



LEWESTON  
SHERBORNE

# TALENT PATHWAY GUIDE 2025



# INTRODUCTION



*'Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new'*  
Albert Einstein

I have a vivid memory of being very young and constantly asked by adults, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” I always knew the answer: I wanted to be an actress. And for 20 years, that’s exactly what I was—on stage in the West End, touring across the UK, Europe, and the States. Strangely enough, even when you are an actress, adults still ask what you want to be when you grow up... but that’s a whole other story.

The world is changing so rapidly that the questions I now ask my students are different. I ask, “What do you love?” “What are you good at?” and even, “What makes you happy?” Because unlike my parents’ generation, we’re not preparing young people for a job for life, we’re helping them build a life well lived.

The Talent Pathways programme at Leweston is designed to support just that. It’s a holistic approach to education, giving students the opportunity to discover their strengths and passions in ways that will stay with them long after they leave school. The future depends on confident, adaptable, creative thinkers, young people who embrace challenges and share their experiences.

As Pathways Coordinator, I’ll be working with every department at Leweston to deliver a bespoke element to your child’s education. These Pathways offers students the chance not only to explore what they want to be, but who they want to be when they grow up. Because learning isn’t just for school, it’s for life.

*'Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself'*  
John Dewey

Zoe Stewart  
Pathway Coordinator





# LEWESTON TALENT PATHWAYS

The Leweston Talent Pathways programme is designed to nurture and support progress and achievement across three key areas: Academia, Sport, and Visual and Creative Arts. Each pathway offers tailored support, mentoring, and enrichment, helping pupils grow in skill, confidence, and leadership.

## Purpose and Vision

The programme identifies emerging talent and provides the guidance and opportunities pupils need to thrive. It fosters a growth mindset and encourages pupils to embody the qualities of a Leweston Learner—resilient, curious, and ambitious—so they can reach their full potential in their chosen field.

While each pathway offers discipline-specific support, all pupils benefit from a shared development programme that includes performance psychology, goal-setting, and personal growth.

## Joining the Pathway

Pupils may be invited to join from Prep 5 onwards, based on demonstrated talent, commitment, or potential. The structure is flexible, allowing pupils to enter at any stage. From Year 7, pupils are encouraged to focus on one or two pathways to maintain a healthy balance with academic studies. Invitations are typically extended by the relevant Head of Pathway, but pupils are also welcome to express interest directly to staff. For those involved in multiple pathways, Heads of Pathway work collaboratively to ensure balanced support.

## The Pathway and Leweston Values

The Performance Pathways reflect Leweston's core values:

- **Community** – Pupils are encouraged to contribute meaningfully to school life through leadership, collaboration, and mentoring.
- **Opportunity** – The school provides rich and varied experiences to inspire and challenge pathway members.
- **Expertise** – Pupils develop specialist skills and knowledge, with clear outcomes and achievements celebrated across the school.

## Development Programme

All pathway pupils take part in a shared programme of cross-disciplinary learning, which includes:

- Growth Mindset and High Performance
- Goal Setting and Personal Planning
- Time Management and Organisation
- Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Presentation and Public Speaking
- Pathway Expectations and Leadership



## Pathway Expectations

Pupils on the Performance Pathways are expected to:

- Engage fully with their individual development plan, including termly goal reviews with a mentor.
- Participate actively in enrichment opportunities relevant to their discipline.
- Show initiative through independent learning and creative exploration.
- Maintain high standards of effort, curiosity, and behaviour.
- Represent the school in competitions, performances, or public events.
- Support others through mentoring, collaboration, and leadership.

If a pupil is unable to meet the expectations of the programme—due to lack of interest, commitment, or participation—they may be withdrawn following discussion with staff and parents. This ensures the programme remains purposeful and beneficial for all involved.

## Supporting Pathway Participants

Each pupil's development plan is overseen by the relevant Head of Pathway, with regular communication across departments to ensure a coordinated approach—especially for pupils involved in more than one area. Participation is tracked through a central record of activities, progress, and contributions.

## Performance Pathway and Scholarships

Leweston's Scholarship Programme runs in parallel with the Performance Pathways and is available in the following areas: Academic Excellence, Art and Design, Drama, Equestrian, Music, Sport, and Pentathlon.

Scholarships are awarded at Year 7, Year 9 and Sixth Form entry and include additional benefits such as fee remission and an expectation of leadership and contribution to school life.

While many pathway pupils go on to apply for scholarships, applications are equally welcomed from those not currently on a pathway.

From 2027, Year 7 scholarships will be phased out, with new awards made at Year 9 and Sixth Form only. This change ensures alignment with the structure and expectations of the Performance Pathways.



## Performance Pathway – Academic

Pupils may be invited to join the Academic Talent Pathway based on CAT scores (typically above 125), internal assessments, or teacher recommendations. Selection may also include an interview and group tasks to assess academic ability, leadership, and collaborative thinking.

### Joining the Pathway

- You'll follow a personalised academic programme tailored to your strengths and interests, allowing you to explore subjects in greater depth and breadth.
- You'll be assigned an academic mentor who meets with you each term to help set personal goals, review progress, and guide your development.
- We offer opportunities to take part in extended essays, independent research projects, and subject-specific enrichment activities.
- You'll be encouraged to undertake a Personal Learning Project (ILP), choosing a topic of interest to research independently and present to staff or peers.
- You'll have access to visiting speakers, academic lectures, and competitions that challenge and inspire you.
- We support cross-departmental collaboration, enabling you to work with subject specialists on advanced projects and initiatives.





## Performance Pathway – Art and Design

Pupils may be invited to join based on creative potential shown in lessons, portfolio work, or extracurricular involvement.

### Joining the Pathway

- You'll gain access to specialist materials, studio time, and enhanced tools to develop your artistic skills.
- We offer masterclasses and workshops with visiting artists and designers to expose you to professional techniques and creative thinking.
- You'll undertake an annual independent creative project, supported by a mentor, culminating in a presentation or exhibition.
- You'll visit galleries, museums, and studios to broaden your understanding of visual culture and artistic practice.
- We support your progression with career-focused guidance, including portfolio preparation for Art Foundation courses, university applications, and creative careers.
- You'll participate in sketchbook challenges, Arts Award programmes, and collaborative projects across year groups.





## Performance Pathway – Drama

Pupils are selected based on performance ability, creativity, and commitment, as demonstrated in lessons, productions, or workshops.

### Joining the Pathway

- You'll gain access to specialist materials, studio time, and enhanced tools to develop your artistic skills.
- We offer masterclasses and workshops with visiting artists and designers to expose you to professional techniques and creative thinking.
- You'll undertake an annual independent creative project, supported by a mentor, culminating in a presentation or exhibition.
- You'll visit galleries, museums, and studios to broaden your understanding of visual culture and artistic practice.
- We support your progression with career-focused guidance, including portfolio preparation for Art Foundation courses, university applications, and creative careers.
- You'll participate in sketchbook challenges, Arts Award programmes, and collaborative projects across year groups.



A young person, likely a female, is shown in profile, looking towards the right. They are wearing a dark blue riding helmet and a matching dark blue zip-up jacket. The jacket features a white crest on the left chest and a small circular logo on the right chest. The background is a blurred, reddish-brown field. The overall tone is professional and focused.

## Performance Pathway – Equestrian

Open to all riders demonstrating talent and dedication, including those using Leweston's riding facilities. Saddle Club membership is required for priority access to exclusive activities.

### Joining the Pathway

- You'll benefit from exclusive Yard Days, gaining hands-on experience in stable management and riding LCRA horses.
- We offer work experience placements on the Yard to build your practical skills and confidence in a professional equestrian setting.
- You'll take part in discipline-specific clinics such as show jumping course walking, dressage ring craft, and eventing cross-country training.
- You'll attend visits to leading yards and centres of excellence to learn from top professionals.
- We provide access to Lucy Mackintosh's Strength and Conditioning classes during school hours.
- You'll receive guidance on nutrition, time management, and sports psychology, alongside lectures on horse fitness and training.



A person is seen from behind, standing in a swimming pool. They are wearing a blue and red swimsuit. On the back of the swimsuit, there is a logo consisting of a stylized star or compass rose with five points, each containing a small circle. Below the logo, the text "LEWESTON PENTATHLON ACADEMY" is printed in white and red. The person is looking towards the pool, and the water is a clear blue. In the background, there are some structures and a blue canopy.

## Performance Pathway – Pentathlon

Selection is based on observed talent, commitment, and interest across the five disciplines: running, swimming, fencing, shooting, and OCR.

### Joining the Pathway

- You'll receive structured support across all five disciplines, with regular training and performance monitoring.
- We offer strength and conditioning sessions tailored to your needs, and holiday training opportunities to maintain progress.
- You'll attend workshops and guest lectures from professional coaches and athletes.
- Each term, you and your parents will meet with staff to review progress and set new goals.
- We help you manage your training, academic work, and wellbeing to maintain a healthy balance.
- You'll be encouraged to reflect on your development and take ownership of your sporting journey.



A young man with dark hair, wearing a dark blue school blazer, a white shirt, and a blue patterned tie, is playing a teal electric guitar. He is looking down at the guitar. A 'SCHOLAR' badge is pinned to his blazer. The background is a large window with a view of greenery outside.

## Performance Pathway – Music

Pupils are selected by the Director of Music and teaching staff based on musical ability, commitment, and potential. This may include progress in lessons, graded exams, or classroom music.

### Joining the Pathway

- You'll rehearse and perform with senior ensembles such as the Junior Orchestra and take part in live assembly performances.
- We offer practice clubs and ensemble sessions led by current Music Scholars to support your development.
- You'll perform in half-termly concerts and may attend masterclasses and concert trips organised by the Music Department.
- Your progress will be tracked through a personalised development plan, with termly feedback reports shared with parents.
- You'll receive mentoring from music staff to guide your musical growth and prepare for future opportunities.
- We support your involvement in graded exams and help you explore pathways into music education and careers.





## Performance Pathway – Sport

Pupils are selected by the Director of Sport and coaching staff based on athletic ability, commitment, and potential.

### Joining the Pathway

- You'll receive initial Strength & Conditioning assessments and ongoing coaching to improve your physical performance.
- We offer expert-led seminars and Leweston Lectures featuring professionals in sport, nutrition, psychology, and fitness.
- You'll take part in termly mentoring sessions to reflect on your goals, progress, and engagement with sport.
- Prep pupils are mentored by older Senior School athletes, while Senior pupils receive guidance from staff.
- You'll attend selected Year 7 after-school training sessions and shadow Senior Sports Scholars to prepare for the next stage of your sporting journey.
- From Year 10 onwards, we support you in pursuing coaching or officiating qualifications through National Governing Bodies such as the RFU, ECB, or England Netball.





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