



# Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy



## Prospectus

Opening Minds to Success

# Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy is part of Leigh Academies Trust



Leigh Academies Trust is a medium sized multi-academy trust 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 shape the lives of young people for the better through high quality education and in doing so, transform the communities in which they live.

## Our Values

We care -  
about our pupils through our human-scale approach to education, our staff and their well-being and the communities that we serve, 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 in the belief that we are greater than the sum of our parts. We foster an enterprising culture through collaboration and in close partnership with industry and other educators.

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



For admission enquiries telephone: 01322 620400  
or email: [info@sgla.latrust.org.uk](mailto:info@sgla.latrust.org.uk)

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

Ofsted, 2023

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# Welcome



‘Pupils have exceptional opportunities.’

Ofsted, 2023

## Opening Minds to Success

Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy offers excellent learning opportunities to all our students from Year 7 to Year 13, including the provision of Chromebooks to all students.

As the flagship academy of Leigh Academies Trust we have an inspirational building hosting modern technology and fantastic facilities including our new science suite. We ensure that our students are prepared both academically and socially for their futures. We ensure that students’ talents and interests are nurtured through our broad and balanced curriculum, in particular through the delivery of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme in Years 7, 8 and 9, having been accredited as an IB World School in December 2020 for our Key Stage 3 curriculum.

We take pride in being the first school in the UK to have been awarded The Healthy Minds School kite mark, in recognition of successful involvement in the Healthy Minds curriculum delivery, demonstrating a commitment to the personal development of students. We have also gained national recognition for Healthy Minds as an Area of Excellence.

We strive for excellence in all that we do whilst ‘opening minds to success’. This is reflected in our dedicated staff and our consistent approach to teaching and learning to ensure all of our students are happy, successful and resilient to the challenges they face.

Our intention is to work in close partnership with parents and carers to ensure that students of all abilities, interests and talents are given every opportunity to be part of our inspiring, challenging and supportive community.

I look forward to meeting you.

Julia Collins,  
Principal



## our VISION

Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy inspires the next generation to be resilient and respectful learners who are successful and strive for academic excellence by:

- Challenging all to become compassionate and active members of our global community,
- Building effective partnerships through intercultural and social interactions,
- Ensuring consistent approaches to develop lifelong learners.

## our VALUES


At Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy, we aim to provide a learning environment which is both welcoming and supportive and to create a caring, working atmosphere which will enable students to reach their full potential intellectually, spiritually, ethically and physically. We recognise the importance of the individual, values all of its students equally and strives to ensure that they have the opportunity to experience success. We publicly acknowledge their achievements with pride.

Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy aims to continue to inspire the next generation, to provide our students with engaging lessons, personalised learning plans and individual support and feedback to allow them to develop skills and knowledge that will make them successful, happy and resilient to the challenges they will face when they leave us.

We believe that it is our mission to support students to develop the skills they need to be successful in their education and beyond.

Students need to be:

- Knowledgeable
- Principled
- Thinkers
- Open-minded
- Reflective
- Inquirers
- Communicators
- Balanced
- Caring
- Risk takers

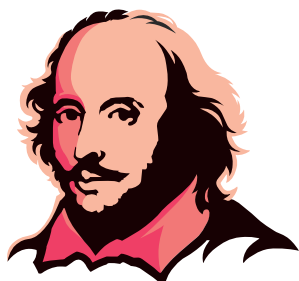


'High expectations of pupils' behaviour and learning are embedded.'

Ofsted, 2023

# Our colleges

Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy follows the human-scale model of education. This means that students are placed into one of four colleges in which they remain for their education at The Leigh – Shakespeare College, Mandela College, Curie College and Seacole College and then transition through to Attenborough College for their Post-16 studies. This college model ensures that children are known and valued as individuals and supported to achieve to their potential and beyond in a community that encourages participation in their own learning, promoting strong, nurturing relationships, fostering respect for self, others and the community which students will then take with them into the wider world.



## Shakespeare College

William Shakespeare was born in 1564 and is regarded by many as the greatest writer in the history of English Literature. He published around 37 plays and over 150 poems in his life. He also created over 1700 new words which are still used today in the English language. He was an extremely knowledgeable man and fellow writers looked up to him as a role model. We are proud to be represented by such an inspirational writer whose influence and creativity have had such an impact on society hundreds of years after his death.

In Shakespeare College, we encourage our students to be creative and enthusiastic learners, reflective individuals and responsible representatives of Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy community both in and out of school. We want all Shakespeare students to be strong communicators who can work collaboratively with both peers and adults.



## Mandela College

Nelson Mandela was a social rights activist, politician and philanthropist who became South Africa's first Black president from 1994 to 1999. In 1993, Mandela and South African President F.W. de Klerk were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to dismantle the country's apartheid system. For generations to come, Mandela will be a source of inspiration for civil rights activists worldwide.

Nelson Mandela will be forever remembered for his resilience in facing adversity and his fight for freedom, equality and justice. We are proud that Nelson Mandela fought for the same values that we hold dearly, and will continue to strive to uphold and respect these values together as the Mandela College Community.

# Our colleges



## Curie College

Marie Curie was Polish born and was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize in 1903. She went on to win another Nobel Prize in 1911 in Chemistry that awarded her for her work in discovering a way to measure radioactivity. Marie Curie is most famous for working alongside her husband to discover two new elements: radium and polonium. This was not easy work and she demonstrated resilience and perseverance in her pursuit to prove that these elements existed. In Curie College, we encourage our students to embrace the values and attributes of Marie Curie. We push our students to be ambitious, to pursue their passions and to be resilient in the face of adversity. Much like Marie Curie, our students in Curie College are paving their own paths in life that we hope will be full of innovation, risk taking and a willingness to make a difference to society.



## Seacole College

Mary Seacole was from Jamaica and her father was a Scottish army officer. Mary epitomises the IB MYP learner profile characteristics we seek to embed in our students in the way she led her life. She was risk-taking, caring and principled. These attributes are exemplified in her mission to put others before herself, as she worked as a nurse in the Crimean War. Indeed, she was so caring and nursed sick soldiers so kindly, that they called her 'Mother Seacole'.

Mary Seacole is a great role model. Her values of good citizenship were shown as she always wanted to care for the sick and wounded; entrepreneurship through her principled nature which took her to the Crimea under her own steam and achievement through being a risk-taker. She remains one of history's greatest figures and we ask our Seacole students to model these qualities.



## Attenborough College

Our Post 16 College is known as The Attenborough College, named in honour of Sir David Attenborough, the world-renowned environmentalist, scientist, author and broadcaster. Sir David Attenborough has been relentless over many decades in his determination to spotlight the extraordinary diversity that exists within the natural world and how interdependent we are on it.

Our Post-16 students know that their own and future generations will pay the cost of previous generations who did not heed Sir David's lead in making the world a more peaceful and harmonious place in which we live for everyone and every species. As such, he is a living example of the IB learner profile characteristic of being balanced, which explicitly teaches young people to recognise their interdependence on one another and the world in which they live.

# Our curriculum

We pride ourselves on our broad and balanced curriculum and believe that all of our students should be given the opportunity to try new subjects and develop new skills. We encourage each individual to explore interests and challenge themselves to excel. We truly believe that every student has the ability to achieve great things and each will have their own area of expertise.

Our students study a three year Key Stage 3 curriculum, in Year 9 they select the subjects they would like to continue to study to GCSE level. Post GCSE we encourage our students to continue their journey with us into our Post-16 provision.

In addition to traditional subjects we are proud to be part of an international project involving 12,000 students and putting healthy minds on our

curriculum. The aim is to improve students' skills and the resources they need to improve resilience, make a positive change to their behaviour and ability to learn. The following courses are being delivered in Year 7, 8 and 9 - PENN Resilience, Media Navigator, I. Breathe, From School to Life, Media Influences, Unplugged - Substance use/Misuse, Sex Ed Sorted and Relationship Smarts. All students in these year groups have one healthy minds lesson timetabled per week.

We take pride in being the first school in the UK to have been awarded The Healthy Minds School kite mark, as well as the national 'Area of Excellence' for our RSHE curriculum, which demonstrates our commitment to the personal development of students.



'An extremely well-thought-out 'healthy minds' programme covers all the important topics.'

Ofsted, 2023

## Student support

Each college community is supported by a student services manager (SSM), who is a non-teaching member of staff who is available throughout the day to support and guide our students pastorally. Students are also placed in a tutor group and have daily contact with their tutor who will support the student's holistic development.

At Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy we support and value the abilities of all our students. We strongly believe that it is our duty to provide equal opportunities for every young person in our care and a safe and fully equipped learning environment, which caters to the needs of every student as an individual. We are committed to inclusion within the academy curriculum and participation in all aspects of academy life.

Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy adopts a 'holistic approach' to special educational needs. All staff work to ensure inclusion of all students. We are committed to ensuring that students with special educational needs can fulfil their potential and achieve optimal educational outcomes.





‘Staff understand pupils’ needs. This includes pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Helpful strategies support pupils in class.’

Ofsted, 2023

## Hearing impaired resource-based provision

The Inclusion Hub at Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy includes a dedicated resource base for hearing impaired students with severe to profound hearing loss. We are moving towards a total communication/child led approach with the needs of each child being assessed and taught accordingly, encompassing all methods available.

Though the hearing impaired students work, primarily in their mainstream classes for the majority of the time, some lessons take place in the hearing impaired resource base itself. The rooms are used for specialist teaching, audiology and speech and language therapy.

## Special Educational Needs

Students whose education, health and care (EHC) plan identifies a primary need of speech, language and communication will benefit from access to our resource-based speech and language provision.

These students will spend most of their time in mainstream lessons and will also have access to specialist support through small group teaching and therapy to enable access and independence across the mainstream curriculum by the speech and language therapist, specialist teacher and learning support assistants.

## Careers education and work-related learning

Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy offers their students a robust careers learning/education programme. We prepare our students for life in a global community.

Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy is proud to have the Investor in Careers Award which demonstrates our commitment to a structured, organised careers learning programme which follows the Career Development Institute guidelines.

It is important to develop the lifelong learning agenda to enable students to understand the relevance of learning and prepare them for a life beyond education.

## Chromebooks

The academy operates a Google Chromebook scheme for all of our students, which means that all students will be given their own device to use for the duration of their education with us. We believe that the Chromebook allows our students the opportunity to learn any time, any place and gives them greater flexibility in terms of completing assignments and developing independent learning skills, both in lessons and when completing work at home. As parents and carers it also provides a unique window to your child’s learning and allows you to be involved and informed about their progress on a daily basis.

# Post-16 Study at The Leigh

Post-16 is a thriving aspect of the life of Sir Geoffrey 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 our students to become the best versions of themselves that they can be and, in so doing, to ensure that they are ready to enter further education, an apprenticeship or employment.

To make this possible, we provide a choice of more than thirty courses of study on pathways that allow students 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 throughout the Academy that make different kinds of study possible, as well as the offer of their own Chromebook. They also have pastoral support, via their form tutors and dedicated Post-16 team. They also have regular access to careers and further education guidance. Students are timetabled to give them blocks of time that are free for study, service in the community, work experience or paid work. 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.

In everything we do, our mission is simple: to make our Post-16 provision and our Post-16 students "Simp-Leigh the best!"

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 excellent PUNCTUALITY, excellent ATTENDANCE, ROLE MODELLING to younger students, a positive ATTITUDE TO LEARNING, compliance with the LAT16 DRESS CODE and adherence to the principle of EQUALITY.

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 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, as well as great responsibilities, and help to prepare our students to be ready for the future.

'The Curriculum prepares pupils well for the future. Regular careers, education and advice shine a light on the various options open to them. Pupils gain a range of qualifications.'

Ofsted, 2023



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Academy

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