

NC/VM

5 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### Message regarding the UTC Derby Pride Park Principal

I wish to inform you that Richie Wheatcroft, Principal at UTC Derby Pride Park, following careful reflection, has decided to leave his post as Principal from the end of December 2020. Richie wishes to share the message below with all stakeholders:

‘Following a year in which I have faced many personal challenges, I have taken the difficult decision to retire from headship and teaching. Education has been a huge part of my life and I will miss it greatly. I wish everyone connected with education in the Derby region and the UTC in particular, very best wishes for success in the future.’

From January 2021 and for the remainder of this academic year, the CEO/Executive Principal for the Trust, Nick Crew, will provide the statutory Principal responsibilities for UTC Derby Pride Park supported by Lee Kirkwood (Vice Principal). Mr Kirkwood will support the day to day operational leadership in a temporary Associate Principal role.

### Updates following the latest Government Announcement

Following the Prime Ministers announcement last night regarding the new National lockdown, I wanted to take the opportunity to send you a further update on the ever-changing situation at the UTC.

Firstly, the UTC is committed to delivering a full curriculum to all students via remote learning (on-line learning) for the duration of this lockdown. Therefore, lessons will continue, as per the timetable being delivered this week. Individual subject teachers will discuss directly with students the mix of face-to-face taught content and independent study.

The government also announced last night that examinations would not take place as normal in the summer. At present, we do not have clarity on exactly what this process will look like. Last year, due to the impact of the pandemic, the UTC had to submit Centre Assessed Grades for all students being awarded qualifications in the summer. Although we think the process this year may be different, can I please emphasise the importance of students attending online learning, asking for support and submitting work as required. All work submitted will support the submission of Centre Assessed Grades should it be required. We will update you on further developments relating to the summer exams, as they become clear.

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Further to the summer exams, at present, the government have stated that the January exam series commencing Monday 11 January 2021, is going ahead. There is a national query currently being made about the suitability and challenge of the January series taking place. As a UTC, we are waiting for clarity from the DfE and exam boards, as to whether these will take place. All students currently entered for exams next week, remain as such but we are conscious of the impact that recent disruption to learning and the announcement of the new lockdown will have on student's ability to perform to their potential in these exams.

Despite not knowing the process for examinations in the summer, there is a high likelihood that formal examinations undertaken in the January series may contribute to the awarding of qualifications in the summer. If you would like to discuss the potential impact for your son/daughter, please email [derbyadmin@utcderby.org.uk](mailto:derbyadmin@utcderby.org.uk) and a member of staff will contact you.

Based on the ever changing nature of this situation, guidance and government strategy may change imminently and we will of course, inform you as soon as we can.

The UTC remains open for students of keyworkers and other priority students. Staff will be in attendance throughout the lockdown period, teaching remotely and offering support to students. If you require any assistance with accessing remote learning, support with technical issues, completing work set or anything else please do not hesitate to contact [derbyadmin@utcderby.org.uk](mailto:derbyadmin@utcderby.org.uk)

A limited on-site catering offer will be available at breaks and lunchtimes for any student in attendance. If a student receives Free School Meals and is not attending the UTC, a food parcel will be available for collection. Please contact the UTC from Monday 11 January 2021 to arrange ordering and collection from the UTC.

May I thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. J. Crew', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Mr Nick Crew**  
Executive Principal