

THE LEIGH  
TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY



ACT ENTERPRISINGLY | WORK IN PARTNERSHIP | ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE

2008









POST SIXTEEN PROSPECTUS



“ 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

The Academy is made up of four Colleges, each with their own Principal and every student and teacher is a member of one of them. The small size of each college allows us to provide a much more personalised education service to all our students and their families.

  <b>Brunel College</b> Principal Tony Ryan	  <b>Chaucer College</b> Principal Pete Finnegan	  <b>Darwin College</b> Principal Mark Poulter	  <b>Da Vinci College</b> Principal Maggie Leah-Wilkinson
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# WELCOME TO THE LEIGH TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY POST 16

Welcome to The Leigh Technology Academy. We are very proud of our Post 16 students. We believe that we have a course programme suitable for all students, irrespective of their interests and abilities.

Courses offered include Advanced GCE, both academic and vocational, and The International Baccalaureate Diploma. We also offer CISCO (CCNA) ORACLE Database and Microsoft MOUS and MCSE.

You will be working with experienced staff who are experts at developing new curriculum areas. They are capable of exploiting all of the Academy's modern technology to ensure that the learning process for all students is as stimulating as possible. You will become part of a thriving community and will have an unsurpassed opportunity to develop learning skills, academic knowledge, personal responsibilities and business awareness in an outstanding environment.

Once you are here we will offer support, guidance and encouragement from tutors to ensure that you achieve success. You will also have the opportunity to use a wide range of specialist facilities, supported by a superb Information Technology learning network. We offer personal care and individual attention.

We will use our extensive contacts with other educational institutions and national and international companies to help you move forward into exciting and challenging careers.

Underpinning our work are the values expressed in our motto of

**"Excellence and Enterprise in Partnership with others".**

We warmly invite you to consider becoming a part of the next generation of expert learners in this Academy, committed to personal and corporate excellence for yourself and for your colleagues.

Please contact Mr Tony Ryan, Principal of Brunel College, Dr Colin Ankerson, Director of Studies for Post 16, or me for advice at any time.

**Frank Green – Chief Executive**

# WHY CHOOSE THE LEIGH TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY?

- Education for the future
- A flexible curriculum designed to meet your needs
- A blend of vocational and academic qualifications which are attractive to both universities and business
- An outstanding record of A Level success
- Fully resourced and generously funded courses
- A growing reputation for community care and involvement
- Excellent industrial contacts through our growing network of sponsors
- Personal tutors trained to support and to monitor your academic progress and set individual targets
- Opportunities for responsibility and leadership
- Academic and industry standard ICT facilities
- Strong links with local Higher Education institutions
- A one week work experience placement with opportunities in Denmark, Holland, India, Germany, China and the Czech Republic
- Personal tutors offering advice and support in a vertical tutoring system
- A two-week problem-solving challenge
- Specialist teachers, many recruited for their vocational experience
- A wide range of field studies and educational visits
- A CISCO regional academy, Microsoft AATP & Oracle Academy

## A WONDERFUL PLACE TO STUDY

The Leigh Technology Academy was developed in partnership with business and industry. This has enabled the Academy to incorporate innovative ideas into the curriculum and provide an environment which is both modern and conducive to high levels of attainment. We have been fortunate to have a complete set of new buildings with new equipment that we move into in January 2008.

The Academy is made up of four Colleges, each with their own Principal, and every student and teacher is a member of one of them. The small size of each college allows us to provide a much more personalised education service to all our students and their families. We have taken the College system of our oldest universities for our model.

The Leigh Technology Academy staff are not only well-qualified but continually update their skills to meet the demands of new courses and the escalating impact of Information and Communication Technologies.

### Learning Support

All Post 16 students have access to learning support staff. This support team will be very willing and able to help you, either in the classroom or individually.

### Industry Links

The Leigh Technology Academy has many industry links with companies both large and small, local and international. They support us in many ways, providing work experience opportunities, sponsoring Academy events such as Problem-Solving and funding projects within the Academy.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Football
- Hockey
- Cricket
- Basketball
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Problem-Solving Competition
- Year Book Production
- Young Enterprise
- Work Experience at home and abroad
- Midbank
- Social Activities
- Charity Work
- Community Pledge
- Self-Defence



## RESOURCES & FACILITIES

We have developed and maintained an impressive standard of resources and facilities for students and staff, which are constantly being up-dated. These include:

- A Novell and Windows NT Cable and Wireless network with Microsoft Office
- Permanent internet and email access for students
- Laser and colour printers, digital cameras, scanners and CD-ROM server
- Apple Mac digital video editing suite and digital video cameras
- Open-plan IT suites and curriculum areas
- A superb Media Resources Centre
- Video conferencing facilities
- Well-equipped science laboratories, with high level technical support
- Excellent art and design studios with their own suite of multi-media computers
- A Learning Resources Centre, comprising well-stocked book sections, multi-media CD-ROM workstations and TV/Video previewing area
- Drama Studio and Music Suite with recording studio
- Custom-built Technology Centre
- Microsoft AATP
- CISCO Regional Academy
- Oracle Academy

### Post 16 Study Area

There is a Post 16 study area in the new building, as well as learning areas within each College, which provide students with spaces dedicated to their use for independent study and research. They are equipped with computers and other high-tech resources. The Academy has a full broadband wifi LAN which enables post 16 students to access their learning from anywhere and at anytime. In addition, Post 16 students benefit from full access to the excellent facilities throughout the Academy.

### Restaurants

An extensive range of healthy and nutritious meals are available daily from the Academy restaurant serving hot meals, snacks and sandwiches. The restaurant is open for breakfast, break and lunch. Post 16 students are also able to make use of the GOALS lounge area throughout the middle of the day.

### Responsibilities

Post 16 students are highly valued as positive role models for younger students and are our best ambassadors in the local community.

### Prefects

Students are nominated each year to undertake the challenging role of Senior Students. They are supported by staff and prefects in Years 10 and 11, who help to keep the Academy running smoothly, by undertaking duties and responsibilities.

**“ The Academy is a powerful, confident and successful institution, which has improved steadily since its inception and which has the capacity to go on improving.” – DfES Report**



## Head Boy & Head Girl

The Head Boy and Head Girl are elected annually. They are experienced Senior Prefects and represent the Academy at all official functions. They share in the leadership and management of the Post 16 and provide regular communication links between the Post 16 students, the Academy community and outside agencies.

## Behaviour Code

The Leigh Technology Academy expects all students to adopt a standard of behaviour in keeping with the Academy motto:

- Act Enterprisingly
- Work in Partnership
- Achieve Excellence

## Dress Code

As with staff, Post 16 students are expected to dress as for a smart office environment. The standard of dress, therefore is not casual: male students are expected to wear a suit, or a jacket with smart trousers, shirt and tie at the least; female students a suit, or a jacket, smart blouse or top, trousers or a smart skirt. Denim, leisurewear and knitwear are not acceptable alternatives.

## Pastoral System

The Leigh Technology Academy takes students from the age of eleven upwards. All students are members of one of four College and are arranged into mixed-age tutors groups, so that Post 16 are fully integrated into the life of the Academy. Post 16 students have the opportunity to mentor younger students, take a lead in tutor activities and gain invaluable experience in supporting the learning of others. All of which is of tremendous use for personal development, inclusion in UCAS and other application forms and for establishing their position as positive role models for the whole Academy community. Through the community and Vertical Tutoring systems all students have comprehensive support from staff committed to ensuring their success. All Post 16 students are expected to be leaders.

## Induction Period

All students should enrol for their courses on the published date. Students undergo a whole week induction prior to their first day in the Academy. This includes an introduction to study skills, familiarisation with the Learning Resources Centre and information on student support. Individual subject areas undertake their own induction programmes, in order to give students an excellent start. All students participate in a team-building day.

## Examinations Policy

All students are taught to the highest standards and are thoroughly prepared for their examinations. The vast majority of examinations will take place in the summer, although there may be some courses where it is deemed more appropriate that students are entered earlier. If the Academy has concerns regarding a student's attendance or performance, such that there is a good chance they may not pass an examination, they will not be entered for it, or their entry may be withdrawn, and parents will be notified. If a student decides to re-sit any module they will be advised by subject teachers, tutors and the Post 16 management team of the suitability of this action. If they still wish to re-sit they should make the appropriate payment for the examination to the Academy. Please note it is Academy policy for students to pay for re-sits.

## Grants

There is a full range of travel and other grants available to students who are eligible for them. Full details can be obtained from The Finance Office, at the Academy, which is open throughout the year. Eligible students are encouraged to apply to local government agencies for Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

## Careers

The Academy establishes close links between staff, students, parents and the local community which is further developed at Post 16. Specialist guidance is provided by external careers consultants. Mentoring for entry to University is also given.

Our commitment is to educate every student to his or her maximum potential and to develop, in each person, habits of self-discipline, a sense of responsibility and respect for others.

## STUDENT ASSOCIATION

### Providing an essential link between students and staff

The student body is represented by the Post 16 Council. Post 16 students have been responsible for supporting lower school students in their lessons, through their tutor groups and helping with:

- Community events
- Meeting the public on Open Evenings
- Network management
- Setting up Web site pages
- Contributions to the Academy Year Book
- Contributions to Drama and Music events
- Supporting Library staff
- Helping with local sporting events and coaching
- Disability Days

In recent years Post 16 students have successfully organised social events such as Discos and Fashion Shows for younger students as well as themselves.

Post 16 Discos, Parties and particularly the Leavers' Ball are planned and managed by the Post 16 Council.

There are numerous opportunities for students to contribute positively to the life of the Academy and gain valuable experience for later life.

## HOW TO APPLY

### What to do next

Follow these simple steps:

- 1 Look in the Course Directory for details of all of the courses available.
- 2 Choose the courses that suit you and fill in the application form.
- 3 Return your completed application form promptly – remember popular courses fill up quickly.
- 4 If you are not sure which course to apply for but know that you want to study at The Leigh Technology Academy, then telephone and arrange to speak to our Post 16 Director of Studies, Dr Ankerson.
- 5 Come along to our Open Evening and find out more about the range and combination of courses available.

**“The Academy is led by an inspirational Principal who has established a culture of rigorous self-evaluation and continuous improvement.” – DfES Report**

### **International Baccalaureate**

You will need at least 5 GCSE passes at grade 'C' or above including English and Mathematics.

Some options within the IB may require grade 'B' or above.

Please see the IB course guide for more information.

### **Vocational A Levels**

For Applied Levels and BTEC Nationals, some of which are double awards, five GCSE passes at A\* to C are required. Although these are two-year full-time courses, some students may gain an Advanced Subsidiary Vocational Certificate of Education single award at the end of the first year.

### **Advanced Courses**

For GCE and VCE at advanced level you will need five GCSE passes at A\* to C, preferably with grade B or above in relevant subjects.

If you are planning to study 'A' level courses you must have grade 'C' or above in 5 GCSE subjects, in addition to any GNVQ awards.

The Advanced Subsidiary (AS) is the first half of a full GCE A Level but can be a qualification in its own right. The course can be continued in Year 13 by taking the A2, which will complete the full GCE A Level.

### **Oracle, Microsoft and CISCO**

The Academy offers courses leading to the CISCO (CCNA), Microsoft (MCSE) and Oracle (OdBA) qualifications.

### **Course Guide**

The information in this guide is designed to assist you in making the right choice for your future studies. A genuine interest in your chosen area of study will be important. If The Leigh Technology Academy has the right course for you then you will almost certainly be offered a conditional place.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

After receiving your application, which will be acknowledged, you will be allocated a provisional place, subject to a satisfactory interview and examination results.

Starting in May and completing before the end of the summer term, individual interviews will be held with all returning students and their parents. The aim of these interviews being to ensure that all students are suitable academically for their chosen courses, to guide students onto a broad and balanced curriculum suitable for their individual talents and to assess their attitude to learning.

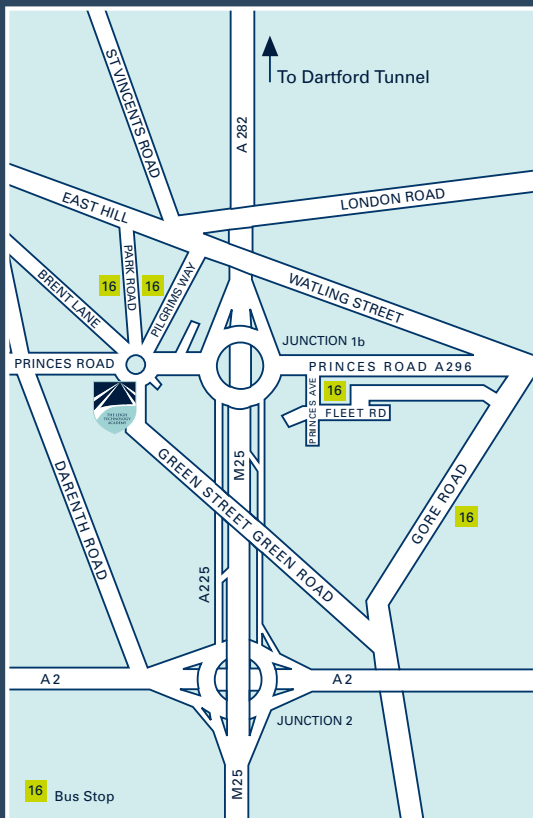
In early July – All students will be invited to participate in a trial Post 16 week where they will follow a Post 16 timetable and receive mentor training. This week will provide an opportunity for students to obtain a taste, not only of Post 16 life, but of the subjects that they have chosen.

In the two days following the release of the GCSE results, key members of staff will be available to interview students with their results and adapt individual courses, in the light of results.

Finally, in early September, all students receive their Post 16 timetable, it should be noted that no changes will be made to any students timetable until the end of September.

### What should I do if my grades are not what I expected?

Don't worry! Contact the Academy as soon as you obtain your grades. Staff will be able to take your call throughout the holidays and during normal Academy hours. Interviews are available upon request. There is a good chance that you will be offered an alternative course or perhaps be allowed to start your course for a trial period.



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Green Street Green Road  
Dartford Kent DA1 1QE

**T:** 01322 620400

**F:** 01322 620401

**info@leighacademy.org.uk**

**www.leighacademy.org.uk**

Mr AFX Green CEO

Mr R Findlay Chair of Governors

The Leigh Technology Academy  
consists of four colleges

**Brunel College**

Principal: Mr A Ryan

**Chaucer College**

Principal: Mr P Finnegan

**Darwin College**

Principal: Mr M Poulter

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Green Street Green Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 1QE

