



# Atrium Studio

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Principal: Matt Messias

12<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Mr Andrew Walker  
Training Qualifications UK  
Dunham House,  
Cross Street  
Sale  
M33 7HH

Dear Mr Walker

TQUK Level 1 Certificate in Design Engineer Construct! The Digital Built Environment 603/1991/4 TQUK Level 2 Certificate in Design Engineer Construct! The Digital Built Environment 603/1992/6

Atrium Studio School opened in September 2015. It is the first of its type in the country, specialising in the Creative Industries and Built Environment (including Architecture, Surveying & Planning, Engineering, Design, Creative media, facilities and premises management, listed and historical buildings, and Ecology). Our mission is to prepare students for successful careers; exposing them to a culture of success through our strong professional partnerships with employers.

DEC! enables students to engage in a curriculum that aligns with our whole-school approach to 'hands-on, minds-on learning'. Employers who work with us (either by mentoring students or facilitating work placement) have praised their ability to participate in tasks that 'non-DEC!' students would not ordinarily understand. Employers have even approached us to secure apprentices; appreciating our students' depth and breadth of knowledge.

DEC! also enables students to apply their learning in other subject areas – including but not limited to Maths, Science, English and Geography. In a recent Ofsted inspection of the school, HMI recognized that the weaving together of DEC! and other subjects leaves students 'highly motivated and keen to succeed...producing high calibre work' (Atrium inspection report 2018).

DEC! Level 2 enables students to pursue DEC! at Level 3. The course allows students to complement other subjects they may wish to pursue at A Level. A number of our employers have already commented on our Level 3 students being comparable to undergraduates in terms of knowledge and presentation of work.

Higher level academic institutions have shown support and enthusiasm for the work our Level 3 students produce – once they have seen a portfolio they have offered unconditional places on courses!

It is clear that the rigour, depth and detail of the course, particularly with applied industry knowledge and software experience, enable students to take significant steps toward their future in apprenticeships and/or higher education. We are seeing the divide between education and industry shrinking significantly, due to the nature of our school and the real world relevance and validity of DEC!

We sincerely hope that this is recognised and celebrated by awarding bodies in the same way that the industry we are 'supplying' does.

Yours sincerely

**Sam Morcumb**  
Assistant Principal

