Leigh Academies Trust
Educational Digital Strategy 2021/22

Shaping Lives, Transforming Communities

1 Introduction

Advancements in digital technology are changing the way we live, learn, work and communicate. The digital strategy of Leigh Academies Trust is to develop an integrated digital ecosystem that harnesses these advancements across the various elements of the Trust, which in turn will produce mature, responsible digital citizens who are ready for the world of employment in a 21st century workplace.

In our academies, leaders, teachers and students work together to find and develop new approaches to learning by blending traditional and digital pedagogies together. Digital technology becomes an integral part of the learning journey, creating opportunities for educational communities to extend learning beyond the classroom, to share information in a variety of engaging formats, and to efficiently review, reflect and respond to learning outcomes.

We believe that all learners should have access to digital technology; indeed, it is crucial to the principles that underpin our all-age curricular vision, which is based upon the International Baccalaureate (IB). We believe technology should not be used for technology's sake, but should be implemented in lessons through a meticulously-planned approach to ensure its use is highly pertinent, varied and creative. Technology use will enhance the learning and progress students make as they journey through the curriculum, supplementing their learning through the development of their digital skills and digital literacy. At LAT, we are committed to ensuring students and teachers can employ the most appropriate tools for learning at the right time, including when they are not in the academy itself.

To achieve this we:

- Provide every LAT student access to a tablet/ laptop via a one-to-one device scheme
- Utilise the Google Workspace for Education digital tools (nearly all of our teaching staff are Google-Certified Educators)
- Integrate other key educational software and digital resources, and
- Promote good digital citizenship across all age groups.

We recognise that by enhancing our learners' digital access we have a responsibility to educate our learners to use technology appropriately and safely in achieving our aim for them to be responsible digital citizens.

At LAT we also realise that the life of a school involves more than what happens in a classroom. Some of the other areas we are actively engaging with as part of our digital strategy are:

- Equipping staff with appropriate training on digital tools
- Connecting with families through digital systems, thereby creating a paper-lite Trust
- Building partnerships between our academies, higher-education providers and industry experts, and
- Effectively operating a robust and suitable digital infrastructure.

2 Educational Digital Strategy Expectations

In 2021.22, and as part of our wider vision 2025 plans, our academies have committed to achieving the following digital expectations which will help us fulfill our longer term digital strategy goals.

1. Digital learning/blended learning to be embedded in the T&L and assessment policies within each academy

2. Develop digital leads and coaches to support the integration of technology within the teaching and learning strategy, and to support colleagues with the use of digital tools. An explanation of these digital roles can be found **here**

3. Every class continues to have access to a corresponding and actively used virtual classroom

4. All homework is set digitally

5. Chromebook "best practices" to be communicated and celebrated across LAT

6. All resources easily accessible digitally to support the revision process - a 'one stop shop' for examination preparation (KS4 and KS5)

7. Ensure all new staff achieve Google Level 1 and support as many staff as possible to achieve Google Level 2

8. The continued use of Iris and increased access to online CPD (National College, Chartered College and TT Education) to develop teaching practice

9. Develop a digital toolkit directory so all staff are aware of approved digital tools, ensuring all subjects have suitable digital tools to deliver the curriculum

10. Integrating digital citizenship and online safety effectively into the curriculum

11. Developing careers education through the use of online services such as Unifrog

12. Develop student digital skills in line with key stage expectations

13. Established (within LAT for at least 2 years) academies should be Digital Level 4.

The LAT digital strategy aims to bring together all of the key aspects of a digital ecosystem, so that they holistically drive learning and development. We believe that well-considered, appropriate financial and resource investment is vital in delivering these desired outcomes.

At LAT we believe that there can be no shortcuts to making lasting and meaningful change. If we want to create digital schools that produce digital citizens then we must invest sustainably, not just in technology, but in all of the supporting elements such as training, infrastructure, curriculum and IT support. Our vision is that the implementation and delivery of this strategy will help to raise digitally-fluent, digitally-mature and digitally-creative children.

3 | LAT Digital Posts

Digital Teaching Lead

This is a person who should be at Tier 2 or above in secondary and Tier 3 or above primary. They either already have a strategic role in the quality of education implementation strand , or work closely with the strategic lead for this area.

They should have an interest in the use of technology in education and how this enhances the learning experience. They would be expected to input into the wider digital strategy of the Trust and feedback updates to their Academy. This person will oversee the requesting of software processes as part of their digital strategy in their academy and within the wider context of the Trust's digital strategy.

Digital Innovator

This is a "swimmer" when it comes to edtech. They enjoy trying new technology and feel confident in integrating technology into their teaching. They will be individuals that will seek to inspire others, push new ideas and look at how we can maximise our current technology provision. The Digital Innovator is a person who will focus on developing ideas.

Digital Coach

These will be individuals that will be looking to support their colleagues in the use of technology. They will be willing and able to provide group training or one-to-one support to help raise the overall confidence in using technology within their academies. The Digital Coach is a person who will focus on developing people.

4 | Contact us

To find out more about our strategy, contact Dan Bull (Head of Digital Engagement) or Emma Elwin (Academies Director - Medway and Ebbsfleet) at **info@latrust.org.uk**.

Alternatively, you can write to Leigh Academies Trust at:

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