

THE LEIGH
TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY



ACT ENTERPRISINGLY | WORK IN PARTNERSHIP | ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE



The Leigh Technology Academy consists of four Colleges:



Brunel College
Principal
Jane Rowlands



Chaucer College
Principal
Pete Finnegan



Darwin College
Acting Principal
Kate Box



Da Vinci College
Principal
Maggie Leah-Wilkinson



“One of our great strengths is that we are a really united group of people who are constantly looking to break new ground and get a great buzz from developing ideas that really make a difference.”

Frank Green, Chief Executive



WELCOME

In September 2007, The Leigh City Technology College became The Leigh Technology Academy. In January 2008, we moved into new “state of the art” buildings, which allow us to continue to deliver our ground-breaking model of education. The Leigh is one of the highest achieving state comprehensive schools in England and we want to become the best – a centre of excellence for education. In October 2009, The Leigh was judged to be outstanding by Ofsted and was awarded 19 ‘grade 1s’ for its work.

The Academy consists of four Colleges, each with its own Principal. We believe that these smaller schools within the Academy develop deeper relationships and lay stronger foundations for learning, which underpin outstanding achievement. The Academy offers three specialisms – Business and Enterprise, Sports and Technology. It has a national reputation for innovation, research and development.

The principles that have taken us on our exciting journey remain: namely, a passion for learning; a commitment to trying new ways to inspire and motivate young minds and a dedication to helping each student fulfil their potential, by encouraging them to explore all that life has to offer.



“This is an outstanding Academy. Students and parents speak highly of the staff and facilities in this vibrant learning environment that promotes so well students’ self motivation, positive attitudes to learning and a tremendous sense of responsibility for their own lives and those of others.”

Ofsted

A PERSONAL APPROACH

When our students graduate from The Leigh Technology Academy, they will need to be well-rounded individuals who can make a difference in all areas of life.

Our absolute priority is that students focus on their learning and enjoy it. Within our small College structure, we are increasingly able to work with each student to set high, yet realistic, targets for academic and personal achievement. As soon as a student joins us, her or his abilities and progress are carefully assessed and subsequently monitored. Our modular curriculum ensures that every student and parent receive six reports,

each year, that identify what has been achieved and set targets for the next module.

Our vertical tutoring system allows students aged 11-18, to work together each day; tolerance, empathy and trust are quickly developed. Younger students are inspired by older students and older students develop crucial leadership skills. We work as one community with shared goals and values.

We believe that our outstanding academic results are a direct result of our ability to offer different approaches to learning.





Making lessons relevant and challenging is essential to keeping young minds motivated and interested. We are involved in the latest research into learning and we use a carefully considered range of teaching approaches to stimulate and inspire each student. Our work has been recognised nationally by our Leading Edge work with the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust. We are proud to be an outstanding teacher training centre and a National Support School.



“Students grow as courteous young people, aware of their skills and how to develop them both individually and in partnership. Their behaviour is excellent.”



A CURRICULUM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The breadth of our curriculum means that students can explore an unparalleled range of subjects. Encouraging students to apply their knowledge, be resourceful and investigative is a key aim in every subject area, as is the development of independent learning.

Our three Specialisms allow us to offer wider choices within subjects, as well as develop the skills needed to become more enterprising and successful – communication, leadership, team-work, risk-taking and confidence.

The Academy operates a fast-track, two year, Key Stage 3 curriculum for all students, promoting active, project-based learning. This allows for a richer and more flexible approach to students' Key Stage 4 and Post 16 studies.

Our cutting-edge facilities and IT rich environment play a big role in the learning process – digital projectors, interactive whiteboards, satellite TV and wireless laptops are used in every classroom. Our Learning Plazas allow students to access computers independently to support their learning.



"The Academy's curriculum is outstanding and the memorable events provided in lessons and at other times are highly valued by students."

Ofsted

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INSPIRING LIFELONG LEARNING AND CREATIVITY

We want every student to leave The Academy with confidence and a belief that learning is a positive, lifelong experience. We want every student, through involvement in a rich range of experiences and challenges, to develop high self-esteem and to make a valuable contribution to society.

We emphasise the many ways in which people learn and the pleasure and empowerment learning brings. A vast array of extension and enrichment activities, at home and abroad, help our students develop their passions, gain new experiences and further their understanding of themselves and the world.





Students work with a variety of businesses on problem-solving days, tackling 'real-life' business issues and developing their understanding of 'the real world'.

A further way in which we expect students to become active citizens is through their involvement in College and Academy Councils, as well as participation in competitions and special events beyond The Academy.



"The various student councils are influential and students are very clear that their views are taken seriously."

Ofsted



POST 16 AND BEYOND

Throughout their Post 16 studies, our students continue to develop their independent learning skills, ensuring that they are equipped for the future challenges of university and the workplace.

Our Post 16 students are important role models for younger students within The Academy and there are many opportunities to develop leadership skills and take responsibility for their own learning. The Leigh Technology Academy actively encourages our Post 16 students to learn, within a disciplined environment, which contributes to confident and motivated progress.

Students are expected to wear appropriate dress for business and, thanks to our new facilities, can now work on equipment more commonly found in industry than education, such as in our bespoke science laboratories, recording and television studio. We also offer extensive support for their next step in life, whether it be university or a career.





"The maturity, teamwork and creativity shown by Year 12 students has been outstanding."

Local Employer judging the Year 12 Problem Solving Event

LEARNING AS A COMMUNITY

Working with the wider community is important to us at The Leigh Technology Academy. Our students are actively involved in a variety of community projects, including local and global initiatives and projects relating to protecting and conserving the environment.

We want all our students to have a concern and understanding for the world around them. We have strong partnerships with community leaders, youth workers and outside support agencies and can offer advice and guidance to students and parents alike.





We also understand that a happy staff makes for a happy learning environment and so are committed to giving our staff every opportunity to develop their careers, in a supportive environment, which offers them the freedom and flexibility to try new ideas and get involved on all levels.



“As an international school, the academy has strong links with projects around the world, helping to establish a school in India, for example.”

“Leadership and management are exceptional. Senior staff maintain an uncompromising stance in pursuing excellence whilst caring for the well-being of all involved.”

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