

# THE LANGLEY ACADEMY

## BROCHURE 2019-2020

The Langley Academy is a unique Academy that serves the young people of Langley, Slough and further afield. Housed in an iconic new building, designed by Foster and Partners, it specialises in Science, pioneers the use of museum learning and aims to become a centre of excellence for sports, notably rowing and cricket.

## SPONSOR'S WELCOME

As the Sponsor, I am proud to welcome you to The Langley Academy. It is a unique Academy; an establishment that makes a real difference to our students' lives. We believe in a holistic education. Through our pastoral and house system, we ensure that students are happy, safe and able to develop into confident young people who believe they can achieve anything they put their minds to. Our six areas of focus deliver an enriching experience around Museum Learning, Sustainability, Internationalism, Science, Rowing and Cricket. These support the development of each child and help them to understand the world around them and the part they can play in making it better.

It has always been our ambition to offer an outstanding curriculum that supports the principles of both depth and breadth, so that each student receives a personalised education. We meet their needs and allow them to achieve the very best grades. We also know that we must provide much more than just great academic results. We give students opportunities that they just would not get at other schools. We provide a stable foundation that sets our students apart from others and gives them a real sense of self-belief and confidence that is so important in the mind-set of a successful individual.

The Langley Academy is the founding Academy in our Multi-Academy Trust, which has allowed us to sponsor The Langley Heritage Primary and to build our own primary school, The Langley Academy Primary. The Langley Academy Primary opened on our site in September 2015 and in **July 2018 it was judged to be Outstanding by Ofsted**. This extension into the Primary sector is a very exciting development that is already enriching the experiences of our students and opens up more opportunities for personal development for students and staff at The Langley Academy.

We are very positive about our future and look forward to meeting you.

*Annabel Nicoll, Sponsor*



# HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

It is a pleasure to welcome you to The Langley Academy. We hope that this prospectus will give you a clear picture of the type of school this is and the experience our students enjoy during their time with us.

At the Academy, we believe that students come to school to learn and achieve in order to live full and enriched lives. We want to empower them to contribute positively to their family, the community and the wider world. The staff, governors and trustees work hard together, along with parents and carers, to ensure that each of our students leave with a set of results of which they can be proud.



We place a strong emphasis on developing students' confidence through opportunities in and beyond the classroom so that they can develop their personal and academic interests. Teachers and support staff seek to meet the needs of all within a rich and balanced curriculum, underpinned by our strapline of Curiosity, Exploration and Discovery. In return, we expect all students to be fully prepared and active participants in their learning. An agreed and established set of ground rules based on respect allows everyone to get the best from lessons, activities and unstructured time.

Our students will tell you that the Academy is a safe place to learn and grow. I am very proud to be part of such a warm and cohesive staff that supports and promotes the achievement and wellbeing of all children who attend here.

I hope that you will choose to visit us and be impressed with the beautiful building and the wonderful opportunities within it.

Alison Lusuardi  
Headteacher

**'There is a sense of pride, both in The Langley Academy and in the outcomes pupils achieve, that is shared between staff, governors, trustees and pupils.'** Ofsted 2017.

CURIOSITY | EXPLORATION | DISCOVERY

## OUR VISION

To provide an outstanding education for every child in the trust through high aspirations and through the principles of quality learning using curiosity, exploration and discovery.

At the Academy your child will join us on a journey of learning from the moment they enter to the day they leave.

- We inspire our students by igniting the natural flame of curiosity that lives within every child.
- We encourage our students to bravely explore new terrains of knowledge, thoughts and ideas.
- We give our students the confidence to discover, by seeing what everybody has seen but thinking what nobody has yet thought.



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## OUR SPECIALISM AND KEY FOCI

As soon as students first start at the Academy they join a House, to which they will belong throughout their Academy life. Each of the six Houses Arbib, Darwin, Gaia, Globe, Grace and Henley are linked to a specialism or key focus, which sits at the heart of our Academy.

As a science specialist academy, Science education and scientific enquiry is at the centre of everything that we do. We have amazing facilities for the teaching of Science, with our circular Science teaching pods at the very heart of our fantastic building. In addition we have a large, dynamic and experienced Science teaching team who make lessons exciting and challenging. We aim to capture and extend the scientific imagination of students and inspire them to make positive choices about their future, including careers. Darwin House has Science as its focus.

As the UK's first Museum Learning school, all lessons are built on curiosity. We use object-based learning as a cornerstone of our approach to the curriculum and our students and staff have tremendous opportunities to work with different museums, including our own museum in the Academy. Off-site trips and in-school visitors are a regular feature of Academy life. We have close links to the River & Rowing Museum in Henley, the V&A Museum, the Oxford University Museum of Natural History and Museum of the History of Science and the Reading University Museums. Arbib House has Museum Learning as its focus.

We are an establishment of excellence for cricket and rowing. We believe this will allow attributes such as confidence, self-discipline, determination and the importance of effective teamwork to be nurtured amongst our students. We have excellent indoor and outdoor cricket facilities, which are also proving very popular with the local community. Our Director of Rowing is a Gold Level rowing coach and has coached at World Junior Championship level. Students who take part in our rowing programme regularly participate in a range of indoor competitions. Grace House has Cricket as its focus, whilst Henley House has rowing as its focus.

Our students and staff come from many parts of the world and we are committed to promoting an international awareness amongst our students. Students are encouraged to appreciate diverse cultures and to be a citizen of the world. OFSTED has recognised and commented on the excellent harmonious atmosphere at the Academy. Globe House has internationalism as its focus.

Our Academy is designed to be sustainable. Students at the Academy are very much encouraged to be aware of sustainability and renewable energy sources, so that we look hard at all that we do and its effect on our planet. The Academy has a wide range of features including a biomass boiler, solar panels, rain water harvesting tanks, a reed bed and many more design features. Various displays demonstrate to students the environmental savings achieved. Our students actively participate in various recycling schemes together. Gaia House has sustainability as its focus.

'Pupils and sixth formers confidently welcome visitors, are proud to share their work and enjoy working with teachers.' Ofsted 2017



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# CURRICULUM

At The Langley Academy we pride ourselves in delivering a curriculum across all key stages that provides for all abilities, challenging the most able and developing skills and talents for all groups of students. Through creative, inspirational teaching our students are able to hone in on their strengths and develop skills in areas where they may be less confident. This enables all students to achieve their very best and above all stimulates the students' love of learning.

We embed a knowledge-based curriculum as the cornerstone of an excellent academically rigorous education. Student progress is monitored through regular assessments. We look at student attitude to learning as well as their actual achievement. This information is then regularly shared with parents throughout the year. Reports are emailed twice a year (three times in year 7). A parents' evening is held once a year for each year group where parents can meet with subject teachers to discuss academic progress.

## IN YEARS 7 – 8 (KEY STAGE 3)

At KS3 we ensure our students start their academy life by experiencing a wide range of subjects. In their first two years, students will explore Maths, English, Science, PE, ICT, Design Technology, Music, Drama, Art, Geography, History, French or Spanish, Religious and Personal Studies.

During Year 8, students will start to consider their GCSE/BTEC options ready to begin in Year 9. Subject teachers and Raising Standards Leaders work closely with students and parents to identify the best combination for each student, with long-term goals and career choices in mind.

## IN YEARS 9 – 11 (KEY STAGE 4)

In Year 9 our students start their journey towards their first academic and vocational qualifications depending on the courses they have selected.

Year 10 students have the opportunity to explore potential future careers. Students will analyse their own skills base with respect to future work requirements and develop the qualities that will help with application writing, CV's and interviews. A major event in the Year 10 calendar is the one-week work experience; this is supported by a range of careers workshops and guidance to support their journey into successful further and higher education.

During Year 11, students are provided with tasters of what Sixth Form life is like, to encourage them to pursue further education whether academic or vocational, and to start making informed choices about their post-16 lives. In preparation for their examinations students are provided with regular revision sessions throughout the year and during half-term holidays and weekends in the lead up to examinations.

## IN YEARS 12 – 13 (6<sup>TH</sup> FORM)

Since the opening of The Langley Academy in 2008, the Sixth Form has quickly established itself as a thriving, successful and popular choice. Our outstanding Sixth Form facilities; including our brand new Sixth Form teaching building (due to open in January 2020), give students an excellent work environment that allows them the opportunity to make strong progress in their studies.

Throughout the Academy there is a culture of high expectations for all and our dedicated, experienced and enthusiastic staff help provide exciting and challenging lessons in a wide range of subject areas; aiming to enthuse and encourage independent learning.





## CARE, GUIDANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

We have created a system of guidance and support, through our House and Tutor Group system which means our students can feel safe, secure, well cared for and supported. Students meet in their House Tutor Groups daily.

The House Tutor, Head of House and Raising Standard Leader, are the key people in each student's life at the Academy. If a student faces a challenge in a subject or at home, or if there is a concern over behaviour or attendance, the House Tutor will be the first person to contact you. Similarly, if you have concerns, you can contact your child's House Tutor either by email, telephone and letter or through a note in your child's planner. Parents and House Tutors are expected to check these regularly, making them a useful form of communication.

Our House Tutor Time Programme means that House Tutors are able to focus on Personal, Social and Health Education topics, as well as on student performance and learning, and play an important role in helping us to maintain student achievement. The House System at the Academy means that senior members of staff, the Heads of House and Raising Standards Leaders, can focus on student performance and identify any barriers to learning. Our Sixth Form students, who support students in lessons as part of their Community Service, also assist with this. In addition, Parent / Carer Evenings are held annually for each Year group, where parents / carers have an opportunity to meet with the House Tutor and all classroom teachers to discuss progress and development.

We also have a large team of staff to provide additional learning support to those students who need it and who work with those students whose behaviour needs improving. Student Support Managers provide one-to-one and group mentoring. The Student Support Unit provides a safe, secure learning area where students can go for support and nurturing. The Academy Counsellor and the agency Place2Be provide a support service for students who would like to share issues in a confidential environment. On the occasions where students do not meet the expected standard of behaviour, they will attend our Inclusion Centre. This is a base where students can reflect on their behaviour, be supported and be provided with guidance on changing their outlook. This helps improve their reintegration back into Academy life.

Our Sixth Formers in Year 12 and Year 13 each have their own Tutor groups. As well as monitoring attendance, behaviour and academic progress through these important years, the Tutors encourage students to develop. Community service and the building of a students' character are also important aspects in the Sixth Form. Students have a range of opportunities to develop themselves including Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, Work Experience, Young Enterprise and Student Mentoring. We also support the UCAS process, encouraging students to successfully apply for a range of Higher Education programmes and other progression routes such as advanced apprenticeships.



# WHAT WE DO TO STRETCH OUR MOST ABLE STUDENTS

At the Academy we aim to nurture and develop the abilities and talents of all of our students, both in lessons and through extra-curricular activities. Teachers identify, target and monitor students that excel academically, ensuring work is appropriately challenging. Heads of Faculty and Raising Standards Leaders work with both staff and students to ensure all are stretched, encouraged to think creatively and work independently. We are constantly accessing research to ensure that we are developing best practice in this area.

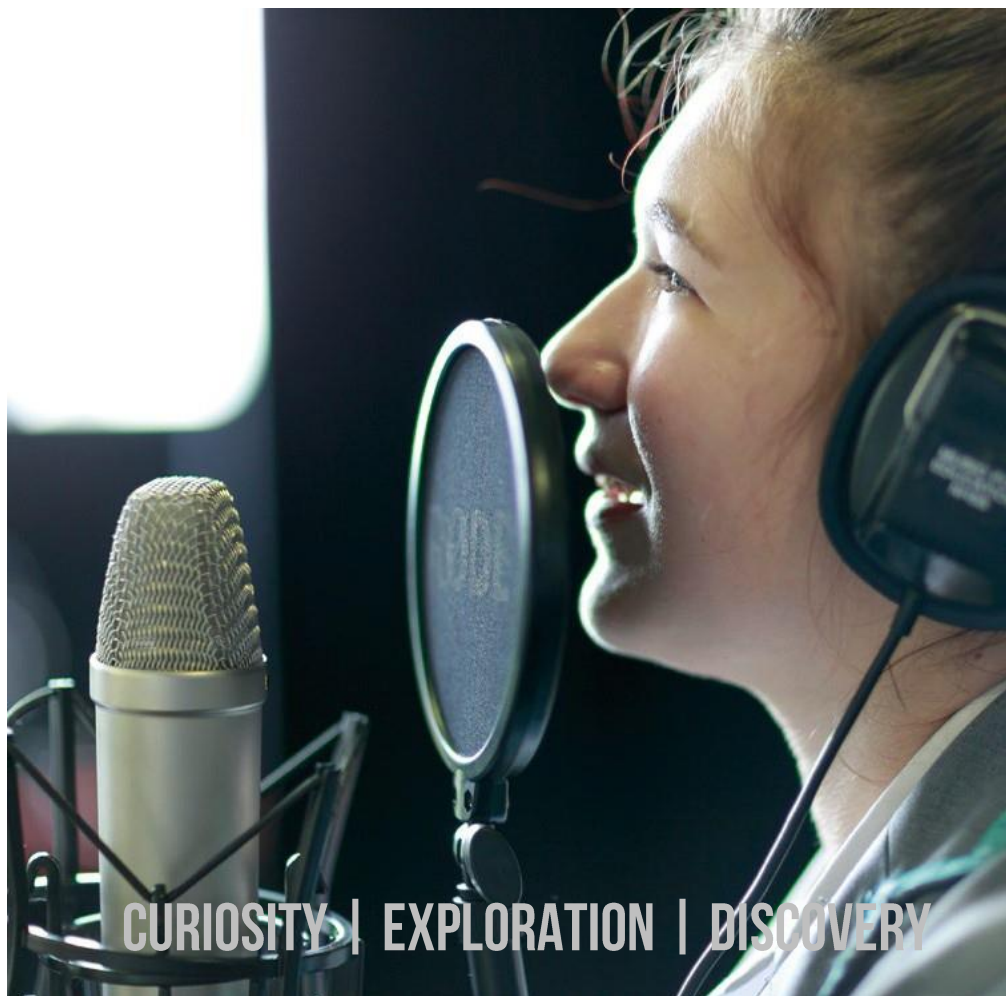
The introduction of our Debating Club, Scholar's Club and our 'Bar Mock Trial' initiative enables our students to grow in confidence, excel in public speaking and to further develop their wider thinking skills. This in turn has had a direct influence on the students' curriculum studies, enhancing their progress and attainment. We are also part of the Thames Valley Learning Partnership which gives our students the opportunity to take part in a wide range of events, such as the George Orwell political writing competition.

With several music studios we are able to provide subsidised music lessons with professional music tutors for students who have a desire to develop a skill on a range of musical instruments from guitar, piano, violin etc. Students have the opportunity to perform over the course of the academic year both in school and at other events.

Our Museum Learning focus also supports raised attainment within a subject, as well as wider personal development outcomes through the enrichment and co-curricular clubs. This includes, for example, a Science co-curation project with the Science Museum, taking part in programmes with large charitable organisations and events for aspiring medical practitioners.

Our focus on sporting excellence in rowing and cricket has enabled us to support all students; many of whom have progressed to compete on a regional and national level. These programmes are enhanced by our excellent indoor and outdoor facilities.

All of the above prepares our students for lifelong love of learning and a fulfilling future.



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## ENRICHMENT FOR STUDENTS

We provide students at the Academy with a broad range of experiences, Enrichment takes place every Tuesday afternoon. We encourage students to try new activities by attending a range of clubs. There is something for everyone.

Our Sports clubs offer table tennis, football, indoor rowing, basketball, rugby and golf. We also offer organic gardening, health & beauty, art, robotics, street dance and science to name a few. For a full up-to-date list, please check our Enrichment page under the parent section of the website.

We expect all our Year 7 and Year 8 students to attend Enrichment sessions as part of their personal development. We also offer enrichment opportunities to Key 4 and 5 students including the Bar Mock Trial in which students take on the role of barristers and witnesses to determine the legal outcome of cases in Reading Crown Court and Young Enterprise where students form their own company, decide on their product or service and compete for sales.

With each of our six houses linked to a key focus, a special focus week runs each term. During Science Week, students have built rockets which, launched from the playing fields, achieved heights of 100 metres. During Sustainability Week, students further develop their understanding of the importance of sustainability across the globe. Henley house take charge of Rowing Week, which sees students competing to complete extreme feats of endurance by rowing colossal distances to compete with their peers. This competitive, sporting spirit continues in Cricket Week with inter-house competitions. Students are always fascinated and amazed during Museum Learning Week, when they can interact with objects that ignite their curiosity, such as being able to play musical instruments used by diverse cultures.

We offer a range of trips throughout the year, several of which are international such as the Battlefields trip to Belgium, Foreign Language trips to Madrid and a PGL trip. CAS week also offers exciting opportunities to experience new activities such as swinging through the trees at Go Ape or learning to win a battle like a medieval king at Warwick Castle.

At The Langley Academy we are proud to offer students opportunities to grow as strong members and leaders of our local community. We run the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, which offers young people aged 14-24 the chance to develop skills for life and work, fulfil their potential and have a brighter future. In recent years, the Award has been deemed a tremendous success, both by the organisation and the participants involved.

We have a vast number of students that complete the Bronze award each year as well as a number who go on to complete the Silver and Gold awards during their time at the Academy.

The award is fulfilling for both students and the staff involved, with a noticeable change in students' attitude and outlook. Achieving the Award gives students skills, confidence and a view on life that are valued by colleges, universities and employers.

With a wide range of sporting activities and clubs, students can always find a sport which they can enjoy at a competitive or leisure level. We have very successful teams for both boys and girls in basketball, football, cross country running, netball, rugby and rowing. Our indoor rowing activities have become increasingly popular, with our students winning various accolades at National level.

As part of the Academy's Museum Learning focus, there are several trips every month to museums and cultural heritage sites. This includes the River and Rowing museum in Henley, and various Art, Science and History museums in London and Oxford. Continually changing objects in our museum display cabinets in the atrium ensure our students have a rich and engaging environment, which invokes their curiosity and desire to explore and discover new learning.



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## PARENT/CARER VOICE

At the Academy we encourage parents and carers to help shape school life for their children.

A Parents' Forum is held each term in the evening at 6pm so that parents who work can also attend. The Forum is open to all parents from all year groups. Different topics of interest to parents are raised at each meeting and past topics have included Year 7 transition, homework, uniform, behaviour, exams and options. Copies of the outcomes from each meeting are posted on our website.

Our Governing Body also includes parents who play an active role in committees that set Academy policy. As well as being members of the full Governing Body, our Parent Governors support the development and ratification of policies that have a direct impact on student learning and their daily school life.

We are always grateful to hear from parents who can support the Academy whether it be delivering talks on their profession or work experience opportunities for our students. If you would like to get involved then please contact Sati Kundi on [sati.kundi@langleyacademy.org](mailto:sati.kundi@langleyacademy.org) or 01753 214440.

We additionally provide a parent suggestion box at reception so that parents can leave their suggestions and ideas at any time. Our website also has a link which allows parents to complete a survey with their views on a wide range of topics and we also have a dedicated email address for parents to share their views with the Academy at [parentvoice@langleyacademy.org](mailto:parentvoice@langleyacademy.org).



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## STUDENT VOICE

We encourage our students to play an active part in shaping life at the Academy.

Our Academy Council comprises students from across the houses and year groups to provide a representative body. With regular meetings, the Council is able to raise and discuss issues that are important to students. The issues raised are passed on to the Directorate for consideration, action or feedback. The Academy Council also conducts projects throughout the year focused on tackling issues that are of local, national and international significance. One such project was #knifefree last year, which involved a thought provoking display in the atrium as well as assemblies and targeted interventions to support students in making positive choices.

Each of the six houses also have their own Council that discuss important topics raised by the student body. This is led by the six Heads of House with discussion points being passed onto the Academy Council for debate and action.

We also involve students in the recruitment process for new teachers, where students meet with potential new recruits. Through co-construction we involve students in the development of effective teaching so that we constantly gain feedback from students on the effective delivery of learning. Students play an important part in shaping their future learning.

Our Sixth Form Student Leadership team comprises the Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl. As well as helping lead the Academy Council for the lower year groups, these students help organise social events for the Sixth Form. They also provide a representative voice to raise issues important to Sixth Form students.

All Sixth Formers are expected to become responsible prefects and actively undertake a range of duties. They are expected to be role models for younger students and, together with the student leadership team, regularly support a variety of Academy events throughout the year.



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## OUR RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

When The Arbib Foundation decided to sponsor The Langley Academy they commissioned renowned architects Foster and Partners to design a building fit for education in the 21st Century. A great deal of thought went into designing a building which would be an exciting learning environment for all. A stunning entrance leads to an impressive atrium - the heart of the Academy - which provides fantastic views of the Academy including the museum display area and its installations.

The open plan design means that from the West Wing Balcony you have an excellent view of the whole Academy and its wide range of specialist classrooms and facilities, including the Science Pods and our ICT study areas.

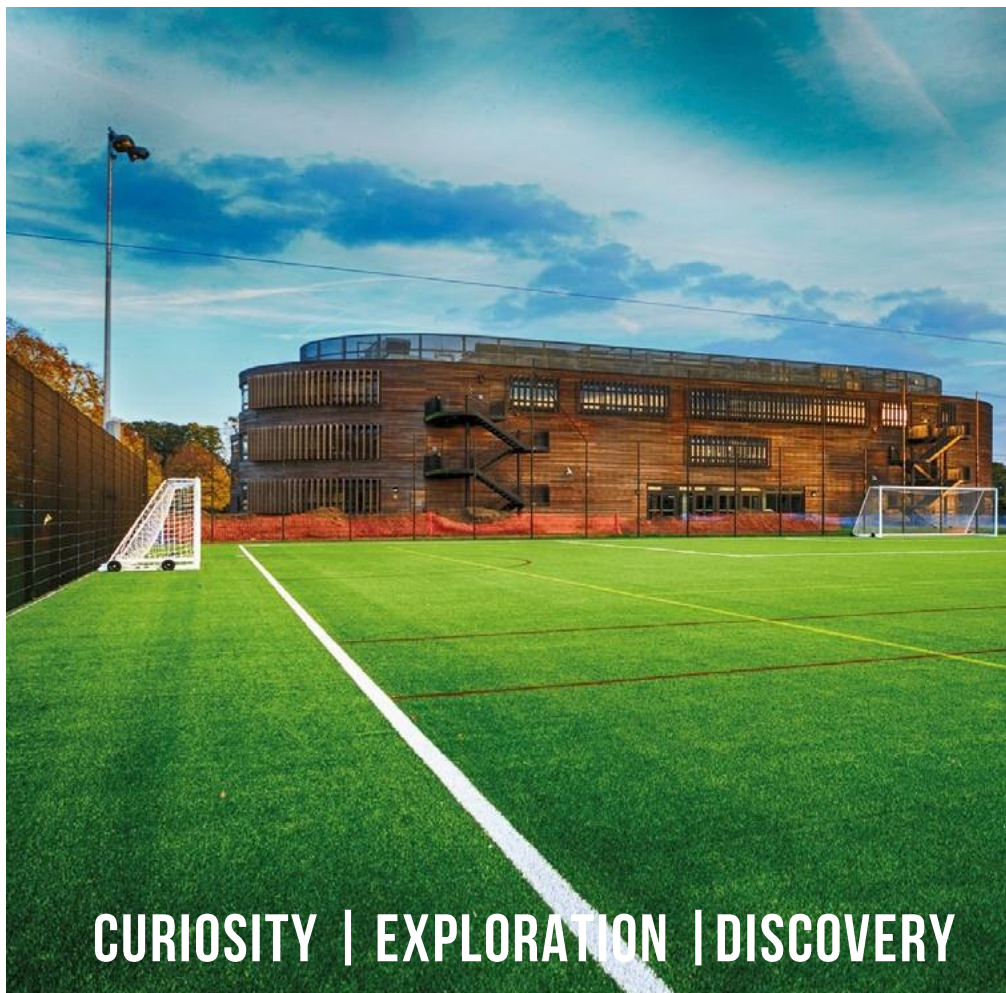
We have a vast range of scientific equipment and resources which enables us to deliver outstanding practical science which keeps our students constantly curious, always exploring and ever discovering new learning.

We have excellent sporting facilities with a 3G football pitch, large sports hall and indoor cricket nets. Access to rowing boats and our own Concept 2 rowing machines allows us to engage our students in our key rowing focus both indoor and outdoor at Dorney Lake.

With a number of specialist Art classrooms and a Drama Theatre/Dance Studio with seating for 230 people, our Creative and Performing Arts faculty is able to keenly promote the 'Arts' in exciting lessons, across the curriculum and in public performances and clubs. Our students and staff are privileged to have a recording studio of professional quality which supports Music, Media and enrichment opportunities.

Our Design and Technology classrooms have an excellent range of catering equipment, sewing machines and wood and metal working machinery to ensure that all our students have an outstanding experience at the Academy.

Our wireless network works across the entire building and the teaching staff and learning support assistants have their own laptops to support outstanding teaching. The majority of our rooms have smart televisions. Our large number of ICT suites and ICT study areas provide students with excellent study and independent learning resources.



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## WHAT WE DO FOR STUDENTS THAT REQUIRE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

At the Academy we believe all students should have equal access to learning and the curriculum in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and The Children and Families Act 2014. We have a range of facilities and resources such as our large team of Learning Support Assistants who help students with special needs within the classroom as well as outside the classroom on offsite activities.

Our HRB (Hearing Resource Base) provides specialist support for students with a hearing impairment and an EHCP Plan with hearing impairment as the primary need.

Individual programs are developed, to encourage students to reach their potential both academically and pastorally and to gain independence in their lives. Our students engage as fully as possible in all aspects of Academy life.

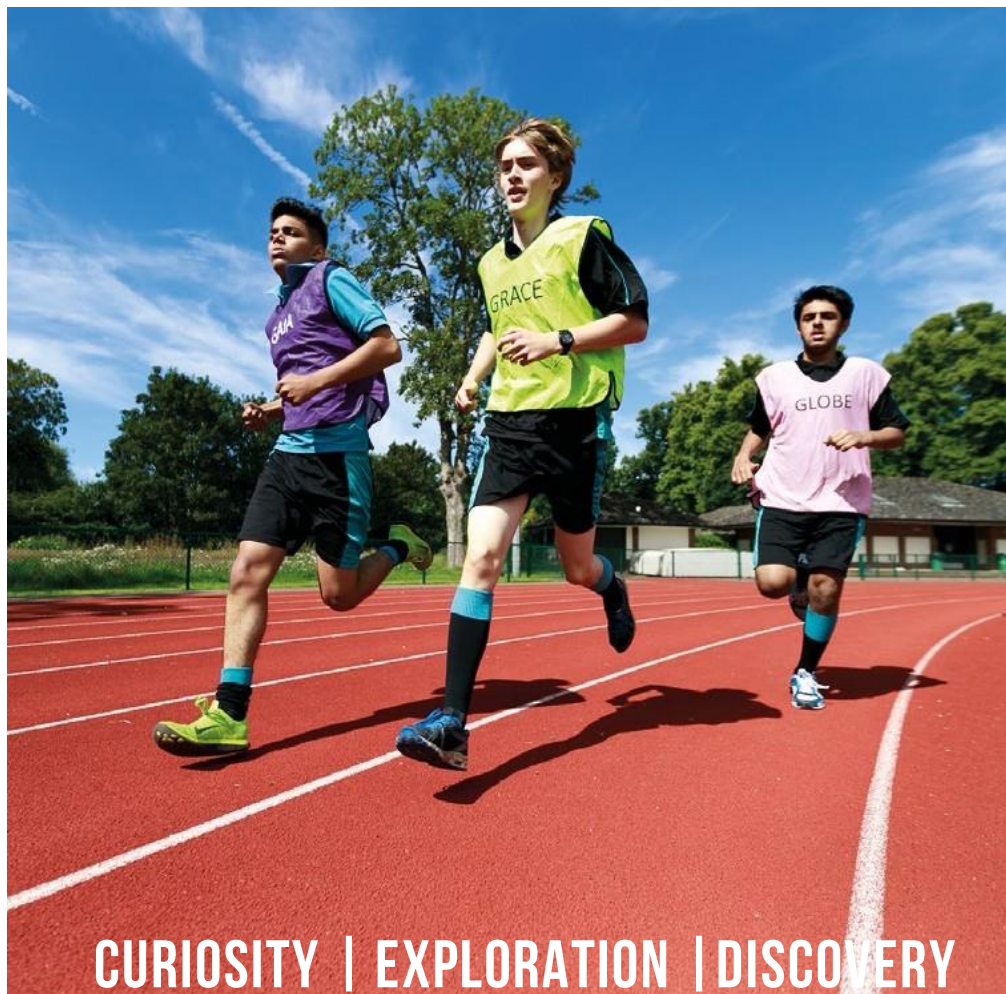




## OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Visit our website [www.langleycademy.org](http://www.langleycademy.org) to find the most current and detailed information on other aspects of life at the Academy. Under the Parents and Students sections on the website you will find lots of useful information including:

- Restaurant—menus, opening times, how students pay, free school meals etc.
- Uniform—Online Uniform Shop
- Admissions—our policy, appeal process and timetable etc.
- OFSTED—our recent reports and survey links, Academy dates, timing of lessons and breaks during the day



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