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“The delivery of the ICT Project for the Leigh Technology Academy was on time with all equipment were delivered, installed and configured in time for the Academy’s opening on the 21st of January 2008”.

Dr. Ayad A-Mawla, Technical Director, Gaia Technologies, Plc

“Notebooks used within a wireless infrastructure provide pupils and teachers with greater access to information across every subject. The flexibility to learn without time and place restrictions suits the pupils’ schedules, resulting in higher-quality coursework.”

Mark Poulter, Principal of Darwin College, Project Director, Leigh Academy

[www.gaia-tech.com](http://www.gaia-tech.com)

## Gaia wins ICT Project for Excelsior

In September 2007, The Leigh City Technology College became The Leigh Technology Academy. In January 2008, the Academy occupied the new state of the art buildings which allows them to continue to deliver the ground breaking model of education.



**Gaia** was selected to help the Academy deliver its ICT Project.

The Leigh is one of the highest achieving state comprehensive schools in England and wants to become the best - a centre of excellence for education. The Academy consists of four Colleges, each with its own Principal. The smaller schools within the Academy, develop deeper relationships and lay stronger foundations for learning which underpin outstanding achievement. The Academy offers three specialisms - Business and Enterprise, Sports and Technology. It has a national reputation for innovation, research and development.

## Gaia Delivers on Time and on Budget

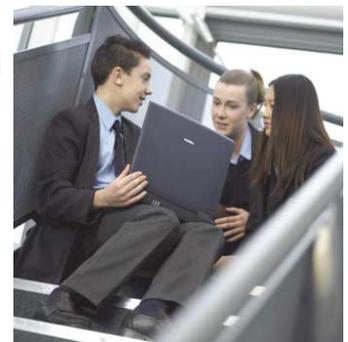
Gaia’s Senior Project Manager, Dr. Ayad A-Mawla was pleased to report that the ICT Project was delivered on time and on budget.

Gaia was able to call on its suppliers and contractors to ensure that exact products were delivered and that work was meticulously planned in order to avoid any overruns. The focus and attention Gaia paid to the project meant that over £30k was saved from the £1.2m budget.

## Secure Wireless Access

Gaia worked closely with the Academy to implement a wireless cloud to enable **Anywhere Learning**.

Over 70 Wireless Access Points were distributed in key locations of the building to enable students to securely roam without interruption in and around the building and regardless of the number of simultaneous student connections to the wireless network. This discreet use of ICT has been a major contributory factor in the school’s increasing levels of attainment.





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A state of the Art building with the State of the Art Technology

### A State of the Art Building



1.2Gbps Wireless link to maintain the link with the old Campus

### Keep the Link!

The progress of the construction project dictated that parts of the old campus will continue to be used for administration and teaching. It was therefore necessary to establish a link between the new Academy building and the old Campus, 100s of meters across a busy road.

The link needed to be a reliable under all weather conditions. Also connectivity needed to run at sufficiently high speed to enable heavy data, voice and media traffic.

Using its long experience in wireless technology Gaia designed and implemented a 70/80Ghz radio link between the buildings which comfortably delivered a 1.2Gbps high quality data and voice link.

Users in the old Campus are served using the new infrastructure across the road. services are run from the new building across the road.

"Gaia is very proud of the ICT implementation at the Leigh Academy."

Kevin Evans, Sales Director, Gaia Technologies Plc

### Cisco Systems as a Base Infrastructure

Gaia worked closely with the Academy to design the state of the art LAN infrastructure.

As a leading Cisco Partner, Gaia helped the Academy design and implement a Cisco based infrastructure that would protect their investments for many years to come.

The design involved two 10Gbps linked 6509 switches acting as a Core and linked up to 48 Cisco 3650 Switches with teamed up 4Gbps fibre SFP in 6 distribution zones around the Academy.



Cisco 6509 Core Switch



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"ICT can work across the curriculum to create a more stimulating and rewarding educational experience. Pupils engage in subjects here that perhaps they disliked in primary school. Give them a notebook and these same pupils emerge with an excellent piece of work."

Mark Poulter, Principal of Darwin College, Project Director, Leigh Academy

"We have been very impressed by the commitment to the ensure that Leigh Academy is the most technologically advanced educational space for its students. It's a delight to work with customers who challenge us and wish to be involved at every stage of the project ."

Anas Mawla, Managing Director, Gaia Technologies Plc

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## State of the Art VoIP as Standard

Gaia worked with the Academy to design and implement a telephony system that is based on Cisco VoIP Call Manager and Unity.

Gaia needed to upgrade the existing system that the Academy operated and migrate its functionality to the new system. The migration included new lines, PBX, Voice Mail, and Handsets including wireless based ones. Cisco Unified Communications Manager provides voice, video, mobility, and presence services for up to 60,000 users. The system is a scalable, distributable, and highly available enterprise-class IP telephony call-processing system.



Cisco Call Manager and Voicemail Unity Server

## Every Project needs a Hero

A project such as the Leigh Technology Academy, requires the dedication of a great many persons who devote time and effort to ensure its success. This is no more true than in Mr. Mark Poulter, the Principal of the Darwin College and the Project Director. Mr. Poulter and his experienced ICT team were key to the success of the project. Mr. Poulter's infectious eagerness towards technology has inspired both colleagues and pupils alike.

## Largest Implementation of iMacs

The Academy has chosen to use Apple devices. Nearly 1000 iMacs have been deployed in the Academy. That is an average of one computer for every 1.2 students.

This all-new, all-in-one iMac packs a complete, high-performance computer into a beautifully thin design incorporating 20-inch widescreen. It includes built-in wireless, the new Mac OS Leopard and the new iLife '08. The new iMac will allow the students to do everything from sharing photos to creating movies to building websites.



To complete the picture, Gaia also helped the Academy specify the Apple MacBook as the portable device for students and teachers. Over 300 MacBooks have been deployed throughout the Academy using secure Apple troleys.

A special education pricing deal with Apple, meant that the Academy was able to maximise their budget.

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