



Leigh Academy  
**Strood**



# POST 16

at Leigh Academy Strood

Be Inquisitive | Be Respectful | Be Resilient | Be Kind

# Sixth Form at Leigh Academy Strood

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 and research informed approach to continuous improvement and innovation.

For admission enquiries telephone: 01634 717121

Or email: [atlas@strood.latrust.org.uk](mailto:atlas@strood.latrust.org.uk)



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# Welcome

to Leigh Academy Strood Sixth Form  
Atlas College



At Leigh Academy Strood we lead a community with a high level of socio-economic disadvantage. High quality education is fundamental to the future success of our pupils.

We aim to break all barriers and disrupt the status quo, to enable our teachers and leaders to focus on one thing and one thing only, providing an exceptional education for every pupil.

We are exceptionally ambitious for all, enabling our pupils the choice in life they truly deserve.

## Mr Pleasant Deputy Principal

Mr Pleasant grew up in Medway, attending a local secondary school before studying at The University of Kent, gaining a First Class Honours degree in Sociology. Mr Pleasant has held several leadership positions at schools in Kent and has played an integral role in the development of the IB curriculum in those schools as the IB coordinator.

Mr Pleasant is responsible for the outcomes of our sixth form students and their curriculum pathways so any questions regarding the different programmes at Leigh Academy Strood should be directed to him.

## Mrs Wrighton Head of Sixth Form

Mrs Wrighton grew up in Medway, Kent and studied at The University of Greenwich where she gained a BA Hons in English Literature with Drama. Mrs Wrighton trained to teach at Canterbury Christchurch University where she completed her PGDE and several years later completed her Masters in Education. Mrs Wrighton has had various roles during her teaching career including: Head of English Department, Lead Practitioner of English, and Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning and for Culture and Rewards.

Mrs Wrighton is driven by her belief that all young people deserve to have choices in life and to be the best versions of themselves. She has high expectations of herself, and of the students, and wants all young people to leave Leigh Academy Strood with a suite of qualifications that provides opportunities for a happy and fulfilling life.

*'It is a privilege to be the Head of Sixth Form here at Leigh Academy Strood. Working alongside our students to help and support them in their journey towards excellence. Sixth form should provide opportunity and enrichment to enable all students to have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to be successful and achieve their dreams.'*



# Our Values

We explicitly teach our values which are embedded within the heart of our academy, they are central in everything we do.

Our academy values provide our framework to enable our journey to excellence.

*To be Inquisitive*

*To be Respectful*

*To be Resilient*

*To be Kind*



# Our Mission

Our collective mission through our small school model ensures our pupils receive a world class IB education which allows them to become highly ambitious, successful citizens who are well positioned to create a better world.

We set unapologetically high expectations, challenging our pupils to believe in their ability and have the choice in life they truly deserve. We ensure our pupils are at the forefront of tomorrow.

Our pupils believe in the value of their learning journey and are proud of their education.

Our parents believe in our mission and work in partnership to achieve excellence.

Our staff believe in the transformative power of education.

# Our Foundations

- We hold the highest expectations and embed positive engagement as part of our curriculum
- We teach an ambitious and knowledge rich curriculum
- We inspire every individual to become an active global citizen
- We are relentless in creating a better world
- We develop strong, collaborative community relations
- We take pride in our safe, nurturing and inclusive learning environment
- We lead with expertise
- We care about our staff
- We harness the power of technology
- We promote social justice through excellent outcomes for all



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# Pathways

At Leigh Academy Strood we pride ourselves on giving the students the opportunity to study a range of subjects in order to fulfil their potential and to leave our sixth form with the ability to choose their next steps.

We offer five pathways at Leigh Academy Strood:

- International Baccalaureate Careers Programme (IBCP)
- A Levels
- Vocational courses (e.g. BTECs)
- T Levels
- Strood Football Academy

## The CP Curriculum

CP students undertake a minimum of two IB Diploma Programme (DP) courses and one vocational/applied course. Pupils will also take part in the core which consists of four components that includes approaches to learning, community and service, language development and a reflective project as well as an approved career-related course.

For CP students, DP courses provide the theoretical underpinning and academic rigour of the programme; the career-related study further supports the programme's academic strength and provides practical, real-world approaches to learning; and the CP core helps them to develop skills and competencies required for lifelong learning.

## What is the IBCP?

The IBCP is a framework of international education that incorporates the values of the IB into a unique programme addressing the needs of students engaged in career-related education. The IBCP is a highly regarded and valued qualification with universities, employers both nationally and internationally. Students studying this programme are likely to progress into apprenticeships or university study.

## Assessment and Exams

Students take written examinations at the end of their IB Diploma Programme courses which are marked by external IB examiners.



# Pathways (cont.)

## Vocational Courses

### Why Choose a Vocational Subject?

BTEC has earned a worldwide reputation as a premier applied learning qualification because it provides learners with a clear route into their career. Today's employers are looking for confident, work ready employees who have practical knowledge and technical skills that are taught when studying a BTEC.

BTECs are coursework focused which means gaining your qualification is usually an equal split of coursework and examinations - this can vary between subjects. Additionally, BTECs can be an excellent way to progress into university, with 95% of universities accepting BTECs, including those in the Russell Group (which includes the likes of Oxford University and Cambridge).

We recommend that all students opt for the IBCP due to its rigour in developing the person into a global citizen developing them in the following learner profile: inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective.

## T Levels

**T-LEVELS**  
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

T Levels are an alternative to A Levels, apprenticeships, and other 16-19 courses. They are equivalent to three A-levels, with a focus on vocational skills and can help students into skilled employment, higher studies, or apprenticeships.

T Levels include an in-depth industry placement of at least 45 days, which means students gain valuable experience and employers get to see the talent of the students within that industry.

## Strood Football Academy

We are delighted to be able to offer this exciting new programme to our 2024 cohort as we know many of our Year 11 students will wish to continue their sporting development alongside their academic study. The programme is led by a member of our staff, an ex-professional male football player, who will lead training sessions with students after school every Wednesday in preparation for weekend matches organised by a local league.

Students will be able to choose their academic programmes of study from any of our other pathways (IB/A Level/BTEC) and this will be carefully tailored to consider the training requirements of the students.



# Destinations

Here are just some of the destinations secured by our previous students

We are proud of all our students who complete their level 3 course with us with 100% leaving to go to university, apprenticeships, or work.

On average 60% of our students attend university with some attending Russell Group Universities including:

- UCL
- King's College London

Other universities include:

- University of London
- University of Hertfordshire
- University of Birmingham City
- Portsmouth University
- Canterbury Christchurch University
- University of Kent

Other students prefer to pursue their career in the workplace with many students going onto work for:

- The Royal Marines
- The Army
- British Airways
- NHS

With a bespoke careers programme, written in conjunction with the University of Kent, we are confident that Leigh Academy Strood will be able to successfully support our students with being able to progress to the career of their choice. Furthermore, work experience is provided for every student during year 12 to ensure they are able to gain insight into the world of work to help them plan their next steps in their education journey.



# Enrichment and Extra-Curricular Activities

As a team we acknowledge that Sixth Form life can be both stressful and demanding. It is important we ensure students maintain a balance between learning and wellbeing.

To help with this, we offer our students an enrichment opportunity once a week. Students choose an enrichment option that they must commit to for the entire half term and will get another opportunity to select another option the following half term.

Enrichment options include but are not limited to:

- Mindfulness
- Debate Club
- Exercise and Fitness
- ROAR - Female Empowerment Programme
- Coaching - Personal Development
- Work Experience



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## Student Leadership and Student Voice

We expect our learners to be active participants in their own right. We have several opportunities for you to voice your opinions and to make a difference. Sixth Form students are encouraged to apply for positions in the Senior Student Leadership Team; roles that involve engagement with students across the academy. Student leadership at Leigh Academy Strood is key to enabling young people to realise their potential whilst building on necessary skills, confidence and motivation to allow students to engage directly in the wider improvement of the school. Appointed members are trained in public speaking and leadership skills to ensure they can articulate their point of view with great competency; enabling them to be effective in what they set out to achieve.

Throughout the academic year we encourage Sixth Form students to lead assemblies both in Sixth Form and the Year 7-11. Sixth Form students are encouraged to take part in the peer mentoring scheme, 1:1 Maths support for Year 11 students and reading support for Year 7 students. A large number of students act as ambassadors at various public events.



## Careers and Work Experience

At Leigh Academy Strood we prioritise the future of our young people. Students are supported to make successful transitions when they leave the academy whether into apprenticeships, employment or university.

We have a robust Future careers programme that includes support from local Universities, CCCU, Greenwich University. Apprenticeship fair, key speaker assemblies, Career fairs and UniFrog support and guidance and much more.

Students complete a work placement to allow them to gain experience of their chosen career to develop key skills allowing them a better understanding of the work placement and the skills required.

## Pastoral Support

Our small school system also provides students with a support network to help them to be successful during their time at Leigh Academy Strood Sixth Form. We have four colleges: Hercules, Trafalgar, Victory and Atlas. Each college has student support managers, senior student support managers, and a deputy head and head of pastoral. This small school structure means there are staff on hand to support the wellbeing of our students and to provide guidance in their approach to their studies.

Additionally, each student will have a tutor which they will see for 40 minutes each day where important information is relayed and activities in current affairs and careers is provided.

Furthermore, there is a large pastoral team in place to support students throughout their studies.





# Further INFORMATION

## Admissions Policy

Please visit us to see more information.

[leighacademystrood.org.uk/admissions/](https://leighacademystrood.org.uk/admissions/)

## Leigh Academy Strood

Please visit our academy website: [leighacademystrood.org.uk](https://leighacademystrood.org.uk)





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