**The University School of Computing and Creative Design**

**What is the problem we are trying to solve?**

Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire needs more skilled people in the fields digital technologies and creative design. We have:

* **Rising population** of 14-25 year olds
* **Digital native and creative workforce** poised to gain enhanced employability skills
* **Low participation rates entering high-performing local universities**, specialising in Computer Science, Games Design, Cyber technologies, Artificial Intelligence and Creative Digital Design.
* **Untapped potential** to become an established centre for companies providing software development across many applications, with particular strengths in the energy, medical and entertainment sectors.

**Who we are and our proposal?**

The **Potteries Educational Trust**, including the **City of** **Stoke on Trent Sixth Form College** is an innovative, successful, collaborative Multi Academy Trust with high-performing academies and strong links to all 3 local universities: University of Staffordshire, The University of Derby and Keele University. In addition, the PET is a regional hub for Digital Schoolhouse, Midlands Computing a Regional Computing Hub and Science Learning Partnership

**We propose to create an exciting and innovative 16-19 free school with our university partners, whose focus will be on Digital Technologies and Creative Design.**

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Our University School of Computing and Creative Design will:

* Promote creative problem-solving
* Deliver the highest standards of academic achievement
* specialist curriculum focused on the maths, digital and creative subjects.
* Develop the creative and entrepreneurial spirit
* Employer-focussed: using opportunities from Silicon Stoke Initiative, LEP Skills Advisory Panel (SAP) as well as forming a Business Education Interest Group.

**What we need from you:**

* Scan the QR Code to complete a letter of support for this exciting project

or

* Share your email and contact details and we’ll send you a template letter of support
* Let us know if you wish to join our virtual Business Advisory Group

**Mark Kent, CEO PET and Principal,**

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[About - Potteries Educational Trust](https://www.potteries.ac.uk/about/) PET Website