120 |
| **11** | 120 | 120 |
| **12** | 120 | 120 |
| **13** | 120 | 120 |
| **Total** | **480** | **480** |

## 2022

Y7, Y10 and Y12 entry

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year group** | Current PAN | Proposed PAN with Year 7 entry |
| **7** |  | 30 |
| **8** |  |  |
| **9** |  |  |
| **10** | 120 | 120 |
| **11** | 120 | 120 |
| **12** | 120 | 120 |
| **13** | 120 | 120 |
| **Total** | **480** | **510** |

## 2023

Y7, Y10 and Y12 entry

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year group** | Current PAN | Proposed PAN with Year 7 entry |
| **7** |  | 30 |
| **8** |  | 30 |
| **9** |  |  |
| **10** | 120 | 120 |
| **11** | 120 | 120 |
| **12** | 120 | 120 |
| **13** | 120 | 120 |
| **Total** | **480** | **540** |

## 2024

Y7, Y10 and Y12 entry

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year group** | Current PAN | Proposed PAN with Year 7 entry |
| **7** |  | 30 |
| **8** |  | 30 |
| **9** |  | 30 |
| **10** | 120 | 120 |
| **11** | 120 | 120 |
| **12** | 120 | 120 |
| **13** | 120 | 120 |
| **Total** | **480** | **570** |

# Catchment area

Technically the Y7 catchment area would be the same as the current 14-19 catchment area – e.g. the whole of the North East. This is one of the key reasons the proposed PAN for Year 7 will be small compared to the PAN for Y10. It is expected that the Y7 cohort will mainly consist of students living with easy access to the city centre and those whose parents would provide a lift to school in the morning (perhaps they work in Newcastle and live elsewhere). Some Y7 students may also use public transport. This factor would have to be monitored very carefully.

The PAN is kept small as the UTC location is not the most accessible to this age range. However there are many local areas where schools are oversubscribed and many families seeking alternatives.