

Dear Applicant,

Confirmation of the opening of the UTC, September 2020

I am writing to you as it has come to my attention that there have been some recent rumours that Doncaster UTC will not open on time. With this in mind, knowing how unsettling this type of misinformation can be, I have decided to write this letter and give you the assurance you need by confirming that **Doncaster UTC will open in September 2020, irrespective of any delay to the completion of the new build due to the recent outbreak of Covid-19.**

I am delighted to inform you that for the last few weeks, the CEO, Mrs Redford-Hernandez of the Brighter Futures Learning Partnership Trust, key lead personnel from the Department for Education (DfE), local partners and I have been working to develop an alternative plan to secure a timely opening, should there be any delay with the build being completed for the anticipated start time of September. Until now, there has not been a need to share this plan as the construction company, Willmott Dixon, has met all its key deadlines and was on schedule to open the build on time. Indeed, even during the last few weeks, the build continues to progress, albeit, with fewer construction workers. However, I realise as a parent that many of you may have concerns about the future and recognise the need to give you some reassurances.

I am therefore pleased to say that I am in a strong position to reassure you that the UTC will open on time; being designated as part of a locally strong Multi Academy Trust and having the full support of the DfE, has meant that we have been given access to the immediate resource and personnel which has facilitated finding quickly suitable, alternative accommodation which will allow the UTC to open without delay.

As a group, we have been able to source a local, easily accessible educational venue with outstanding Engineering and Computing facilities to deliver our specialised curriculum. We are also working in partnership with the local universities and employers to develop a number of exciting projects and learning experiences which will help induct our students into their new type of learning. Although I am unable to give you more information at this time, I can assure you that the DfE will not allow a project, which has taken over 4 years to develop, to fail. Indeed, all parties involved in this project are evermore committed; we have already appointed about 90% of the staff and have worked in collaboration with many staff from Hungerhill School to develop our curriculum, resource and business infrastructure needed to ensure success. We are, and remain, very excited for our young people and their futures.

As soon as I receive more information, I will endeavour to provide you with an update. Whilst we live in unprecedented times, I can fully appreciate the frustration and the feeling of being “lost” that students will feel right now. However, it is time to start thinking about September and the need to return to normality. In my view, it is important we start planning quality work to help students “hit the ground running” in September. We know from research that the longer the break from formal education the larger the impact will be on learning and knowledge retention. In order to avoid students being disadvantaged in September, Doncaster UTC will be supporting all students by preparing work for each subject, that involves independent work as well as online seminars. This will support students in getting to know their peers and



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teaching staff prior to starting with us in September. The project work will introduce GCSE and A Level / Technical units for each subject and ensure students are learning new materials, whilst consolidating prior knowledge.

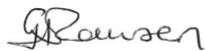
We are planning launching the project work for all students for both key stages on Monday 11th May 2020. If you are not following us on Facebook or Instagram, please do, as we will be providing regular updates. We will start to introduce weekly reading, preparation materials and activities for key subjects, including short video introductions from our fantastic new teaching team.

For current Year 11 students, the government, OFQUAL and Examination Boards have all outlined a detailed strategy to ensure that students are awarded the grades they deserve this summer. The teacher assessed grades will also reflect the school's historic results and the overall national picture. I am confident the grades awarded will be fair and reflect all students' ability. GCSE grades will be reviewed in the early autumn to ensure that all learners are on an appropriate pathway, however, I have made it clear than my intention is to make sure the current year 11 are not disadvantaged because of the current COVID-19 situation. The project work will form the foundation of an initial assessment that students will complete at the very start of the autumn term. It is expected this work will be completed, simply to ensure students are prepared and ready for success in their future studies.

I strongly recommend that students in Years 8 and 11 continue to complete activities provided to them by their current school and that they make every attempt to engage later with the material provided from colleagues at the UTC. Although you may not have exams to complete this summer, or have started your GCSE course, it is essential that students continue to learn in order to achieve their ambitions. For potential Year 12 students I would like to stress the importance of the core subjects GCSE English, Maths and Science which are crucial for success in all courses offered by Doncaster UTC.

With many good wishes

Kind Regards



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Principal



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