

UTC Handbook 2026-2027

Principal's Welcome

Welcome to North East Futures UTC for the 2026-2027 academic year. We begin this year building on our 2025 Ofsted "Good" rating, a testament to our community's dedication and our students' achievements. This handbook serves as a guide to support your journey with us.

Our UTC focuses on Digital and Health Science specialisms, providing clear pathways to career opportunities in the North East. Through our UTC Futures programme, we collaborate with industry partners to help students develop their potential.

We are dedicated to careers education, supporting every student in their progression to university or high-quality apprenticeships. To achieve these goals, consistent attendance is vital; we aim for 95%+ attendance as a foundation for student success.

We look forward to a productive and successful year. Thank you for being a part of the North East Futures UTC community.

Dan Sydes
Principal

Vision

To be the leading Digital and Health Science UTC, where all students:

- Receive high-quality education and leading employer engagement.
- Attend regularly and achieve excellent academic and technical outcomes.
- Develop high-standard, work-ready skills.
- Progress to ambitious destinations in the Digital and Health Science sectors, supporting regional economic growth.

Values



Attendance

Consistent attendance at UTC is crucial for student success, with students who have 95%+ attendance achieving the best outcomes.

- 95%+ target for all student's attendance to help students achieve their best outcomes
- We collaborate with parents to ensure all students can reach this attendance target.
- Term-time holidays are prohibited and will result in a referral for a local authority fine
- Unauthorised absences will be challenged, including through referrals to the Local Authority which can lead to legal monitoring.
- Attendance is monitored daily, with only unavoidable absences authorised.
- Excellent and improving attendance is acknowledged and celebrated every week at the UTC.

Code of Conduct

We expect all students to consistently demonstrate the UTC values of Communication, Professionalism and Resilience.

Students must:

- Year 10-11 students need to arrive at the UTC **before** 8:55 am and attend all lessons on time
- 6th Form Students need to arrive at the UTC at least 5 minutes before the start of their first lesson
- Consistently demonstrate the UTC Values of professionalism, resilience and communication, for example by:
 - ★ Speaking with confidence
 - ★ Writing professionally
 - ★ Being independent and complete independent learning
- Follow the Dress Code and have the correct equipment:
 - ★ Pens - black, green, purple and ruler, pencil
 - ★ Chromebook (*provided by the UTC*) – fully charged for the start of the day
 - ★ Scientific Calculator
- Follow the Acceptable Use Agreement using technology including professional use of Chromebooks for learning
- Switch off and put away mobile phones, smart watches and headphones
- 6th Form Students can use their devices in the designated areas only

Students must never:

- Bring vapes, alcohol, cigarettes, drugs or illegal substances on site and never attend the UTC under the influence.
- Bring any weapons on site
- Engage in harassment, abuse of any kind, violence or bullying of any type

Students who do not follow the Code of Conduct are subject to the Consequence Strategy and the Exclusions Policy.

The Code of Conduct is signed by Parent or Carer and Student before joining the UTC, as part of their UTC offer, to show understanding and agreement of the expectations.

Student Dress Code

We expect all students to dress professionally, ready for the world of work.

KS4 (Y10 & Y11)		
Dress Code	Not Permitted	Health & Fitness Day
- Smart Top such as a blouse, shirt or the UTC Hoodie - Smart professional trousers, skirts or dresses - Smart shoes or plain black trainers - UTC Lanyard (<i>provided by UTC</i>)	- Headphones, Smart Watches, earbuds, phones - Large brands or logos - Coats and outdoor jackets - Non-UTC Hoodies - Sports leggings - Jeans - Crop tops - Casual shoes	- Navy blue top such as the UTC Hoodie or UTC Sport Polo - Jogging Bottoms, leggings or shorts - Trainers
<i>In the Science Lab during certain experiments students are expected to wear lab coats, goggles, tie back long hair, wear appropriate footwear and remove loose Jewellery.</i>		
KS5 (6th Form)		
6th Form Students are permitted to wear smart casual clothes with their lanyard.		

Students who do not follow the dress code expectations will be given a consequence as per the consequence strategy of the UTC.

UTC Hoodies and Polo Shirts can be ordered online from either of our two uniform providers;

North East Futures UTC Archives - Anne Thomas

<https://www.annethomasworkwearltd.co.uk/product-category/schoolwear/north-east-futures-utc/>

UTC Hoodie – Impack Branding

<https://impackbranding.co.uk/product/utc-hood/>

A hardship fund is available where parents/carers are struggling with affordability – please contact the UTC for further support - office@nef.tynecoast.academy

The Dress Code is signed by Parent or Carer and Student before joining the UTC, as part of their UTC offer, to show understanding and agreement of the expectations.

Acceptable Use Agreement

We expect all students to use technology safely and professionally at all times.

Students must:

- Ensure their phone, earbuds, headphones, smart watches are off and away whilst on site
- 6th Form Students are permitted to use their personal devices in designated areas only
- Treat their Chromebook with professional care and respect
Any wilful or careless damage to a student's Chromebook will result in an invoice being issued for repair or replacement
- Only use AI tools to support their learning
- Use their UTC email address to communicate regarding UTC matters only
- Use Social Media safely and professionally.
Any targeted online behaviour will be addressed following through the Anti-Bullying Policy
- Report any unsafe behaviour such as unsafe use of social media, sharing of indecent images or vandalism to a member of UTC staff
- Never target anyone online. This includes:
 - Never posting personal comments about others
 - Never share images or videos of others
 - Never share private or explicit material of yourself or others
 - Never illegally download or distribute copyrighted material such as software or media via the North East Futures UTC network

The Acceptable Use Agreement is signed by Parent or Carer and Student before joining the UTC, as part of their UTC offer, to show understanding and agreement of the expectations.

British Values

The UTC will uphold and promote British Values:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without a religious faith

Safeguarding

All UTC staff are safeguarding trained. Parents and students can report any child protection or safeguarding concerns to any member of staff.

Contacts		
Role	Name	Contact details
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Steve Goad	Steve.Goad@nef.tynecoast.academy 0191 9179888
Deputy Safeguarding Leads	Dan Sydes, Jade Hutchison Claire Waugh Kelly Davies Karen Nixon Jess Murphy	Dan.Sydes@nef.tynecoast.academy 0191 9179888
Nominated Local Governor for and Safeguarding and Child Protection	Derek Marshall	derek.marshall@nef.tynecoast.academy
Children’s Social Care – for reporting concerns – Single Point of Contact	Within Working Hours	IRSADMIN@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 277 2500
	Out of Hours	edt@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 278 78 78
Children’s social care		Newcastle Tel: 0191 277 2500 Gateshead 0191 433 2653 Durham 03000 267 979 Sunderland 0191 561 707 Northumberland 01670 536 400
16+ care		0191 278 2700
Children with Disabilities		0191 277 4700
Government Guidance https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/686b94eefe1a249e937cbd2d/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2025.pdf		
If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Leads.		

Inclusion

Students at the UTC, who have disadvantages such as those with SEND needs or who are known to social services, are supported through a variety of measures to ensure they can fully access their education and achieve best possible outcomes. Key inclusive strategies include:

- Quality First Teaching with differentiated support in all lessons
- Access to supervised independent learning sessions
- Individualised support plans and regular review meetings where needed
- Access to technology and equipment
- Career Support and Post 16 options for students at all levels leading to high quality opportunities

Assessments

Students will be assessed regularly to support their learning at the UTC. This includes:

- In class live marking
- Questions to check for understanding
- Recall tasks at the start of every lesson which cover what your child is learning over time
- Independent practice tasks in most lessons to consolidate learning
- Regular topic assessments with personalised feedback to improve the learner, named Purple Zone
- Summative Assessments to assess retention of learning over time and adjust predictions

Students will receive a report with predicted and effort grades in each subject they study following summative assessments

Independent Learning

We support students to develop their independence and resilience while at the UTC to prepare them appropriately for their next steps, whether that is joining the world of work or continuing in further study. To help them succeed, we explicitly teach advanced, research-backed study habits through a mandatory "Power Skills" UTC Futures course right at the start of their journey.

Students are expected to complete weekly independent learning tasks across all subjects, which are carefully designed to help knowledge stick long-term rather than relying on last-minute cramming. Missed assignments will be logged via Arbor to support your child to close learning gaps early through parental updates and targeted study support.

Key Features:

- **Cognitive Science Principles:** Assignments use spacing and interleaving to ensure students regularly review past topics and retain knowledge.
- **Organised Digital Toolkits:** All deadlines are mapped on Google Calendar to avoid overload, and curated revision materials are centralised on the NEF Revision Drive.

- **Industry-Linked "Aspire" Tasks:** Higher-level extension activities are embedded into the curriculum.
- **Universal Tech Access:** Every student is issued a managed Chromebook at the start of the academic year to remove learning barriers.
- **Timetabled Study Slots:** Key Stage 4 students have dedicated independent learning slots built directly into their weekly school timetable.
- **Wraparound Study Spaces:** Students can use the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) daily until 4 PM, with open access to printing, near-peer mentoring, and fully staffed breakfast or after-school Subject Surgeries.
- **Positive Rewards:** Consistent homework completion is celebrated using a lesson stamping methodology that enters students into termly prize draws.

Futures Programme

Our Key Stage 4 Futures Programme is a comprehensive, modern pathway designed to prepare every student for a successful post-16 transition by blending tailored career guidance, hands-on employer projects and essential life skills. Students are given dedicated time each week for:

Careers lesson once per week

- Research local labour markets, apprenticeships, further study opportunities
- CV writing, planning for interviews
- Dedicated time is given to research and apply for work experience placements
- Students receive 1-to-1 career guidance

Projects lesson once per week

- In collaboration with and/or delivered by local employers and University partners
- Real world challenges in the digital and health science fields
- Complete a project over several weeks
- Opportunities to display and present final findings

Power Skills lesson once per week

- A rotation of skills over years 10 and 11 which includes
 - Teamwork
 - Social Action
 - Resilience - overcoming challenges
 - Psychology of the media
 - Digital
 - Using AI
 - Entrepreneurial skills

Weekly experience of these key areas, through the futures programme, ensure our students leave the UTC as confident, capable and highly employable young adults ready to chase their ambitions.

Positive Discipline

At North East Futures UTC we regularly recognise and celebrate the effort and achievement of our students - we actively promote the qualities that will make our students more employable in the future. Students receive stamps for demonstrating our core values of Communication, Professionalism and Resilience. Stamps are awarded each morning in registration for punctuality, dress code and equipment. Students can then earn further stamps in lessons and for independent learning.

Each stamp earned is an entry into a weekly prize draw for a voucher, with the winner announced in our student briefing. Further weekly prizes are awarded in registration from the form tutor, and the form class with the highest stamps total each half term wins a special breakfast. Students with the highest stamp totals each half term are invited on a rewards trip and further vouchers and prizes are issued at our end of term celebration assemblies.

School Year 2026-2027

Please note we follow the academic year set by Newcastle City Council, however some holidays and INSET days may differ to other schools and other councils.

Autumn term 2026 (*Please note INSET days*)

Term starts: Tuesday 1st September 2026

Half term: Monday 19th October 2026 - Friday 30th October 2026

Term ends: Friday 18th December 2026

Friday 16th October - INSET Day - School Closed

Spring term 2027 (*Please note INSET days*)

Term starts: Monday 4th January 2027

Half term: Monday 15th February 2027 - Friday 19th February 2027

Term ends: Friday 25th March 2027

Summer term 2027 (*Please note INSET days*)

Term starts: Monday 12th April 2027

Half term: Monday 31st May 2027 - Friday 4th June 2027

Term ends: Friday 23rd July 2027