



Post-16 Prospectus



Attenborough College
Opening Minds to Success

The Leigh Academy is part of Leigh Academies Trust



Leigh Academies Trust is one of the country's largest and most established multi-academy trusts operating across Kent, Medway and South East London. It contains primary, secondary and special academies and is highly inclusive and successful. Our mission is to deliver "education for a better world" by ensuring that young people in our academies have an excellent start in life regardless of their background or ability.

Our Values

We care -
about our pupils and their families through our human scale approach to education, our staff and their well-being and the world around us, driven by our high ideals and strong moral values.

We have boundless ambition -
to achieve excellence for all and create confident young adults with high levels of resilience and integrity.

We work together -
as one team because we are greater than the sum of our parts. We foster an enterprising culture through global collaboration with partners in business and education.

We keep getting better -
using our 'can-do' attitude towards continuous improvement and innovation.

For admission enquiries telephone: 01322 620400
or email: info@leighacademy.org.uk

'Pupils are proud to be part of The Leigh Academy. They enjoy school and the good friendships they develop.'

Ofsted, 2023

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Our full Course Directory can be found online at our website. Click the link below to access full information including entry requirements, assessment details and course summaries.

[View our courses](#)



Welcome

Opening Minds to Success

Post-16 is a thriving aspect of the life of The Leigh Academy, led by a dedicated team of staff, all sharing the same determination to open doors for the young adults in our care.

We believe that our role is to help you to become the best versions of yourself that you can be and, in so doing, to ensure that you are ready to enter further education, an apprenticeship or employment.

To make this possible, we provide a choice of 22 courses of study on pathways that allow you to follow purely academic, purely vocational or combined academic and vocational routes. We also offer the International Baccalaureate Organisation's Career-related Programme, which is an internationally recognised and valued suite of courses that goes even further in preparing students for the rigours of the next phase of their life.

Our Post-16 students have dedicated study spaces in Attenborough College that make different kinds of study possible. As a member of our Post-16 you will have pastoral support, via your form tutors and College Student Support Managers, as well as the support of the Director of Post-16 and his team, which includes a full time pastoral worker. You will also have regular access to careers and further education guidance and we deliver two Post-18 programmes to support you in decision making for the next step in your life: 'UPP' (University Preparation Programme) and 'PEAP' (Preparing for Employment and Apprenticeships Programme), which combine face to face guidance sessions, visits to higher education and employment fairs and guided support on a dedicated website. This support is enhanced by support staff to deliver tailored careers guidance, connections with employers and one to one support for our most able students who intend to apply to high tariff universities.



About our college

Students are timetabled to encourage them to study efficiently, serve in the community, gain work experience and undertake paid part time work. They only have to be on site when they have a timetabled lesson. We believe that this allows our students to achieve a sensible balance between the different aspects of their lives and to develop an open-minded, flexible and adaptable mindset that enables them to embrace challenges positively. We provide all Post-16 students with a free Chromebook to use in school and at home, which is loaned to them for the duration of Post-16.

We really value the contribution that Post-16 students make to the life of the academy and offer them the chance to serve in the Post-16 Student Leadership Team, whereby they can help to guide the direction of provision for students throughout the academy. These positions of responsibility come with great rewards, and help to prepare our students to be ready for the future.

In everything we do, our mission is simple: to prepare our Post-16 students for their preferred next step as well-rounded, nurtured and aspirational young adults.

Our expectations

We have high expectations of our Post-16 students and reflect these standards in the concept of being on **PARADE** throughout their time with us. By this, we mean that we expect:

P

excellent **PUNCTUALITY**

A

excellent **ATTENDANCE**

R

ROLE MODELLING to younger students

A

a positive **ATTITUDE TO LEARNING**

D

compliance with the **DRESS CODE**

E

adherence to the principle of **EQUALITY**

Pathways of study

All of the courses we offer are co-equivalent and have been since national curriculum reform in 2016.

We offer:

- One A Level course
- Higher Level IB Diploma courses
- BTEC National Extended Certificate courses

These three different types of qualification are graded differently but the broad comparisons can be seen below:

A Level course	Higher Level IB Diploma course	BTEC National Extended Certificate
A*	7	Distinction*
A	6	Distinction
B	5	Merit
C	4	Pass
D	3	
E	2	
	1	

Grades C/4/Pass are considered 'good' passes for progression to employment, apprenticeships and higher education.

Post-16 students at The Leigh Academy can combine qualification types as they wish and the majority choose to do so, as UCAS has reported every year for the last three years that

two thirds of first year undergraduates have started their courses with mixed qualifications. Universities appreciate the different skills that each qualification type develops in Post-16 students - the ability to complete coursework to a high standard and the ability to perform well in terminal examinations.

Entry requirements

The minimum entry requirements to become a Post-16 student at The Leigh Academy are five GCSE passes graded at grade 4 or higher, including English Language and/or Maths. However, many subjects have higher entry requirements than this or require students to have studied the subject at GCSE, so please read each subject's entry requirements carefully.

It is a government requirement that students repeat GCSE English Language and/or Maths throughout Post-16, until they pass at grade 4 or higher, so we automatically enrol our students to do so and provide additional timetabled lessons to prepare them for re-examination. Our success rate with such students is well in excess of national averages.



‘High expectations of pupils’ behaviour and learning are embedded.’

Ofsted, 2023

Assessment

A levels are generally between 80% and 100% terminally examined, with no more than 20% of the final mark acquired via coursework.

Higher Level IB diploma courses contain a minimum of 20% coursework but many subjects offer much more than this, such as English Language and Literature (which has 40% coursework).

BTEC National Extended Certificates are examined on 40% of the course and the other 60% is completed via coursework.

The LIBF level 3 diploma is 100% examined but combines multiple choice and longer answer online assessments at several points across each year of the course, rather than waiting till the end of the course to determine final grades.

Onward destinations

Although it varies slightly with each cohort, generally 75% of Post-16 students at The Leigh Academy go on to university each year, with the other 25% taking up either employment or an apprenticeship.

As outcomes continue to improve each year, so the profile of the universities our graduates attend changes. Our students generally go on to study in middle tariff universities but increasingly many are accessing courses at high tariff universities, including Russell Group institutions.

Depending on the sector in which our students enter apprenticeships, they usually gain level 3 or 4 apprenticeships but increasingly they are gaining places on degree apprenticeships, as an alternative to full time study at university.

UCAS Tariff Points for university

The table below outlines the grades for each qualification and their equivalent UCAS tariff points.

IB Diploma (HL)		A Level		BTEC	
7	56	A*	56	Distinction *	56
6	48	A	48	Distinction	48
		B	40		
5	32	C	32	Merit	32
4	24	D	24		
		E	16	Pass	16
3	12				
2	0				
1	0				

Flexible attendance

Post-16 students attend for timetabled lessons, tutor time on days when they have lessons starting at 9.00am, Attenborough College assembly and timetabled Directed Study periods.

Lessons are taught either in 2-hour blocks from 9.00am till 11.00am and 11.30am till 1.30pm or sometimes in single lessons from 2.00pm till 3.15pm. This means that, on some days, you will be able to start at the academy at 11.30am or finish your day at 11.00am, which enables you to study in the academy or at home outside lessons, be more flexible with your part-time employer and the hours you work and properly balance these demands with your social and family lives. Flexible attendance begins in Year 13 and is earned by achieving an excellent end of year report in Year 12.

However, teachers set 7 hours of personal study per subject per week and additional Directed Study periods can be added if it is deemed necessary that students complete supervised work in the building.

Chromebooks

All students are lent a Chromebook for the duration of their time in Post-16 to make sure that they can engage with the blended learning approach that we take at The Leigh Academy.



IBCP Pathway

The IB Career-related Programme (IBCP)

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Organisation 2018

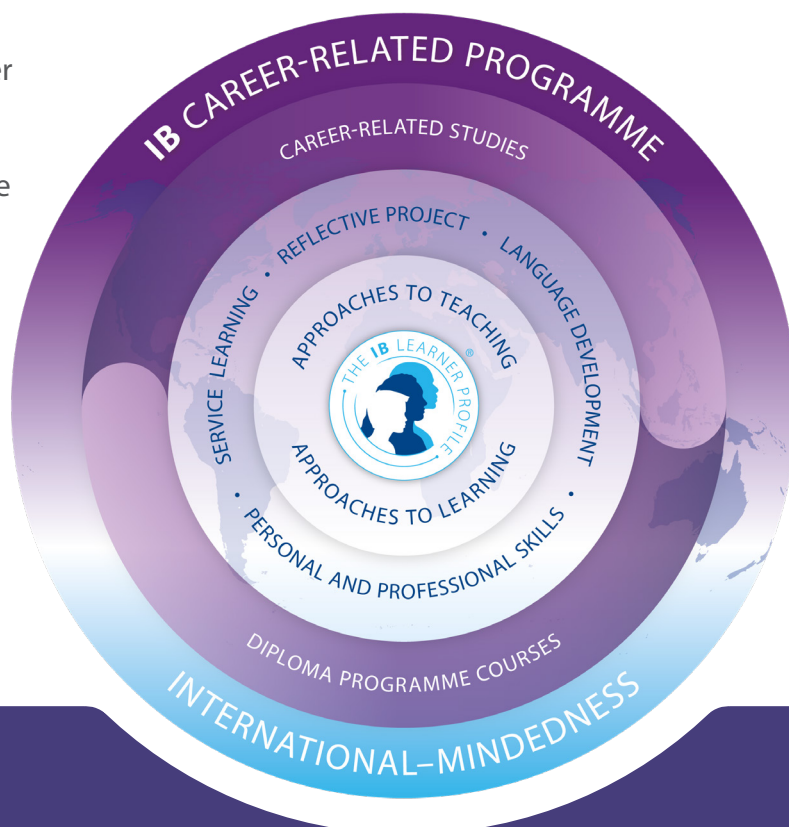


The Career-related Programme (IBCP) is designed for pupils aged 16-19 and is one of four programmes offered by the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO).

As an IB World School, authorised to deliver the IBCP, we are excited to offer Post-16 students the opportunity to follow this internationally recognised and valued suite of qualifications.

IBCP students become inquiring, knowledgeable, critical and creative thinking, communicative, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-taking, balanced and reflective adults.

These attributes make people more employable, more valuable to universities and more beneficial to society.



To follow this pathway, students must take a specific combination of qualifications*:

One vocational course (4 hours per week)



Two IB diploma courses (2 x 4 hours per week)



Core Programme (4 hours per week):

- Personal and Professional Skills (developing the skills needed to thrive at university, in the workplace and in life)
- Reflective Project (a 1500 word essay on an ethical issue within the vocational subject, which is rewarded with additional UCAS points)

- Service Learning (50 hours of voluntary service across one calendar year)
- Language Development (learning about Japanese culture and some basic Japanese language)

** Students may opt to take A level Mathematics as an additional 4th subject, if they meet the entry requirement.*

Contact

Lee Forcella-Burton, Director of Post-16
lee.forcellaburton@leighacademy.org.uk

T-Level Pathway

T-LEVELS
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

T-Level in Education and Early Years

Education and Early Years is a qualification worth three A Levels that allows students to prepare for employment, a higher level apprenticeship or higher education. Students study a Core Component that is common to all T-Levels and acquire an Occupational Specialism as an Early Years Educator, working with children from birth to the age of five.

KEY FACTS ABOUT T-LEVELS:

- Alternative to A Levels
- 21 weeks of work placements
- 80% study, 20% workplace
- Designed by and for employers
- One T-Level is equivalent to three A Levels
- A variety of progression options



Benefits

- Minimum of 21 weeks placement at nursery
- Put skills and knowledge into practice
- Try out a career
- Grow your confidence
- Learn transferable skills, such as team-working and communication
- Improve employability
- Opportunities to get paid, if doing extra hours in placement at Little Gems Childcare

Entry requirements

- 5+ GCSE 9-4 grades
- Either GCSE English Language or Maths at grade 4+ (but preferably both)

Contact

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lee.forcellaburton@leighacademy.org.uk

Our curriculum offer

1. All students must choose either TWO IB subjects and ONE vocational subject or T Level Education and Early Years.
2. Subjects are timetabled in 2-hour blocks, Monday to Friday, between 9.00am and 1.30pm (periods 1 to 4).
3. For students not choosing T Level Education and Early Years, four compulsory IBCP Core Programme lessons in a) Personal and Professional Skills, b) Reflective Project, c) Language Development and d) Service Learning are timetabled in each student's empty block.
4. Each student will have four hours of Directed Study added to their timetable but this can be replaced with Home Study upon receipt of an excellent modular report.
5. Non-T Level students wishing to study A level Mathematics as an additional 4th subject may do so, if they meet the entry requirement, but these lessons will be timetabled for period 5 lessons (2.00pm till 3.15pm), totalling 5 hours per week.
6. Compulsory retake GCSE Maths and English Language lessons will be timetabled in either period 5 or Directed Study periods.

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Social and Cultural Anthropology [IB]	Business Management [IB]	English Language and Literature [IB]	History [IB]
Psychology [IB]	Psychology [IB]	Geography [IB]	Maths Applications and Interpretations (Standard Level) [IB]
Global Politics [IB]	Visual Arts [IB]	Biology [IB]	French [IB]
			Spanish [IB]
Creative Media Production [Vocational]	Business [Vocational]	Engineering [Vocational]	Computing [Vocational]
ICT Single [Vocational]	Health and Social Care Single [Vocational]	Applied Science [Vocational]	Sport [Vocational]
T Level Education and Early Years			



Green Street Green Road
Dartford
DA1 1QE

t: 01322 620400
e: info@leighacademy.org.uk
w: www.leighacademy.org.uk



Education for a better world

Chief Executive: Simon Beamish
BA (Hons) MSc PGCE NPQH NLE FCCT

Carnation Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 2SX
01634 412200 | fax: 01634 412201
info@latrust.org.uk | leighacademiestrust.org.uk

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