

Sarah Pashley: Principal

Mark Ollerenshaw: Vice Principal

Steve Willacy: Vice Principal

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for taking an interest in becoming a key member of our Student Support Team.

Ron Dearing UTC (RDUTC) opened in Hull city centre in September 2017 and now has 640 students on roll: 340 in KS4 and 300 in the Sixth Form. We have just secured £4 million funding from the Department for Education to expand our Sixth form by a further 100 students in each year group. Our students come predominantly from Hull and the East Riding. The school was judged ‘Outstanding’ in all areas in our first Ofsted inspection in March 2020.

The RDUTC curriculum is ‘niche’, specialising in Maths, Sciences, Engineering, Art & Design, iMedia and Digital Technologies. Working in close partnership with The University of Hull and the region’s leading employers (KCOM, Reckitt, Siemens Gamesa, Smith + Nephew, Spencer Group and Orsted to name but a few), we provide our students with a totally unique way to learn. Our approach revolves around students learning theory and then applying this to real projects designed and delivered by our university and employer partners. This employer-engaged, applied approach ensures that our students acquire the academic and professional qualifications and the personal and employability skills they need to give them the edge in our rapidly evolving digital world.

Our students make outstanding progress in their GCSEs, A Levels and Technical qualifications. In terms of A Level progress, we were the sixteenth top performing school/college in the country in 2019 and *the* top performing school/college in the region. As well as having great exam results, our student destination statistics are exemplary. Approximately 50% of our leavers take up places at university and 50% progress onto apprenticeships, often with our employer partners. We are very proud of the fact that we have no NEETS.

Our dedicated, friendly and high-performing Student Support Team currently consists of a Senior Assistant Principal – Head of KS4 and a Pastoral Mentor. Together they work with students, parents/carers, staff and our university and employer partners to ensure our students are safe, happy, enthused and well-motivated. They also co-ordinate our comprehensive personal development programme which has equity with our academic and technical curriculum and is fundamental to developing our students’ employability skills and enabling them to secure great destinations. We are now seeking to appoint two Pastoral Assistants to join the Student Support team in response to rapidly growing student numbers.

RDUTC does not feel like a school. Our £10,000,000 building is designed to reflect a professional, high spec. working environment. In addition to the usual funding allocated to academies, we receive significant additional income to ensure that our facilities and equipment are state of the art and industry standard. We also receive private sponsorship from a large number of businesses who embrace our educational vision and wish to invest in it. This enables us to have a £350,000 Virtual Reality Cave, a business-standard conference centre, professional Engineering work shops, Design studios, Creative spaces, a CAD and 3D printing studio and top-class digital technology facilities throughout the school. Our close links with the University of Hull and our Employer Partners give our students and staff unprecedented access to industry experts and academics who work alongside our staff to develop and deliver our unique curriculum.

Expectations in terms of standards of behaviour of students at Ron Dearing UTC are exceptionally high. Indeed, they are expected to behave like young professionals rather than students. Our behaviour policy is based on the principles of Positive Discipline, but has been further developed in collaboration with the Heads of Human Resources from each of our employer partners. It therefore connects directly with the world of work and focuses on three aspects of behaviour: health and safety; personal and organisational reputation; productivity and efficiency. Relationships between staff and students are a strength of the school, being based on mutual respect. Students call staff by first names and everyone feels part of a caring, happy and purposeful community.

Our school day mirrors a traditional working day. Learning time starts at 9.15 a.m. and finishes at 4.30 p.m. Monday to Thursday with an early finish at 4.00 pm. on Friday. The extended day allows us to run a broad and exciting curriculum as well as preparing our students for the world of work.

*In recognition of the longer working day, we pay all our support staff on full-time contracts as opposed to pro-rata. Whilst they work longer hours during term time, they have 12 weeks holiday a year on full pay.*

At RDUTC we believe passionately that the current education system does not meet the needs of all students. Neither does it prepare young people effectively for the world of work. In proactive partnership with our employer partners, we are leading the way in changing this. If this challenge excites you as much as it does us and you think you have what we are looking for, please apply.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Yours faithfully,



Sarah Pashley

Principal