

On January 24<sup>th</sup> 2019, the government published its national secondary performance data comparing the Engineering UTC Northern Lincolnshire to other schools around the local area using Progress 8.

The measure of our performance and success at the ENL UTC is based on technical accomplishment, as well as academic results, and student destinations – what our learners go on and do after leaving us.

We are pleased to say that the Department for Education has recognised this in a clear statement that was published alongside of the data stating that Progress 8 is not the most appropriate measure for University Technical Colleges (UTCs). The DfE also states that student destinations are a more appropriate measure of UTCs.

For more information regarding their statement, please visit; <a href="https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/">https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/</a>

The government introduced Progress 8 in 2016 to replace the GCSE league tables based on the number of pupils gaining A\* to C grades, from the ages of 11 to 16. Attainment 8 measures average attainment across these subjects. There are eight sections of subjects that qualify for performance score, with the first five sections being the English Baccalaureate subjects: English, maths, history or geography and a language. The additional three sections relate to other additional approved qualifications covering technical and vocational subjects.

UTCs are different to traditional secondary schools, as we offer a curriculum geared towards boosting career prospects and technical skills, which is not recognised within Progress 8, leading to lower overall scores that do not reflect on the wider achievements of our students. There are several factors for this:

- UTCS have been set up to train the next generation of talent with the technical skills and knowledge needed for the jobs of tomorrow, all of which is not recognised within Progress 8
- We have less time to influence progress. UTCs start educating students part-way through the five-year period covered by Progress 8. The government statistics are based on students who joined at the age of 11 not 13 or 14
- The government performance measures suit traditional schools because the scores reward attainment and progress in a small number of academic subjects linked to the English Baccalaureate

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 Although the English Baccalaureate subjects are part of our curriculum, students may choose not to study all of these as they focus on a core curriculum that complements the UTCs technical engineering specialisms

The Engineering UTC Northern Lincolnshire provides a specialist STEM education for young people aged 13-19, that helps them to gain the skills and industry knowledge highly valued by employers, and which enhances their careers and university prospects and contributes to the economy.

We are extremely proud of our students and the contribution that the Engineering UTC Northern Lincolnshire is making to young people, and local employers in the region and beyond.

Yours sincerely

Marc Doyle **Principal and CEO** 

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