

Welcome to the first edition of our pre-opening newsletter

I am delighted to share with you the first edition of our pre-opening newsletter. Over the coming months, as we prepare to open the doors of Leigh Academy Blackheath to our 180 founding students in September 2018, we will be using the newsletter to share information and important updates with students, parents, carers and members of the local community.

It has been a very exciting but busy time since we launched Leigh Academy Blackheath in September 2017 and we have been overwhelmed by the level of interest and support we have received.

I hope you find our first pre-opening newsletter informative and I look forward to sharing regular updates with you over the coming weeks and months as we move closer to both national offer day, on March 1st 2018, and the start of the new academic year.

Best wishes

Emma Smith - Principal Designate

Open events and applications



Our open events in September and October were very well attended and due to high demand we had to hold an extra event at Charlton House in late October just prior to the application deadline. We met more than 800 families over the two month application window and were very excited to receive in excess of 470 applications for one of our 180 founding student places!

Charlton House open event October 2017

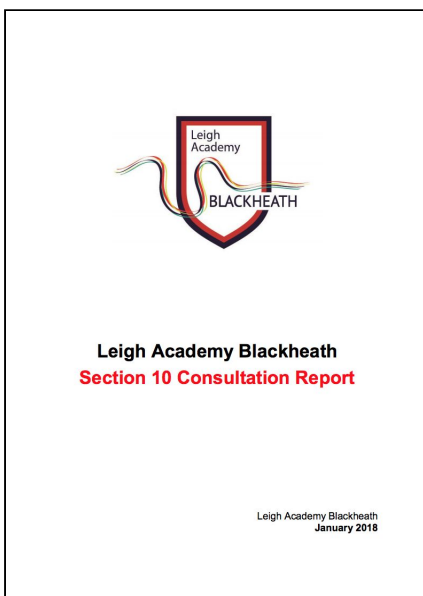
Opening at Victoria House September 2018

We are very pleased to announce that we will be opening Leigh Academy Blackheath at Victoria House, Shooters Hill Road, SE18 4LX. The building was constructed in 1909 and was the officers' mess and living quarters for the Royal Army Medical Corps staff of the neighbouring Royal Herbert Hospital.



The building will be transformed over the next few months to provide the right learning environment for our students. Classrooms, a full science laboratory, creative studio and seminar rooms will be created internally and the grounds landscaped to produce external recreation spaces. An outdoor multi purpose games area will compliment sports facilities off site. Future editions of the newsletter will provide regular updates on the building work.

Formal Section 10 Consultation



During November and December 2017, in accordance with section 10 of the Academies Act 2010, we held a formal consultation inviting all members of the local community to engage with our plans for the new school and to determine whether Leigh Academies Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department for Education. All members of the community were invited to participate in the consultation via our website, social media sites, email, posters displayed in the local community and an advert placed in the local newspaper. We held a public meeting at Mycenae House on November 22nd and Felicity J Lord on Stratheden Road held paper copies of our survey for those who preferred not to complete it online. A full copy of the consultation report can be found on our website.

