



Our Course Offer

Headteacher: Mr Ian Barry



QUEST TRUST
Supporting Young People from
Early Years to Employment



UNIVERSITY
Collegiate Sixth Form



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Our Sixth Form

Many of our students decide to stay here in our sixth form after achieving their GCSE qualifications. Our sixth form offers students a focused and supportive environment tailored to their academic and career aspirations.

With an exclusive area reserved just for our sixth formers, students benefit from a mature, professional setting that encourages independent study, collaboration and personal development.

This space is designed to reflect the transition from school to the workplace or higher education, equipped with modern facilities, ICT suite and social areas that foster a strong sense of community.

Our sixth form students are at the heart of college life, receiving expert guidance, enrichment opportunities and access to industry partnerships that prepare them for success beyond the classroom.

Our course offer sits in line with our identity as a University Technical College. Students can choose from a number of specialist pathways in Science, Health Science, Maths and Engineering at level 3, including BTEC and A Level.

Additionally, we offer foundation courses for students who may not have achieved their best initially in their GCSEs. Students can resit their English, science and maths qualifications whilst building the skills and knowledge needed to pursue a science, health science or engineering pathway.

These pathways equip our students with the skills, knowledge and experience needed to achieve a university place, secure an apprenticeship or join the world of work.

Through the courses offered at our sixth form, students can progress to careers as Mechanical Engineers, Structural Engineers, Doctors, Nurses, Social Workers, Paramedics, Paediatricians, Chemists, Pharmacists, Biologists.



What is a UTC?



We are proud to be a University Technical College (UTC). There are currently only forty-four of these in the UK, making it a specialist and distinctive educational offer within the region.

UTCs are government-funded schools that offer a unique setting specialising in the delivery of high-quality education with a strong emphasis on STEM subjects: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Like other government-funded academies, we are free to attend which ensures equal access for all young people, regardless of background.

UTCs are typically designed for young people aged 14 to 19 and provide an innovative learning environment that combines academic study with practical, hands-on experience. As an extended UTC, we offer places to students aged 11 to 19. Students join us from Year 7 and can stay for up to seven years.

UTCs work with employers and local universities to develop and deliver their curriculum and provide the latest equipment and technology used by industry. We work with 50+ employers to support the delivery of our curriculum.

UTCs are typically smaller than traditional secondary schools, with around 600 learners, which naturally lends itself to a more personable educational experience for students.

Usually, at least 40% of curriculum time is dedicated to the specialist curriculum.

Students at a UTC enjoy a vibrant learning atmosphere where practical projects, industry placements and innovative teaching methods come together. This approach builds technical expertise while nurturing teamwork, problem solving and resilience.

Choosing a UTC means joining a community with a clear focus on equipping young people with the skills, experiences and high-quality education they need to reach their full potential in the future. UTC students benefit from strong links with local universities and employers, gaining real world insights and work experience.

Message from Headteacher

Thank you for taking the time to access our Course Offer booklet. Choosing where to continue your education after Year 11 is one of the most important decisions you will make. At University Collegiate School Sixth Form Bolton, we are proud to offer a unique post-16 experience that combines academic excellence with specialist technical education and engagement opportunities with an array of employers. This is designed to prepare you to compete and thrive in the world of work.

As a University Technical College (UTC), we are different by design. UTCs were created to bridge the gap between education and industry, providing students with opportunities to develop both academic knowledge and the practical skills employers and universities value most. Through strong partnerships with industry and higher education, our students benefit from real-world projects, employer engagement, industry-standard facilities and real experiences that bring learning to life.

At UCS Sixth Form, our specialist focus on Engineering, Science and Health Science enables students to pursue pathways aligned with some of the fastest-growing and most exciting sectors in the UK economy. Whether your ambition is to become an engineer, scientist, healthcare professional, researcher, technician or to pursue an apprenticeship or university education, our curriculum is designed to help you achieve your goals. Our students leave us equipped with excellent qualifications and, most importantly, the confidence, professionalism and employability skills needed to succeed in the future.

We are immensely proud of our identity as a UTC. Our students learn in a professional environment where ambition is encouraged, curiosity is celebrated and aspirations become reality. We are guided by our core values of being Professional, Responsible and Loyal, qualities that will support you in making a positive contribution to your community and in future employment.

Our Sixth Form offers a carefully designed range of A Level and technical qualifications, delivered by passionate, specialist staff and enhanced through partnerships with employers, universities and industry professionals. These experiences help our students gain a deeper understanding of their chosen field and provide a clear advantage when progressing to higher education, apprenticeships and employment.

As you explore this booklet, I encourage you to consider not only the qualifications on offer but also the opportunities available to you as part of our thriving Sixth Form community. We are committed to helping

Scan the QR code on the right to access our UCS Sixth Form website home page. Alternatively, click the link below to access the webpage:

<https://www.ucs-bolton.org.uk/page/?title=Sixth+Form&pid=20>



every student achieve their ambitions and take their next steps with confidence.

I look forward to welcoming you to University Collegiate School Sixth Form and supporting you on the next stage of your journey.

Jan Barry

Headteacher



Message from Head of Sixth Form

At UCS Sixth Form, we are committed to preparing students not only for academic success, but for successful futures beyond education. Through a curriculum that is ambitious, aspirational and careers focused, we ensure that employability is embedded throughout every stage of the Sixth Form experience.

Our students benefit from a curriculum that carefully interleaves real world experiences with classroom theory, allowing them to apply their learning in meaningful and purposeful contexts. From university visits and industry speakers to work experience placements, employer engagement and enrichment opportunities, students develop the professional skills, confidence and resilience needed to thrive in modern society.

At UCS Sixth Form, we truly embody our Trust's mission of "Supporting Young People from Early Years to Employment." We believe education should provide a clear pathway towards future success, and we are proud to support students in becoming well-rounded, professional and aspirational young people who are fully prepared for university, apprenticeships and employment.

Alongside our high expectations and professional culture, UCS Sixth Form is proud of its warm, family feel environment where every student is known, valued and supported. We foster strong relationships between staff and students, creating a community where young people feel safe, encouraged and motivated to succeed. This supportive atmosphere is underpinned by a clear sense of professionalism throughout the Sixth Form, helping students develop the maturity, independence and workplace behaviours needed for their next steps.

By combining academic excellence with personal development and employability, UCS Sixth Form provides students with the knowledge, experiences and opportunities needed to succeed in an ever changing world.

Niall Muncaster
Head of Sixth Form

Scan the QR code on the right to watch our UCS Sixth Form promotional video. Alternatively, click the link below to view the video online:

<https://youtu.be/jGNdyb6AILA>



Qualification Types



Students are encouraged to apply even if they don't quite meet all the entry requirements as we will consider applications on a case-by-case basis.

01 - A Level



A Levels are a great choice if you enjoy academic learning and have favourite subjects you want to focus on, like Maths, English or Science.

You can choose 3 subjects, giving you the freedom to shape your studies around your future goals, especially if you're thinking about university or degree apprenticeships.

Assessment is mainly through exams at the end of the course, helping you build strong knowledge and confidence in your chosen areas.

Entry requirements: typically Grade 6 or above

02 - Vocational



Vocational courses are perfect if you prefer practical, hands-on learning linked to real careers like Health & Social Care or Engineering.

You'll work on coursework, projects and, sometimes, placements, meaning less pressure from final exams and more ongoing assessment.

These courses can take you straight into employment, an apprenticeship or even university, while helping you gain useful, real world skills.

Entry requirements: typically Grade 4 or above

03 - Foundation



Foundation courses are designed to help you build confidence and develop key skills before transitioning into higher level study.

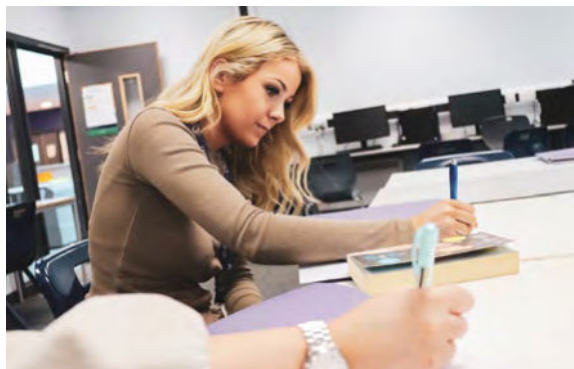
You'll study important subjects like English and Maths, alongside trying out different vocational areas to discover what you enjoy.

With lots of support along the way, these courses help you progress onto A Levels or Vocational courses when you're ready.

Entry requirements: typically Grade 2 or above

UCS Employability

At our Sixth Form, employability is a key part of our unique offer and sits at the heart of our vision to develop confident, skilled and future-ready young people. Through our partnerships and strong network with employers, students develop essential transferable skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving and leadership, all linked directly to real industry expectations.



A distinctive feature of our provision is our weekly timetabled employability workshop, where students work with employers and engage in industry led activities designed to develop professional behaviours and understand what it takes to succeed in the workplace. These sessions, alongside embedded curriculum opportunities, ensure that students are not only academically successful but also fully prepared for their next steps in education, apprenticeships or employment.

This commitment underpins our sixth form vision: to combine academic excellence with meaningful, real world experience, enabling every student to achieve their full potential.

**Powered by knowledge
Driven by industry**



A Level



Biology



Course Content:

Students study a wide range of biological topics including cells, genetics, ecosystems and physiology.

Practical laboratory work is integrated throughout to support understanding of scientific investigation.



Assessment:

Assessment is through three written examinations at the end of the course, covering both theoretical content and practical skills.



Employability:

Skill development:

- Research
- Attention to detail
- Problem solving
- Critical thinking
- Time management

Career routes:

- Medicine
- Healthcare
- Environmental Science
- Biology
- Research Analyst

“

Develop confidence in communication, analysis and creative thinking.

”



Chemistry



Course Content:

Students study physical, inorganic and organic chemistry, including atomic structure, reactions, energetics and advanced analytical techniques.

Practical work is embedded throughout the course.



Assessment:

Assessment consists of three written examinations at the end of Year 13, with practical skills contributing to the overall grade.



Employability:

Skill development:

- Laboratory skills
- Attention to detail
- Problem-solving
- Numeracy
- Data interpretation

Career routes:

- Medicine
- Toxicologist
- Chemical Engineer
- Biology
- Forensic Scientist

“

Apply scientific theory through experiments and investigation.

”



Core Maths



Course Content:

This one-year course is suitable for students who achieved a strong pass in GCSE Mathematics and want to develop their understanding of how maths applies to real-world situations.

It builds confidence in analysing data and solving practical problems, supporting progression in subjects and careers that require strong numerical and analytical skills.



Assessment:

Assessment consists of three written examinations at the end of this course, with practical skills contributing to the overall grade.



Employability:

Skill development:

- Accuracy
- Communication
- Problem-solving
- Decision making
- Data interpretation

Career routes:

- Psychology
- Business
- Data Analyst

“

Apply maths to everyday situations and future career pathways.

”



Criminology



Course Content:

This course examines the nature of crime, including different types, causes and societal impact.

Students explore criminological theories, criminal investigations, forensic evidence and the effectiveness of punishment and rehabilitation strategies.



Assessment:

Assessment combines external examinations with internally assessed coursework.

This includes applied tasks that reflect real world criminal justice scenarios.



Employability:

Skill development:

- Data analytics
- Evaluation and interpretation
- Ability to apply theory to practical
- Strong communication
- Critical thinking

Career routes:

- Criminology
- Law
- Armed Forces
- Probation Services
- Wider Criminal Justice

“Explore real-world crime, justice and forensic investigation.”

English Language & Literature



Course Content:

Students explore how stories are constructed across a range of literary and non-literary texts. This includes analysis of place, narrative voice, genre and linguistic techniques through prose, poetry and drama.

Learners study representations of conflict and complete an independent investigation linking different text, developing both analytical and creative approaches.



Assessment:

Assessment consists of two written examinations (80%) and a non-exam assessment (20%).

Exams include analytical essays and creative re-casting tasks, while coursework involves an extended independent investigation of 2,500–3,000 words.



Employability:

Skill development:

- Advanced analytical reading
- Creative and persuasive writing
- Independent research
- Strong communication
- Critical thinking.

Career routes:

- Law
- Journalism
- Marketing
- Education
- Publishing

“
Develop confidence in communication, analysis and creative thinking.
”



Mathematics



Course Content:

Students study pure mathematics, statistics and mechanics, building on GCSE knowledge to develop advanced mathematical understanding.

The course emphasises problem solving and the application of mathematical models to real-world situations.



Assessment:

Assessment is by three, 2-hour written exams (300 marks total), with no coursework and grades based entirely on exam performance.



Employability:

Skill development:

- Logistics
- Data Analysis
- Problem-solving
- Critical Thinking
- Teamwork

Career routes:

- Engineering
- Finance
- Economics
- Accounting
- Data Manager

“

Develop logical thinking and advanced problem solving skills.

”



Physics



Course Content:

Students study topics, including forces, energy, electricity, quantum phenomena and fields, alongside one optional area such as astrophysics, medical physics or engineering physics.

The course is supported by a comprehensive practical programme, where students develop hands on skills in experimental design, measurement and data analysis.



Assessment:

Assessment is through three written examinations: Papers 1 and 2 each assess half of the core content, while Paper 3 is synoptic and includes the optional topic.

Students also complete a Practical Skills Endorsement through twelve assessed experiments, reported separately.



Employability:

Skill development:

- Laboratory skills
- Data analysis
- Problem-solving
- Report writing
- Critical thinking

Career routes:

- Engineering
- Healthcare
- Medical Technology
- Finance
- Data Analyst

“

Explore the science behind the world and the technology of tomorrow.

”

Psychology



Course Content:

The course introduces key psychological approaches and debates, alongside classic and contemporary research.

Students study human behaviour through social, developmental, biological and mental health perspectives, with research methods embedded throughout to support scientific understanding.



Assessment:

Assessment is 100% examination across three papers.

Students complete a combination of multiple-choice questions, short responses, data analysis tasks and extended evaluative essays.



Employability:

Skill development:

- Data analytics
- Evaluation and interpretation
- Scientific reasoning
- Strong communication
- Critical thinking

Career routes:

- Psychology
- Nursing
- Education
- Criminology
- Health Science

“

Explore why people think, feel and behave the way they do.

”



Vocational



Applied Science Level 3



Course Content:

Students gain an in depth understanding of human physiology, disease, microbiology and healthcare science.

The course combines theoretical study with practical investigation, including laboratory based work and applied scientific reporting.



Assessment:

Assessment includes a mixture of external examinations (58%) and internally assessed coursework (42%), including practical investigations and assignment-based tasks.



Employability:

Skill development:

- Laboratory skills
- Decision making
- Data analysis
- Apply theory to clinical work
- Teamwork

Career routes:

- Medical Science
- Biomedical Science
- Nursing
- Physiotherapy
- Laboratory Technician



“Combine classroom learning with practical laboratory experience.”



Engineering Level 3



Course Content:

Students study core units including principles, safe working practices, product design manufacture, commercial and quality processes, and a specialist project.

Optional units allow further specialisation in areas such as computer aided design (CAD), manufacturing processes, electronics and materials.



Assessment:

This qualification is equivalent to two A Levels and consists of 10 units, with five mandatory components covering core engineering knowledge and skills.

Assessment is a combination of internal coursework (eight units) and external examinations.



Employability:

Skill development:

- Project management
- Teamwork
- CAD and design
- Problem-solving
- Communication

Career routes:

- Technician
- Product Development
- Construction
- Aerospace Engineer
- Automotive Technician

“Gain hands on engineering experience while solving real industry challenges.”



Health & Social Care

Level 3



Course Content:

Students explore human development, health and wellbeing, and the structure of health and social care services.

The course emphasises professional practice, including communication, safeguarding, equality and ethical responsibilities.



Assessment:

Assessment includes both external examinations and internally assessed coursework, such as case studies, assignments and applied tasks.



Employability:

Skill development:

- Communication
- Empathy
- Professionalism
- Critical thinking
- Management

Career routes:

- Nursing
- Social Work
- Education
- Public Health
- Support Work

“

Build the professional skills needed for caring careers.

”

Foundation Courses



Applied Science Foundation



Course Content:

Students study physical, inorganic and organic chemistry, including atomic structure, reactions, energetics and advanced analytical techniques. Practical work is embedded throughout the course.



Assessment:

Assessment is through written examinations at the end of the course, with students completing six papers for Combined Science or nine for Triple Science.

Exams assess knowledge, application and analysis through a mix of short answer questions, extended responses and data interpretation.



Employability:

Skill development:

- Laboratory skills
- Critical thinking
- Scientific communication
- Numeracy
- Extended writing

Career routes:

- Progression to Level 3
- Laboratory Technician
- Healthcare worker

“

*Strengthen
your scientific
knowledge
before
progressing to
Level 3.*

”



Engineering Foundation



Course Content:

This course covers CAD, engineering skills, maths, physics, electrical and mechanical principles through practical projects and workshops.



Assessment:

Assessment is designed to reflect Pearson BTEC Level 3 Engineering, helping students become familiar with Level 3 expectations. It includes practical tasks, written assignments, engineering projects, presentations and a portfolio of evidence, with GCSE English and/or Maths studied alongside where required.



Employability:

Skill development:

- Laboratory skills
- Attention to detail
- Problem solving
- Numeracy
- Data interpretation

Career routes:

- Progression to Level 3
- Entry Level Trainee

“
Build the skills
and confidence
needed to
progress
to Level 3
Engineering.”



Health & Social Care Foundation



Course Content:

Students study practical clinical and first aid skills, such as infection control, moving and handling patients and basic life support/emergency response, to safely support individuals in health and social care settings.



Assessment:

Assessment is project-based and includes demonstrations, presentations, case studies, journals and assignments.

It also incorporates employer engagement activities and a final synoptic project, with GCSE English and/or Maths delivered alongside where required.



Employability:

Skill development:

- Communication
- Clinical care
- Teamwork
- Reflective practice
- Organisation

Career routes:

- Progression to Level 3
- Early Years Learner



“
Develop the
knowledge and
confidence to
progress into
health
and care
careers.”



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