

July 2021

Dear Prospective Governor / Trustee

The Sheffield UTC Academy Trust – Governor / Trustee Recruitment

As Chair of the Sheffield UTC Multi Academy Trust can I thank you for your interest in becoming the next Chair of Trust, a Trustee or UTC Governor.

I have been in this post since December 2015, although I was involved in the conception of the first UTC in Sheffield City Centre in 2011, which has Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering and Creative & Digital Media as its main technical subjects. UTC's are set up to reflect the strategically important sectors in the regions they serve and supply the employees of the future to the employers in those sectors. As such we work closely with those employers to design curriculums and learning paths specified by the skills the employers will need 5, 10 and 20 years ahead. It is very much a partnership approach to learning involving ourselves, as educators, the students themselves and the employers who will employ them.

We now have 3 UTCs in the Trust, Sheffield City Centre, Sheffield Olympic Legacy Park (Health Sciences, Sport Science and Computing) and UTC Derby Pride Park (Engineering and Life Sciences) which joined the Trust in December 2019. All three UTC's work closely with their local colleges and universities in order to offer vocational based, technical education routes right through from Year 9 to full degrees.

My background is in both the private and public sectors where I initially ran a significant specialist manufacturing facility in Sheffield supplying speciality materials to the aerospace, energy, medical and defence industries, subsequently as a representative of the employers in the city dealing with local, regional and national government and more laterally in the public education and health sectors in non-executive roles. It has given me a unique insight into the needs of employers, the right skills mix of the people they employ and how the world continuously develops and demands change. We live in a dynamic environment and it is important that educators like UTCs continuously analyse future needs and modify what they do to reflect that. It is a philosophy that has driven the way we set our plans and the strategies we have developed and is reflected in the culture and staff we employ. I am certain that will be the case well into the future.

This role does not need any specific experience, however if you have educational governance experience and/or non-exec board experience, that would be an advantage. It does help if you have an interest in one of the specialisms we offer, the desire to make a difference to the education of our young people and the time to commit. Vocational education routes are excellent vehicles for engaging young people from challenging backgrounds and helping them realise their full potential.

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The UTCs have brilliant facilities for tackling some of the social divisions and inequalities in many of our inner cities and if, like me, you have a wish to be part of that this is a great place to make a contribution.

I have decided to step down in 2022 and hopefully somebody like you may be interested in carrying on the work and developing the vision and continuing the success of the Sheffield UTC MAT. I would be very happy to have a telephone chat if you have any queries to help you decide if you wish to apply for the Trustee role, please contact me via governors@utcsheffield.org.uk.

Your faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Wright". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Richard Wright MBE
Chair of The UTC Sheffield Academy Trust