

Baker Dearing
Educational Trust

Support for UTCs

2025-2026



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“What I value most about Baker Dearing is the genuine support it provides to UTC Principals. The formal networks in areas such as engineering and marketing are invaluable, but it’s often the informal advice and connections that make the biggest difference. The team is consistently responsive and knowledgeable, offering guidance, practical help, or simply moral support when it’s needed most. This level of accessibility is so helpful in the day-to-day challenges of leadership.

I also particularly value the in-person events and the chance to engage directly with figures from the Department for Education, Ofsted, MPs and others. These are not only inspiring but also help us stay connected to the wider educational landscape.

Baker Dearing ensures Principals feel recognised, connected and supported – and that makes a real difference.”

– Hannah Wilson, Principal,
UTC Leeds



Who we are



As founder of Baker Dearing and the University Technical College programme, I am very proud of the achievements of UTCs. We are transforming education for so many young people, equipping them with the skills and ambition to progress to top apprenticeships, universities, and fulfilling careers.

It is essential that UTCs continue to raise the aspirations of young people from all backgrounds. It brings me joy that over 20,000 students are now enrolled across the network and we have the potential to reach more young people and organisations through UTC Sleeves and new UTCs.

Lord Baker, Life President

I am hugely proud of the work taking place across the UTC network. Every day, UTCs are driving economic growth by equipping young people with the technical skills and workplace experiences that employers need. UTCs transform individual lives while strengthening our economy, in line with the Industrial Strategy's ambition to boost skills-driven productivity and investment.

UTCs, employers, and our stakeholders are proving that we deliver outstanding outcomes and I wholeheartedly applaud the difference you are making for students and for Britain's future.

Stephen Phipson CBE, Chairman



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Support for UTCs

“Running a UTC is very different from running a school. The advice from Baker Dearing was invaluable to Ron Dearing UTC in our early days, and we still benefit eight years on as an outstanding UTC. Their support and advocacy give UTCs a collective voice with employers – and, importantly, in Westminster – strengthening the whole programme for the benefit of our students and industry partners.”

– Sarah Pashley, Principal,
Ron Dearing UTC



Helping UTCs achieve high standards

Baker Dearing has a dedicated team of experienced professionals who provide direct support to UTCs and also engage specialists from across the UTC network and beyond when necessary. The help offered is tailored to the unique needs of UTCs, particularly in areas where such expertise is scarce within the broader education sector. The charity's focus is on improving technical education, increasing student recruitment, and fostering partnerships with employers and universities. Support also includes induction and mentoring for new principals, as well as advice on educational, leadership, and governance issues.

Most UTCs receive customised assistance from the Baker Dearing team or from experts brokered and quality-assured by them. This can involve internal reviews, training for governors, for example, covering finance, regulations, and compliance, and support in preparing business cases for additional funding. The charity also offers and brokers tailored support and training to improve education standards, particularly within technical specialisms, and to prepare UTCs for Ofsted inspections.





To ensure UTC teachers are experts at the forefront of their specialisms, the Charity runs networks and programmes for professional development in engineering, health and science, digital skills, as well as creative media. Supported by employers and universities, each specialist network benefits from at least one in-person CPD event; last year, this included a fantastic day for our digital and engineering networks, hosted by engineering simulation software multinational Ansys. These networks also have access to shared resources on the Baker Dearing website and training to enhance their T Level delivery, which is supported by the Gatsby Charitable Foundation.

Responding to UTCs' requests, this year's professional development programme will be broader and more comprehensive, with increased involvement from employers. The engineering network, in particular, will benefit from several days of in-person training at leading engineering firms, supported by the HAAS Foundation.

Due to the specific needs of UTCs, the Charity also operates networks for staff working on T Level oversight, literacy, employer engagement, and marketing and recruitment. These networks meet regularly online and face-to-face, facilitating expertise-sharing and valuable networking with employers, universities, and other supporting organisations. A notable highlight last year included an excellent development day for the employer engagement network hosted by Amazon at their London HQ.

Baker Dearing has also established robust data analysis and reporting capabilities to meet the particular needs of UTCs. External organisations such as Redborne and GL Assessment gather key data, which is then centrally analysed and shared with UTCs to aid in self-evaluation and to showcase achievements to stakeholders like Ofsted, the DfE, and employers.

All these efforts are rooted in a commitment to continuous improvement and collaboration within the network. Regular dialogue with UTCs helps Baker Dearing stay responsive to emerging needs. By drawing on insights from trustees, partners, and specialist practitioners, the charity ensures its support remains relevant and impactful, adapting to new challenges as they arise. Its central team actively seeks feedback from all stakeholders, using this input to refine services and drive innovation in technical education.

Fostering a community across the UTC network

A central goal of Baker Dearing is to strengthen the UTC community. The charity organises a wide range of events for staff, governors, and students, and provides regular communication, advice, and guidance to all UTCs. In the past year, 58 online and in-person events were held for a variety of postholders, from principals to marketing leads.

Recognising the importance of strong employer and university engagement, particularly in uncertain times, Baker Dearing has increased resources for employer recruitment at both individual and multi-UTC levels. Notably, 9 in-person student events took place last year, including a stage-craft competition



“It was great to meet up with so many passionate people all keen to make technical education the best it can be.”

– Geoffrey Fowler, CEO & Principal,
London Design and Engineering UTC



with the National Theatre and a leadership skills development day for young women from across the UTC network, supported by Network Rail. In response to feedback, Baker Dearing has honed its student events programme to focus on building the student community and give learners the opportunities to showcase skills to national employers and universities. The provisional schedule for the current year's events can be found on pages 31-32.

This year, Baker Dearing, supported by UTC South Durham, will introduce an alumni board, which will report to the Baker Dearing Trustee Board. The alumni board will help develop a network of former students, offer insights on improving the student experience, and support the charity's advocacy efforts.



Shaping the policy, regulatory, and media environment for UTCs



Abtisam Mohamed MP visiting UTC Sheffield City Centre

Last year, Baker Dearing secured major policy achievements for the UTC programme. UTCs are now exempt from the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill requirements to deliver the full national curriculum and to employ only teachers with qualified status. These outcomes were made possible by a strong relationship with the DfE, a high-quality UTC programme, and persistent, long-term relationship-building with MPs and peers nationally and at the UTC level. Each of which highlighted the value and importance of UTCs to young people and the economy.

Following the July 2024 General Election, ministers, including Rachel Reeves and Baroness Smith, visited various UTCs, and Baroness Smith addressed the summer conference, reaffirming her support. The charity's leadership, including Life President Lord Baker and CEO Stephen Phipson CBE, meet regularly with Cabinet members, ensuring UTCs' interests are represented at the highest levels.





Given the ever-changing political landscape, continued advocacy is essential so that UTCs maintain a strong voice within government, the media, and among all stakeholders such as exam boards and Ofsted. This is especially the case now with the upcoming Curriculum and Assessment Review and new Ofsted Framework.

Frequent dialogue with the Regions Groups, termly meetings with the DfE team, and ongoing engagement with Ofsted ensure that UTCs will continue to thrive in a supportive environment. For example, additional training for Ofsted inspectors, developed through consultation and a trial inspection in a UTC, together with a UTC-only training session about the new Ofsted framework, all facilitated by Baker Dearing, will help UTCs prepare for the new framework.

Baker Dearing receives no direct funding from the DfE; activities are financed through the UTC Licence Fee, grants, and commercial work, with the aim to raise and spend at least 50% more than the Licence Fee income. Over 85% of funds are directed to services for UTC students, staff, and governors. A full summary of services is available on the following pages. Cost savings are also realised through remote working and negotiated service discounts, delivering excellent value to UTCs.




Baggy Shanker and
Catherine Atkinson
MPs visiting UTC
Derby Pride Park

“Baker Dearing’s advocacy has been invaluable in helping us engage with political leaders – resulting in MP visits to all three UTCs in our Trust last year. These opportunities to showcase our students’ achievements raise the profile of UTCs and ensure our voice is heard where it matters most.”

– Nick Crew, CEO, The Sheffield
UTC Academy Trust

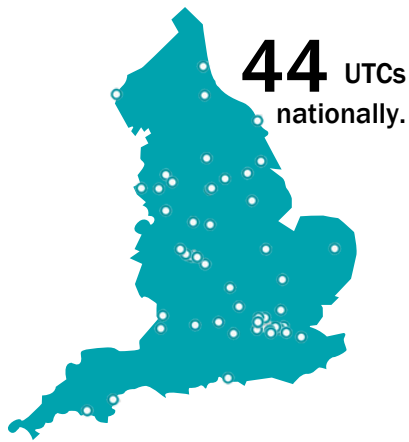
Impact

A photograph of three people seated on a stage for a panel discussion. On the left, a man in a dark suit and light blue shirt sits with his hands clasped. In the center, a woman with curly hair and glasses wears a white striped top. On the right, a person with short dark hair, wearing a colorful plaid shirt and light-colored pants, is speaking into a microphone. A fourth person, seen from the back, is seated in the foreground. A large blue hexagonal graphic is overlaid on the lower left of the image, containing white text. The background consists of a wall with vertical panels and a dark doorway.

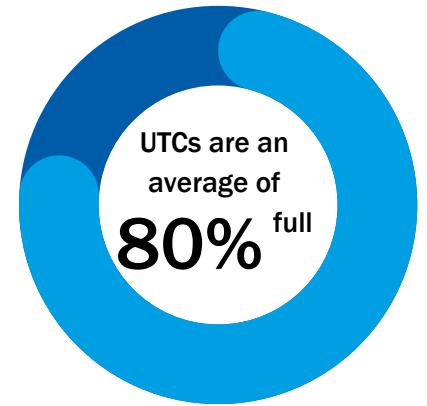
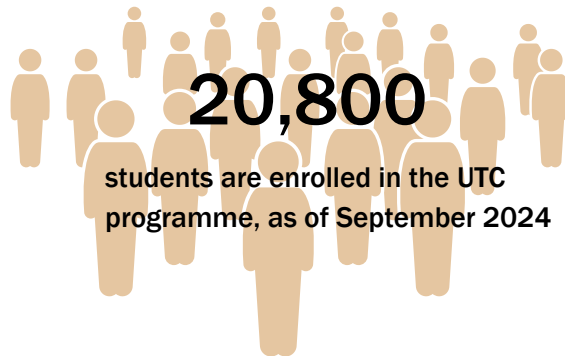
“T Level students from UTCs are incredibly talented and work ready. UTC T Level students had the highest conversion rate from T Level placements to Amazon tech degree apprentices.”

– Jo Simovic, Senior Program Manager, Emerging Talent Programs, Amazon University Talent Acquisition

Student numbers



471 students, on average, at each UTC



Ofsted

86% of UTCs are 'good' or 'outstanding'

30% have 'outstanding' features

"Teachers have excellent knowledge of the subjects they deliver. They use assessment well to identify any misconceptions so they do not persist. Debate and discussion are a feature of many lessons. Teachers routinely help pupils draw on previous learning when tackling new ideas. This ensures pupils, and students in the sixth form, develop a deep understanding in different subjects. There are numerous opportunities for pupils to demonstrate their technical and creative expertise. These include projects and engagement with employers and professionals in the creative industries who support the school's practical curriculum."

– Ofsted report into Elstree Screen Arts Academy, March 2025.



"The ambitious, specialist curriculum on offer at the UTC helps prepare pupils well for the workplace. Pupils benefit from industry-standard equipment, the knowledge of staff and dedicated careers advice. Pupils are inspired by their engagements with employers. These include national and international businesses. Direct partnerships between these businesses and the UTC enhance pupils' educational experience and employability skills."

– Ofsted report into UTC Sheffield City Centre, June 2025.

Student survey

89%

of year 9/10 students want employer experiences such as projects, talks, and work experience



66% of year 9/10s said their attendance improved at the UTC compared to their old school



85%

of UTC students would recommend their UTC to a friend



54%

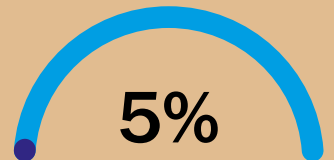
of new KS4 students chose a UTC because they can study technical and creative subjects which weren't available at their previous school

Destinations



20% of UTC leavers progressed to apprenticeships, compared to 5% nationally*

66% of those apprenticeships are at a higher or degree level compared to 31% nationally*



5% became NEET compared to 13% nationally*



72% of leavers going to university started a STEM course, compared to 42% nationally*



55% of leavers with SEND progressed to destinations at Level 4 and above compared to 42% nationally*



56% of 2024 UTC leavers from disadvantaged backgrounds progressed to HE, compared to a national average of 47%*

*National average for Level 3 leavers from mainstream schools and colleges (summer 2022 - latest)

All data based on 2024 figures (latest at time of publication)

Baker Dearing team

Our team of dedicated staff and consultants brings wide-ranging expertise to support UTCs across all aspects of their operation. This collective knowledge ensures UTCs have access to the right advice, networks and practical help when they need it. Together, the team provides trusted guidance and connections that strengthen day-to-day delivery and support long-term success.



Kate Ambrosi, Chief Executive Officer

Kate leads Baker Dearing and is responsible for its work in education delivery, lobbying, communications, and employer engagement, as well as overseeing operational matters.

kambrosi@bakerdearing.org



Magdalin Clancy, Chief Finance and Operating Officer

A highly experienced school leader, Magdalin drives financial strategy, operations, organisational development, and governance.

mclancy@bakerdearing.org



Steve Leahey, Director of Curriculum Innovation

A former UTC principal, Steve advises UTCs on educational matters, specifically leading on T Level support, employer engagement and the Baker Award.

sleahey@bakerdearing.org



Alex Hayes, Senior Adviser

Alex supports UTCs with leadership development and Ofsted preparation.

ahayes@bakerdearing.org





Nicolas Heslop, Public Affairs Adviser

Nicolas is well known around the corridors of Westminster and supports Baker Dearing with policy and lobbying.

nheslop@bakerdearing.org



Rosalind Kipps, Events and Operations Manager

With over 10 years at Baker Dearing, Ros manages Baker Dearing's successful events programme, and handles all of Baker Dearing's brand, publications and design work.

rkipps@bakerdearing.org



Fraser Whieldon, Communications and Public Relations Manager

With a background in journalism and PR, Fraser is responsible for Baker Dearing's external and internal communications, including relations with the media and Baker Dearing's newsletters.

fwhieldon@bakerdearing.org



Ethan Harries, Baker Award Project Manager

Since studying at a UTC himself, Ethan has worked at three UTCs, numerous other technical education settings, and was an advisor to the Skills Minister in the last government. He brings this experience to manage the Baker Award for Technical Education.

eharries@bakerdearing.org



Ayesha Bhamji, UTC Projects Coordinator

Having previously worked at LDE UTC as part of the employer engagement team, Ayesha brings that experience to Baker Dearing to coordinate student-facing projects for UTCs across the network.

abhamji@bakerdearing.org



Odette Merten, CEO's Executive Assistant

Odette facilitates data collections including student recruitment and destinations data, manages Kate's diary, and provides administrative support to the team.

omerten@bakerdearing.org

Trustees

Baker Dearing was pleased last year to welcome six new trustees from the top of industry, politics, and the UTC network, to support Baker Dearing's enhanced range of activities. They will be out and about visiting UTCs over the next year, augmenting the trustee visits programme.

Baker Dearing trustees conduct regular, structured visits to UTCs across the country. As well as providing our trustees with the chance to observe UTCs at close hand, the visits serve as an opportunity for staff and governors to promote, evidence, and reflect upon their UTC's distinctive characteristics. In addition, the meetings are an appropriate forum to discuss the UTC's strategic plans and to identify what else the Baker Dearing team can do to help them. The trustee visit format is currently being reviewed and visits will recommence later this year. We will be in contact with potential host UTCs well in advance.



Stephen Phipson CBE, Chairman

Stephen supports the UTC programme as an active participant in political and fundraising activities. With trustees, he also oversees and bolsters the work of Baker Dearing.

sphipson@bakerdearing.org



Nishy Lall

Nishy Lall, Sky's Group Head of Youth and Social Impact, is an award-winning changemaker whose initiatives have empowered over 500,000 young people globally through media, tech, fashion, and grassroots community programmes.



Mike Wright

Mike Wright is a former Executive Director of Jaguar Land Rover, retiring in 2016 after making a significant contribution to doubling JLR's scale since 2008. He acts as an advisor to FTSE- and North American-listed businesses, sports, arts and government-related organisations.



Lia Nici

Lia Nici has spent most of her career working in the television production, media training and education sectors. She was the Member of Parliament for her home town of Great Grimsby and now brings all of her skills and knowledge together as a freelance business consultant.



Clive Barker

Clive Barker is Chairman of CSB Logistics, a company he founded over 30 years ago. He is an active participant in the business community in South East London, having twice served as President of the region's Chamber of Commerce. Clive is Chair of The Leigh UTC in Dartford.



Jim Wade

Jim Wade was Principal of the JCB Academy, the first UTC, in Staffordshire. During his time at the JCB Academy, the UTC was consistently judged 'good' by Ofsted, and developed the model of employer engagement which has been adopted across the UTC programme.



Yvonne Mason OBE

Yvonne Mason is a businesswoman and charity founder, with over 37 years' experience in marine, shipping, and logistics. A founding member of UTC Norfolk, she now chairs its Industry Partner Group.



Oswin Baker

Oswin Baker is a podcaster, youth charity chair and social researcher with over 30 years in the business. As a trustee, he will bring a communications and youth perspective to the board.



Purminder Gandhu


Purminder Gandhu is the founder of KAURWAVE, a broadcast technology consultancy. Purminder spent over 30 years at the BBC and was part of an award-winning team that worked on the coronation. She is committed to mentoring, widening access to the creative and tech sectors, and championing DEI.



Paul Birt

Paul Birt, a HR and training professional, is a founding trustee and Chair of Lincoln UTC. With a 40-year career spanning the manufacturing sectors of computing, semiconductors, gas turbines and energy systems, he was most recently Head of People and Organisation with Siemens Smart Infrastructure in UK and Ireland.

Tailored support for 2025-26

- 
- Preparation for Ofsted inspection
 - Leadership development programmes
 - Data package
 - T Level implementation advice
 - Employer engagement
 - Policy and lobbying
 - The Baker Award for Technical Education



Preparation for Ofsted inspection

Currently, 86% of UTCs are rated 'good' or better and 30% are 'outstanding' or have 'outstanding' features. We want to further improve on this under the new, 2025 Ofsted framework and we are planning training to ensure UTCs are well prepared for the new regime.

Recognising this, our support for the next 12 months has two strands:

1

CPD on the new Ofsted framework

Once the new framework is published, we will offer all principals and senior leaders appropriate training. As and when UTCs are inspected under the new framework, we will facilitate the sharing of feedback from these early inspections. We will also offer training led by Ofsted where possible and provide additional CPD for trustees.

2

Direct engagement with those UTCs anticipating inspection in 2025/2026

Bespoke support will be discussed with each UTC expecting Ofsted within the next academic year. Expertise can then be drawn from the Baker Dearing team or brokered from a wider pool of experts.

We request that the UTC principal advises Baker Dearing (via director@bakerdearing.org) as soon as possible following receipt of the Ofsted call announcing the inspection.

We are uniquely placed to advise on any previous engagement within the programme with your inspectors and to provide live advice during the inspection process.

Leadership development programme

Running a UTC requires a unique set of skills and knowledge. Each year, our leadership development programmes are tailored around the specific needs of newly appointed principals and senior leaders who have the potential to lead UTCs.



These programmes are bespoke to the needs of the individual, but also allow for group visits to successful UTCs and networking. Typical areas covered are:

- Working with Baker Dearing and the wider UTC community.
- The four distinctive characteristics of UTCs.
- Devising a specialist curriculum.
- Impactful employer engagement.
- Accountability measures in UTCs.
- Securing ambitious destinations for all students.
- Student recruitment: strategy and operation.
- Staff recruitment and retention.
- Financial management in a UTC.
- Good governance in a UTC context.

Data package

As a relatively new approach in education, it is essential to understand the benefits of University Technical Colleges (UTCs) in order to promote their value to various stakeholders, including employers, prospective students, and parents. This understanding will also help identify areas of best practice which can be shared within the community. In addition, a UTC education is distinctly different from the mainstream, and data collected by external organisations, such as student destinations, exam results, or academic progress, may be either unsuitable or not produced in a timely manner.

Therefore, Baker Dearing has built its data analysis and reporting capacity to meet the specific needs of UTCs in the following areas:

1. GL Assessment and Redborne reports
2. Summer examinations analysis
3. Student leaver destinations analysis
4. Student survey feedback
5. Student recruitment analysis
6. Student attendance data

More information including a recorded overview, a checklist with dates, and all the resources can be found in the UTC login area of our website. General data support is also available, please contact: director@bakerdearing.org.

“The data service offered by Baker Dearing allows us to monitor students’ progress accurately and comprehensively, helping guide our provision and maximise their learning. As a different educational model, it is so useful to be able to benchmark against similar institutions, and Baker Dearing’s analysis from across the UTC programme allows us to do just this, from recruitment to examinations and student destinations. I would highly recommend other UTCs take up the offer.”

– Stewart Tait, CEO, WMG Academies Trust

T Level implementation advice

The UTC programme excels in delivering T Levels, with retention and achievement rates significantly higher than the rest of the sector. It is vital that we now build on this success by expanding the scale and breadth of delivery across the programme. Also by ensuring that the experience of the students really does prepare them for success in sustainable careers.

Baker Dearing supports the UTCs to do this by:

- Offering tailored support to UTCs, MATs, employer partners, and other stakeholders.
- Assisting UTCs with specialist equipment funding applications.
- Advising UTCs on sourcing and delivering high-quality industry placements.
- Collaborating with awarding bodies and employers to improve communication and deliver staff training.
- Making sure that all industry-led projects align with the T Level and Baker Award.
- Keeping UTC specialist networks up-to-date with the latest T Level developments.
- Leading networking events for UTC T Level coordinators.
- Representing the UTC perspective on T Levels in discussions with the DfE and Gatsby.
- Sharing best practice and case studies to strengthen delivery and marketing.
- Supporting the planning and delivery of the T Level Foundation Year.
- Engaging with higher education institutions on entry requirements.
- Helping employers to provide work placements.



For more information or support with T Level implementation please contact Steve Leahey.

Employer engagement

Support for employer engagement takes place at both a local and national level. Baker Dearing has extensive experience of helping UTCs to secure local employer partners, and we continue to support those looking to extend opportunities for students or to re-engage with previous partners.

At a national level, Baker Dearing is uniquely placed to represent UTCs with major employers seeking a pipeline of future talent. We have built strong relationships with organisations including Amazon, MACE, DSTL, and AstraZeneca, and continue to expand this network to open up new opportunities for UTCs and their students.

Support includes:

- Employer engagement network meetings to share best practice and hear directly from employers.
- Centrally managed groups of UTCs working with national employers to develop both local and national initiatives.
- Aligning employer engagement projects to work within a UTC's curriculum and meet the requirements of the Baker Award.
- Creating case studies of excellent employer engagement to share with other employers, funders and government officials.





Baker Dearing also facilitates national projects and activities that allow UTCs to collaborate and benefit from opportunities that would not be possible at an individual school level.

This year's highlights:

- Our new partnership with Synopsys, a global leader in electronic design automation and semiconductor IP, which provides UTCs with access to cutting-edge simulation and design tools.
- Plans to launch a national AI hackathon, giving students the chance to broaden their technical knowledge and understand workplace expectations.
- The UTC Health Tech Challenge and DSTL Callisto moon base competition, which remain flagship activities for UTCs across the country.
- A strengthened partnership with CEDIA, enabling projects that span both health and digital specialisms.
- Ongoing collaboration with the Manufacturing Technologies Association to support knowledge exchange and highlight how UTCs contribute to talent pipelines.

Through these activities we are helping UTCs strengthen employer engagement, raise their profile with industry, and ensure students and staff have access to experiences that reflect the latest developments in the workplace.

For more information, or to discuss any aspect of your employer engagement, please contact Steve Leahey.



Finance support

We recognise that UTCs each have their own finance arrangements in place, and many have developed strong in-house expertise over time. However, while Baker Dearing will no longer provide a standardised finance support package within the licence, we remain committed to helping UTCs where additional advice or support may be beneficial.

If your UTC would like guidance on financial planning, analysis, or engagement with external stakeholders (for example, Schools Financial Support & Oversight – SFSO, Pro16 Plus etc), please do get in touch. We are always happy to discuss individual requirements and explore how best we can assist. Our aim is to ensure that UTCs continue to have access to the right expertise at the right time, tailored to their specific context.



Policy and lobbying

Last year's successes highlight the importance of strong political lobbying. Through continued relationship building and advocacy, Baker Dearing has secured key exemptions for UTCs, enabling them to maintain their specialised, employer-led education and employ teachers directly from industry who do not hold QTS. Ministers have committed to ongoing discussions with the Charity about these exemptions this academic year; Baker Dearing will include UTC principals in these talks. The Charity will also continue to work closely with Ofsted to ensure that the new inspection framework is appropriate.

During the last academic year, Baker Dearing facilitated 25 visits from MPs, peers, and ministers to UTCs. This activity, combined with regular meetings with senior officials and a strong partnership with industry stakeholders, is vital for safeguarding the unique identity of UTCs. The Charity will continue to assist UTCs in building successful political relationships this year. To support this effort, a UTC MP Technical Education Policy Group, chaired by Baggy Shanker MP, has been established. This group will champion technical education policy, advocate for funding, and push for more high-quality apprenticeships. It will also ensure UTCs' influence on government policy, including ongoing exemptions from the full national curriculum.

Baker Dearing will continue to campaign for new UTCs in Doncaster, Southampton and elsewhere, and for the rollout of UTC 'Sleeves' (specialist pathways within mainstream schools, drawing on the established UTC model). The charity is submitting a significant proposal to ministers, and work continues in regions such as Barrow-in-Furness, Greater Manchester, and the West Midlands.

"UTCs do offer a distinctive curriculum which specialises in technical and vocational education. Pupils make an active decision, alongside their parents, to attend these schools for that distinct curriculum. In choosing to go to such a school, they indicate they do not want to study the full breadth of the national curriculum. As such, the requirements to follow the full national curriculum will not apply to UTCs."

– Baroness Jacqui Smith, Minister for Skills,
House of Lords. 1st May 2025



The Baker Award for Technical Education

Recognising excellence in the next generation of technical innovators, creators and problem-solvers.

The Baker Award celebrates the unique strengths of UTCs by rewarding students who demonstrate the key skills, knowledge and attributes employers are looking for. It highlights the very best of technical education and helps young people stand out in a competitive jobs market.

What's involved

To achieve the Baker Award, students must complete four elements that showcase both their technical learning and their readiness for the workplace:

Employability skills:

Participation in two or more employer-led projects, developing core skills such as teamwork, communication and problem-solving.

Work experience:

Completion of a placement to contextualise learning and inform future career choices.

Technical qualifications:

Participation in a technical or employer-related qualification such as engineering.

Future plans:

Articulation of clear career ambitions through an interview with an external assessor.



Why UTCs should take part

- Demonstrates to employers and parents the value of a UTC education.
- Builds stronger partnerships with industry and enhances employer engagement.
- Aligns with and builds on the Gatsby Benchmarks.
- Minimal additional workload for teachers – supported at every stage.
- Free for all UTC students to enter.
- Culminates in a national celebration of achievement.*

Support for UTCs

Baker Dearing provides advice and guidance at every stage of the process, from sourcing employer projects to recruiting external assessors. Free training is provided for all assessors, and regular webinars and support calls ensure UTCs feel confident in delivering the award.

Growing national recognition

Since its relaunch in autumn 2024, over 30 UTCs have expressed interest in the refreshed framework, with around 2,200 students already taking part. Leading employers such as JCB, Amazon, EAL and Zurich are backing the award, ensuring strong alignment with industry standards and helping students showcase skills that matter most in the workplace.

Get involved

Phase 2 launches in September 2025 and all UTCs are encouraged to sign up. Registration is free and straightforward – simply email bakeraward@bakerdearing.org to secure your place by Wednesday 17 September. An online onboarding and launch event will take place on Thursday 18 September.



The Baker Award is supported by:



Part of the
Enginuity Group



* Attendance at the ceremony may be limited based on capacity and the level of achievement attained.

Discounted services and free activities

As part of our commitment to supporting UTCs, Baker Dearing negotiates access to a range of discounted services and free activities that streamline operations, enhance insight and provide valuable opportunities for students.

UTCs can take advantage of preferential arrangements with trusted providers listed below. These benefits are available to all UTCs in the network and represent an important saving of time and resources.

We have secured discounts and special arrangements with the following organisations:

- Admissions+ (Applicaa software)
- Baker Award (see pages 28-29)*
- GL Assessment
- Grofar
- Pro16 Plus
- Prodigy Learning
- Redborne data analysis (see page 22)*
- SSAT

UTCs should contact each organisation directly for full details on how to access their offer. For further queries or support, contact director@bakerdearing.org

*Cost subsidy by Baker Dearing



Events

Baker Dearing runs a varied programme of events across the year for UTCs, including regular industry specialism networks and to support key functions (e.g. marketing, employer engagement, finance). We bring UTC principals and governors together twice a year to share best practice at our UTC winter and summer conferences. This is in addition to more frequent virtual catch-ups on matters of interest arising throughout the year. We also run student-facing events, bringing together multiple UTCs for projects, visits, and activity days with employers.



Autumn term

- 15-Sep Alumni Board meeting
- 18-Sep Baker Award on-boarding 2025/26
- 22-Sep VEX Robotics Hub event, LDE
- 24-Sep VEX Robotics Hub event, Silverstone
- 26-Sep VEX Robotics Hub event, Liverpool
- 30-Sep Engineering network CPD day
- 30-Sep Year 9 curriculum meeting
- 02-Oct Literacy CPD day
- 03-Oct Regional meetings
- 7-9 Oct DSTL Callisto multi-UTC activity
- 10-Oct New principals visit to Ron Dearing UTC
- 13-Oct Governors briefing
- 14-Oct Principals briefing

HALF TERM

- 03-Nov Baker Award 2024/25 end point check-in
- 04-Nov Alumni Board meeting
- 04-Nov Launch of UTC Health Tech Challenge
- 05-Nov Core Principals meeting and lunch
- 17-21 Nov #thinkUTC week
- 09-Dec Creative Media network CPD day
- 11-Dec Winter conference, London
- 11-Dec Christmas tea party, London
- 15-Dec Baker Award 2025/26 check-in



Spring term

14-Jan Employer engagement CPD day
23-Jan Regional meetings
27-Jan Baker Award ceremony 2024/25
03-Feb Engineering CPD day
05-Feb UTC Health tech challenge, Sheffield
09-Feb AI hackathon
09-Feb Governors briefing
10-Feb Principals briefing
HALF TERM
23-Feb Alumni Board meeting
25-Feb Core Principals meeting
06-Mar Next Gen 2 event
16-Mar Baker Award 2025/26 check in
17-Mar Digital skills CPD day
18-Mar Health care & health science CPD day
23-Mar Governors briefing
24-Mar Principals briefing
25-Mar UTC Young Women's Network event

Summer term

29-Apr Science CPD day
05-May Engineering network CPD day
11-May Alumni Board meeting
12-May Marketing CPD day
14-May Employer engagement CPD day
18-May Governors briefing
19-May Principals briefing
20-May Dyson insight and development day
HALF TERM
05-Jun Regional meetings
11-Jun Core Principals meeting
16-Jun Cambridge University info sessions
25-Jun Data managers update and briefing
25-Jun Exhibition event at National Theatre
26-Jun Next Gen 2026/27 event
27-Jun First Tech finals
29-Jun Baker Award 2025/26 check in
30-Jun Baker Award 2026/27 launch
08-Jul TDI Challenge final
14-15 July Summer conference



For a detailed events calendar and resources
please visit our website:

<https://bakerdearing.org/>

Baker Dearing Educational Trust



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