



LAT given approval to open three new free schools

Leigh Academies Trust (LAT) has been approved by central government to open three new free schools by 2019 in the latest round of applications. This is a huge vote of confidence in LAT's current rate of success and its ability to deliver brand new schools for the region.

The three projects given approval are:

Medway Academy

A new secondary school for Medway with an intake of 180 pupils per year and sixth form. The new school will be a brand new build sited in either Strood or Rainham. LAT was given the full backing of Medway Council and will now work together with them to agree the final site for the academy. Medway Academy will open in September 2019 and will have a grammar stream for more able pupils across the Borough.

Bearsted Academy

A secondary special school for the region based at J7 of the M20, near Maidstone. The new special academy will work in close partnership with LAT's doubly outstanding Milestone Academy to offer excellent opportunities for some of the region's most vulnerable pupils. Bearsted Academy will open in September 2018 in brand new, state-of-the-art premises. LAT's bid was given full support from Kent County Council.

Maidstone Primary Academy

This brand new primary with 60 pupils each year will share a site at J7 of the M20 with Bearsted Academy. Like Bearsted Academy, it will open in September 2018 and help to meet the growing demand for primary school places in Bearsted and north Maidstone.

In addition to these new schools, LAT will open Leigh Academy Blackheath at a temporary site on Shooters' Hill Road in Greenwich in 2018. The brand new secondary academy will move into permanent purpose-built premises at Old Dover Road in Greenwich by 2020.

Taking all of these projects together, it is quite clear that LAT is much-favoured as one of the region's most successful and well-regarded multi-academy trusts. We continue to work hard to help shape the lives of young people through high quality education and in doing so, transform the communities in which they live.

Simon Beamish
Chief Executive