



LEWESTON
SHERBORNE

GCSE OPTIONS 2026



THE GCSE YEARS

At Leweston we are very proud of our strong academic record at both GCSE and A Level, regularly achieving some of the best results in the South West.

We place great importance on our Value Added data, with pupils consistently achieving higher than their predicted grades at GCSE and A Level.

We work hard to offer a varied choice of subjects and supporting activities at GCSE and, whatever are your strengths, there will be a suitable combination of subjects. Our individual approach to teaching and learning ensures everyone is supported and encouraged in their chosen programme. Additional study support skills are available to those that need them.



THE EXAMINATION PROCESS

The GCSE is gained by completing a two-year course including, in some cases, controlled or Non- Examined Assessments (NEA) with a final examination. They are based on national criteria which apply to every subject. All specifications, examination schemes and grading in each subject have to comply with these so all boards are of comparable standards.

The Non-Examined assessments allow you to show your practical and/or oral skills and your ability to tackle longer pieces of work. These assessments are set by teaching staff, in accordance with the specification, at intervals throughout the two years of study. Some subjects have specific requirements for the completion of fieldwork or practical tasks.

Written papers at the end of the course are designed so that you have the opportunity to show what you know, understand, and can do, without regard to the performance of others. Where 'tiers' exist, certain tiers will lead to a specific range of grades. There is more information on this in the individual subjects.

BTEC Sport, Equestrian and Leiths Level 2 Culinary Skills Certificate are vocational courses which are assessed throughout the course as well as a smaller final assessment.



WHAT SUBJECTS SHOULD I TAKE?

Our options aim to lay the foundations for the A Level and BTEC courses available in Sixth Form. The curriculum combines a core of compulsory subjects with a wide range of optional subjects.

Core (Compulsory) Subjects

All pupils must study:

- English Literature
- English Language
- Mathematics
- Religious Studies
- Science

Options

Pupils can choose up to three of the following:

- Business
- Classical Civilisation
- Computer Science
- Drama
- Equestrian
- Fashion and Textile Design
- Fine Art
- French
- Geography
- History
- Leiths Level 2 Certificate in Culinary Skills
- Latin
- Music
- Music Tech
- GCSE Physical Education/ BTEC Sport
- Spanish
- Three-Dimensional Design

Our extended curriculum

Selected students are able to study three separate sciences in place of Combined Science and Further Mathematics in addition to Mathematics. All pupils take part in a games afternoon and follow a Personal, Social Health and Relationship Education programme.

It is our intention that you will be able to study your subjects of choice, but we do not guarantee that we can meet all your choices. You are therefore asked to indicate your choices in order of preference and to include a reserve option.

Very occasionally there is not enough interest in a subject for it to be part of the curriculum, if this happens you will be advised as early as possible and invited to make an alternative choice.

CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECTS

When considering your choices, it is important to aim for a broad and balanced selection which doesn't close off options for you at a later stage. Review your options against considerations like:

- the likely content of your chosen programme, both academic and extra-curricular
- your past record and interest in each subject
- your areas of strengths and challenge
- your plans for Sixth Form and beyond

If you are unsure about your choices your tutor and subject teachers are very happy to discuss them with you.

Key questions to answer:

- Do I want to study a modern foreign language? It is possible that you could study both French and Spanish.
- Do I want to study a humanities subjects such as History or Geography, or both?
- Do I want to study an art and design subject? It may be possible to take two, but be aware of the coursework demands.
- Do I have any special educational needs which mean it may be appropriate to study fewer GCSEs?
- Do I want to be considered for separate science?



WHO CAN HELP?

Your Tutor, Head of Year, Careers Advisor and the Deputy Head Academic are all available to discuss your possible choices. In addition, your subject teachers and/or the Head of Department can discuss your suitability for a particular subject.

KEY DATES

GCSE Options Evening - Friday 30 January 2026

Initial Choices Submitted - Monday 23 February 2026



CORE SUBJECTS

ENGLISH

Head of Department: Mrs Evans evanss@leweston.dorset.sch.uk

Exam Board: AQA

Syllabus Title: English Literature, English Language

Pupils in Years 10 and 11 follow both courses. The courses are designed to link together, providing an integrated scheme with rich opportunities for exploring a range of texts and for developing both critical and creative skills.

English Language

You will sit two, equally weighted 1 hour and 45 minute papers. You will be required to respond to unseen literary, fiction and literary non-fiction texts. You will also be expected to write a descriptive or narrative piece and a transactional piece, presenting a point of view.

The speaking assessment is compulsory and certificated separately. You are expected to give a formal individual presentation as part of your assessment.

English Literature

The course is assessed through two examinations. Both examinations are 'closed book'.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel – 1 hour and 45 minutes, 40%. You will be required to answer essay questions in response to your studied novel and Shakespeare play.

Paper 2: Poetry and Modern Texts – 2 hours and 15 minutes. You will answer questions on your studied modern text (either a novel or a play) and poems from the set anthology. Additionally, you will respond to and compare two unseen poems.

CORE SUBJECTS

MATHS

Head of Department: Mrs Newnham *newnhaml@leweston.dorset.sch.uk*

Exam Group: Edexcel

Syllabus Title: IGCSE (9-1) Mathematics (4MA1)

Tiers: Higher Grades 9 to 3 Foundation Grades 5 to 1

Mathematics teaches you to be at home with figures, graphs and shapes and to reason logically with numerical data. Although it is a core subject, it is our hope that you gain satisfaction and pleasure from the study of Mathematics and applying its skills. The Edexcel IGCSE in Mathematics qualification enables you to:

- develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
- acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems
- reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

There are five areas of study, each developing concepts and skills. The areas are: Number, Ratio and Proportion, Algebra, Geometry and Measures, Statistics.

Assessment

There are two papers with equal scores of 100, both are calculator papers.

Tiers

The Higher Tier is taken by most pupils and involves a wide-ranging syllabus to include many advanced and challenging topics. Pupils who may wish to study Mathematics at AS or A Level must work at this level.

The Foundation Tier is taken by pupils who find some aspects of Mathematics challenging, but who work with perseverance at less demanding topics.

CORE SUBJECTS

SCIENCE

Head of Faculty: Mr Hudson *hudsonn@leweston.dorset.sch.uk*

Exam Board: AQA

Tiers: Higher Grades 9 to 3 Foundation Grades 5 to 1

Grading

All pupils will study all three sciences, taught by subject specialists; this ensures that all pupils will be able to access post-16 Science courses and, perhaps more importantly, participate in debating key scientific issues from a position of knowledge and shaping the lives of future generations. Most pupils will study Combined Science resulting in two GCSEs. Some pupils will begin by studying separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, while others may take the final Combined Science exams at Foundation tier, if this is appropriate.

Assessment

Combined Science: Two papers in each science, 1 hour 15 minutes per paper.

Separate sciences: Two papers in each science, 1 hour 45 minutes for each paper.

What will the written papers consist of?

40% Knowledge and Understanding; 40% Application of Knowledge and Understanding; 20% Analysis of Information and Ideas. This includes mathematical skills with the following weighting: 10% in Biology, 20% in Chemistry and 30% in Physics.

Subject Content

Biology

Cell biology; transport systems; health, disease and the development of medicines; co-ordination and control; photosynthesis; ecosystems; inheritance, variation and evolution.

Chemistry

Atomic structure and the Periodic Table; structure, bonding and the properties of matter; chemical changes; energy changes in chemistry; the rate and extent of chemical change; chemical analysis; chemical and allied industries; earth, atmospheric science and organic chemistry.

Physics

Energy; forces and motion; waves in matter; light and electromagnetic waves; electricity; magnetism and electromagnetism; particle model of matter; atomic structure and space physics.

Practical Work

‘Working scientifically’ is an important component of any science education programme. Pupils will undertake practical work to stimulate curiosity and develop transferable skills such as modelling, observing, critically evaluating and problem-solving. There will be eight required practicals for each discipline. You will be required to keep a lab book containing your work on these practicals and 15% of the written paper marks will assess your knowledge and understanding of this work.

CORE SUBJECTS

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Head of Department: Mrs L Littlechild *littlechildl@leweston.dorset.sch.uk*

Examination Group: Edexcel

Syllabus Title: Religious Studies A

Paper 1: Catholic Christianity

A study of Catholic Christianity as a lived religion in the United Kingdom and throughout the world.

There are four sections:

- Beliefs and Teachings
- Practices
- Sources of Wisdom and Authority
- Forms of Expression and Ways of Life

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

102 marks, 50% of the qualification

Paper 2: Judaism

There are two sections:

- Beliefs and Teachings
- Practices

Written exam: 50 minutes

51 marks, 25% of the qualification.

Paper 3: Philosophy and Ethics

There are two sections:

- Arguments for the Existence of God
- Religious Teachings on Relationships and Families in the 21st Century

Written exam: 50 minutes

51 marks, 25% of the qualification.

OPTIONS

BUSINESS

Head of Department: Mrs Day dayr@leweston.dorset.sch.uk

Exam Board: AQA

Syllabus Title: Business

Why Study Business?

Studying business will give you an opportunity to explore real business issues and how businesses work. The course considers the practical aspects of business concepts through the context of events in the business and economic world.

What do you need to study Business?

No prior knowledge of business is needed. It helps if you are interested in current affairs and can think clearly and logically.

What will you study?

There are six units:

- Business in the real world, covered in both exams
- Influences on business, covered in both exams
- Business operations
- Human resources
- Marketing
- Finance

How will you be assessed?

Two externally assessed exams of 1 hour 45 minutes. Each represents 50% of the GCSE.

Paper 1: Influences of operations and HRM on business activity includes:

- Business in the real world
- Influences on business
- Business operations
- Human resources

Paper 2: Influences of marketing and finance on business activity includes:

- Business in the real world
- Influences on business
- Marketing
- Finance

The papers will include multiple choice, short answer and data response questions.

OPTIONS

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Head of Department: Mr Stephens stephensn@leweston.dorset.sch.uk

Exam Group: AQA

Syllabus Title: Computer Science

Computer technology continues to advance rapidly and the growth in the use of mobile devices and web-related technologies has exploded. This has resulted in businesses today needing to employ ever more technologically aware individuals.

Computing is of enormous importance to the economy. The role of computer science as a discipline itself and as an 'underpinning' subject across science and engineering is growing rapidly.

Computer science teaches you how to develop real world, practical programming techniques that give you a good understanding of what makes technology work. This subject has been developed collaboratively with industry and the wider computer science community, to ensure it develops the skills that employers value.

The GCSE in computer science teaches you:

- Computational thinking and problem solving
- Code tracing and applied computing
- Theoretical knowledge of the fundamentals of; algorithms, data representation, computer networks, cyber security
- Programming, computer systems, ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy
- To solve a practical programming problem

Assessment

The assessment of programming skills will be by exam only.

Paper 1: Computational thinking and problem solving

Paper 2: Written assessment, Theoretical knowledge

OPTIONS

CLASSICAL CIVILISATIONS

Head of Department: Mr Teague teagued@leweston.dorset.sch.uk

Exam Group: OCR

Syllabus Title: Classical Civilisation

Classical Civilisation offers you the opportunity to explore both ancient Greece and Rome thematically, creating a wide ranging and challenging course of study.

Why study Classical Civilisation?

Classical Civilisation offers you the opportunity to study elements of the literature and visual/material culture of the classical world, and acquire an understanding of their social, historical and cultural contexts. A key feature of the course is an emphasis on enabling you to respond to and engage with a wealth of sources and ideas, equipping you with readily transferable, analytical skills, which are highly valued in the workplace.

In studying Classical Civilisation, you will gain a broad knowledge and understanding of a range of literary and cultural materials from the classical world. In addition, you will use your knowledge, in conjunction with their analytical and evaluative skills, in order to gain insight into the classical world from the literary and material culture studied; demonstrate an informed response to the material studied, selecting a range of appropriate evidence to support an argument; develop awareness of how classical sources reflect issues relevant to both the classical world and today, such as questions of gender, belief, sexuality and citizenship.

What will you study?

You will study two components, one Thematic Study and one option from the component group Literature and Culture. All learners will study material from both ancient Greece and Rome, and their surrounding worlds, drawn from the time period 3000 BC to 500 AD. This material will encompass aspects of literature and visual/material culture in their respective social, historical and cultural contexts.

The Thematic Study provides the opportunity to study both Greece and Rome, literature and visual/material culture. Thematic Study Learners must study one component chosen from:

- Myth and Religion
- Women in the Ancient World

In Literature and Culture, you will be able to undertake an element of cultural study, and then couple this with the study of a related body of literature. Literature and Culture Learners must study one component chosen from:

- The Homeric World
- Roman City Life
- War and Warfare

How will you be assessed?

There are two mandatory written examination papers at the end of the two year course, each worth 90 marks and 1 hr 30mins in length.

OPTIONS

DRAMA

Teacher in Charge: Miss McIntosh mcintosh@leweston.dorset.sch.uk

Exam Board: EDUQAS

GCSE Drama is an exciting, inspiring and practical course. The specification promotes involvement in and enjoyment of drama, as performers. Additionally it provides opportunities to attend live theatre performances and to develop skills as informed and thoughtful audience members. You will be given opportunities to participate in and interpret your own and others' drama. You will work practically and collaboratively as performers in Components 1 and 2. You will also learn about the work of important practitioners. In Component 3, you will study a set play and prepare to review a different live performance by creating a 'review log'. In order to facilitate this, a number of theatre visits will be arranged during the two years of the course.

Component 1: Devising Theatre:

internally assessed, externally moderated, 40%

You are required to devise a piece of original theatre in response to a stimulus, using either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or the characteristics of a genre of drama. You are also required to submit a written portfolio and an evaluation of your performance. These will be completed under controlled conditions.

Component 2: Performing from a Text:

externally assessed by a visiting examiner, 20%

You are required to participate in a performance from a text. You are required to produce a written proposal outlining your intentions for interpreting a text for performance.

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre:

written examination (1 hour 30 mins), 40%

This component requires you to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of how drama is developed and performed through the study of a set performance text and through responding to live theatre.

OPTIONS

Equestrian

Teacher in Charge: Lorraine Roberts *robertsl@leweston.dorset.sch.uk*

Exam Board: British Horse Society

Syllabus Title: Bronze and Silver Challenge Awards, BHS Stage 1 Award

This British Horse Society learning pathway is designed for students who are passionate about horses and are wanting to broaden their equestrian knowledge as an option. This two-year programme combines practical horsemanship with underpinning theory, developing the knowledge, skills and professional standards required within the equine industry.

The programme is structured around:

BHS Challenge Awards – Bronze and Silver

Builds essential care, riding and stable management skills.

BHS Silver Ride Safe Challenge Award

Supports students in becoming safety-conscious riders and reinforces the importance of professionalism and responsibility when working with or riding horses.

BHS Stage 1

A nationally recognised qualification that introduces students to professional equine knowledge and practice.

BHS Stage 2 will be offered to those students who can be fast tracked onto the extended programme based on appropriate equestrian knowledge and riding ability.

Assessment

Assessment is mainly practical with skills and achievements documented in a personal Skills Record Book with tasks and skills signed off by an onsite assessor.

Stage 1 is assessed with external BHS approved assessors, and can only be taken once Bronze, Silver and Silver Ride Safe challenge awards are completed.

Students are assessed through:

- Practical demonstrations of horse care and handling
- Observed riding and stable management tasks
- Short written tasks and knowledge checks
- Portfolio evidence (where required)

These assessments reflect real-world equine practice and prepare students for the demands of Level 3 study.

OPTIONS

FASHION AND TEXTILE DESIGN

Head of Department: Ms Lacey *laceyj@leweston.dorset.sch.uk*

Exam Group: OCR

Syllabus Title: Art and Design: Fashion and Textile Design, Titles (J174)

Including: fashion design, interior design, and accessories.

Unit 1 Coursework Portfolio

You will produce a portfolio of work which will include work which shows exploration, research and acquisition of textile techniques and skills. This portfolio work will then lead to the production of garments and other textile outcomes depending on the projects set. The investigation of historical and contemporary fashion and textile designers and their methods form an integral part of the course. During the course you will take part in study visits to galleries and museums and workshops with visiting designers may also form part of the projects.

Unit 2 OCR- Set Task

In the Spring Term of Year 11, you select one starting point from an early release question paper, to which you produce a practical response. You will have a period of time in which to plan and prepare and this will be set by the Head of Art and Design. You will have support and guidance from your teacher during this preparation. Having completed the preparation, you will then have 10 hours of controlled time to work on developing their ideas into outcomes. This time is normally spread over two days.

The final portfolio and set task will be examined by the Art and Design teaching staff and moderated by an OCR appointed moderator in May/June of each year. This course provides the essential base for pupils who wish to pursue either Fine Art, Three-Dimensional Design, Photography or Textile Design specialist courses that we offer at A Level.

OPTIONS

FINE ART

Head of Department: Ms Lacey *laceyj@leweston.dorset.sch.uk*

Exam Group: OCR

Syllabus Title: Art and Design: Fine Art (J171)

Including: drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, digital manipulation and sculpture.

Unit 1 Coursework Portfolio

You will produce a portfolio of work which will include exploration, research and acquisition of techniques and skills developed through a project. The investigation of historical and contemporary Artists and their methods form an integral part of the course.

During the course you will take part in study visits to galleries and museums, plus a residential visit to Cornwall. Workshops with visiting artists may also form part of the projects.

Unit 2 OCR- Set Task

In the Spring Term of Year 11 you select one starting point from an early release question paper to which you produce a practical response. You will have a period of time in which to plan and prepare and this will be set by the Head of Art and Design. During this time, you will have support and guidance from your fine art teachers. Having completed the preparation, you will then have 10 hours of controlled time to produce your final outcomes. This time is normally spread over two days.

The final portfolios and set tasks will be examined by the Art and Design teaching staff and moderated by an OCR appointed moderator in May/June of each year.

This course provides the essential base for pupils who wish to pursue either the Fine Art, Three-Dimensional Design, Photography or Textile Design specialist courses that we offer at A Level.

OPTIONS

FURTHER MATHS

Head of Department: Mrs Newnham *newnhaml@leweston.dorset.sch.uk*

Exam Group: AQA

Syllabus Title: AQA Certificate Level 2 Further Mathematics (8365)

Tiers: Grades 9 - 5

Pupils in set one Year 11 Maths may also choose to take an additional Level 2 exam in Further Mathematics alongside their IGCSE. This qualification provides an opportunity to stretch strong pupils and enables you to gain an additional Mathematics qualification. It is designed to extend and deepen knowledge covered in the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) and there is a considerable overlap of content. The higher-level content of Further Maths is of huge benefit for those who may wish to study A Level Maths or those who simply enjoy learning about deeper mathematical concepts. As this course is taught within lessons, there is no additional option block to consider.

Areas of Study

Topics include: Number, Algebra, Coordinate Geometry (2 dimensions only), Calculus, Matrix Transformations and Geometry

Assessment

There are two papers both lasting 1 hour 45 minutes.

Each paper will contain questions from any part of the specification content, and the solution of any questions may require knowledge of more than one section of the specification content.

Paper 1 is non-calculator and Paper 2 is calculator. Further Mathematics will be taught alongside Mathematics, naturally extending each topic as they are reached. The examination will be taken in the summer of Year 11.

Tiers

There is one tier of entry which is graded 9-5.

OPTIONS

GEOGRAPHY

Head of Department: Mrs Dencher denchera@leweston.dorset.sch.uk

Exam Group: Pearson Edexcel

Syllabus Title: Geography GCSE (9-1)

Why study Geography?

“Geography is the study of the earth and its peoples” - that makes it a big subject! Geography deals with the major world issues of our time; globalisation, climate change, migration, resource disputes and more. Geographers also study natural events and disasters such as earthquakes and floods to understand how and why they happen and what the consequences are.

Geography is a subject that fits well with both Arts and Science subjects. It is well thought of by universities and employers. It encourages a wide range of skills, including IT, graphical, cartographic skills and practical fieldwork; alongside the more traditional understanding, reasoning, explaining and evaluating requirements.

Course Description

Leweston follows Geography GCSE (9-1) Specification A by Edexcel. This is an exciting and topical course, structured around key geographical themes. The specification takes a thematic approach, with content organised by physical and human environments. It also enables you to explore the people-environment challenges faced in the UK.

The course is 100% exam and there are three papers – physical geography, human geography and a third, which is based on fieldwork you will have undertaken during the two years and a synoptic overview of the UK.

Paper 1 – The Physical Environment

The Changing Landscapes of the UK, including rivers and coasts, Weather Hazards and Climate Change and Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Management.

Paper 2 – The Human Environment

Changing cities, Global Development and Resource Management.

Paper 3 – Geographical investigations

Fieldwork (urban and coasts) and UK challenges.

Assessment

Geography is assessed at the end of Year 11. There is no longer any controlled assessment requirement – fieldwork is assessed through Paper 3. The three papers will each be 1 hour and 30 minutes long.

There are no longer any tiers in Geography – everyone sits the same exam and will be graded from 9 to 1. Papers are a mix of multi-choice, short answer, open questions, calculations and extended writing questions.

OPTIONS

HISTORY

Head of Department: Mr Teague *teagued@leweston.dorset.sch.uk*

Exam Group: Pearson Edexcel

Syllabus Title: History GCSE (9-1)

The History syllabus looks at some of the major international issues of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and covers the history of particular regions and events in more depth. The syllabus enables learners to develop historical knowledge and the skills required for studying historical evidence and provides a sound basis for further study and encourages a lifelong interest in the subject.

Paper 1: Thematic Study and historic environment

Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city.

Paper 2: Period study and British depth study

Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88.

Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91

Paper 3: Modern depth study

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

Assessment

History is assessed at the end of Year 11 and consists of three written papers. Paper 1 is 1 hour 20 minutes, Paper 2 is 1 hour 50 minutes and Paper 3 is 1 hour 30 minutes. All papers require candidates to write long answers or essays, demonstrating their historical knowledge but also their ability to analyse source material and different historical interpretations.

OPTIONS

LATIN

Head of Department: Mr Teague teagued@leweston.dorset.sch.uk

Exam Group: OCR

Syllabus Title: Latin

At Leweston, Latin is valued as a fundamental subject and has delivered very good results at GCSE.

Why study Latin?

First and foremost for its own sake; a study of Latin is particularly satisfying because it covers an entire culture: language, literature, history and the philosophy of Ancient Rome. Although academically challenging, and therefore a highly regarded qualification in itself, it opens up a comprehensive range of disciplines to train the mind. Latin is an ideal subject to combine with both the Sciences and the Arts, whilst on a practical level, studying Latin gives you a clearer understanding of the grammar of English and other modern languages, whilst enriching your own vocabulary. A qualification in Latin has always been regarded as excellent proof of intellectual achievement.

Course Description

The foundations of the subject have already been laid by the time you reach Year 10. In the final two years to GCSE, you develop your language skills through translation and comprehension practice and the study of prescribed prose and verse original literature texts, including the works of writers such as Virgil and Pliny to name a few. All parts of speech and major grammatical constructions are studied and you will acquire an understanding of literary techniques allowing you to translate and respond to original Latin texts. All pupils studying Latin are entered for the higher of the two available tiers.

Assessment

There are three mandatory examination papers at the end of the two year course.

Paper 1 is a language paper where you study texts and stories in Latin to build knowledge and understanding of Latin vocabulary, accidence and syntax. This will be worth 50% of the GCSE.

You then study any two from five other options, each constituting 25% of the GCSE. Here, you study Latin set texts and answer questions in English on aspects of content and analyse, evaluate and respond to the ancient literature you have studied:

Paper 1: Latin Language (1 hour 30 minutes)

Paper 2: Prose Literature A (1 hour)

Paper 3: Prose Literature B (1 hour)

Paper 4: Verse Literature A (1 hour)

Paper 5: Verse Literature B (1 hour)

Paper 6: Literature and Culture (1 hour)

OPTIONS

LEITHS CTH Level 2 Certificate in Culinary Skills

Teacher in Charge: Mrs Archer archerc@leweston.dorset.sch.uk

Why study Leiths?

Leiths is a modern culinary qualification which will prepare students in Years 10 and 11 for progression onto their Sixth Form cookery qualifications. It is a valuable qualification to put on an application for Sixth Form or an apprenticeship and will help secure a wide range of weekend and holiday job opportunities in the restaurant and hospitality sector.

This course also prepares students for progression onto the Leiths CTH Level 3 Extended Certificate in Professional Cookery - one of our options in Sixth Form at Leweston - with a clear onward learning pathway to their Level 4 Diploma at Leiths School of Food and Wine in London.

Course Description

A practical GCSE style course written and run by Leiths and accredited by the Confederation of Tourism and Hospitality (CTH).

The core food preparation skills are taught week-by-week through a wide variety of seasonal recipes. Students cook every week and quickly gain a thorough knowledge of a wide range of ingredients and recipes.

Example dishes include soy glazed salmon, crispy chicken with Dijon mustard sauce, and banana and Rolo melting middle cakes.

Assessment

The final grade of Pass (55-69%), Merit (70-84%) or Distinction (85%) is awarded at the end of the course after two 2-hour practical cooking assessments, an online food hygiene and allergen exam and a 20-question theory test.

OPTIONS

MUSIC

Leweston can provide both GCSE Music and RSL Level 2 Music Technology. Each year, depending on demand, either or both may run. If numbers are not sufficient for one course you will be offered places on the alternative.

Director of Music: Dr Milestone milestoner@leweston.dorset.sch.uk

Exam Group: Pearson Edexcel

Syllabus Title: Music

Music is a very satisfying subject, providing you with intellectual stimulation and a forum for artistic expression. The nature of the course means the experience gained by your involvement in extra-curricular activities will enhance your performance in the exam. As with all musical pursuits, it is hoped that you will derive enjoyment and a sense of fulfilment from the course. The final assessments test the three core skills of performing, composing and appraising/listening.

Appraising (40%)

Most of the course is given over to the study of eight set works from four different Areas of Study:
Instrumental Music 1700-1820; Vocal Music;
Music for Stage and Screen; Fusions

In the 1 hour 45 minute exam you respond to questions on these set works. Questions are a mixture of multiple choice, melody/rhythm completion and free response. There is also a section which requires you to write an extended response.

Performance (30%)

You must give one solo and one ensemble performance (either playing or directing others), both of which are recorded in school. You develop your performing skills by playing in concerts, and informally in front of your classmates.

Composition (30%)

The art of composition is studied throughout, with you producing short pieces in various styles. Two longer pieces are prepared, written down and recorded in a 10-hour controlled environment, for submission at the end of the Spring term. A score and recording are marked internally and sent away for external moderation.

It is strongly recommended that you involve yourself in the many musical activities available, including the Orchestras, Schola, Choral Society, and ensembles. All will lead to higher achievement in the examination.

OPTIONS

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Leweston can provide both GCSE Music and RSL Level 2 Music Technology. Each year, depending on demand, either or both may run. If numbers are not sufficient for one course you will be offered places on the alternative.

Director of Music: Dr Milestone milestoner@leweston.dorset.sch.uk

Exam Group: RSL

Syllabus Title: Level 2 Certificate in Performance/Technology & Composition for Music

Practitioners

The RSL Level 2 Certificate in Performance/Technology & Composition for Music Practitioners is for students who want to build skills in music technology and to learn more about the music industry. It helps students understand important technical ideas and how they are used in real situations. Students will get practical experience in recording sound, mixing and mastering, music production and sequencing, live sound, radio work, and video production. It also covers related skills such as composing, listening to music, and creating podcasts.

Core Subjects:

Music Knowledge Development (Internal Assessment)

Music Sequencing and Production (External Assessment)

Optional Subjects:

Instrumental Study

Composing Music

Sound Recording

Using a DAW

Learners must complete 2 core units and 1 optional unit.

Assessment

This is a hands-on vocational course with assessment comprising of 100% coursework.

OPTIONS

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Head of Department: Mrs Thompson thompsonl@leweston.dorset.sch.uk

Exam Group: Pearson Edexcel

Syllabus Title: French, Spanish

Tiers: Higher Grades 9 – 3 Foundation Grades 5 – 1

A working knowledge of other languages is an invaluable skill in a world where global communication is instant, travel common place and the job market international.

For those interested in languages, the opportunity to study up to two foreign languages is not to be missed. Many professional positions require knowledge of a European language and a second language is viewed advantageously by universities. We do not offer languages ab initio in the Sixth Form; therefore if you wish to study languages at A-level it is essential to take it as an option at GCSE.

The MFL offer is French and Spanish but additional languages such as Italian and German may be available on request.

Requirements for all Languages

The syllabus requires the use of four skills – Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Topics covered are wide ranging and contemporary, ensuring that all who study languages will be equipped with practical skills and an insight into the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

Examination – For all languages

Paper 1 Listening - Section A - listening and responding to your chosen language via multiple choice, multiple response and short open answer questions, all in English. Section B - Dictation.

Paper 2 - Speaking - An exam conducted by the class teacher, comprising three components, for which all students receive thorough preparation. In the exam, pupils receive a passage to Read Aloud in the target language in order to assess phonic knowledge and pronunciation, this is followed by topic related questions. Pupils will then take part in a role play and finally, describe a picture, which is again followed by two short questions and a topic related discussion.

Paper 3 Reading - Section A - listening and responding to your chosen language via multiple choice, multiple response and short open answer questions. All questions set in English. Section B - a translation into English.

Paper 4 Writing - A picture task (Foundation only) One short and one longer written responses to a bullet pointed task. Translation into your chosen language.

“The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.” — Ludwig Wittgenstein

OPTIONS

SPORT AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Leweston can provide both GCSE PE and BTEC Level 2 Sport. Each year, depending on demand, either or both may run. If numbers are not sufficient for one course you will be offered places on the alternative.

Head of Department: Mr Slater slatera@leweston.dorset.sch.uk

Exam Group: AQA

Syllabus Title: Physical Education GCSE

AQA have developed an inspiring GCSE Physical Education specification. The exciting and contemporary topics will help you to develop a well-rounded skill set and prepare you for progression to further studies. The activity list and practical weighting for GCSE Physical Education is the same across all exam boards. The course is 60% theory and 40% practical.

The Practical

You will be assessed on your performance in three physical activities in the role of player/performer (one a team activity, one an individual activity and a third either a team or in an individual activity).

The Written Exam

At the end of Year 11 you will take two exams of one hour and 15 minutes:

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

Applied anatomy and physiology

Movement analysis

Physical training

Use of data

Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

Sports psychology

Socio-cultural influences

Health, fitness and well-being

Use of data

Controlled Assessment

You will analyse and evaluate your performance or the performance of another person, in an activity from the specification. You will be required to analyse and evaluate to identify two strengths and two weaknesses. You will then produce an action plan that suggests ways to improve on the weaknesses identified.

Exam Group: Pearson

Syllabus Title: BTEC level 1-2 First Award in Sport

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SPORT AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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Head of Department: Mr Slater slatera@leweston.dorset.sch.uk

Exam Group: Pearson

Syllabus Title: BTEC level 1-2 First Award in Sport

This course provides an engaging and relevant introduction to the world of sport.

It incorporates important aspects of the industry, such as fitness testing and training for sport and exercise, the psychology of sport, practical sports performance and sports leadership. It enables you to develop and apply your knowledge, while also developing a range of relevant practical, communication and technical skills. The qualification is 120 GLH, which is the same size and level as a GCSE.

Course Components

You will study three mandatory units, covering the knowledge and skills that underpin the sports sector:

1. Fitness for sport and exercise
2. Practical performance in sport
3. Applying the principles of personal training

You will build on the knowledge in the mandatory units by choosing one further unit, covering areas such as:

4. The mind and sports performance
5. The sports performer in action
6. Leading sports activities

Assessment

You will carry out tasks/assignments throughout the course. Your teacher will mark these, and you will receive feedback on how you are getting on.

The assessment for Unit 1: Fitness for Sport and Exercise is an onscreen test which is marked by Pearson. In Unit 3 Applying the Principles of Personal Training, you will draw on the knowledge, skills and understanding you have developed in the qualification as a whole. Unit 2, 3 and the option unit (from 4, 5 & 6) is internally marked and externally moderated by Pearson.

OPTIONS

THREE DIMENSIONAL DESIGN

Head of Department: Ms Lacey *laceyj@leweston.dorset.sch.uk*

Exam Group: OCR

Syllabus Title: Three-Dimensional Design (J175)

Including: Architectural design, Interior design, Product design, Exhibition design, Sculpture, Design for theatre, film and television.

Unit 1 Coursework Portfolio

You will create a sketchbook of work which shows exploration, research and acquisition of 3D techniques and skills. This portfolio of creative work will then lead to the production of models and other 3D outcomes depending on the projects set. The investigation of historical and contemporary 3D Designers and their methods form an important section of the course. During Year 10 you will take part in study visits to galleries and museums and workshops with visiting designers may also form part of the projects.

Unit 2 OCR- Set Task

In the Spring Term of Year 11, you select one starting point from an early release question paper, to which you produce a practical response. You will have a period of time in which to plan and prepare and this will be set by the Head of Art and Design. You will have support and guidance from your teacher during this preparation. Having completed the preparation, you will then have 10 hours of controlled time to work on developing your ideas into 3D outcomes. This time is normally spread over two days. The final portfolio and set task will be examined by the Art and Design teaching staff and moderated by an OCR appointed moderator in May/June of each year.

OPTIONS

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL)

Director of International Students: Mrs Quick quickh@leweston.dorset.sch.uk

Exam Group: Cambridge

Students with international backgrounds have the opportunity to develop their English language skills. Depending on ability there are a number of English proficiency levelled assessments that you can access and take exams in. Lessons will be focused on developing reading and writing, listening, speaking and use of English. The syllabus is fluid and reflects your ability and pathway.

The Pearson Edexcel GCSE in English as a Second language helps develops the knowledge, skills and techniques for those heading towards their IELTs certificate in the future.

Who is this course for?

- International students for whom English is an additional language
- International students preparing following the Pre-A Level entry
- International students who are not studying GCSE English Language and Literature
- Where a GCSE is not required, students may instead enter the Cambridge CEFR examination series in Year 10

What does the course assess?

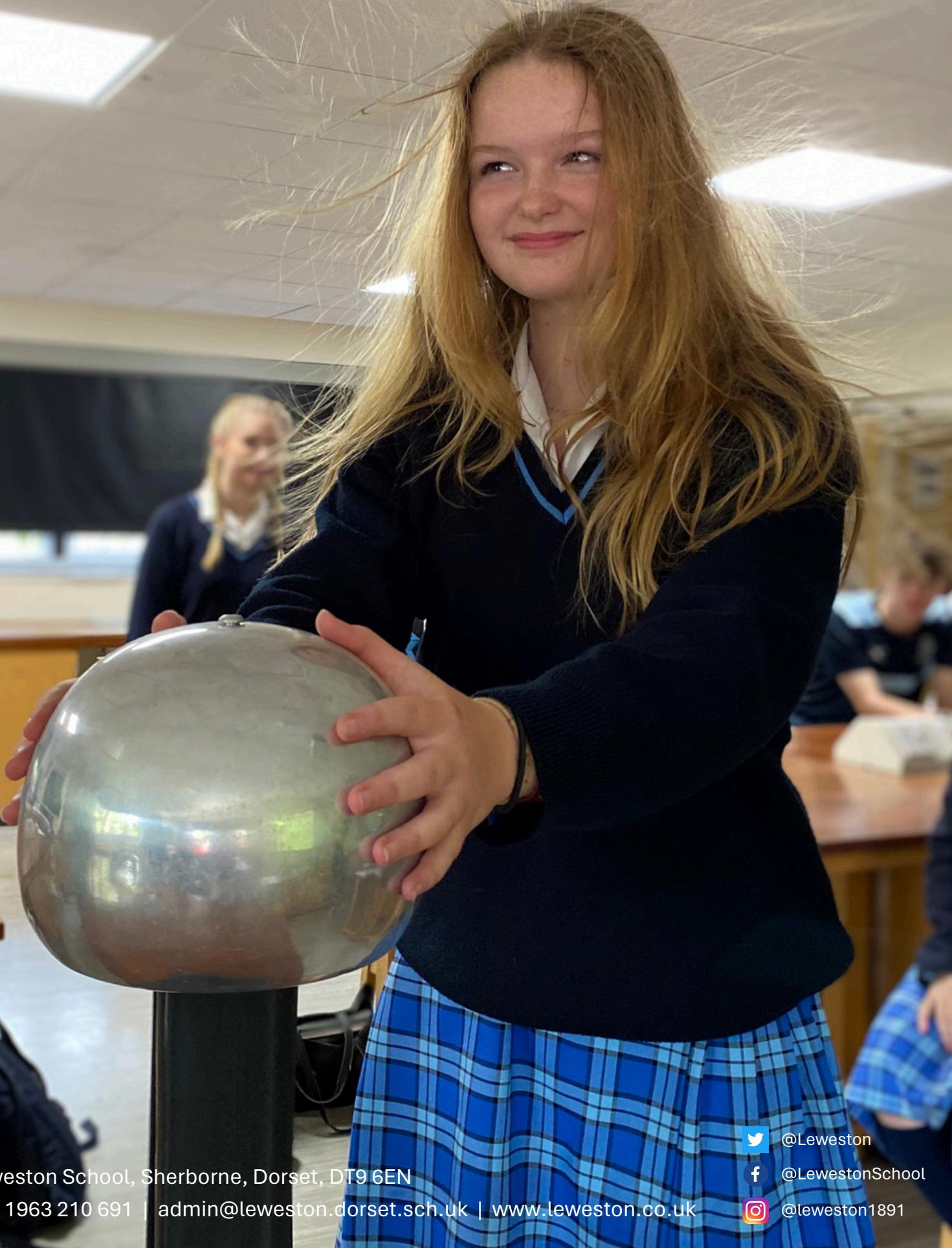
The qualification assesses the four key areas of English communication:

- Speaking
- Listening
- Reading
- Writing (Cambridge International combines Reading and Writing)

How is the course assessed?

- Four separate examinations
- Questions increase in difficulty within each paper
 - Lower-mark questions allow all students to access the exams confidently
 - Higher-mark questions reward accuracy, range of vocabulary, and depth of understanding

This structure supports students of all ability levels (A1 to B2+) and allows them to gain as many marks as possible



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