



Leigh UTC  
**Dartford**



# Prospectus

Developing STEM professionals  
for the future global market

# Leigh UTC Dartford 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 01322 626600  
or email [admissions@utcdartford.latrust.org.uk](mailto:admissions@utcdartford.latrust.org.uk)



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# Welcome



‘Being taught by people from industry has a big impact on my learning. I appreciate the background experience they bring into the classroom.’

Former student

Developing STEM  
professionals for the future  
global market

## An Inspirational Academy

Your journey begins with Leigh UTC Dartford

Our academy is designed to give all of our students the best chances of a successful and fulfilling future. We have structured our curriculum to create students who are self-motivated, competent, willing to take risks and become lifelong learners. Our relentless mission is to unleash potential in order to raise horizons, enabling the students for whom we work to become architects of their future.

The UTC will provide all of its students with the experiences, skills and values needed to properly prepare them for success at each stage of their future journey to secure careers within the globally competitive 21st century. We have already created, developed and fostered close working relationships with local, national and international businesses and industry specialists. Our committed engineering practitioners work alongside us to develop industry-relevant projects and problem-solving activities for our students that resonate in the real world. All of this work will be underpinned by the very successful UTC code of “*THINK ACT PERFORM*” which inspires and motivates our staff and students towards excellence in everything we do.

Our Academy offers young people a safe and secure transition from primary to secondary education. We are delighted that you are curious enough to explore our creative, rigorous and demanding offer. We understand that choosing a secondary school is a very important decision, and the breadth of choice is very wide. I am looking forward to meeting you all during our open events and answering any questions.

Mr K Watson  
Principal





## our VISION

Developing STEM professionals for the future global market

## our MISSION

### Professional Habits



#### Think: Respect

We will show respect in all aspects of what we do ensuring that our learners are open-minded, caring and balanced.



#### Act: Relationships

We will actively work to develop and support a culture of balanced and reflective communication.



#### Perform: Responsibility

We will guide our learners and encourage them to take ownership of their own actions. We will guide them to develop into principled individuals who behave consistently.

- Maximise students' personal achievements by identifying their potential and embracing opportunities
- Develop internationally-minded young people through mutually beneficial partnerships with business
- Ensure quality teaching through team collaboration across the curriculum
- Build an outstanding UTC team through continuous personal development and well-being

# The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme



© International Baccalaureate Organisation 2018

## Raising Student Attainment

Students in KS3 at the Inspiration Academy follow an International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme with a particular emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This MYP STEM rich curriculum will provide all students with the experience, skills and values needed to prepare them properly for success at each stage of their future lives.

The Middle Years Programme is a challenging framework that encourages students to make practical connections between their studies and the real world. The MYP aims to develop active learners and internationally minded young people who can empathise with others and pursue lives of purpose and meaning.

The programme empowers students to inquire into a wide range of issues and ideas of significance locally, nationally and globally. The result is young people who are creative, critical and reflective thinkers.

The MYP curriculum framework comprises eight subject groups, providing a broad and balanced education for years 7 to 9.

Leigh UTC Dartford is a Candidate School\* for the Middle Years Programme. This school is pursuing authorization as an IB World School. These are schools that share a common philosophy—a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that Leigh UTC Dartford believes is important for our students.

*\*Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme, or the Career-related Programme (CP). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted. For further information about the IB and its programmes, visit [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)*

Central to the Academy's success in raising student attainment levels will be:

- A strong leadership team;
- Regular celebration of student achievements;
- Close links with parents and increased community support;
- Effective use of student data;
- An innovative curriculum;
- Excellent care, guidance and targeted support for students; and
- High expectations for all.

For students, the availability of high-quality learning materials in and out of the classroom and accessible from home is a key factor in maintaining high levels of attainment. These materials enable students to work at an independent pace and allow for different learning styles.

**120**  
places available for  
students in year 7



# SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEND)

We strongly believe in an inclusive education for all students. The first response to support students with special educational needs is high quality and inclusive teaching, appropriately differentiated for all.

At Leigh UTC Dartford we have high expectations of all our students to ensure they all make progress. Our teachers are well trained to support our students both academically and pastorally. This combined with support from our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo) ensures students achieve their full potential.

The role of a parent is crucial to the success of our students and we like to receive their input regularly.

While we run an 'open door' policy, there will also be organised parents' information evenings to exchange views.

## Safeguarding

At Leigh UTC Dartford all staff and volunteers have a duty to keep students safe and to protect them. They must feel able to raise issues of concern and everyone must fully recognise their duty to do so, particularly in terms of child protection.

All adults engaged within Leigh UTC Dartford have a role to play. There are notices around Leigh UTC Dartford and on our website with information about our safeguarding team.



# A Head Start on your Chosen Career

Leigh UTC Dartford is a successful and inspiring school located in Dartford. Our school is a place where everyone works collaboratively to prepare students for the 21st century economy. We believe that every student can be successful if they aspire to greatness, are part of a professional environment and are empowered to get the right qualifications.

Our curriculum focuses on computing and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects as skills in these areas are and will continue to be in high demand. Post-qualification, we support students to follow the route that is right for them, whether that is an apprenticeship, university or something else.

We expect professional standards from our students in keeping with our close links to the business community. In exchange, we offer a small, close-knit community where staff tailor the support provided to meet the needs and aspirations of individual students.

## We do things differently at Leigh UTC Dartford

The mission of Leigh UTC Dartford is to develop curious, academically skilled young people who aspire to be principled, compassionate learners.

Leigh UTC Dartford has a clear vision to be a distinctive education provider for outstanding STEM learning.

We offer our students the experiences, skills and values that will prepare them not only for their examinations, but also for career pathways and global competition in the 21st century.

We do things a little differently to other schools or colleges because we believe the best and most effective way to educate our students is to always make our teaching more hands-on and contextualised.

Our curriculum strives to create students who are self-motivated, competent, willing to take risks and lifelong learners.

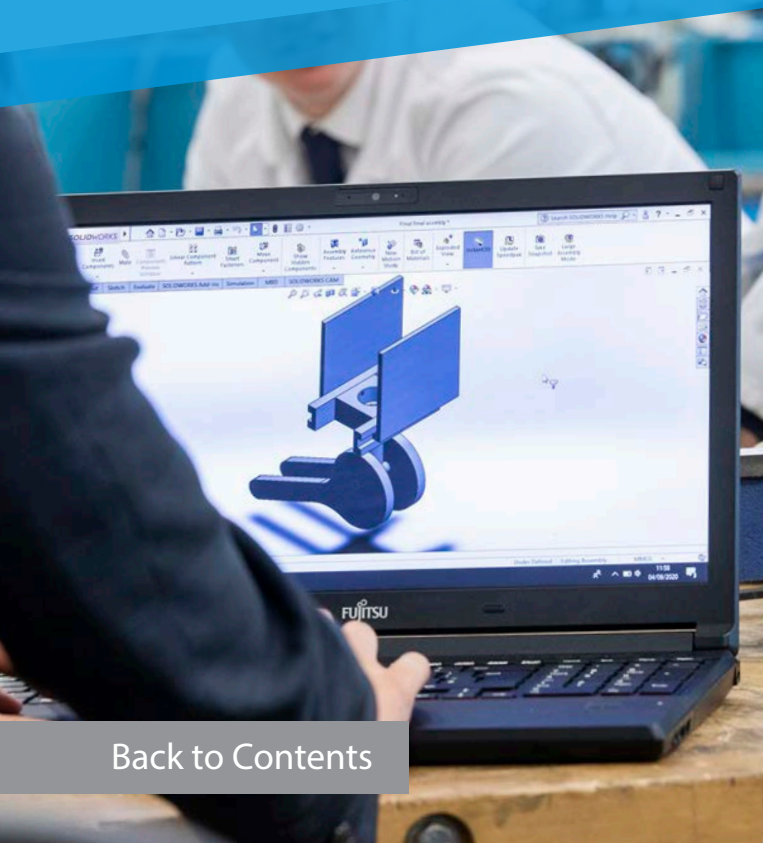
## State-of-the-Art Facilities

The innovative learning environment that we provide is often the first impression, but our culture remains the lasting impression.

Walk into Leigh UTC Dartford and students will be dazzled by its modern look and the state-of-the-art technology and computers it features.

It feels more like a sophisticated, hi-tech workplace than a college or school – because all of our equipment is industry standard.

So what students use in Leigh UTC Dartford is exactly what they would use in one of our industry partners' workplaces.





A photograph of several students in a classroom, wearing school uniforms and using laptops. A semi-transparent green banner is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

# Your Learning Options...

## Core and Optional GCSEs

Our Key Stage 4 curriculum is designed to deliver innovative learning and teaching that excites and stretches all of our students. Both the core and optional GCSE programmes offer opportunities across the ability range to make sure students benefit from the most appropriate teaching and support.

As well as studying a core curriculum, students choose from a number of options which can include technical qualifications.

### Core

- English (Language and Literature)
- Mathematics
- Separate Sciences
- Physical Education

### GCSE options taken from:

- |                                  |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| ▪ Art & Design                   | ▪ Finance    |
| ▪ Business                       | ▪ German     |
| ▪ Computer Science               | ▪ Graphics   |
| ▪ Design & Technology (DT, Food) | ▪ History    |
| ▪ Digital IT                     | ▪ PE         |
| ▪ Electronics                    | ▪ Statistics |
| ▪ Engineering                    |              |

# INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO SPECIALISE

Post 16

Leigh UTC Dartford, a successful and inspiring University Technical College. Our Sixth Form offers the chance to tailor studies to fit into individual interests, abilities and ambitions.

All the students need to do is determine which specialism to take – business, computer science or engineering and then decide what additional subjects to take alongside this such as A-levels, IBCP, T-Levels and professional qualifications.

Our close business relationships ensure our students learn the skills required to succeed with regard to higher education, apprenticeships and employment. I am convinced a UTC education will give each student a headstart on whichever career path they choose.

Our college feels more like a workplace than a school offering access to the very latest technology, all sharing a similar passion to succeed.

I do hope you see that joining Leigh UTC Dartford can be the start of an enjoyable and incredible journey that helps you reach your full potential. I look forward to giving you a warm welcome in September 2024.

Mr K Watson  
Principal



150

places available for  
students aged 16  
to 17 on one of our  
Post 16 pathways.





## Post 16 @ Leigh UTC Dartford

Post 16 @ Leigh UTC Dartford is a dynamic and vibrant part of school culture, where students realise their potential as future professionals and pioneers in the world of STEM. Choosing from four ambitious pathways, students start their career journey at Leigh UTC Dartford.

Ofsted rated our Post 16 Provision as Outstanding, recognising that "leaders' close work with employers ensures that learning programmes in the sixth form are tightly aligned with local and regional needs." Students "develop technical knowledge that is directly transferable when they start work in local industries, take up apprenticeships or begin university courses. Leaders, governors and the trust are rightly proud that a high proportion of pupils leave to take up STEM careers, including double the proportion of girls than is found nationally" (2022).

We believe that it is our responsibility to nurture the talents of our young people, enabling them to become the best versions of themselves. We support our young people to develop professional habits needed to succeed in future studies at university or on apprenticeship programmes. Our dedicated Post 16 team offers pastoral support through Personal Development Mentors, a Student Support Manager, the Director of Post 16, alongside the Assistant Principals and Head of College.

Across the two year programme, you will have access to a specialist careers advisor, alongside a wide range of speakers, business mentors and university professionals. You will also have opportunities to visit a wide range of businesses, higher education institutions and employment/apprenticeship fairs.

## Course Directory

Discover our full course directory on our website

[View PDF](#)





# Post 16 Pathways of Study

Students who join Leigh UTC Dartford can choose one of four pathways: Science, Technology, Engineering, or Maths and Enterprise. We believe that by joining Leigh UTC Dartford, students are beginning their career journey and therefore, we endeavour for all students to take on a suite of complementary qualifications whilst they study with us.

It is our ambition for all students in Post 16 to study maths at Level 3, whether this be as an A Level, an IB Diploma or a Core Maths qualification. Mathematical, quantitative, analytical and problem-solving skills are in great demand in the workplace and are essential for a wide range of careers. Having a maths qualification at level 3 makes our students competitive in a wide array of options at Post 18.

Students can select their qualification suite from the pathways below:

|                                          | SCIENCE                                               | TECHNOLOGY                                              | ENGINEERING                                                     | MATHS AND ENTERPRISE                                             |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ROUTE A</b><br>(T Level)              |                                                       | TL Digital<br>L3 Maths<br>EPQ                           | TL Engineering<br>L3 Maths<br>EPQ                               |                                                                  |
| <b>ROUTE B</b><br>(academic)             | AL Biology<br>AL Physics<br>AL Maths<br>EPQ<br>CoPE * | AL Computing<br>AL Physics<br>AL Maths<br>EPQ<br>CoPE * | BTEC Engineering<br>AL Physics/<br>Computing<br>L3 Maths<br>EPQ | BTEC Business<br>(AL Computing)/<br>CoPE *<br>L3 Maths<br>EPQ    |
| <b>ROUTE C</b><br>(professional)<br>IBCP |                                                       |                                                         | BTEC Engineering<br>IB DT/Psychology<br>IB Maths<br>IB Core     | BTEC Business<br>IB DT/Psychology<br>IB Maths/English<br>IB Core |

\* CoPE: Certificate of Personal Effectiveness

# Onward Destinations

At Leigh UTC Dartford, "every day is an interview". We ensure that students are consistently displaying the professional habits they will need to succeed in business when they leave us at the end of year 13. Our students regularly meet with our business partners through our mentoring scheme, talks and during our highly popular Routes to Success Week, where every student applies for a mock role and is interviewed by the business they have applied for.

Our pathways are aimed towards students who want careers in Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths and Enterprise. Our students take places at Universities or on Apprenticeships ranging from Level 3 - Degree Level. Last year, our students undertook the following degrees: mechanical engineering; motorsport engineering; graphic design; physics; software engineering; computer science; cyber security; games design and development; biomedical science. Apprenticeships were taken up in: explosives engineering; instrumentation control automaton; CAD Design.

# Entry Requirements

Entry requirements vary depending on the pathway you're applying for.

- For T Levels, students need 5 Grade 9-4s, including English and maths.
- For the IBCP pathway, students need 5 grade 9-5s, including English and maths.
- For the A level pathway, students need 5 grade 9-6s, including maths and sciences.





# Careers & Destinations

Leigh UTC Dartford staff, including the Principal and governors, are committed to the careers learning and professional development of all students attending the academy.

We ensure students have access to many meaningful encounters with employers, through talks, visits and events as well as experiences of various workplaces. In every key stage, career-entry routes are fully explored and explained, including apprenticeships and further education opportunities.

As a STEM specialist provider, STEM industries are introduced to students from year 7 through to Post 16. Through our IB-embedded curriculum, there is rich motivation to encourage the work-readiness of students, building up the necessary skills and attributes to succeed in work and life.

The academy is committed to continuing with the Quality in Careers Standard, as a full award-holder with Investors in Careers.

We offer you  
an incredible  
opportunity to  
specialise in  
computer sciences  
or engineering in  
a state-of-the-art  
facility that is the  
envy of the elite  
universities across  
the UK.





## our LOCATION

The location of Leigh UTC Dartford and excellent public transport links make it very accessible.

A regular and reliable Fastrack bus service runs every seven minutes in peak times through the centre of The Bridge Science and Business Park from Dartford station and Gravesend town centre.

### Erith



27 minutes



20 minutes to Dartford



10 minutes

### Gravesend



28 minutes



10 minutes to Dartford



18 minutes

### Bexleyheath



28 minutes



10 minutes to Dartford



18 minutes

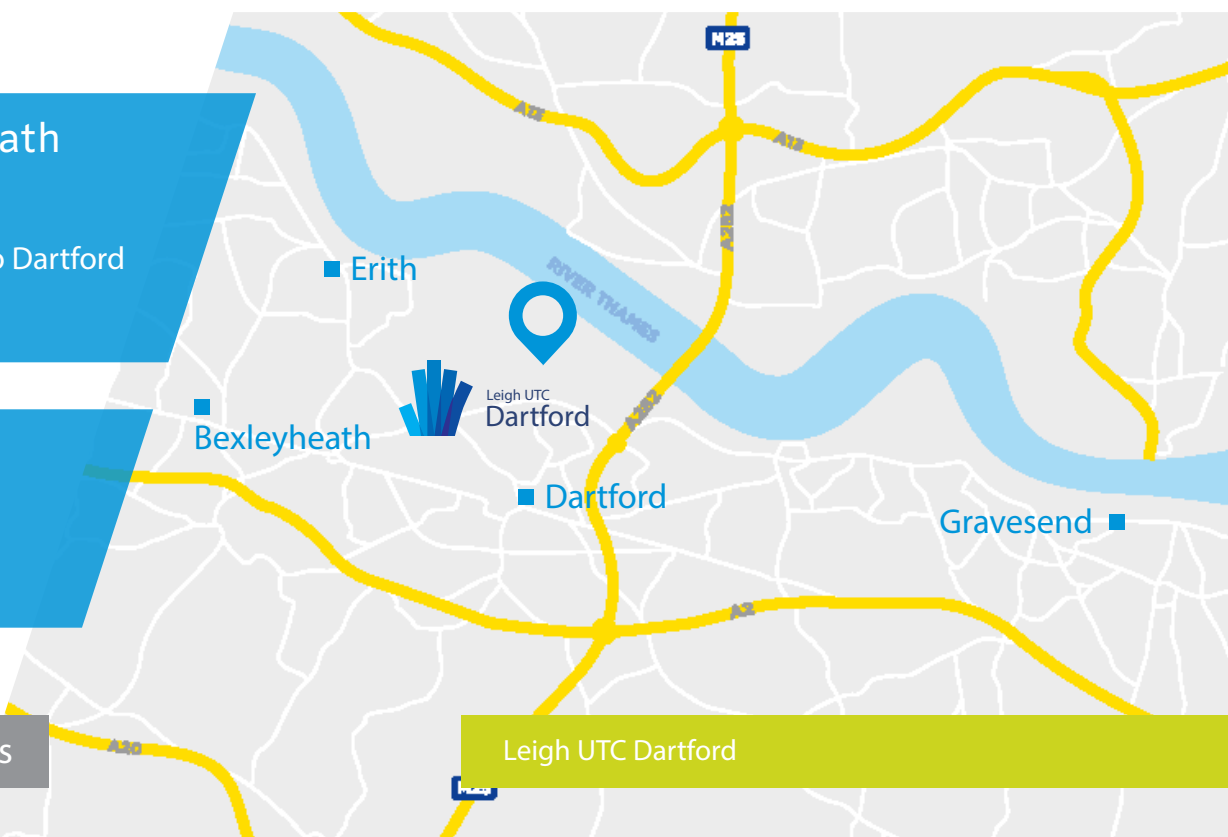
### Dartford



7 minutes



10 minutes



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Leigh UTC Dartford



Leigh UTC  
Dartford

# Further INFORMATION

Please visit our academy website:

[Leigh UTC Dartford](#)

## Attend an Open Day

Find out when our next open event is:

[Visit our website](#)

## Dress Code

Please visit us to see more information:

[Visit our website](#)

## Apply Now

Application closing date is 30th October.  
Visit our website to find out how to apply:

[Visit our website](#)



A photograph of two young people in school uniforms. On the left is a girl with dark hair, and on the right is a girl with blonde hair and glasses. They are both wearing black blazers over white shirts and green and black striped ties. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green and yellow foliage.

'It has been a tremendous and phenomenal learning journey for my child at Leigh UTC Dartford. Thank you ever so much for your support. She is going to miss the tranquil and friendly learning environment. And of course the staff who have helped shape her journey.'

Parent of former student





Leigh UTC  
Dartford

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Respect, Innovation, Collaboration,  
Opportunity, Potential



LEIGH  
Academies Trust

Education for a better world

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