

28 September 2021

Dear parent or carer,

As the parent/carer of a year 9 child, we are writing to you to let you know about other opportunities for education starting in year 10 available in the local area, which you may not be aware of.

University Technical Colleges (UTCs) are set up by universities and businesses and specialise in one or two technical subjects. They were established by the government to encourage young people to study technical subjects and sciences, and to give them the opportunity to learn the skills that employers are looking for. They offer GCSEs alongside technical qualifications at Key Stage 4 and A Levels alongside technical qualifications at Key Stage 5. Studio schools offer a range of academic and vocational qualifications, often taught through project-based learning, alongside work experience. Students work with local employers and follow a curriculum designed to give them skills and qualifications they need in work, or to take up further education.

These schools have atypical admission ages so take pupils at a different age to mainstream 11-18 secondary schools. This does not mean that you are required to move your child from their existing school if this is still the best option for them. Please see below further details of the schools within a reasonable travelling distance, which you may wish to consider as an option for your child from September. You should also look at the Key Stage 4 curriculum at your child's current school, to help you to decide what the best option is for the next two years of your child's education.

Leigh UTC, The Bridge, Brunel Way, Dartford DAI 5TF is our nearest one and full details on them and their education offer can be found at <https://theleighutc.org.uk>
If you decide that you would like to apply for a place at this school or any other you will need to complete an application form details of this can be found through their websites or from school.admissions@bexley.gov.uk

To help inform your decision on whether the provision offered, for example a UTC or studio school, is the right choice for your child, you may wish to speak to your current school's Careers Leader to discuss their options and opportunities for progression. You may also wish to supplement this by making use of the National Careers Service, which offers impartial advice and guidance on careers, skills and the labour market for anyone aged 13+. Careers information, advice and guidance is crucial to help people to develop the skills and experience that they need to achieve a fulfilling and rewarding career.

The website (<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice>) includes a wealth of information about different careers and learning options, as well as details on how to speak to an adviser via web chat and the helpline.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Taylor
Head of School Place Planning, Admissions, Major Projects & Transport
Children's Services
London Borough of Bexley