



Leigh Academy
Mascalls



Sixth Form Prospectus



Academic Excellence
Character | Culture

Leigh Academy Mascalls is part of Leigh Academies Trust



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 admissions enquiries telephone 01892 835366
or email our Sixth Form Assistant karen.marsh@mascalls.latrust.org.uk

'The 6th Form style of teaching has ensured that I have become more responsible and organised in my learning.'

Year 13 student



Contents

Use our contents page to navigate your way through our prospectus

Principal's Welcome

A message from Jo Brooks

Head of Sixth Form's Welcome

A message from Claire Shaw-Kew

Marie Curie Post-16 at Mascalls

Sixth Form life for our students

Your Pathways

Your options for Sixth Form study

What course will I study?

Our curriculum offer

T-Levels

The next level qualification

Work Experience and Character Development

Supporting university or career plans

Destinations

University and other destinations

Advisory and Mentoring

Personal development

A Level Mindset

The VESPA model

Pastoral Care and Support

Guidance and support for our students

Extra Curricular

Social, community & in-school activities

Careers Advice

Supporting students and making choices

The Application Process and Admissions Policy

Applying to Sixth Form

Further Information

Visit our website

Welcome



‘Parents, carers and students are highly positive about the quality of education and care provided.’

Ofsted

Academic Excellence Character | Culture

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Leigh Academy Mascalls Sixth Form. We understand just how important it is for students, parents and carers to be provided with the necessary information to make key decisions about a suitable Post-16 pathway. We are hopeful that this prospectus will showcase why Leigh Academy Mascalls should be your first choice for onward study.

Our community is made up of an exceptional body of staff and students and we are so very proud of all that we achieve in and outside of the classroom. Students have the opportunities to shine through a secure and innovative curriculum which expands their experiences and their knowledge concurrently. We offer an incredibly wide curriculum, with over 25 subjects offered to students, ensuring that we are appealing to students’ talents, interests and skills to maximise their potential.

Our outstanding pastoral care ensures that the individual is supported to be the best that they can be, and that parents and carers are still very much involved in the process of development throughout our post 16 provision. Post 16 students require the same level of support, inspiration and drive that is required to succeed at GCSE, and we scaffold our students’ development into adulthood carefully by not letting go of the reins too early!

Each and every student is on their own journey and we are incredibly proud of all of them. As an academy, as a community we achieve academic excellence, develop strength of individual character supported by our culture of aspiration and celebrating success. We very much hope you will consider us for your onward academic education.

Jo Brooks,
Principal

Academic Excellence

Character | Culture



Welcome



Thank you for considering the Marie Curie Post-16 College at Leigh Academy Mascalls for your continued academic education. It is important to us that students from both within Mascalls, and those who join us in Year 12 from other schools, receive full support and advice to access a study programme suitable for each individual, within our wide curriculum offer.

‘Mascalls 6th Form has given my child everything he needs to access a range of future options. We have been so happy with the communications from the school and believe that with the teachers’ support, he has gained a real sense of achievement.’

Year 13 Parent

At Leigh Academy Mascalls we offer excellent standards of teaching to ensure that students are fully equipped to access a range of Post-18 pathways. Each year we continue to see growth both in terms of student number and in academic achievement ensuring that we remain competitive in a strong local field of institutions. When our students leave us, they are ready to embrace the challenges of Higher Education, with many gaining places at prestigious universities; securing employment, taking up an impressive apprenticeship, or embarking on Gap Year travel experiences.

This prospectus, we hope, will give you a flavour of the programme of study on offer to students choosing Leigh Academy Mascalls for Post-16 education. Additionally, more specific course specifications are available separately and can be found on our website, mascallsacademy.org.uk, under the Post-16 section listed on the homepage.

Claire Shaw-Kew
Assistant Principal
Head of Marie Curie College Sixth Form



Marie Curie Post-16 at Mascalls

'We must have
perseverance
and above all
confidence in
ourselves.'

Marie Curie

Sixth Form life and study is very different from your earlier years of education. Many students maintain that it is completely different from their previous experiences of schooling. The most distinct change is the relationship with teachers who can relate to you more as an individual and help to support and guide you in highly personalised ways. There is still a strong focus on tracking your achievement and monitoring your progress, with intervention as needed.

In addition to your studies, there will be a number of opportunities for you, as a young adult, to develop leadership and study skills, as well as undertake work experience. Sixth Form students are actively encouraged to become involved in mentoring, as well as voluntary, and extra-curricular activities that support your onward career and Higher Education aspirations.

Sixth formers enjoy many privileges and are highly regarded by the staff and students in the school for their contributions to the school community. The highest accolade a student can receive is being elected by the Principal and Head of Sixth Form to become a Senior Prefect or Head Student - a very rewarding role with many areas of responsibility.

We have a dedicated Sixth Form Common Room which is designed primarily as a work space for free lessons, with students also having access to the library for silent study. There is a canteen run by the school catering company offering students the opportunity to purchase breakfast items in the morning, hot and cold drinks, sandwiches and hot meals throughout the day. Additionally, all of our students are provided with a Chromebook and we use the Google Suite to set work and to share lesson materials with students. We expect students to show initiative in reading more widely around their subjects, taking direction from staff regarding homework tasks but also sharing what they have learnt from their wider research as part of a collaborative approach.

Head Students

Each year we encourage our Year 13 students to apply for the role of 'Head Student' which requires them first to submit a formal letter of application and then participate in an interview with the Principal and Head of Sixth Form.

This year's successful candidates will be available at our Open Evening to talk about their journey through Mascalls and will outline the support they have received from teachers and support staff to strive for their future goals.

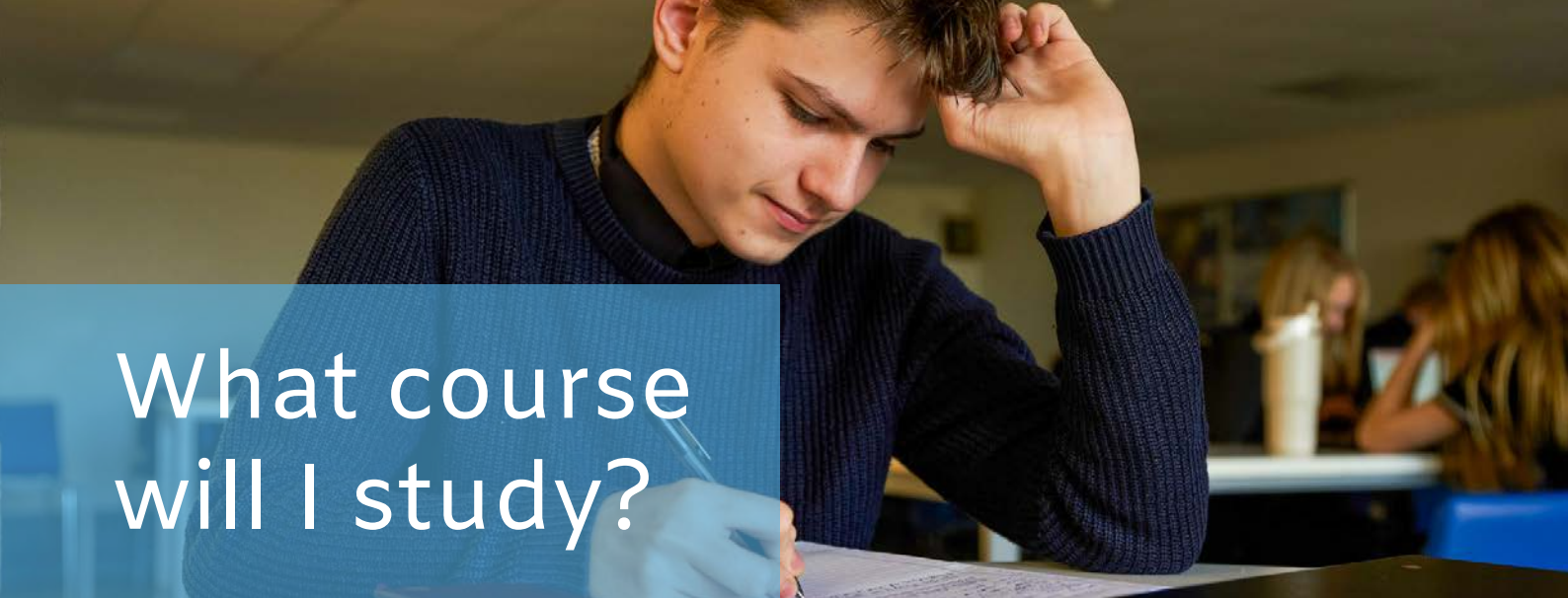
'My time at Mascalls so far has been one of celebration shared with those who have made it possible including my teachers, and my family. They have helped me to believe in myself and have encouraged me to strive for my goal of becoming a doctor.'

Molly, Head Student

Your Pathways

To be successful, students need to choose the right course for them. At Leigh Academy Mascalls Post 16, we offer a range of vocational and academic courses to suit all Level 3 learners. We encourage our students to research the possible choices open to them prior to submitting an application.

Pathway	
The Academic Pathway	This pathway will require you to study three A-Level courses. The minimum entry requirements for this pathway are five 5-9 grades, including English Language and Maths.
The Blended Pathway	This pathway will give you the choice of studying a mixture of A-Level and vocational based subjects. The minimum entry requirements for this pathway are five 4-9 grades, including English Language and Maths.
The T-Level Pathway	This pathway will see you combine classroom learning with 'on-the-job' experience. The entry requirements for this pathway are five 5-9 grades including English, Maths and Science and will include external placement with an approved provider.
GCSE English and Maths resits	Students who have not yet gained a grade 4 in either English Language or Maths will be required to attend resit lessons to help them achieve their full potential. These tailored lessons are also offered to students looking to improve their grade, and are timetabled on a weekly basis.



What course will I study?

The curriculum offer at Leigh Academy Mascalls Post-16 comprises of a combination of A Level and Applied General (BTEC/OCR/RSL) options, offering students an excellent range of traditional academic subjects, alongside Vocational Level 3 qualifications that develop practical skills and knowledge related to an employment area. Many students choose a combination of the two, enjoying the slightly different study approaches to work and assessment.

Students are encouraged to make applications for 3 A-Levels or equivalents over a two year programme (4 A-Levels can be selected by students who achieve significantly at GCSE). As all A-Level subjects are examined by summative assessments at the conclusion of the course it is necessary for us to periodically assess student progress through pre-public exams (PPE) or 'mocks'. The PPEs conducted at the end of Year 12 will be used to forecast grades for UCAS applications and therefore should be given due focus for revision and preparation. Support is offered to students who require it and we offer interventions, holiday revision sessions and Period 6 sessions (3.10pm-4.10pm) where necessary to ensure students gain quality grades on completion of their time with us.

Students taking BTEC/OCR/RSL subjects should be aware that they are a two year programme of study and students will need to complete Year 13 in order to gain a full qualification. Students must therefore progress sufficiently in their other Year 12 subjects, to ensure Year 13 entry. Additionally, these qualifications have exam and/or controlled assessment elements.

As a school, we work closely with students in Year 11 to determine the best programme of study to meet individual needs alongside our curriculum offer. This is done through regular assemblies and careers guidance meetings with individuals as needed. For internal applicants we have the MAS11 website which should be used as a resource for regular updates on the process of application shared by Mr Hatherill.

'Mascalls has taught me structure, independence and the willingness to ask for help when I need it, so that when a seismic change like the national lockdown happened it merely felt like every other day to me, with the experience being something I will always be proud of in maintaining my academic progress despite the inherent challenges.'

Ethan, Head Student



T-Levels

T-Levels are a new type of course which have been developed in collaboration with employers, providing a balance of classroom learning and real-world experience following completion of GCSEs. One T-Level runs for 2 years and is equivalent to three A-Levels.

T-Levels are a technical option designed to meet the needs of industry and prepare students aged 16-19 for work, future training or study. Depending on their T-Level of choice, students will find that 80% of their time is spent onsite at their academy in either a classroom, laboratory or workshop environment gaining the skills that employers need. The other 20% of their time will be spent gaining meaningful on-the-job experience through an industry placement where they can put these skills into action.

For students T-Levels provide valuable experience in the workplace. For employers T-Levels provide an opportunity to see and support new talent within their industry first-hand.

Although T-Levels may seem similar to apprenticeships, they do differ quite significantly. If a student chooses to become an apprentice they will typically focus on learning a particular role, and will spend 80% of their time in the workplace and 20% in the classroom – the exact reverse of a T-Level.

An apprentice is employed, and will be paid for their time at work whereas the majority of T-Level placements will be unpaid.

A-Levels are an academic option which typically leads on to further study at university or college. Similar in style to GCSEs, A-Levels are entirely classroom based.

The benefits of studying T-Levels include:

- Industry-specific technical knowledge and practical skills
- A minimum of 45 days' placement in a student's chosen industry or occupation
- Common workplace skills
- Industry-specific technical knowledge and practical skills

What courses do we offer?

We are currently reviewing our offer of T-Levels to ensure that we have the professional placements in place and will confirm the chosen subject discipline(s) in the forthcoming Open Event on the 7th of November.

For more information on T-Levels, please visit our website at tattlevels.org.uk.



Work Experience & Character Development

In July of Year 12, students will undertake a work experience placement to support their university or career plans. Historically, students have gained places within a huge variety of establishments, including hospitals, emergency services, media, law, engineering, education and the arts. In addition we have access to online provision through the NHS and other providers nationally as we are conscious that post-Covid the working environment looks very different for many businesses. Leigh Academy Mascalls places great emphasis on the importance of careers education, information, advice and guidance, and in the Sixth Form, students are given full support on making university and job applications, including UCAS and career related workshops and events throughout their two years with us.

Students are expected to complete one hour weekly sessions entitled 'Character Development' that engage them with wider research into onward progression. All students have a Unifrog account that allows them to track their progress in this and encourages them to build their personal statements and make note of possible applications. Additionally, EPQ is offered as an optional extra and more details of this are available from Mr Wakefield when students begin their studies with us.

This programme ensures that students are working towards, and thinking of, their career options beyond Year 13, and provides relevant activities to improve their understanding and application of work-based skills. It will help students apply knowledge, skills and understanding that are current and useful for both learners and potential employers, and have been designed specifically to support employability.

We also encourage students to undertake MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) to both complement aspects of their studies that have interested them but also to cite as relevant research ahead of onward study at undergraduate level. For more information visit either mooc.org or futurelearn.com.

Alumni

We are very proud of our alumni and have built a network of former students to support in the advice given to students as they navigate their way through the Post-18 pathways. Being located in West Kent we have access to a wide range of popular and successful universities. Around 60% of students in Year 13 apply and progress to university on leaving school, with many others applying after completion of Gap Year experiences.

As you can see from the list on the next page, many of our students have been successful in securing places to study at undergraduate level in a range of sectors. On completion of your studies, you could follow in their footsteps...

'I am now in my third year at university and have often reflected on my journey here. I am so grateful to the Leigh Academy Mascalls 6th Form team for encouraging me to believe in myself and for giving me an education that has successfully prepared me for undergraduate study and maybe even beyond!'

2022 Alumni

Destinations

Anglia Ruskin

- Law with Foundation Year

Birmingham City University

- Business Finance

LMA

- Acting and Performance (BA Hons)

North Kent College

- Music

Nottingham Trent

- Biomedical Sciences (with placement year)

St Mary's Twickenham

- Sport Rehabilitation

University of East Anglia

- Business Finance and Management with a Year Abroad (NN3A)
- Psychology

University of Lancaster

- Fine Art

University of Lincoln

- Law
- Graphic Design
- Masters in Pharmacy

University of Portsmouth

- Cyber Security and Digital Forensics
- Palaeontology
- Sports Psychology

University of Winchester

- History
- Primary Education
- BA Hons in Primary

Education with QTS

University of York

- Biochemistry
- English and Related Literature

University of Exeter

- Renewable Energy Engineering

Liverpool Hope University

- History

Canterbury Christ Church

- BSc Physiotherapy
- Graphic Design

University of Greenwich

- Animal Behavioural Science and Welfare

Open University

- Childcare

University of Kent

- Mechanical Engineering

University of Southampton

- Physical Geography

University of Cardiff

- Law

Loughborough University

- Computer Science

University of East London

- Cyberpsychology

De Montfort University

- Advertising and Marketing Communications

UCA Farnham

- Illustration

University of Warwick

- Psychology

University of Aberystwyth

- English Literature and Education

Liverpool John Moores

- Accounting and Finance

London South Bank

- Forensic Psychology

University of Reading

- Finance with Foundation Year

Ravensbourne University

- Graphic Design

Northampton University

- Computer Science

Other Destinations

We have students exploring full time employment and have places confirmed in the following industries:

- Armed Forces
- Kent Police
- NHS Administration

Additionally, with greater investment from the UK government and the support of businesses across many sectors, a number of our alumni have secured competitive positions in a range of Higher Level Apprenticeships:

- KPMG
- Openreach
- Corinthian Benefits
- John Lewis



Sixth Form advisory groups are organised into 10 groups of between 17-20 students; 5 in Year 12 and the same in Year 13. Each year group receives PSHE and mentoring appropriate to their chosen pathways, personal development, and individual interests during their time with us. Students will engage with a variety of topics and activities in a comprehensive programme which includes a specific focus on how to cope with the challenges of Post-16 study through developing an A-Level Mindset.

Advisory takes place every day from 8.30am to 9.10am for registration, and to ensure students have regular contact with their Advisor so that any issues can be addressed immediately. This time also provides the opportunity for effective mentoring to be conducted in a one-to-one environment, ensuring personalised support and guidance can be offered to each and every Sixth Form student.

‘Mascalls has helped me develop both as a person and as a student. Without them I would not be where I am today.’

Year 13 student



A-Level Mindset: The VESPA model

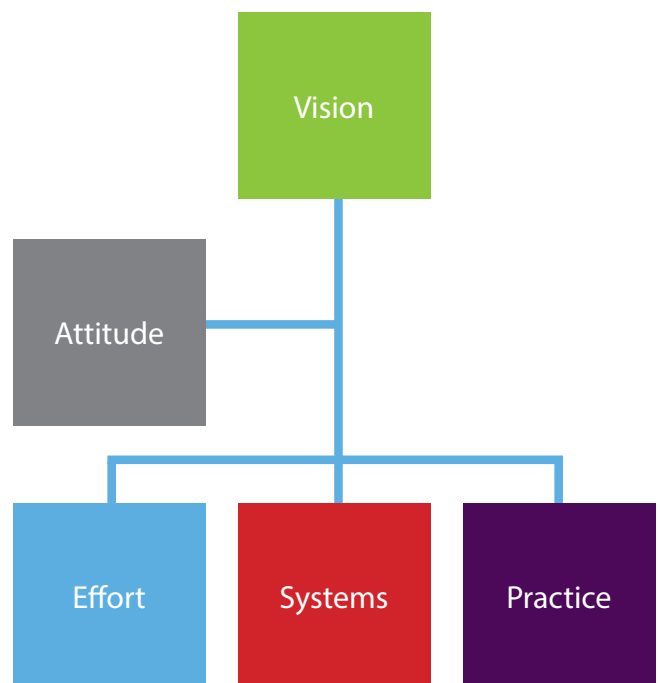
The move from GCSE to A Level study is a challenging one and there is no direct link between success at the end of Year 11 and success at A level. Instead, the factors which determine students' A Level success are their habits, routines, attitudes and approaches to study.

As part of the personal development programme we provide for students, we have embedded the work of Steve Oakes and Martin Griffin's VESPA model, which focuses on five key elements of success. Their research into the A level Mindset underpins all of the work we do to support learners in making significant progress towards the performance they are aiming for. Therefore, we coach students to address and strengthen the following behaviours and characteristics alongside their subject content.

- V = Vision - they know what they want to achieve.
- E = Effort - they put in many hours of proactive independent study.
- S = Systems - they organise their learning resources and time.
- P = Practice - they practise and develop their skills.
- A = Attitude - they respond constructively to setbacks.

'It is your behaviours, not your intelligence, that will determine your results.'

Oakes and Griffin (2016) ¹



¹ Oakes, S. and Griffin, M. (2016) A level mindset: 40 activities for transforming student commitment, motivation and productivity. United Kingdom: Crown House Publishing.



Pastoral Care & Support

We are dedicated to ensuring that all students are well supported both academically and pastorally during their time with us. To ensure this we have in place, both a Head of 6th Form and a Deputy whose role is to support the year group, promote quality engagement, celebrate success and maintain communication between school and home. In addition, we also have a full-time non-teaching pastoral manager who is based in the office situated in proximity to the Common Room and is available throughout the day and can be contacted by parents at any time. In addition we have a 6th Form Administrator who is responsible for monitoring attendance and managing day-to-day enquiries.

Parent Consultation Evenings typically take place twice throughout the academic year and offer an opportunity to find out how your son or daughter is getting on with their academic work. Additionally, parents may be contacted by teachers if concerns arise regarding academic progress or to celebrate achievement.

Extra Curricular

In a fully integrated Sixth Form, students also have ample opportunities to become involved in a wide range of social, community and in-school activities. Students can take on extra responsibilities as a Prefect or Head Student, organise whole school events, raise funds for a wide range of charities and act as ambassadors for the school on public occasions.

Volunteering also forms a key part of the Year 12 experience, and we offer a range of supportive opportunities that students can undertake. These include Sports Coaches, Reading Mentors, Librarians and Learning Support Assistants.

‘We love having the Sixth Form students lead our Football Training each week; I didn’t even know they weren’t teachers until someone told me. They make the sessions really fun!’

Year 7 student

Careers Advice

The possibility for future employment can be vast and daunting for young people in today's society. We aim for our students to be competitive applicants who perform impressively at interviews, enabling them to access the job of their choosing. At Leigh Academy Mascalls, we have a proud tradition of quality careers advice which seeks to ensure students are given the opportunity to explore different career paths and research desirable characteristics required by future employers.

There is opportunity throughout the two year programme to interact with real employers who are part of a network of volunteers who come into schools to offer practical advice on interview techniques and tips for making successful applications. All teaching staff are part of the process of supporting students in making choices about their future and will be on hand to give guidance and advice, as well as completing references for successful applicants.

The Application Process

When making your application, it is important that you research your options carefully - discuss the subjects that you are interested in with teachers and your family. Find out which type of course would be the most suitable for you: the more examination based subjects or the subjects which offer an equal balance between examination and coursework.

We encourage applicants to submit an application to us by February 2025, however we do accept applications throughout the academic year. Please apply online via Admissions+ at mascalls.applicaa.com. As part of our application process, applicants may be invited to attend a meeting where a member of the Post 16 team will discuss your strengths and help you to make the right choices about your subjects.





The Application Process & Admissions Policy

We will be holding our Open Evening on the 7th of November 2024 to offer an opportunity to hear more about the 6th Form and to interact with our teachers regarding the range of subjects that we offer. At this event there will be a talk from the Head of 6th Form and an opportunity to tour the school. We would encourage you to come along, even if you have been at the school since Year 7.

All internal students making applications will receive information via assemblies and on the MAS11 Google Classroom that has been set up to support the process by Mr Hatherill, Assistant Principal in charge of Year 11. Where required, informal meetings may be held to discuss applications or discuss subject choices. These will take place in March and April.

Please note that where English and/or Maths GCSE has not been achieved at Level 4, students will be required to continue with the study of either/both as appropriate, until this level (or alternative stepping stone qualification) is met. However, providing that other entry criteria is met this does not preclude the study of Level 3 courses. Each student's application is considered on a case by case basis.

Entry conditions are published on our website at the beginning of each application year, and further details can be found on the individual Subject Information Sheets that are available on our website.

External applicants may be invited to attend a Sixth Form External Applicants' event, at which they would have a short discussion with a member of the Sixth Form team to discuss their application; have an opportunity to meet current Sixth Form students and tour the facilities on a working day.

We hold an applicant programme each year, which takes place at the school towards the end of the summer term (June/July). Information about this will be posted on our website after the Easter holiday. We have a high expectation that all serious candidates will attend the applicant programme, during which time students will participate in "taster" lessons in all of their proposed subjects, attend study skills sessions and undertake preparatory Sixth Form orientation. Work for all subjects will be set for completion over the summer and formally assessed in September.

All places offered are conditional upon GCSE grades and are issued in line with our published Admissions Policy. Ultimately, however, the key criteria is that the student is able to achieve success and benefit from the courses they have chosen.

**Please note that late applications will be considered provided that an application is submitted to the Sixth Form Support Assistant via mascalls.applicaa.com and evidence of GCSE grades achieved is provided. Details of how to contact the Sixth Form Team is available on our website www.mascallsacademy.org.uk.*



'The facilities that we have at Mascalls are amazing, particularly in the Photography rooms where we have cameras, tripods, backdrops and a dark room! This helps us do our very best as we have the equipment that we need!'

Year 13 student



Further INFORMATION

Please visit our academy website:

[Mascalls](#)

For more information on MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses)
please visit:

www.mooc.org

www.futurelearn.com



Leigh Academy
Mascalls

Maidstone Road
Paddock Wood
Kent TN12 6LT

01892 835366
info@mascalls.latrust.org.uk
leighacademymascalls.org.uk

Academic Excellence
Character | Culture



LEIGH
Academies Trust

Education for a better world

Chief Executive: Simon Beamish BA (Hons) MSc PGCE NPQH NLE FCCT

Carnation Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 2SX
01634 412200 | fax: 01634 412201
info@latrust.org.uk | leighacademiestrust.org.uk

Leigh Academies Trust is a registered company (company no 2336587) and an exempt charity.