

Laleham Gap School

Learn Grow Succeed

Post 16 Provision



Welcome

Laleham Gap School is a Communication and Interaction Special School for Children with Autism, Speech, Language and Communication Needs for ages 4-18 and is a foundation special school within a trust (KsENT). Alongside the existing school facilities the Post 16 provision makes use of the Phoenix building, a former residential setting, which provides the perfect environment for developing independent and life skills.

Key to our success is recognising that the students' needs are met in everything we do, emotionally, academically and socially, this is done by;

- Recognising that our students learn in different ways, and that there are many factors affecting achievement, including ability, emotional state, age and maturity.
- Addressing the needs of our students by creating an environment that empowers them and helps embed in them a willingness and readiness to learn.
- Identifying these needs as they arise and provide teaching and learning contexts, which enable every student to achieve to his or her full potential.
- Being committed to providing an appropriate and high-quality education for all pupils, that is progressive, purposeful and always moving forward.
- Providing a curriculum that is tailored to the aspirations and needs of the student.



We want all our students to;

- Be effective and successful learners.
- Make and sustain friendships.
- Deal with and resolve conflict effectively and fairly.
- Solve problems with others for themselves.
- Manage strong feelings such as frustration, anger, and anxiety.
- Be able to promote calm, optimistic states that support the achievement of goals.
- Recover from setbacks and persist in the face of the difficulties.



Laleham Gap School is an exciting and engaging place to be. We have an ethos of care and support. Everyone is valued and supported in achieving their best. Our care does not end once the students have come to the end of their academic time with us as we actively engage with students and their families to support them on to their next stage.

It is with this in mind that we have developed the Post 16 Provision.

“Post 16 is the perfect place to be settled. I enjoy all the life skills. I cook my own dinner in the kitchen every day and enjoy Bikeability, fishing, rock climbing and spending the money I earn for my targets at Westwood Cross. I can now cycle on a safe path and do proper hand signals. Most of all I like the fact Post 16 has helped me with my confidence.”

Laleham Gap School Student



Students from Laleham Gap engaging in enrichment activities

“I really enjoy the view and my surroundings here. It is a friendly environment because of the staff and how they help you when you are feeling sad, upset and other emotional feelings. Post 16 helped me to talk to my keyworker and share personal worries. The keyworkers are very helpful because if you have problems, you ask them, and they will take time to talk to you in private. Post 16 brings out your confidence”

Laleham Gap School Student



Students have a keyworker accessible who regularly liaises with families.



Laleham Gap School Post 16 Education Provision.

Laleham Gap School recognises and celebrates our students as individuals. Our pupils make great progress and gain a full range of accreditations by the end of year 11. We have recognised the increasing need to explicitly teach life skills, and we have developed our whole school curriculum to place increased emphasis on Personal Development. We recognise that for some students, the transition from Laleham Gap School to employment or places of further education is a huge challenge.

Our aim is to develop our pupils personally, socially and emotionally to prepare them for transition into five potential future destinations:

- 1.** A further education college
- 2.** School sixth forms
- 3.** Employment/training
- 4.** Alternative post 16 providers
- 5.** Higher Education (please note that this pathway is only offered where it is felt there is no appropriate Level 3 provision to match aspirations/needs)



Our Post 16 Provision aims to prepare a small cohort of existing Laleham Gap pupils who have been identified as being at risk of becoming Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) to be ready for one of the pathways identified above. East Kent has a wide range of post 16 education and employment opportunities. Many Year 11's at Laleham Gap School will move into post 16 provision with ease and find immediate success. However, some clearly will need more help and preparation in this transition. Our Post 16 provision aims to prepare students for a successful transition on an individual basis. The curriculum includes a continuation in their English and Maths education as required. However, the

main focus is on their independence and the skills required to transition successfully from Laleham Gap School.

The Phoenix residential building provides an excellent environment for independence and life skills training. Located at Ozengell Place it provides a safe and stimulating learning environment where the students have continuing access to the full range of facilities and therapies Laleham Gap School offers.

The curriculum is led by the 14+ Lead, who works closely with other Laleham Gap school leaders. This ensures that the team benefits from extensive opportunities for professional development offered by Laleham Gap School, Thanet Inclusion Support Services and the Collaborative Learning Alliance of Special Schools.

Laleham Gap School scoops two county accolades at Kent Green Awards

Post 16 students at Laleham Gap School in Ramsgate are getting used to receiving plaudits for their achievements. Now they have received not one but two big Kent wide accolades via The Kent Green Awards.

Teacher Paul Ursell's Post 16 students had already become known as 'Trailblazers' when they submitted their 'Transforming Thanet Travel' proposals as part of the Young Travel Ambassadors scheme.

They attended the Kent Green Awards ceremony at the Ashford International Hotel full of pride at what they had achieved. Every school represented at the event were winners and every project was "truly inspiring," said presenter Nicola Everett.

However, the biggest accolade came as the judges chose Laleham Gap School as the winner of the winners in their category (Cleaner Air and Climate), making them Kent-wide overall champions.

Mr Ursell said "It was great to see the hard work of my students doubly rewarded. They now know that their project was a winner among winners. Even better, this was a project from my class last year and they have built

in legacy to their project, which is continuing to pay dividends."

As proof of that in-built legacy Mr Ursell's new class this year are also doing the Young Travel Ambassadors scheme and are aiming to come up with yet more Green Travel initiatives.

Mr Ursell was able to take three students who did the scheme last year to the event and two of them went up to get the trophies. In the next few weeks both of the framed certificates should go up in the School's reception area and the glass

trophy in the school's display cabinet.

Lorna Smith from KCC's Safe Road User Officer, who developed the YTA programme, said she felt "incredibly proud of the achievements the Laleham Gap students made through the YTA programme," and that "the students are a credit to Mr Ursell's motivation and they exemplify the key attributes of ambassadors for the school."

The ongoing scheme has already resulted in fortnightly bike repairs at the school, safety posters and new equipment to encourage cycling, alongside emails and letters about cycle paths and successful Bikeability Level 1 and 2 courses coming into the school.



Kent Green School Awards



Laleham Gap winners at The Kent Green Awards

Laleham Gap students quiz North Thanet MP Sir Roger Gale

This week North Thanet MP Sir Roger Gale underwent an hour of in-depth questioning from Laleham Gap's Post 16 pupils. Fresh from national media interviews about why Sir Roger wants Prime Minister Boris Johnson to go, the probing he got from the students was no less intense!

Paul Ursell, the Post 16 teacher, had organised the question and answer session specifically to encourage his pupils not only to know their democratic rights but also to begin to become more confident in using them.

Mr Ursell had organised a 'Democracy Day' back in October

for his pupils where the Education Officer from Parliament had explained much of the mechanics of Parliament.

Mr Ursell said: "I organised this follow up so my students would get a chance to exercise some of their rights and to build their confidence to question those in authority about the issues that matter to them."

Prior to Mr Gale's arrival Mr Ursell's students carried out some detailed research about the MP. They found out about his career, both as an MP and prior to that. They found out how he had voted on key issues and about some of his beliefs, so they were able to question these.

Their thoughtful questions ranged from the personal (why had he become an MP, what was he like at school and asking about his dogs) to the political. Students quizzed him about what his government was doing for the homeless, why he held the views he did on same sex marriage, whether Brexit was good and was it fair that people aged 16 in Scotland and now Wales could vote in elections but not in England.

Sir Roger praised the students for their questioning and thanked Mr Ursell for organising the event, promising to return another time. Sir Roger said: "One of the things I like most about my job is events like these. It is great to be questioned by bright young people. I like it because these sessions are always challenging, they always make you think. The students today asked very searching questions, as they should and it is very healthy for politicians to answer their questions."

Mr Ursell was equally proud of his students, saying they showing a greater confidence in exercising their rights and that it boded well for them as future citizens who would stand up and participate in the debates that will shape their futures.



Sir Roger being quizzed by Laleham Gap students

Admissions requirements and process

The provision has been specifically designed and developed for our existing **Key Stage 4 pupils only**. The admissions process starts at the Year 10 annual review. This discussion with the family and young person continues through the Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance process in year 10 and 11. If successful the Local Authority will name Laleham Gap School Post 16 provision in Section I of the EHCP after the Yr11 Annual Review. This will state the requirements of the young person before admission into the Post 16 Provision.

Unfortunately, we will be unable to offer places to all students. Places will be offered to those Laleham Gap students who the school feel are at the greatest risk of being unsuccessful in Education, Employment or Training at the end of Year 11. This may be a difficult decision and the school will liaise with families, students, staff and other agencies before making a decision regarding which students will be offered a place. The Local Authority will then make the final decisions as it remains their legal responsibility to do so.

We know and understand our pupils well, they have all come through our Key Stage 4 so the bespoke programmes will build on pupils' prior attainment. The programme will always have sufficient challenge and will be clearly linked to the educational and career aspirations of the individual.

Some of our students may have study programmes in line with Supported Internships or College Link Programmes. We have established links with a number of employers and work experience providers and will ensure that placements are

meaningful. Non-qualification activities will include travel training, enrichment, life skills, employability, emotional wellbeing and careers. Transition is tailored to the individual interest and aspirations of the pupil. We believe this will be essential to meet our target of 100% retention rates.

We will assess progress in a variety of ways, which may include Strength and Difficulties Questionnaires, student and parent feedback, assessments from our staff and staff from partners such as Colleges. We will also use our Preparing for Adulthood tool when reviewing a students independence needs. We pride ourselves on taking responsibility to ensure that every young person achieves future success. We therefore track all of our leavers and if required will offer further support.



The governors reserve the right to refuse admission in the following cases:

- Places are fully subscribed and admitting pupils over this number would be incompatible with the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources.
- The school would be unable to meet the needs of the pupil.
- Admission of a pupil would compromise the Health and Safety of pupils and /or staff within the school or would seriously compromise or disrupt the education of pupils already within the school.
- Recover from setbacks and persist in the face of the difficulties.

Core offer

This Core Offer will be available to all young people attending the Post 16 Provision at Laleham Gap School.



**Employability
skills***



**Maths /
English***



Enrichment



**Careers advice
& guidance**



**Therapy or
Emotional
Wellbeing
Support**

(where appropriate)



**Preparing for
Adulthood
including
skills for
independence,
travel training,
life skills***



**Supported
Internship
or Work
Experience**

(where appropriate)



**Bespoke
transition
activities
for future
destinations**

*Qualifications in these areas may be available where appropriate.

“it’s lovely seeing him happy, growing as a young man. I think it’s lovely that they are getting to do different things. I think that Laleham Gap is an amazing school and the staff are so lovely and friendly”

Laleham Gap School Parent



Staff support students to prepare for adulthood.



Students receive a high level of support and care while at school

“Thank you so much!!! I really appreciate all the support and time you are giving to my son. The good thing is that he is coming home happy from school. This is all thanks to the support and care he has received from the school”

Laleham Gap School Parent

“I would recommend Post 16 for students who are feeling overwhelmed for college as they will be more at peace. If you come to Post 16 you will really benefit and have lots of fun, like me”

Laleham Gap School Student



Pathway Information

Duration of provision	Places available	Rational	Who for?	Provision	Progress to...
One Year	Total 8 places	Support Transition	For those young people who require an extra year to prepare for their onward intended destination.	Includes: ■ Core Offer ■ Resits where possible ■ Possible college/6th form infill	1. FE College 2. School 6th forms 3. Training 4. Alternative Post 16 Providers aspirations/needs
Two Year		Support Transition	For those young people who may require an extra two years to prepare for their onward intended destination.	Includes: ■ Core Offer ■ Resits where possible. ■ Work Experience Possible college infill	1. FE College 2. School 6th forms 3. Alternative Post 16 Providers
Two Year	Total 5 places	Preparation for employment	For those young people who have decided they wish to progress into the workplace at 18.	Includes: ■ Core Offer ■ Resits where possible. ■ Supported Internship	1. Training 2. Supported Employment 3. Employment
Two Year		Bespoke Level 3 support package	For those where it is felt there is no appropriate Level 3 provision to match aspirations/needs	Could include: ■ Core Offer ■ Resits where possible. ■ Infill into 6th forms or colleges. ■ Use of online education platforms	1. University



Potential future destinations

Depending on the aspirations and needs of the young person we will then provide support on, or prepare the young person to transition into, one of the following destinations:



Further Education College

At relevant support level / course



6th Form

May include infill into pre-existing academic qualifications on offer in Key Stage 4



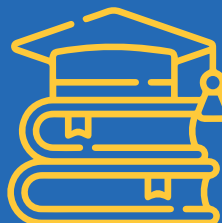
Employment

Through Work Experience of Supported Internship possibly leading to Traineeship or Apprenticeship



Alternative Curriculum Provision

Dependent upon interest and need.



Higher Education - University

*Only offered where it is felt there is no appropriate Level 3 provision to match aspirations / need



Laleham Gap students quiz 'Chaser' Anne Hegerty and talk about being successful and living with Autism

Today (November 12) celebrity quiz champion Anne Hegerty of ITV's *The Chase* and *I'm A Celebrity* fame delighted Post 16 pupils at Laleham Gap School with a live video call.

Laleham Gap teacher Paul Ursell said of the hour-long call: "It was amazing! I am so proud of my pupils. They asked such fantastic questions and Anne was such a sport. Most of all it will truly help inspire them to understand that autism can impact upon you but it need not limit you."

Nearly two years ago Mr Ursell started efforts to contact Anne's team. Anne has Asperger's, a form of autism. At times, she has struggled with some of its manifestations. However in later life, particularly since her diagnosis, she has been able to embrace it and not simply learn to live with it but see it as an ingredient for her success.

Once Mr Ursell got through to Anne she was very willing to come and visit Laleham Gap to support him. However first work commitments and latterly Covid has meant fixing a date has proved impossible. Determined not to let Covid stop the message getting through Anne agreed to do the video meeting.

The pupils were allowed to grill Anne for about half an hour. Afterwards Anne on their researched "very carefully thought out questions." They ranged from how many ants could fit in a human body and how many countries are on the Equator to who scored the first premier league perfect hat-trick and what is the world's smallest capital city. Of that last question Anne said: "What an interesting question – I have never been asked that before."

As well as the fun of quizzing Mr Ursell said there was valuable time spent asking

about Anne's life. The students found out her favourite food is cheesecake, that she enjoys watching tennis, wishes she ran a bit more and loves Nick from *I'm a Celeb* (particularly for giving her his pillow).

The youngsters were told her favourite subject was English, that she was competitive from an early age and that Bradley Walsh is lovely – he even gives motivational talk to quiz players. Most importantly they learnt how Anne learned to cope with her Asperger's. Her message was that you need to be assertive, find what works for you and emphasise what you are good at.

Anne was very happy to do the call stating: "As someone with Asperger's myself I was only too pleased to accept Mr Ursell's invitation to do a live video call with his Post 16 pupils. I totally agree with him about the importance of education and that having autism may impact on you but it does not need to limit your life."

"I loved their questions today and hope, even if it is just in a small way, to have helped inspire these pupils to go for their dreams knowing nothing need hold them back."

Mr Ursell added: "It was lovely to see my students conversing with and questioning Anne. Most of all I love the fact they could see how successful someone with autism can be. They just need to find the thing that inspires, motivates or interests them just like Anne has."

"That is what Post 16 here at Laleham Gap is all about – equipping our young people with the tools to go on and have highly successful and fulfilling lives."

Anne has promised to send the school a signed photo and hopes to visit when pandemic restrictions are no longer in place.

Bikeability success for Post 16 students at Laleham Gap School

Post 16 students at Laleham Gap School in Ramsgate had a surprise at the end of their Bikeability training organised by teacher Mr Ursell.

He had arranged for PCSO Adrian Butterworth to come in with a load of biking goodies to celebrate their success and to motivate them to further develop their cycling.

Mr Ursell said: "Our ethos in Post 16 is all about life skills. We have developed our own Preparing for Adulthood scheme and riding and maintaining a bike is one key

aspect. Cycling can be enormously liberating for our students."

Alongside the cycling Mr Ursell has a bike engineer come in every fortnight to run a maintenance course and he is extremely proud that many of his students are becoming increasingly proficient at all the basic, and some fairly complicated, repairs and maintenance a bike requires.

Over a couple of days of Bikeability, the students demonstrated proficiencies in all the key skills, riding on a cycle path up to and back from Westwood Cross. Ordinarily getting praise, a certificate, a badge and a bag would be enough. However, alongside some advice on keeping your bike safe PCSO Butterworth was pleased to give the students a bike record card, a set of clip on lights and a D Lock each to take home and use.

Mr Ursell thanked PCSO Butterworth, agreeing that it would be "highly motivating" for his students, who he expected to go from "strength to strength" with their cycling. Mr Ursell has already booked Bikeability to come in next month to do the next level.

He said: "Of course, cycling is only one part. This week we had a firefighter in from Kent Fire and Rescue where we explained aspects of keeping safe. We are teaching the students how to safely walk to and from destinations and will be taking them next month to the Margate Travel Safe Centre as we start Travel Training."

"Alongside kitchen, domestic and social skills we are thoroughly preparing our students for transition into adulthood."

Laleham Gap is a special Communication and Interaction school for children with autism and speech and language issues.



Laleham Gap School

Learn Grow Succeed

For further information regarding
the school please visit
www.lgs.kent.sch.uk

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