

Train to Teach

with Leigh Academies Trust



More than just a job. More than just an employer.

Guiding you through the journey in becoming a teacher,
providing you with the tools you need to thrive in your
teaching career



Who we are and what we offer

Leigh Academies Trust Teacher Training Programme is available for recent graduates, career changers, current teaching assistants and unqualified teachers with a Degree who share the same goal... to become a qualified teacher. Our programme commences in September every year and runs for one academic year, and trainees can expect to receive their Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) in the following June/July.

Working in partnership with Kent & Medway Training, an established Teacher Training Provider for over 25 years, we provide training and support for more and more teachers every year to successfully gain their Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and optional Post Graduate Certificate Education (PGCE) top-up.

We offer the School Direct route which provides our trainee teachers with maximum exposure to school life; your training year is completed in one of our academies from start to finish. You quickly become an integral and valued member of our team whether you opt for the salaried or bursary route; we can provide you with guidance as to which route you are eligible for.

Deservedly identified as being one of the most successful multi-academy trusts in the UK, Leigh Academies Trust is a medium-sized trust who make a positive impact on over 20,000 students' lives in the Kent and South East London areas. Shaping the lives of the young people in our care, thus transforming the lives of our local communities is at the heart of everything we do.

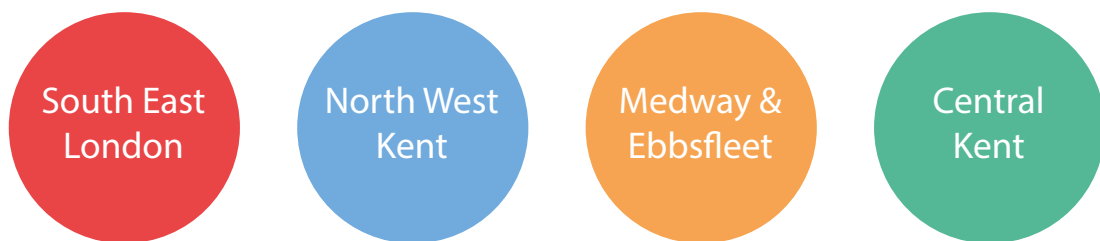
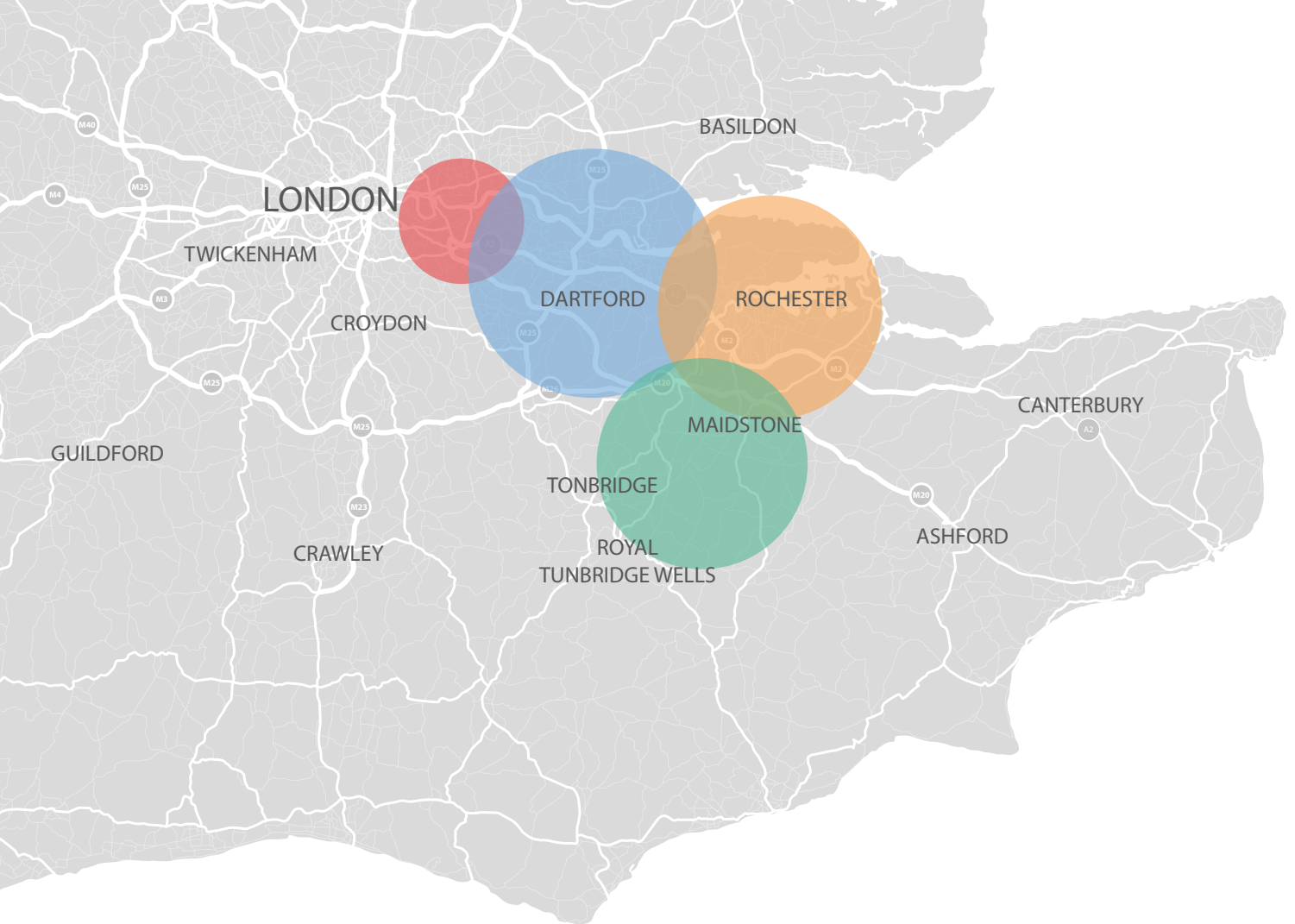
LAT attributes our success to the willingness to collaborate and desire to achieve the best for every child, and this is reflected in our Teacher Training Programme. The opportunity for collaboration and access to first-rate support are commonplace throughout the training year and beyond, preparing you for a thriving career in teaching.

Considering the communities we serve are so diverse, our academies are too which is why we are confident we have the right environment for anyone considering teaching as a career;

- 1 to 3 form entry primary academies
- Secondary academies covering all ability ranges including grammar streams
- State of the art University Technical College (UTC)
- SEN provisions catering for 2-19 year olds.

Advantages of School Direct

- more practical, hands-on training
- working with experienced teachers
- immediate immersion in school life
- be an active member of the community
- build lasting relationships.



Where we are

All of our current academies can be accessed within a one-hour drive of one another. We want to keep it this way by developing self-improving 'clusters' of academies across the south-east.

The first cluster was in North-West Kent, centred around Dartford. The other three existing clusters are in South-East London (Greenwich and Bexley), Central Kent (between Maidstone and Tonbridge) and Medway.



‘We care – about our pupils through our human scale approach to education, our staff and their well-being and the communities that we serve, driven by our high ideals and strong moral values.’

Explore your options

Salaried* – This option is available to more experienced candidates who have a minimum of 3 years’ working experience and in most cases, relevant experience of working in a classroom. You’ll be employed directly by an academy and receive a salary as an unqualified teacher, and the school will also cover your tuition fees.

Bursary/non-salaried* – This route is ideal for trainees who haven’t had much exposure to education and would benefit from easing themselves into the programme. You aren’t directly employed by your school but are still very much an integral part of the team. Tuition fees are covered by the trainee and we can provide support when applying to Student Finance if necessary. Depending on the subject you will be teaching and your Degree, you may be eligible for bursary funding.

** Please note that both routes offer the same high quality level of support, mentoring and outcome.*

Throughout the School Direct programme you will have access to training delivered in person by industry experts and experienced teachers. You will be provided with a Subject Specialist who will be your Mentor; you will work most closely with your Mentor who is specifically trained in this area. You will also be part of a much wider cohort of trainees and experts who will provide a supportive network throughout your training year and beyond.

What could I teach? Year on year, the number of teachers who train with us increases. Leigh Academies Trust can offer you the chance to train in a variety of subjects and key stages across Primary, Secondary and SEN settings. It is advised that you train to teach in your area of experience which is likely to be closely linked to your degree subject, but we can support those who may be interested in other subjects providing you can demonstrate relevant subject knowledge.

What can I expect in my training year? The training year begins in early September and runs right the way through until June time at which point you will receive your Qualified Teacher Status.

The course itself is made up of the following:

- Trainees must spend a minimum of 120 days in school within the training year
- Receive a minimum allocation of 1 hour per week for 1:1 mentoring which is usually on a fixed schedule and in a place with minimal distraction to enable you to get the best out of it
- Every Thursday afternoon between September and Easter, typically 1.00pm - 5.00pm, all trainees are released from their respective schools to attend professional and theoretical training (or Hub Training as we call it)
- Thursday sessions allow you to build on your subject knowledge and key areas poignant to the course you are on. Topics, such as Behavior Management, Special Educational Needs, etc, are circulated well in advance

- The overall expectations are that by the end of the course a trainee teacher will have experience of delivering between 50% - 60% of a qualified teacher’s timetable which then increases to approximately 70% during your induction year
- Throughout the course you will be required to submit assignments which are based on the National Teaching Standards, drawing from your experiences in the classroom and academic research/writing to develop your knowledge and allow you to progress.

Key Facts

- Course start date: September (annually)
- Duration: 1 year, full-time
- Routes: salaried/bursary options available
- Qualification awarded: QTS with optional PGCE
- Locations: Kent and South East London

Entry Criteria

- GCSE grade C (or equivalent) in Maths and English to teach at Secondary level
- GCSE grade C (or equivalent) in Maths, English and Science to teach at Primary level
- A Degree; the classification and subject we help determine funding available to you
- If you have overseas equivalent qualifications, please speak to us directly as we will need to check eligibility and will be able to advise on equivalency – we may need you to provide NARIC recognised qualifications.

Why train with us?

Training with Leigh Academies Trust allows you to be part of what we do best; collaborate. The model of our Trust allows us to share best practice in everything that we do. Working with your highly skilled mentor and education experts, you will receive recent and relevant information to the education sector which you can then put straight into practice.

We support recent graduates through to career changers, providing you have the drive, passion and resilience to teach. We see you as individual teachers, encourage individuality and allow you to adopt your own unique teaching style. Our key successes include:

- high quality professional studies programme
- a wide range of expertise within the partnership to provide a strong theoretical background and pedagogical development for trainees
- strength of the commitment of partnership across our schools
- close attention to meeting trainees’ individual needs and providing personal support
- high retention of trainees’ who remain with us for their NQT year and beyond
- prompt and efficient communication between the provider, schools and trainees.

I'm interested... What do I do now?

We've devised a 3 step guide to make your route into teaching as straightforward as possible.

Step 1: Get in touch

Phone: For those of you in full-time employment and/or education, taking the time to arrange a meeting may be difficult. Let us know when you're available to talk and we can go through everything on the phone and provide you with advice at this early stage.

Appointment: Each appointment will normally last an hour; we will discuss the training process in more detail and answer any questions you may have. You will be asked to bring a CV with you to use as a basis for the discussion.

Event: At our information evenings you will find out about Leigh Academies Trust schools and how to become a teacher. The events are a good opportunity to meet previous trainees as well as our training provider, Kent & Medway Training. Please visit our website to view the dates and locations of all Leigh Academies Trust events.

Step 2: Application

You will need to register and submit an application in order to be invited for an interview. In the application you will need to complete necessary sections; personal details, school and work experience, your personal statement and references. Visit the website - www.gov.uk/apply-for-teacher-training

Step 3: Interview stage

Your interview will consist of the following;

- Formal interview with representatives from Kent & Medway Training, Leigh Academies Trust and the Mentor who you would be working with throughout your training year

- Talk through a checklist to ensure you are aware of all information about the training course, prior to accepting a potential offer of a place
- Copies taken of original documents such as University Degrees, GCSE Certificates and Right to Work in the UK.

Please rest assured that all aspects of the interview are designed to assess where your strengths are and identify any gaps where we could provide you with support. All panel members will be familiar faces by the time the interview is conducted and we will provide as much information and notice as possible to assist you in doing the best you can!

Preparation for training

If you are successful in your interview and are offered a training place within our Trust, we can then offer you plenty of support to ensure you are well equipped with the resources prior to your training course. This includes:

- Subject Knowledge Enhancement course within your specific subject area, ranging from 8-28 weeks
- Skills Tests support including twilight sessions to suit prior work commitments
- Regular contact with your mentor and academy.

- Do your own subject audit as a baseline
- Buy current revision guides and assess your knowledge
- Download the National Curriculum for your Key Stage/Subject
- Look at different exam board specifications

Don't just take our word for it...

'My year with LAT and KMT has been fantastic. I felt welcomed from the very first phone call and would recommend anyone to relax and be themselves throughout the selection process. The workload has been heavy but manageable – there is always someone on hand to provide you with support.'

Business Studies Trainee Teacher

'The most rewarding part of the course is seeing how my students have progressed over the year. Some Year 7 students had never studied Science exclusively in primary school and to see their excitement and develop their interest in the subject was very rewarding. After a whole year in the classroom and after all my training sessions, I feel very confident going into my induction year.'

Science Trainee Teacher

'I first came across LAT at a teacher recruitment fair; from the very beginning I felt a sense of being welcomed into something akin to a family by everyone I encountered which definitely helped with the nerves of starting on a new career path. I am now starting my induction year... Time really does fly when you are having fun and when I witness those 'WOW' moments from my students, it acts as a reminder of why I do what I do every day.'

Primary Trainee Teacher

'My experience with LAT and KMT has been fantastic. My mentor put a huge emphasis on effective time management and ensuring a healthy work life balance which enabled me to maintain my emotional and mental well-being throughout my training. Furthermore, the school direct methods are brilliant as it's very effective to learn on the job - difficult, but effective.'

History Trainee Teacher

'It was very hard jumping in the deep end but my mentor and KMT were very supportive. If I ever needed any help or was feeling overwhelmed I knew there would be people from LAT and KMT who would be happy to listen and give me advice. If I couldn't do my teacher training with LAT, I don't think I would have done it at all. LAT and KMT provided me with great training opportunities to improve my teaching and my potential.'

Science Trainee Teacher

'Right after I completed my BEng, I was confused about my career path. I was recommended to pursue teaching at one of the LAT's schools. The whole interview process was quick and easy. I was made to feel welcomed and I was so excited for this teaching opportunity. During the whole process of selection, the most important thing was that I did not have to worry about KMT or which school I will be joining. They chose the best school for me and my details were passed onto KMT, the process was quite simple and easy after that.'

Computer Science Trainee Teacher

'When it came to deciding where to complete my teacher training year, there was no competition for me. Having worked within the Leigh Academies Trust previously, I knew I was going to get the very best opportunities and support. Choosing to train at the LAT and KMT has been the best decision of my career, and I am proud to be a KMT graduate and a LAT teacher.'

Primary Trainee Teacher

Visit our website to read their full testimonials.

What makes a successful LAT Associate Teacher?

We know that teaching is one of the most challenging yet equally rewarding professions, and we know it takes an incredible person to teach well. Here are just a selection of the qualities that you may already have or ones we can help you achieve when being a part of Leigh Academies Trust; the provider, schools and trainees.

- Resilient
- Open-minded
- Innovative
- Passionate
- An individual
- A team player
- Empathy
- Caring nature
- Sense of humour
- Subject knowledge
- Proud
- Selfless
- Resourceful

Most of all, we know our teachers are human. You're not invincible and we don't expect you to be. Leigh Academies Trust put the well-being of our staff and students above everything else. Search LAT Thrive to find out more about our initiatives and how we can support you to be the best that you can be.

Get in touch

w: leighacademiestrust.org.uk/train-to-teach
e: talent@latrust.org.uk
t: 01634 412 240

Useful links

Find: find-postgraduate-teacher-training.service.gov.uk
Apply: gov.uk/apply-for-teacher-training
Kent & Medway Training: kmtraining.org.uk



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