



# DERBY MANUFACTURING University Technical College

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Richie Wheatcroft – Principal

28<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

## Re: Ofsted Inspection Report

Derby Manufacturing UTC has this week received the result of an Ofsted inspection, which took place in May. The College had the following strengths identified:

- Strong links with local employers allowing students to learn about the engineering and manufacturing industries,
- Extra-curricular and enrichment activities which complement the ethos of the College

In addition, the report highlights students who left the school at the end of Year 11 in 2017 successfully moved on to places of education, training or employment (including staying at the UTC to access Post-16 programmes). All of Year 13 students who left the school in 2017 successfully moved on to places of higher education (45%), higher-level apprenticeships (45%) or employment (10%). Despite these strengths, the College received an overall 'inadequate' rating.

The judgement was based on the issues which the Inspectors found regarding the effectiveness of leadership and management at the College over time since it opened in September 2015, as well as in the category of personal development, behaviour and welfare of the students. In these areas, Ofsted found a lack of consistency in the safeguarding procedures and documentation despite the fact children are safe and reported they were safe which was acknowledged by the Inspectorate. Unfortunately, because of this the Inspectors had no option but to place Derby Manufacturing UTC into special measures.

This rating will come as a disappointment to many people who are rightly very proud of the progress that the UTC has made from opening and in particular the destinations our students achieve. The inspection identified areas that are not yet good enough and require attention. We fully accept the report findings and the leadership of the UTC have already taken significant steps to deal with the issues that were highlighted with support and guidance from a range of external agencies including the Department for Education.

The Board of Governors, UTC leadership and staff are determined to make the changes required rapidly to ensure our students remain safe and that the safeguarding procedures and documentation are embedded and applied consistently across the College. In addition,

Derby Manufacturing UTC is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales at the above address, registered company no. 08289534. The UTC is a state school specially designed for 14-19 year olds who have a real interest in science, technology, engineering and maths. We are training technicians, engineers and scientists and our target is no NEETs. We are sponsored by:



the UTC appointed an independent expert to undertake an audit to provide further assurance to the College and parents.

We believe these measures and others will rapidly take the UTC out of special measures and help us with our journey to become an excellent college. While we face a challenge now, we should not forget what makes the College a great place to learn and develop manufacturing skills along with workplace behaviours. There were many things in the inspection to be proud of: the technical education, the highly motivational Challenge projects undertaken with industrial partners and the commitment of the students. We have a fantastic manufacturing training facility and partnerships with some of the City's leading companies. The College and the partners are committed to help young people develop careers in engineering and manufacture.

The future of the UTC remains exciting – we have amazing young people, staff and facilities. We believe the vision and ethos of the College is already making a positive contribution to the skills shortage in the city.

A copy of the Ofsted Report can be found by following this link:

[https://files.api.beta.ofsted.gov.uk/142129\\_1.PDF](https://files.api.beta.ofsted.gov.uk/142129_1.PDF)

Should you wish to discuss the report in more detail, please contact us.

Yours sincerely

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

**Richie Wheatcroft**  
**Principal**