

2025 impact highlights

For the year ended 31st December 2025

Our mission is to empower every young person with a high-quality, employer-guided technical education that equips them with the skills, attributes and opportunities to thrive in life and work.

Baker Dearing
Educational Trust

Read our full impact report to learn more about our work and the difference it's making:
www.bakerdearing.org





Transforming technical education

Through our mission and models of high-quality, employer-led technical education Baker Dearing is helping tackle some of the country's biggest challenges:

- One million young people not in education, employment or training (NEET).¹
- More than one in four pupils begin to disengage after starting secondary school.²
- Almost half (41%) of manufacturing leaders cite access to domestic labour and skills as a risk.³

We have helped transform the lives of thousands of young people by developing and supporting the UTC model and wider employer-led approaches. Young people who may have disengaged elsewhere are thriving, progressing and entering skilled careers.

We have made this possible by:

- Leading and coordinating the UTC network nationally
- Building employer partnerships that provide real industry experiences for students
- Supporting teachers and leaders through training, networks and shared best practice

This helps more young people progress into skilled careers, while addressing national skills shortages.

86.4% of UTCs are rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted compared with 57% in 2015/16

31.8% of UTCs are rated 'outstanding' or have 'outstanding' features

¹<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/unemployment/bulletins/youngpeoplenotineducationemploymentortrainingneet/february2026>

²<https://www.impactgroup.uk/news-and-blogs/the-age-11-dip-1-in-4-pupils-disengage-from-school-in-first-year-of-secondary>

³<https://www.makeuk.org/insights/reports/executive-survey-2026>

Strengthening the UTC programme

Supporting UTCs to deliver stronger student outcomes

UTC students progress to apprenticeships, STEM and skilled careers, at far higher rates than national averages

UTC students are three times more likely to progress to apprenticeships than students nationally.

(18% compared to 6% nationally.)⁴

Half of UTC apprenticeship destinations are at a higher or degree level.

(Compared to a third nationally.)⁴

UTC students are half as likely to become NEET

(5% compared to 10% nationally.)⁴

UTC leavers are far more likely to progress to STEM degrees

(72% compared to 42% nationally.)⁴

“The skills I learned at the UTC, along with the bespoke employer experiences, ensured I would be successful in my next destination.”

– Ollie Groth, UTC Portsmouth alumnus,
Digital and technology solutions degree apprentice at Airbus

⁴ National average for Level 3 leavers from mainstream schools and colleges (summer 2023 - latest);





Baker Dearing helps UTCs deliver high-quality employer-led education

30 CPD and networking events for UTC staff

400 employer partners, including 2 new national employer partnerships

Employer-led learning engages students

Students value employer-led learning and technical education; borne out in improved student engagement.

88% of Year 9/10 students want employer experiences such as projects, talks, and work experience⁵

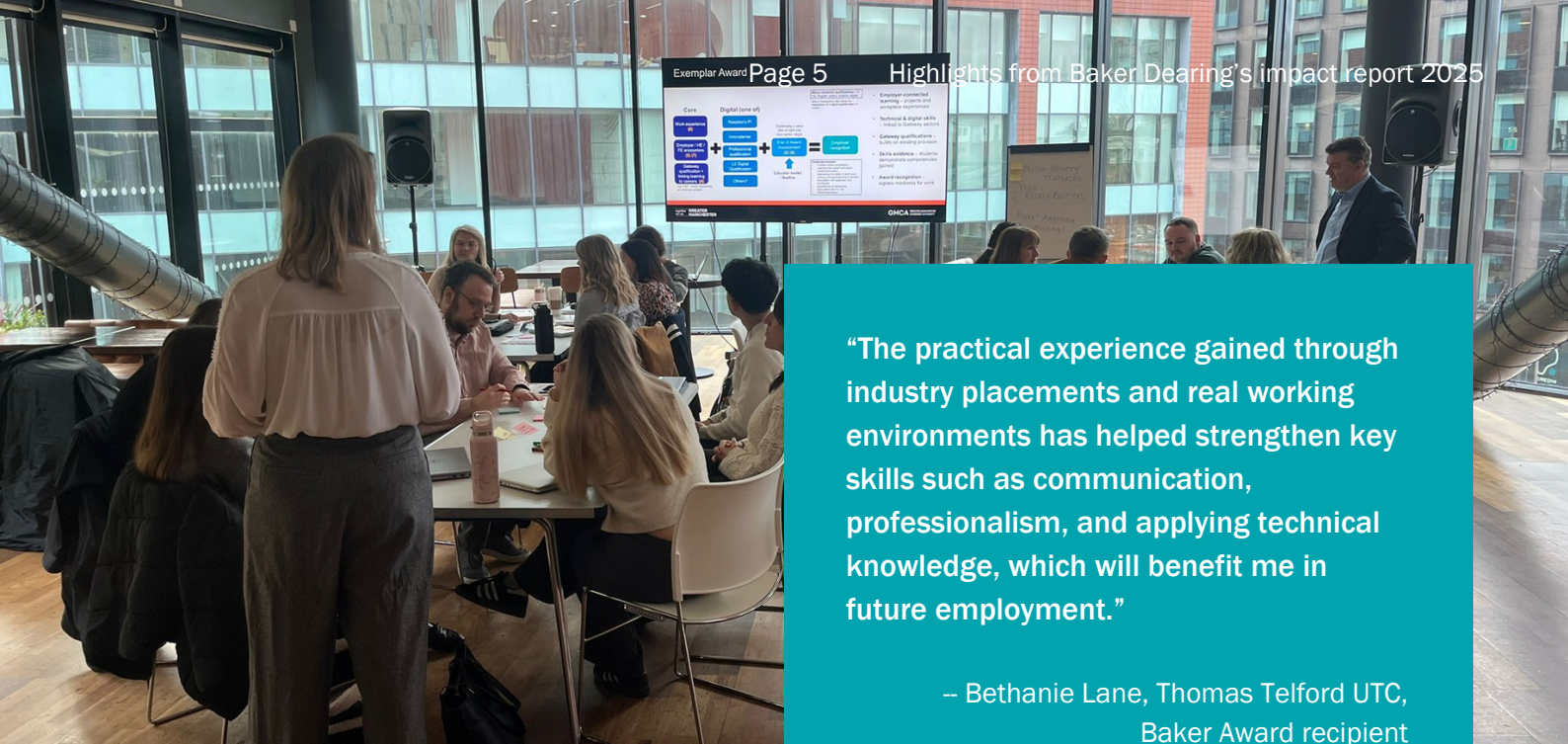
66% of Year 9/10s said their attendance improved at the UTC compared to their old school⁵

85% of UTC students would recommend their UTC to a friend⁵

“The best part of the UTC is the vast array of opportunities afforded to you in comparison to regular secondary education.”

– Adam Moss,
Studied T Level in
engineering at UTC Leeds,
now has entered the Royal
Navy submarine service

⁵ UTC student survey, 2025



“The practical experience gained through industry placements and real working environments has helped strengthen key skills such as communication, professionalism, and applying technical knowledge, which will benefit me in future employment.”

– Bethanie Lane, Thomas Telford UTC,
Baker Award recipient

Growing impact beyond UTCs

Extending the reach of technical education through partnerships and policy

Baker Dearing is extending successful employer-led approaches beyond UTCs through partnerships, policy influence and system-wide innovation.

A new UTC Sleeve will open in Barrow-in-Furness in 2026, expanding access to employer-led technical education. (Developed through our work with local employers and the host school.)

Further UTC Sleeves are planned for Greater Manchester and the west Midlands.

We have developed the Baker Award for Technical Education to celebrate students' progress in employability and technical learning, helping to prepare them for further education, apprenticeships, and employment.

560 young people achieved the Baker Award in 2026, and we plan to double this for the next cohort.

Baker Dearing and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority are developing the MBacc Award to recognise young people's technical and employability skills. The Award is due to launch in 2026/27.

We are influencing national debate on technical education.

30 MP visits to UTCs, including by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Work and Pensions Secretary, and education ministers, organised and supported by us.

UTCs with stronger engagement with Baker Dearing achieve 16% better outcomes.

Every £1 invested in Baker Dearing generates £3.70 in social value.⁶

⁶ Baker Dearing Impact Assessment, January 2025