THE WATFORD UTC – A CASE STUDY

Cydney's journey

Cydney Ring, year 10, is studying Event Management at The Watford UTC and joined its first cohort in September 2014. Her parents, Chris and Elaine, say their decision to place their daughter at the UTC was, in the end, an easy one.

Throughout year 9 at Cydney's previous school, the academic cycle was revving up towards year 10 and the regimental delivery of the National GCSE Curriculum. Theoretical textbook based learning just wasn't suiting Cydney, but she always enjoyed the more hands-on approach. When Chris and Elaine heard more about the UTC principles, it ticked all the right boxes.   They felt that if Cydney remained exposed to the one dimensional form of the National Curriculum, she would be marginalised, with the inevitable negative impact on her self-confidence, personal and social development.

Chris says: *"Six months on and our hopes and expectations of the UTC are now plain to see in our daughter's renewed enthusiasm for learning. In The Watford UTC she is benefitting from a system that not only delivers the prospect of academic qualification, but the technical and practical application of that qualification beyond the classroom. The UTC ethos enables the student to have one foot placed firmly in their realistic teenage present, while the other strides confidently towards their promising young adult future. "*

Cydney Ring

About The Watford UTC:

The Watford UTC is a new University Technical College for students aged 14-19, specialising in Computer Science, Hospitality, Tourism and Event Management.

Offering a high-quality combination of academic and vocational qualifications, the UTC enables students to gain valuable technical and practical training alongside GCSEs or A Levels. Set up in 2014 by the Meller Educational Trust, which sponsors another UTC and four Academy Schools in the region, The Watford UTC helps students to achieve their goals, while plugging the technical, trade and technological skills gaps in the hospitality, tourism, event management, computer and digital communications industries.

The Watford UTC works with major local employers, who provide innovative and realistic practical projects for students, as well as helping the UTC ensure its curriculum meets industry needs. Co-sponsors and partners include Toshiba, Hilton Worldwide, University of Hertfordshire, Warner Bros, CAE, The Grove, Twin Technology, Whistl and Gaia Technologies.