



ACTIVATE
LEARNING
EDUCATION TRUST

DIGITAL. FUTURES




INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION

AND TACKLE THE TALENT SHORTAGE FOR GOOD

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE

DIGITAL FUTURES PROGRAMME



The UK is facing an unprecedented skills shortage: we need engineers, computer scientists and other digitally-skilled staff. Activate Learning Education Trust has developed, in partnership with industry leaders in the digital infrastructure industry, a revolutionary programme targeted at filling this gap.

- Jo Harper
CEO, Activate Learning Education Trust

Our Trust is a family of schools on a mission to Transform Lives Through Learning, and we firmly believe that innovative partnerships between education and industry can help us achieve that mission. Four of our six schools are UTCs - STEM-focused secondary schools and sixth forms - so are the perfect places for such a programme.

The Digital Futures Programme is a multi award-winning initiative focused on equipping students with the skills to succeed across the digital infrastructure industry. It brings together companies serious about acting to address the skills shortage with STEM-focused schools specialising in digital, engineering and science prepared to forge a new path for their students.

If you're interested in finding out more, scan the QR code on the back of this brochure: we'd be delighted to hear from you.

HOW IT WORKS

The Digital Futures Programme aims to help students develop the skills, knowledge and experiences they need to prepare for a career in the digital industries, including in digital infrastructure. We want our four University Technical Colleges (UTCs) to be where students choose to come to start their careers, where employers choose to commit their time and expertise, as well as even recruiting their future employees from.

Students in our UTCs choose to focus their education in engineering, digital and science specialisms from either year 10 (GCSEs) or year 12 (Sixth Form). This means they can choose STEM subjects like engineering or technical IT qualifications in year 10 alongside core curriculum subjects, or can focus wholly on them in year 12 by taking a BTEC course which is equivalent to three A Levels.

The Digital Futures Programme embeds employers in school life by involving them in delivering lessons, workshops, trips and work placements and even in choosing modules within the qualifications that best fit the needs of the digital infrastructure industry.

OUR

PARTNERS

We have two levels of partners within our programme: Trust Partners and UTC Partners. Each partner commits 30 days per year to spend in school or with students delivering:

- » Projects
- » Masterclasses
- » Challenge days
- » Employability skills lessons and workshops
- » Work placements (on site)

HOW DO WE SUPPORT YOU?

We know that our partners are not teachers, so Trust Partners within the programme can access training opportunities where our expert staff train them on delivering lessons and sessions to help improve the quality of the activities. For many, this is a really valuable and insightful part of their own professional development. It helps them develop coaching and mentoring skills to enrich their own personal journey.

Our team work with partners to agree the sessions to be run and support them with materials in advance and on the day. We also promote the activities on social networks.

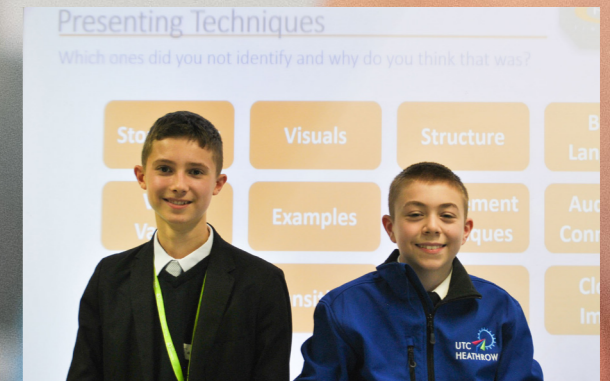
Trust Partners benefit from additional support, including staff training, as well as industry exposure at the annual Data Centre World event.



THE BENEFITS FOR YOUR COMPANY

Some of our partners have been involved with us for several years and say they benefit from:

- Taking direct action to address the talent and skills shortage their industry has been suffering from for many years. This year our first students have started apprenticeships with one partner, having completed the Digital Futures Programme over two years
- Helping them understand school leavers better, and shape their induction and early careers programmes as a result
- Contributing social value to their local communities
- Demonstrably investing in and developing their employees in innovative, meaningful and valuable ways
- Coverage on LinkedIn channels and in trade press, bringing positive brand recognition in relation to our award-winning and potential industry-changing initiative



We are proud to work with a number of global companies in the digital infrastructure industry as our Trust Partners, as well as a growing number of UTC Partners.



CASE

STUDIES



Three UTC Heathrow alumni have recently started apprenticeships with one of our Trust Partners, LMG. Hassan, one of these apprentices, is loving it so far, saying:

“Security engineering is a dynamic field, offering continuous learning opportunities and the chance to work with cutting-edge technology. I have a sense of responsibility and the potential to make a meaningful impact on safeguarding people, assets and information. I developed many of the skills required for this role at UTC Heathrow.”



“Partnering with UTC Heathrow has given CNet Training the opportunity to have a constructive impact on many young people’s lives and career opportunities, as well as building a stronger future for the digital infrastructure industry. We have reaped multiple unanticipated rewards across the entire business as staff have really got behind the project and committed their time and energy to taking part. By inspiring these young people, our staff have been inspired in ways beyond our expectations.”

Andrew Stevens,
CEO, CNet Training

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