

National Offer Day



At last National Offer day has arrived and we are all extremely excited at Leigh Academy Blackheath to finally know who our 180 founding students will be. We can't wait to meet you all again and officially welcome you, and your families, to our very special LAB community.

As you already know because this is our first cycle of admissions we are not part of the PAN London Agreement, a London wide school admissions scheme for established schools. This means that if your son/daughter has been successful at securing a founding place at LAB you may receive two offers for a secondary school place on national offer day. On March 1st you will receive, via email or post, an offer for a place at a school included in the Pan London Agreement and on March 2nd you will receive a letter, sent by 1st class post, from the Royal Borough of Greenwich admissions team offering you a place at LAB. Due to the large number of applications received for LAB it is essential that you accept the place offered on or before 8th March 2018 by sending an email directly to the RBG admissions team at:

school-admissions@royalgreenwich.gov.uk or call them on: **0208 9218043**. As we have a waiting list any unaccepted places will be offered to those on the waiting list as per the process outlined in our admission arrangements for 2018-2019.

Since the publication of our first LAB newsletter we have been busy recruiting staff and governors ready for September. You can find out more about each member of the team in this and forthcoming newsletters. Once all of our key appointments have been made we will be holding a 'meet the team' event as part of our transition programme so that you can get to know everyone before we start the new academic year in September

Best wishes

Emma Smith - Principal Designate

Appeals

If you have not been offered a place at Leigh Academy Blackheath, the law entitles you to appeal against the decision to an Independent Appeal Panel. The panel is completely independent of both the school and the Admission Authority.

Please visit our website for information on how to appeal and to find a full schedule of relevant dates and deadlines. An Appeal Form can be downloaded from our website or can be sent to you by post if you call T: 0208 850 7678. **Please clearly state that your appeal is for Leigh Academy Blackheath.** **All appeals must be lodged by 29th March 2018.**

Funding Agreement

We are very pleased to announce that Dominic Herrington, on behalf of the Secretary State for Education, has approved the decision to enter into a funding agreement with Leigh Academies Trust to open Leigh Academy Blackheath in September 2018.

Dominic Herrington is the Regional Schools Commissioner for South-East England and South London.



Department
for Education



Transition activities

Moving to a new school can be a little bit daunting so we want to make sure that any worries or fears our students have are overcome before they start in September. To do this we have planned a number of events over the coming months where both students and their families can meet members of the LAB team to start building the strong and purposeful relationships we value so highly. Further details for each event, including exact dates, times and locations will be sent out in advance.

LAB Transition Programme 2018

- **National Offer Day** - March 1st
- **Founders welcome pack** - posted March 2nd
- **Meet the team event** - May
- **Primary school visits** - June/ July
- **Uniform fitting** - June
- **Head Start Day** - July 4th
- **Induction week** - September

Future editions of our pre-opening newsletter will provide students, parents and carers with information about the academy alongside regular updates posted on our website and social media sites.

Friends of LAB (Parent/ Carer association)

If you are interested in helping to form our Friends of LAB association we would like to hear from you. Friends of LAB will be for parents, carers and families who wish to support the school by mostly organising and running social and fundraising events. Please contact Cynthia Fasuyi at: cynthia.fasuyi@leighacademyblackheath.org.uk to register your interest.

Governance

We are delighted to be able to introduce some very important people to you in this edition of LAB News, some of our governors. As you will see from their biographies they bring a huge wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise to our school through their governance role.



Governor - Tim Snowball

Tim Snowball is a Public Affairs and Communications Consultant, working with a wide range of global and major UK companies. He is a former political adviser to Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg and served as both Chief of Staff and Director of Communications for the Liberal Democrats while the party was in government. As a resident of Old Dover Road, Blackheath, and as someone passionate about achieving excellence in education for all, Tim is delighted to have an opportunity to be part of the

Leigh Academy Blackheath governing body. He hopes to help the school with its communications and business/community relations activity.



Governor - Anne Marie Duguid

Anne-Marie Duguid has 30 years experience working in education. Anne-Marie has worked in schools, with Local Authorities and most recently nationally in her role as Director of education with SSAT. She is now Director of the Empowering Education Partnership and works closely with a number of key strategic organisations and MATs. Anne-Marie designed the Lead Practitioner Accreditation, used now by thousands of teachers, and the Framework for Exceptional Education. Anne-Marie has earned her reputation nationally in the field of effective pedagogy and the importance of evidence informed education. Anne-Marie's

national profile means she works closely with leading international academics, thought leaders and school leaders as well as contributing to policy discussions. Anne-Marie was instrumental in setting up the Royal College of Teaching as one of the founding Directors, working closely with all education organisations and the DfE to bring the profession together and celebrate teachers and teaching. She is proud to see how it has now grown and to be part of its legacy. She believes passionately in social justice, whilst in the news social mobility is becoming the rhetoric, she believes strongly that

this forms a subset of social justice, recognising there are several pathways for students to succeed. She keeps a relentless focus on the students, whilst we are undergoing a period of turbulence in education she has always maintained that students only have one today, we have to get it right for them now as well as plan for the future.

Anne-Marie has been a governor for a Greenwich primary school for over 7 years, a member of Royal Greenwich Teaching School Alliance Board and has led on developmental work in the field of governance in the ever changing education landscape.

Anne-Marie believes in supporting the local community and therefore is looking forward to being a governor and supporting the brand new Leigh Academy Blackheath.



Governor - James Ward

Associate Dean – Further Education & Community Engagement at Ravensbourne

As Associate Dean, James is responsible for the overall strategic management of the Further Education (FE) School. He controls the day-to-day management of the FE, Higher Degree Apprenticeship qualifications and Outreach department. This role covers income generation, staffing, curriculum development and educational quality control. Over James' ten years of tenure at Ravensbourne he has grown a department of one full time course (175 students) to a portfolio of six full time FE courses with over 400 students, two Higher and Degree Apprenticeship qualifications and a suite of Community Learning courses delivered in partnership with the Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG).

Working in partnership with British Telecom (BT) and eskills James has developed and introduced an FdSc Trail Blazer Apprenticeship qualification (January 2015) and a Higher Apprenticeship BSc qualification introduced in January 2016.

James is Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, (SFHEA). As a senior academic James is at the heart of the academic community at Ravensbourne with membership of a number of internal committees and boards; Board of Governors, Academic Board, Quality Development Committee, Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee, Portfolio Group and the Media School Board of Study.

External partnerships include; The Arts Council England (ACE) where James is an advisor to the Cultural Education Expert Group (2014-2016). Steering group membership of the Linking London Higher Education Funding Council England, National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP). Association with the World

Heritage Sites Education Group has enabled James to support a number of UNSECO projects and membership on the Skill-set Digital Media Apprenticeships Advisory Working Group allowed James the opportunity to shape the creation of national curriculum.

James has an interest in national educational policy and strategy; he is currently concluding his MBA in Further Education Management at King's College - London. James' MBA research has focused on quality enhancement of FE delivered in a Higher Education Institution (HEI) this research is enabling a greater understanding of the FE in HEI sector and supporting the benefits to the FE students' educational experience.

International recruitment has permitted James the opportunity for extensive travel across Asia and northern Europe, attending numerous student recruitment events and on occasions, presenting on behalf of the British Council. This international collaboration has been demonstrated through James' academic career, with the development and delivery of a number short international summer schools and research investigating the delivery of FE provision in Japan.

James is an FE external moderator (levels 1 to 4) for University of the Arts London Awarding Body. Previously Subject Leader – FE (Ravensbourne), Acting FE Course Leader, University for the Creative Arts (UCA), Widening Participation Officer (The Surrey Institute of Art & Design) and freelance printed textiles designer to a number of fashion and furnishing companies.

Coming up in the next newsletter...

Victoria House update
Digital Learning
Meet the team