



Leigh Academy  
**RAINHAM**

# Principal's Newsletter

Issue 4

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September 2020

I cannot quite believe that September is already upon us, the steel frame is progressing nicely and that the applications window to apply for secondary schools has officially opened! We recognise that this can be both an exciting and apprehensive time for all of us. Year 6 pupils and their parents will be starting to look at the options available to them for secondary schools, even if virtually, and some may be making preparations to sit the Medway Test. In turn schools will be overcoming the challenges of COVID restrictions to still ensure you receive the best possible information to make informed choices. At this point in time you will be having discussions at home about your choices and preferences, considering the curriculum models on offer, the extra curricular clubs, the teaching and behaviour policies and maybe even the uniforms and lunchtime menus!



We wanted to ensure that despite not having a building that you were given the opportunity to ask questions to make informed decisions about Leigh Academy Rainham and last week we recorded a video we will be sharing with you all on social media and our website.



This interview style video was conducted with Nicola Everett from KMTV. Nicola Everett grew up in Rochester and went to Chapter Secondary School in Strood - the site of the current Strood Academy. She started her radio career after doing work experience at Medway FM in Rochester during her final year at university. She then moved to Invicta FM and was successful in becoming their News Editor. After a brief spell teaching and working in PR at Canterbury College following maternity leave, Nicola joined the team as editor at KMFM and now looks after the day to day running of KentOnline.co.uk. Nicola has regularly presented Team Talk on KMTV and hosted numerous awards ceremonies across the county, including the Leigh Academies Trust staff awards.

In the video Nicola poses the questions to me that we collated from our parent survey and I sincerely hope that the responses provide you with necessary information to make an informed decision about applying for our Academy.

We have also compiled some of your more common questions and are in the process of producing an FAQs page on our website to share written responses to these. This week I also conducted a radio interview for KMFM and will be appearing in an upcoming copy of the Medway Messenger and in Kentonline.co.uk so we have been working tirelessly to ensure the local community are all aware of our vision and ethos ahead of the application process!

I wanted to take this opportunity to reiterate what the application process for Leigh Academy Rainham consists of. Although you will find us on the [Medway Council Website](#) you will not be able to select us as one of the options, alongside other schools. As a new free school we are required by the DfE to have a separate application form to the local authority process. This can be downloaded from [here](#) and regardless of which local authority you live in must be returned to the address on the form. For further queries regarding the application process and our admissions policy please refer to our [Admissions Page](#) on our website where we have recently added further FAQs.

We strongly encourage you to also apply to other schools through the Medway Council website and use all of your allocated choices so that your child is not at risk of not securing a place in a local school. This week we have finalised our uniform choices with Brigade, our online supplier and they are currently working to produce samples of these so that we can share photos with you. While they are an online supplier they offer an on site sizing session with all new year 7 parents prior to September to support you in measuring your child for future online orders.

I have also posted information on our website about our caterers [Cucina](#), with examples of menus and tariffs for the current academic year so please do have a look at these to see what wonderful food will be on offer! As always we will continue to share updates regarding the progress of our building and further decisions regarding curriculum and academy life through our website and social media sites so please do ensure you are following us. I look forward to receiving your applications!



Mrs A Millward  
Principal, Leigh Academy Rainham



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