



March 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Options and Choices in Year 9

Year 9 is such a crucial stage in a student's education as more choices become available, courses and assessments become more formal and also as young people start to move into adulthood.

This year, we have really tried to help support the decision-making process by offering students, parents and carers a wide range of opportunities to discuss the options available and which would be best suited to your child. So far these have included:

- Options Evening (11.01.2017): where all of the subjects from QEGS and also courses from external providers were on show and available for discussion; there was Careers advice from our independent Careers Advisor (Rebecca Marshall); a chance to speak individually to one of the Leadership Team about your child and the options they were considering;
- Careers Fair (17.01.2017): a real showcase event where we hosted a wide range of educational and employment providers at QEGS, helping to inform you of the opportunities here at QEGS but also locally, nationally and internationally. It is really important for us to help our students understand that QEGS is only part of the 'educational jigsaw' and that there are plenty of opportunities beyond here too;
- Parents' Consultation Evening (30.01.2017): a great turn out with over 85% of parents and students attending to discuss their individual subject performances with their teachers and pastoral staff; it was also another chance to have those last minute 'Options' discussions before the deadline of 1st February 2017.

What happens now?

Students have now made their choices and we are in the process of collating the information and looking to confirm choices as soon as possible. The timeline for this will be:

1. Agreement Letter Issued to Parents/Carers – w/c 13th March 2017
2. Reply Slip Returned to Student Services by Monday 27th March 2017
3. Route A & B – Choose Enrichment Options – April 2017
4. Route C – Vocational Interviews – April 2017
5. Final Options Confirmation – June 2017

I hope that you have enjoyed these events at the academy and also been well informed of the options and choices available. If you require further information about Year 9 Options and Careers please do not hesitate to contact:

Miss G Bains – Bains@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

Mrs J March – March@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr S Garrity
Head of Academy

Cc: Mrs G Bains, Mrs J March & Mrs S Howson

To all parents of children in year 9 of a
Derbyshire school

Date March 2017

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to you because you have a child who is due to move into Year 10 in September 2017.

In January this year, the government introduced a new regulation requiring all Local Authorities to write to parents in their area whose children will move into year 10 in September 2017 to inform them about 'schools in their locality with atypical points of admission'. The schools referred to are typically 'University Technical Colleges' UTCs or Studio Schools. UTCs are set up by universities and businesses and specialise in one or two technical subjects. At GCSE they offer a similar curriculum to a typical 11-18 secondary school, including the basics of English and Maths, as well as their specialist subject. Studio Schools are similar to UTCs in that they have employer involvement in the curriculum.

There are no UTCs or Studio Schools within Derbyshire. There are however some of these schools in neighbouring authorities and that may be within reasonable traveling distance for some students. The Department for Education has stated that some students may travel up to an hour or even longer to attend a UTC or Studio School. The attached list shows all the UTCs or Studio Schools that may be within 1 hour travel distance of at least one Derbyshire secondary school. Please be aware that transport costs to any of these schools would be the parents' responsibility.

For most children, the best option will be to continue into year 10 in their existing school. However, if one of the UTCs or Studio Schools on the list is within reasonable traveling distance from where you live you may wish to consider whether the courses they offer would be appropriate for your child. You could gain more information about what each UTC or Studio School offers by looking at their website. If this is an option you want to consider in more detail you should discuss it further with your existing school as they have a

responsibility to provide some guidance on the careers options to ensure you make a well informed decision on the future of your child.

You should be aware that some of these schools may not have places available for September 2017 and you should make any enquiries directly to the individual UTC or Studio School.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Firth', written in a cursive style.

Kevin Firth
Head of Development

University Technical Colleges and Studio Schools with one hour travel of Derbyshire	
School name	Post code
Aston University Engineering Academy	B74AG
Crewe Engineering & Design UTC	CW12PZ
Daventry UTC	NN110QE
Derby Manufacturing University Technical College	DE248ZS
Future Tech Studio, Warrington	WA28QA
Health Futures UTC	B708DJ
Humber UTC	DN156TA
JCB Academy	ST145JX
Sir Frank Whittle Studio School	LE174EW
Stephenson Studio School	LE673TN
Stoke Studio College - CABE	ST61JJ
Stoke Studio College - MADE	ST61JJ
The Creative and Media Studio School, Kirklees	HD59NY
The Greater Manchester Sustainable Engineering UTC	OL96DE
The Studio: At Knutsford Academy	WA160EA
University Technical College Lancashire	BB111RA
UTC Bolton	BL35AG
UTC Leeds	LS101LA
UTC Sheffield City Centre	S14QF
UTC Sheffield Olympic Legacy Park	S93TL
UTC Warrington	WA27NG
UTC@MediaCityUK	M502UW
Vision Studio School	NG185BH
Walsall Studio School	WS11RL
Waverley Studio College, Birmingham	B95SX
West Midlands Construction UTC	WV100JP
Wigan UTC	WN11RP
WMG Academy for Young Engineers (Coventry)	CV48DY
WMG Academy for Young Engineers (Solihull)	B375NE

The links below are to websites that contain further details of all the schools listed above.

<http://www.utcolleges.org/utcs/?region=all&specialism=all>

<http://studioschoolstrust.org/studio-schools/map-current-schools>