

Age 14 to 19 Options in September 2027

A quick guide



If your child is in Year 8 or 9 in the 2026/2027 academic year they will usually remain at their current school until they leave at the end of Year 11, but you now have the option to apply for a place at a Studio School or a University Technical College (UTC).

For most young people, staying on in their current school will be best for their educational development but if they are interested in developing a career in a specific field they might want to move at the end of the year.

Studio School

Studio schools are an innovative new model of 14-to-19-year-old educational provision. They are small schools – typically with around 300 pupils – delivering mainstream qualifications through project-based learning. Students work with local employers and a personal coach, and follow a curriculum designed to give them the employability skills and qualifications they need in work, or to take up further education.

University Technical College (UTC)

A University Technical College (UTC) is a type of secondary school in England for 14-19-year-olds that is led by a sponsor university. The university supports the curriculum development of the UTC, provides professional development opportunities for teachers and guides suitably qualified students to foundation and full degrees.

The sponsor university appoints the majority of the UTC's governors and key members of staff.

If you are interested in this as an educational route for your child, you have the opportunity to apply for any of these establishments that are located across London and the South East.

As this is a big step we strongly recommend that you do thorough research before deciding and if you still think it's the best route for your child, you will need to apply directly to the relevant school or college. Check their website for application information.

Remember there are only a limited number of places for young people in Studio Schools and UTCs. If they have more applicants than places available, they will use their published Determined Admissions Arrangements to decide whom to offer a place to. As your child will already have a school place, there is no duty to provide an alternative place at one of these types of establishments if you do not get offered a place at one of your preferred schools. Your child will be required to continue to attend their current school.

For information on all the Studio Schools and UTCs within a reasonable distance from your home, please visit: <https://studioschoolstrust.org> and www.utcolleges.org

If you are interested in applying for any of these, please visit the Studio School's or UTC's website for details of the application process including the closing dates. This process can vary between schools, so you must get information from each school for which you are interested in applying.

The London Borough of Newham will be contacting all families attending school in the borough with further information on the Studio Schools and UTCs within a reasonable distance from your home by 12 September 2026 for admission in September 2027.

Some UTCs offer places in Year 9. This information will also be available on their website.



LONDON DESIGN AND ENGINEERING - UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE



DfE number 3164009

ETHOS AND AIMS



Introduction by the Principal
Geoffrey Fowler

LDE UTC is an industry-led, hi-tech 13-to-19 college, providing educational excellence for the learners of today. Young people choose to come to us because they have a passion to pursue a career in engineering. They will work with the latest industry standard technologies,

enabling them to become confident, independent, work-ready individuals.

The curriculum is delivered through interesting and exciting employer-led projects, enabling learning by doing. Learning content is relevant and memorable, boosting our learners' academic achievement.

Our young people receive expert advice from our employer partners and university sponsor, coupled with mentoring, site visits and work placements. Our employer partners include Thames Water, Costain, Skanska, Tideway, the University of East London and many more.

If you are interested in a career in design, digital media and engineering then our practical and academic approach, combined with the strength of our world class employer partners, the LDE UTC is the place for you.

We also offer a unique pledge to all of our learners to help them move on to a degree course at university of their choice, an offer of employment or an apprenticeship with one of our many partners when they leave the UTC.

SPECIALISM AND CURRICULUM

LDE UTC offers a new kind of personalised learning based on a challenging curriculum with clear progression into employment, higher education or apprenticeships. Like any school, our broad and balanced curriculum enables learners to attain national qualifications, including the EBacc. You will also be able to study more in the technical design and engineering areas that

you are excited about. Pioneering technical projects incorporate our subject specialisms which include: Engineering, Built Environment, Art and Design and Digital Media.

A range of qualifications are on offer alongside the core curriculum. A bespoke personal skills programme further enriches the curriculum and allows you to develop a variety of work-related and transferable skills including in finance and enterprise.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Our Learners achieve average technical grades of a Distinction and well above National average grades for their Maths, English and Science GCSEs. These impressive attainment results coupled with the many opportunities our employer sponsors provide leads to our learners securing impressive destinations, from universities such as Cambridge to employers that include Rolls Royce, Sky and British Airways to name but a few.

PASTORAL CARE

At LDE UTC, each learner is recognised as an individual with different interests and needs. You are fully supported throughout your time with us by the Head of Year and tutor who help learners focus on achieving their full potential and make the link between the learning in the classroom and the world of work. Our employer partners support learners in writing a good CV, rehearse interview skills and support project work. They are also able to help with organising work experience. As well as having access to the UEL SportsDock, (a £21m sports facility built for the American Olympic Team), all learners have access to a number of clubs and societies.

Alongside our pastoral programme, and our very own Chaplaincy team, LDE UTC enables our young people to learn useful transferable skills, such as organisation, teamwork, resilience whilst also promoting good mental health and wellbeing. Our learners leave LDE UTC with the necessary skills and knowledge to become valued members of society and the workforce of the future.

For more information please visit
www.ldeutc.co.uk

