



LEWESTON  
SHERBORNE

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INTERNATIONAL  
ADMISSIONS GUIDE  
2020

# WELCOME TO LEWESTON SCHOOL

Leweston is a traditional day and boarding school for children aged 4 to 18 set in 46 acres of beautiful Dorset parkland. As a through-school pupils of all ages can access a range of facilities often unavailable to individual Prep or Senior Schools or independent Sixth Form Colleges.

Leweston provides its pupils with an environment where they feel comfortable to grow. We encourage them to try everything on offer so we can nurture their talents to achieve great things. We celebrate success but also teach that it is part of life to fail; without new experiences they will not discover who they are and what they can achieve. It is this process of discovery that allows us to bring out the best in every pupil and help them to achieve more than they thought possible.

Leweston is a Catholic school which welcomes pupils of all faiths and none. We have a distinctive and inclusive ethos based on exemplary pastoral care. We pride ourselves on understanding our pupils' emotional and academic needs. We set high standards both inside and outside the classroom, and our values of community, opportunity and respect are the bedrock of our school.

There are 120 pupils in the Prep School which occupies the former Coach House. The Prep has its own tennis and netball courts and Victorian walled garden play area. It also uses the nearby 'Enchanted Wood' for Forest School, which has a full outdoor classroom, with all-weather awning and sufficient seating for a whole class.

The Senior site is centred on the Grade I listed Manor House which is home to just over 200 pupils. Class sizes are small with a maximum of 18 per class. Boarding is offered from Year 4 upwards and throughout the Senior School and Sixth Form.

The school facilities include the impressive Pensabene Library with views over the beautiful grounds, a dedicated Music School, Art and Design Centre and Science Centre and excellent sports facilities. These include an all-weather hockey pitch, sports hall, a conditioning suite and gym and indoor heated swimming pool.

The independence, resilience and willingness to try instilled at Leweston mean that our pupils go into the world with the confidence to achieve great things. They have the ability to adapt, to work alongside different people in new environments and to embrace change. Past pupils are now business leaders, engineers, pilots, scientists, entrepreneurs, medics and architects to name a few. The school is delighted to have helped them on their way by unleashing the true potential in each and every one of them.

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## A DIAMOND MODEL SCHOOL

Leweston is one of only 17 schools in the UK offering this innovative teaching model.

### What is a Diamond Model?

The diamond refers to the 'shape' of the educational experience. Boys and girls start their learning together in fully co-educational classes up to Year 8. From Year 9 to Year 11 they are taught separately in Maths and Science, but join together for other subjects, clubs and enrichment activities. Sixth Form is again co-educational in preparation for the world of higher education and work.

### Why choose the diamond model?

The diamond model is often described as 'the best of both worlds' enabling pupils to access the academic benefits of single-sex education with the all-round advantages of a co-educational school.

There is strong evidence that girls and boys learn better in single-sex environments at key stages in their education. The diamond structure allows boys and girls to benefit from tailored learning and delivery techniques for boys and girls at an important stage in their development. Rather than increasing gender divisions the diamond model breaks down the stereotyping of subjects as being seen more suited to girls or boys, encouraging girls to be active in science and boys in the humanities and creative arts whilst the same curriculum is taught to both.

ISC Data published in 2016 revealed that GCSE performance for girls and boys is higher in a diamond model environment rather than a fully co-ed one. 96.4% of girls achieved 5 A\* – C grades compared to 89.7% in co-ed and 97.8% of boys achieved A\* – C grades compared to 87.6%. There was no difference in attainment at A Level.

## OUR INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK

Leweston has been welcoming students from overseas since its foundation in 1891 and attracts pupils from all points of the compass.

Our international students are an important part of our friendly, diverse community. The last boarding inspection by the Independent Schools' Inspectorate highlighted how well our overseas students were welcomed, how well they integrated and how much they enjoyed their time boarding at Leweston.

During their time at the school overseas students are asked to share their own cultures and heritage with fellow pupils at events such as International Day, Cinco de Mayo and Chinese New Year. Our International Prefects take the lead in organising the programme as well as providing a voice for our international community and raising their profile in the student body as a whole.

### Our location

Leweston is situated three miles outside of Sherborne, in Dorset. The school is set in 46 acres of beautiful parkland with offers students a natural peace and tranquillity in which to enjoy their busy lives.

Sherborne is one of the most stunning towns in the county with an abundance of medieval buildings, nationally famous Abbey and two castles. It regularly appears in film and television. There is a strong music, arts and cultural life in the town and local area and the school is regularly involved with community and educational projects.

Only half an hour away from Leweston is the Jurassic Coast, England's first World Heritage Site. The 95 mile coastal stretch provides stunning cliff walks and secluded bays with plenty of opportunities for fossil hunting. A fantastic resource for Geography and Biology fieldtrips and well as fun days on the beach. The school also has Dorset's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty close by as well as countless museums, galleries, National Trust properties and Natural Reserves.

Whilst providing a safe and secure rural setting Leweston is only 2 hours from central London and an hour and a half from Bristol and Exeter. Sherborne station provides a rail link with London Heathrow and Gatwick as well as four regional airports.

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## THE BRITISH EDUCATION SYSTEM

Schools in England are divided into four stages: early years (up to five), primary (five to 11 years), secondary (11 to 16 years) and Sixth Form (16 to 18 years). Full time education is compulsory for children aged between five and 18.

### The Academic Year

The academic year runs from September to July and is split into three terms, each one is between 12 and 16 weeks. At Leweston terms are called Autumn, Spring and Summer. Each term has a short holiday in the middle. In the Autumn term this is two weeks, in Spring and Summer it is one, this is called Half Term.

### Types of school

All children in England are entitled to state funded education. These schools are run according to government requirements and follow a national curriculum. Independent schools are self funded through the payment of fees and are free from government control. This gives them the freedom to be innovative with their curriculum, offer smaller class sizes and deliver a broader range of subjects and experiences.

Confusingly independent schools are sometimes called 'public' schools but they are also referred to as 'private schools'.

Preparatory or 'prep' schools are independent schools that educate children to the age of either 11 or 13 when they move onto a senior school for the final years of their education.

### Day and boarding

There is a long tradition of boarding in the UK. Leweston offers three different types of boarding to pupils:

**Full boarding** – pupils live on school premises during term time and return home for holidays.

**Weekly boarding** – pupils live in school between Monday and Friday but return home at weekends.

**Flexi-boarding** – day pupils stay overnight in school on a regular basis but for three nights or less a week.

All boarders contribute to the vibrant life of the boarding houses.

Day pupils return home at the end of each day but many stay late into the evenings for activities and supervised homework. The School's daily transport does not leave site until 6.00pm.

Day pupils are also invited to join weekend activities, socials and trips to ensure that boarders and day pupils can maintain their friendship groups at all times.

### Size

Independent schools vary considerably in size with the smallest having less than 50 students and the largest over 1500. Leweston is a relatively small school with approximately 340 Prep and Senior pupils on site. Our size allows us to take a flexible, individual approach to learning and to get to know every student in the school.

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## LEARNING AT LEWESTON

### Leweston Prep

Children aged 4 to 11 are educated in our Prep School. Despite being non-selective, our pupils routinely outperform national averages across the curriculum. We believe that this is due to staff expertise, a creative curriculum, exceptional pupil support and the passion that our pupils develop for their learning.

All pupils in the Prep have lessons in English, Maths, Art and Design, Geography, History, ICT, Latin, Music, Performing Arts, Religious Studies, Science and French and Spanish. They also participate in a range of sports including swimming. All pupils also have weekly Forest School sessions in our Enchanted Wood and once a term each class completes a full day of lessons in the outdoor environment.

### Years 7 to 9

Leweston delivers a broad and flexible curriculum that ensures balanced, appropriate and interesting learning opportunities for every pupil. Our lessons are engaging and challenging, encouraging the development of intellectual curiosity.

Each Head of Department leads a team of experienced teachers focused on enabling every pupil to achieve the best possible academic success. Lessons are 60 minutes in length and arranged in a two-week timetable cycle to provide flexible subject choice.

There is a strong emphasis on working hard, striving for excellence and independent learning however we believe that happy pupils are motivated pupils. Students are encouraged to take up all the opportunities that come to them because learning takes place as much outside the classroom as within it.

All pupils study the full range of subjects: Art and Design, Drama, Cookery, English, French, Geography, History, ICT, Latin, Maths, Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies, Spanish and the Sciences.

### GCSE (Years 10 and 11)

Pupils in Years 10 and 11 follow the GCSE curriculum. GCSE courses are normally taught over two years and examined at the end of Year 11. Most pupils take 10 subjects, the compulsory, or core subjects: English Literature and Language, one Modern Foreign Language or English as an Additional Language, Mathematics, Religious Studies and either Combined Science (2 GCSEs) or three separate single sciences. In addition, pupils choose up to three individual options from the remaining subject: Art and Design, Computer Science, Drama, French and Spanish, Geography, History, Home Economics, Latin, Music, Further Maths and Physical Education.

### Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13)

Leweston offers three different Sixth Form qualifications: A Levels, the Cambridge Pre-U Certificate (offered in English Literature) and BTECs. As there are no compulsory subjects, students are free to choose subjects that interest them most and will support their study at university or vocational choices. Most students take three subjects, some may take four but this is typically when combining Mathematics and Further Mathematics. At both GCSE and Sixth Form the timetable is built to accommodate as many of the students' combinations as possible. Students are not expected to select from prescribed blocks or groups of subjects.

The following subjects are currently offered in Sixth Form: Fine Art, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Classics, Computer Science, Design, Drama and Theatre Studies, English Literature (Cambridge Pre-U), Fashion and Textiles, French, Geography, History, Health and Social Care (BTEC), Latin, Maths, Further Maths, Music, Physical Education (BTEC), Physics, Psychology, Religious Studies.

Students will typically have 10 hours of teaching per subject per fortnight and teaching groups are typically 6-8 students in size although some popular subjects may be bigger. All Sixth Formers have the option to study for an Extended Project Qualification or Leiths Certificate in Food and Wine. In Year 12 students also follow a programme of enrichment activities and take part in regular community service.

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## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Leweston has a reputation as one of the best performing schools in the region with virtually all pupils going on to Higher Education or specialist colleges.

### A Level

Highlights from the past three years include:

#### 2019

- Highest percentage of A\* grades for three years, with A\* to A grades well above national average
- Most popular subjects: Maths, Chemistry, Biology and Psychology
- 100% pass rate at A\* and A in Fine Art, German and Textiles
- All entries in Music, English Literature and Religious Studies passed at A\* to B
- Over half all Maths and Further Maths entries A\* and A
- Two thirds achieved at least one A or A\* grade
- 100% A\* in the Extended Project Qualification
- Destinations included: Physics and Astrophysics at Manchester, Law and Philosophy, and Ethics at Kings College London, Medicine at Nottingham and Sociology at Newcastle

#### 2018

- Leweston topped DfE performance tables for Dorset with a well-above average progress score of 0.39, the highest scoring school, independent or maintained, within 25 miles
- Number of A\* grades was twice the national average
- Most popular subjects: Maths, Psychology, Biology and Chemistry
- 79% achieved at least one A\* or A grade
- Over two thirds of all Maths entries and half of Further Maths were A\* and A
- 100% A\* in the Extended Project Qualification
- Destinations included: Medicine at Cambridge, Psychology at York, Chemical Engineering at Swansea and English and Creative Writing at Newcastle

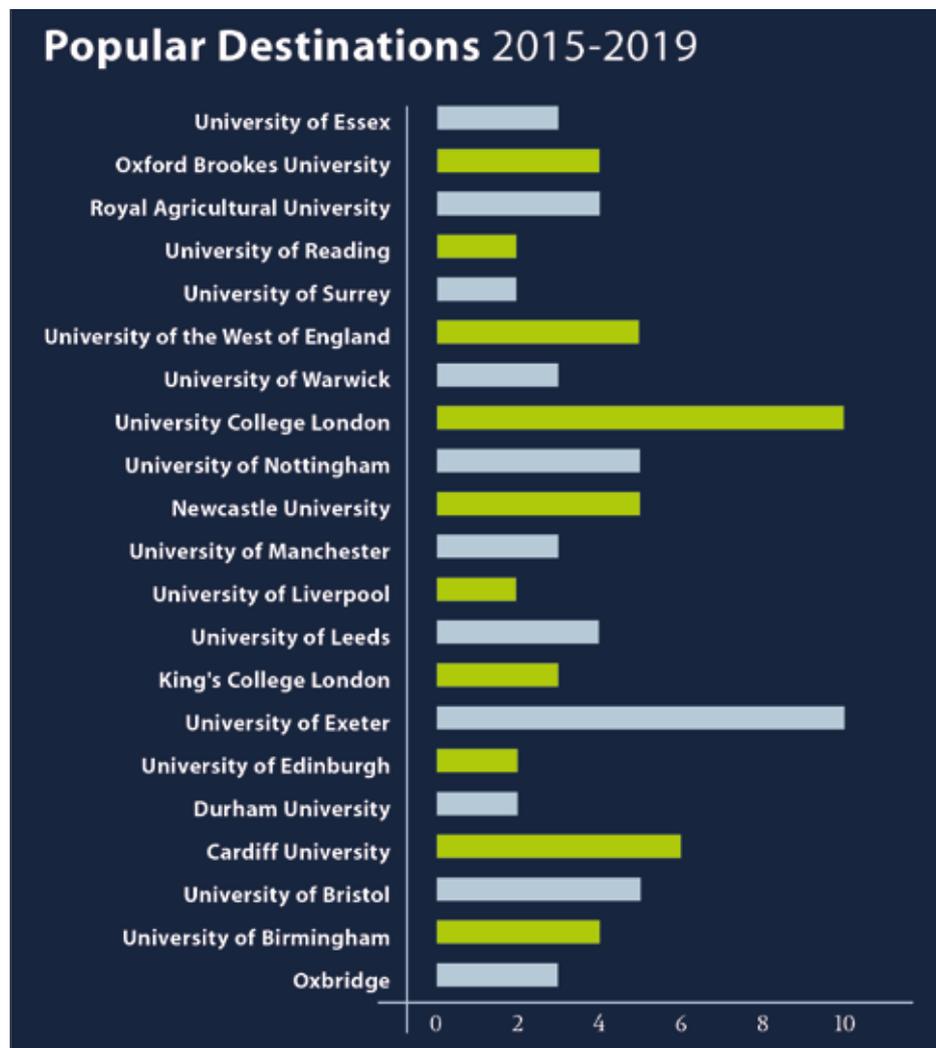
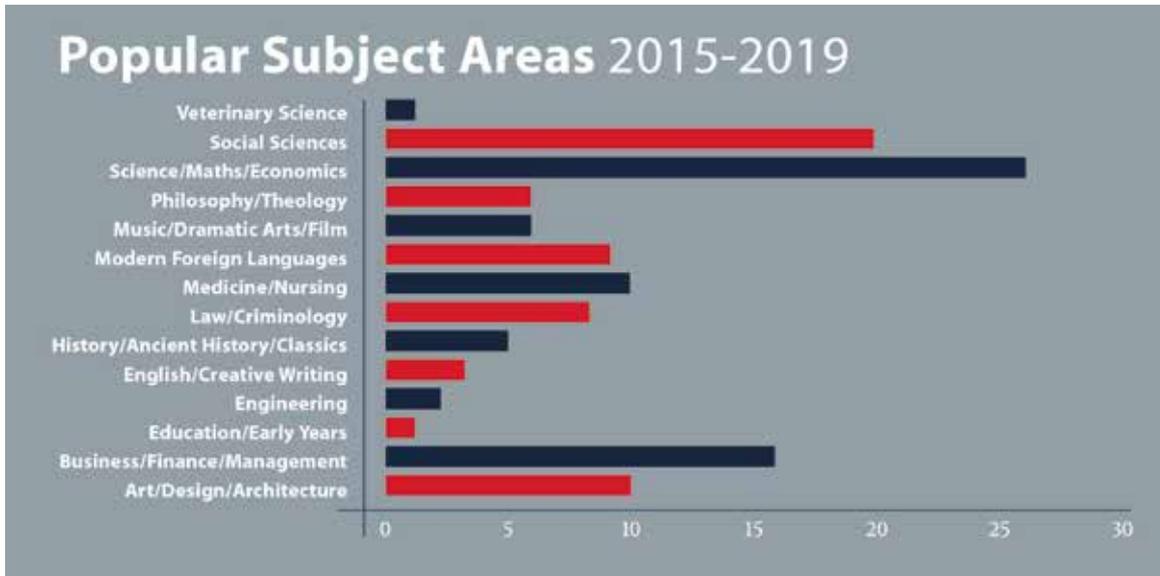
#### 2017

- Number of A\* grades awarded was almost twice the national average
  - Most popular subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Psychology
  - 100% pass rate at A\* and A in Fine Art, Geography, Graphics, Music, French and Latin
  - All entries in Economics, Government and Politics, Art History, English Literature, Physics and Spanish passed at A\* to B
  - Over two thirds of all Maths entries and half of Further Maths grades were A\* and A
  - 100% A\* to B in the Extended Project Qualification
  - Destinations included: Classics at Oxford, Maths at Imperial, Biomedical Sciences at Durham and Animation, Art and Design at Bournemouth
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## University Entrance

Most students go on to Higher Education to study a wide range of courses at university and specialist colleges. In the last five years Leweston has sent pupils to 53 different university destinations, 56% of them Russell Group with 32% being STEM, Medicine or Veterinary courses.



## GCSE Results

	2017		2018	2019
% Grade A* or equivalent	27	% Grade 8 and 9	29	33
% Grade A or equivalent	25	% Grade 7	14	18
% Grade B or equivalent	29	% Grade 5 and 6 (B)	37	30
% Grade C or equivalent	16	% Grade 4	12	14
% Grade A* to B	81	% Grade 9 to 5	81	81

Between 2017 and 2019 GCSE examinations in England have been moved to a numerical system and the tables above have been adjusted accordingly.





## LEARN IN ENGLISH

Leweston has over 50 years experience of teaching English as an Additional Language (EAL) with specialist teachers working from beginner to advanced levels.

Pupils benefit from EAL lessons in many ways. They assist progress in their main subjects or support internationally recognised examinations such as Cambridge Preliminary or First Certificate or the British Council's IELTS. All are available as one-year courses.

Pupils in Years 7 to 11 who are not studying French or Spanish have access to EAL lessons as part of the school curriculum. Private individual or group lessons are charged as an extra for those who need further support or want to accelerate their learning, particularly A Level students preparing for IELTS examinations.

### Prep, Years 7, 8 and 9

Pupils are assessed on arrival and a decision is made about the best pathway. Some will use EAL for support with lessons whilst others will study for Cambridge Preliminary or First Certificate examinations.

### Year 10

Pupils in Year 10 can select EAL as their foreign language option and study for an EAL qualification in one year. This also builds academic language skills for other subjects.

### Year 11

Students in Year 11 receive tailored support for the GCSE English Language examination. This is compulsory for all pupils studying in the UK and must be passed at Grade C or above.

### Year 12

Students in Year 12 prepare for the IELTS examination required by all English medium universities. Depending on a student's level they may take this course in six months, one year or 18 months.

### Year 13

Students may be finishing their IELTS course or choose to use EAL to support their other subjects. In addition, support is given with writing university applications.

Our Head of EAL is available one night a week in boarding to assist with academic or pastoral concerns. In addition to this EAL support is available at lunchtimes and after school.

### Extra Activities

Twice a term events are held with international students from other schools where pupils can collaborate and compete to use their English skills. These events include public speaking competitions, debate evenings and quiz nights.

### First Language

It is important that students feel valued for their ability to use more than one language. Whilst we expect pupils to communicate in English at all times around the school we do respect their own languages. Students are encouraged to teach their language and culture to others. In addition, they can take GCSEs and A Levels in their first language if this is appropriate.



## COURSES

Leweston offers a flexible range of opportunities to study at the school ranging from short-term placements to seven-year programmes including all public examinations.

### Short Stay

Short stay visits range from a half term to two terms in length and are available from Year 5 (age 9) to Year 12 (age 17), subject to space and availability. Whilst it is possible to join on a short stay throughout the year, the Autumn and Summer terms are most popular. As Year 11 is a public examination year short stays are not recommended during the Summer term.

Many short stay pupils return for the same period every year and we look forward to seeing them on an annual basis.

### One Year Courses

Many pupils attend Leweston for a one-year period to access a full year's teaching and complete one of the EAL examination options. It is an ideal way for pupils to improve their English and learn about British culture.

One-year courses are most common in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12. The academic year starts in September and runs until early July.

### Two Year Courses

In the UK both sets of public examinations: GCSEs (Years 10 and 11) and A Levels (Years 12 and 13) are taught over a two-year period. Pupils looking to complete these qualifications join us for the two-year duration. Pupils typically arrive in September at the start of the school year. It is sometimes possible to join in Year 10 and 12 after this point but each application is looked at individually as there will be a requirement to catch up on work missed.

Of course, some pupils choose to join us for longer periods or to complete their entire school career at Leweston and applications of any duration are always considered. If a pupil wants to come with the aim of staying in the British higher education system we would recommend them joining the school as early as possible.



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## ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

### Can I visit the school?

We are delighted to welcome visitors and to show them around our school. We hold Open Doors events throughout the year but prospective pupils and their parents are always welcome to make an individual appointment for a tour to meet the Head and relevant members of staff.

### How do you assess pupils for entry?

Whilst Leweston is non-selective all pupils are asked to complete a short set of assessments prior to joining the school so that we can understand and support their current skill level. Overseas pupils can either provide a UKISET report or sit the school's own tests at their current school or agency. International pupils already studying in the UK are welcome to take the tests as part of a visit to Leweston.

There will also be an interview which is typically conducted via Skype although pupils are always welcome to visit and have their interview in person. The interview is an opportunity to get to know applicants better, as well for them to ask any questions they have. We are interested to learn about their academic interests, hobbies and achievements both inside and outside the classroom.

In addition to the interview and assessment pupils are asked to provide a copy of their most recent school report and a copy of their passport.

### What is a UKISET test?

UKISET is an assessment specifically designed for international applicants for British independent schools. You can visit [www.ukiset.com](http://www.ukiset.com) for further information or to register to take the test. The test can be taken at approved centres around the world. UKISET is the school's preferred method of assessment but tests can be provided if a pupil cannot access the UKISET testing method.

### How good does my child's level of English need to be?

Students need to have an appropriate level of English to access the curriculum and engage with staff and other pupils. Although we do not require a formal qualification those joining Years 7 to 11 are expected to

provide evidence that they have the potential to achieve Grade 5 or above at English GCSE (or equivalent). Sixth Form students are normally expected to offer GCSE English, IGCSE English as a Second Language, IELTS Band 5.5 or any equivalent EAL qualification at a pass level or above. All Sixth Form entrants should have 6 GCSEs (or equivalent) at Grade 5 or above with Grade 7 in the subjects they wish to study.

### Do you offer scholarships to international pupils?

Our scholarship provision aims to celebrate excellence in academic, sporting and creative departments. Scholarships are offered for entry into Years 7, 9 and Sixth Form. International pupils are welcome to apply alongside those from the UK. For detailed information about the programme and assessment process please visit [www.leweston.co.uk/admissions/scholarships](http://www.leweston.co.uk/admissions/scholarships)

### How do we apply for a place?

We would be delighted to hear from you if you think Leweston is the right school for your family. There is no formal deadline for international applications but it is best to apply at least 12 months before the desired point of entry as pupils are assessed shortly after application and offers are made throughout the year.

For the benefit of all students, the school has a policy to maintain a good balance of British and international pupils in classes and boarding houses so availability changes throughout the year.

Pupils usually start in September but admission may be possible at other times.

### When will we find out if we have a place?

We try very hard to make decisions as quickly as possible and typically inform you of the outcome within a week of the interview.

### When is the deadline for accepting a place?

The deadline for acceptance will be clearly stated on your child's offer letter, it is usually two weeks following the date of the formal offer. Further information about our admissions process is available from our admissions team on **+44 1963 211015** or [admissions@leweston.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@leweston.dorset.sch.uk)

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## BOARDING AND PASTORAL CARE

Leweston has been a boarding school for over a hundred years with almost half the school boarding at some time in their school career. The boarding houses are in the main building and provide a warm and friendly 'home from home'. Leweston typically has around 60 full and weekly boarders with a significant percentage of both regular and occasional flexi boarders in the Houses.

With decades of experience educating pupils of many nationalities, we have developed an understanding of, and a comprehensive provision for, their many different cultural and personal needs.

### **Martha House (Girls Years 3 to 8)**

Martha is a welcoming and safe place for girls from age 7 to 13. Newly renovated, it is divided into traditional dormitories with 6-8 boarders in each room. It is close to the Housemistress' accommodation.

### **Cecilia House (Girls Years 9 to 10)**

Boarders in Years 9 and 10 live in spacious dormitories of between 4 and 5. Each boarder has their own bed and space to decorate with pictures from home as well as a well-equipped common room for relaxation.

### **Eleanor House (Girls Years 11 and 13)**

Year 11 and Sixth Form boarders move into a separate wing to recognise their changing needs. Year 11 may share a double room but all Sixth Form boarders have a single. Independence is encouraged and the Sixth Form have their own Sixth Form Centre which provides indoor and outdoor social space as well as the facilities to cook for themselves and entertain. They also have facilities to do their own laundry and are encouraged to develop their own independent living skills.

### **Antony House (Boys Years 7 to 13)**

The boys' boarding house, Antony provides pupils from Years 7 to 13 with individual or double rooms as well as a common room for social space. There are plans to expand as numbers grow.

### **Induction**

We aim to make all our pupils welcome from day one. Every September on the first day of term we hold team building and other orientation activities which are carefully planned to ensure all new pupils find their way around and get to know each other.

Each new pupil has a 'guardian' on arrival to provide particular support as they settle in. This is often an important factor in forging new friendships.

### **The Tutor System**

Every pupil has a tutor to support their academic and pastoral development. Tutor meetings happen three times a week and cover a range of topics. All tutors work with the Head of Year and Deputy Head.

The Housemistress and Housemaster are supported by a team of Assistants. Every boarder also has a Florin, an academic staff member who provides extra pastoral and academic support. Pupils meet their Florin once a week.

### **School Houses**

The House system at Leweston encourages a sense of belonging and gives pupils the opportunity to work with other year groups. Every pupil belongs to one of four Houses (different to the boarding houses). Each is led by a Sixth Form House Captain who co-ordinates events and leads House activities.

### **Peer Mentoring**

Peer mentoring is an integral part of induction and pastoral care at Leweston. Sixth Form volunteers undertake formal training before taking on the role of mentor to a new pupil. These relationships often last much longer than the settling in period with the mentor and mentee retaining contact throughout their time at the School.

### **The Prefect System**

The Boarding Prefect leads a team of senior boarders who act as role models and are the boarders' representatives. They chair termly boarding council meetings. International pupils also have the International Boarding Committee which acts as a forum for overseas students and organises and promotes world events and festivals. This is led by the International Boarding Prefect.

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## EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND ENRICHMENT

Life at Leweston is a busy one, all pupils are encouraged to take part in a number of activities outside their normal academic, musical and sporting commitments. Activities are on offer throughout the day from early morning swimming to evening debate club.

### **Pentathlon Academy**

Leweston has official Pentathlon Academy status awarded by Pentathlon GB, making it one of only nine such academies in the country.

The Leweston Academy caters for athletes of all abilities and any pupil can join, they just need to show an interest in multi-sports events and be willing to work towards improving their performance.

Leweston's highly experienced resident coach, Mick Flaherty, organises and delivers dedicated training and mentoring programmes tailored to individual needs and abilities.

The Academy provides weekly onsite training in swimming, fencing, shooting and running with specialist coaches many of whom are involved with the National Squad.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Award**

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a national scheme designed to equip young people with skills for life. There are three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Each involves volunteering, physical skills and an expedition. Pupils can enrol in Bronze from Year 9 and Silver from Year 10, Gold is exclusive to Sixth Form. The award is very popular at Leweston and a number of international pupils participate every year.

### **Leiths Certificate in Food and Wine**

Leiths is an internationally recognised qualification. The course runs for five terms and teaches students practical skills and techniques. Successful candidates gain the Certificate as well as a food and hygiene qualification. They are also eligible to take the Diploma at Leiths School of Food and Wine. Students participating in the course over two years also achieve Confederation of Tourism and Hospitality certification and UCAS points which they can submit as part of their university application.

### **Activities**

Leweston has a comprehensive activities programme in both the Prep and Senior School. A full timetable of evening activities is published every term. Music, drama and sports practices are scheduled throughout the week. Pupils comment on the programme and suggest future ideas. The current programme is available on the School website.

Saturday mornings include an hour's private study followed by an activity that is either academic or cultural. The afternoons are normally taken up with sporting commitments, trips or onsite games. On Sunday afternoons pupils have a range of activities to choose from either on or offsite. In addition Houseparents organise a number of unpublished spontaneous events such as rambles and film parties. Most activities are free and if any incur a charge parents are notified in advance.





## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This section shares some of the questions often asked by parents. Our admissions team is also happy to answer any specific queries on **+44 1963 211015**.

### **Do Leweston pupils wear uniform?**

Yes in the Prep and Senior School all students wear school uniform. Sixth Form students are allowed to wear their own clothes within an agreed dress code.

### **How big is a typical class?**

Class size varies throughout the school. In the Prep School and Years 7 to 9 classes are usually a maximum of 20 pupils. GCSE classes have typically 10 – 16 pupils and Sixth Form groups can vary widely from 4 to 14 depending on the popularity of the subject.

### **Are meals and tuition included in the fees?**

Yes at Leweston meals and snacks are provided within the fees. All tuition, except one to one lessons such as music, drama and personal EAL tuition, are also included in the fees.

### **Do you have to be a practising Catholic to attend the school?**

Whilst the school is a Catholic foundation the school welcomes pupils of all faiths and none.

### **How Catholic is the school?**

Traditionally a third of the pupils are Catholic. Our distinctive ethos is based on sound teaching, moral guidance, pastoral care and the development of the spiritual life.

The Chapel of St Antony is central in the life of the School as the place where Mass and other school services are celebrated. It also hosts our annual Choral Society performance and other musical events. It is always open so pupils can find a quiet space when they need.

Mass is celebrated at the weekend for the boarding community and on Wednesdays for the whole school. Pupils of all ages participate in planning the liturgies and take an active role as servers, readers, choir and musicians. We often welcome parents, friends and neighbours. Pupils of other faiths are supported in their own worship and an Anglican liturgy is held in the School chapel once a term.

### **How can I contact my child?**

Boarders are encouraged to stay in regular contact with home. All have access to the internet in the boarding houses, study areas and IT suites around the school. There are also private Skype rooms for those without individual rooms. Each boarding house has its own landline and pupils can use their own mobiles in the evenings.

### **Do you have a medical care on site?**

All boarders are registered with the school doctors who visit twice a week and treat and prescribe for pupils as necessary.

The school's medical centre is staffed by two registered nurses who are available on a rota to assist pupils during the day.

### **What sort of visits and trips are on offer?**

Some trips are attached to academic study such as fieldtrips or theatre visits. Others are social or cultural. Typically there is a boarders' trip every weekend to a local place of interest. The majority are open to pupils from more than one year group which gives a good opportunity to extend social links and meet new people.

Some trips are residential or overseas and may take place during the school holidays. The majority of these are associated with examination courses.

### **Do you offer visa sponsorship?**

Leweston School is a UKVI licensed Tier 4 sponsor and offers child student visa sponsorship for boarders. International pupils coming from outside of the European Union must apply for permission to study in the UK.

Once an offer is accepted the school will apply for a reference number called a confirmation of acceptance for studies or CAS. The CAS number will be required for your visa application. Once received the CAS is shared with you or your agent. There are occasions when a pupil lives in a country which requires a visa but holds a passport of a nationality that does not, in these instances a CAS number is not required.

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### **Do I need to pay a deposit?**

We require a deposit of half a term's fees from international families. The deposit is paid on acceptance and is refundable when your child leaves the school. Please note that the deposit is non-refundable if your child does not join Leweston as planned.

### **Are instrumental music and drama lessons available and is there an additional charge?**

Pupils from Year 2 upwards can take advantage of the wide variety of tuition in orchestral and other instruments, as well as study for Associated Board Music Examinations. There is also specialist London Association of Music and Drama (LAMDA) teaching. There is additional charge for these sessions.

### **Do pupils need a guardian?**

The School requires all students based overseas to have an adult guardian who is resident in the UK or be enrolled with a guardianship agency.

Pupils need to be able to stay with their guardian during exeat weekends, half term breaks (if not returning home) and, if necessary, the school holidays. The guardian must be able to take responsibility for the pupil if they need to come out of school at any other time.

Guardians are encouraged to become involved in the life of the school and are welcome at parents' evenings, productions and concerts.

### **Do you have exeat weekends?**

There is an exeat weekend every half term with the exception of the summer when there is only one. On exeat weekends all boarders return home to their families or guardians for a break from the school environment.





## FEES 2019-20

Registration fee	£100
Deposit	Years 3 – 6 £3,962
	Years 7 – 13 £5,174

A pupil cannot be accepted into the School until the deposit has been paid with the deposit forfeited if the place is not taken. The deposit is refunded on the final account.

### Termly Fees

Years 4 – 6	£7,854
Years 7 and 8	£9,505
Years 9 – 13	£10,540

### Short Stay Fees (Half Term)

Years 5 and 6	£669.71
Years 7 and 8	£810.44
Years 9 – 13	£898.68

Part stays are charged as a full week.

### Additional Charges

English as an Additional Language (private lessons)	
£48 per hour for one to one tuition	
£28 per hour for 2 pupils	
£23 per hour for 3 pupils	

### Optional Extras

Drama Solo	£173 – 217 per term
Drama Shared	£150 - 165 per term
Individual Music	£232 - 305 per term
Theory of Music/Aural Classes	£73 per term
Instrument Hire	Pianos £46 per term
All other instruments	£49 per term
Individual Needs	£50 per hour
(Literacy and Numeracy)	£29 per half hour

The number of optional lessons per term may vary depending on the length of the term.

Leiths (Sixth Form only) £2250

School trips costs vary but are usually between £250 and £500, parents are notified of any charges in advance.

School uniform is approximately £330 in the Prep and £510 in the Senior School. No uniform is required in Sixth Form but pupils are expected to purchase Sixth Form sports kit which is approximately £50. Pupils visiting the School for short stays may be able to borrow some items of uniform.

A term's notice (given before the final day of the preceding term) must be given in writing to the Head if: a pupil is being removed from the School; or a pupil has a change of status e.g. from day to full or weekly boarding; or there is any change to optional extras. Failure to give notice will result in a term's fees in lieu being charged.

### Payment Options

Most overseas parents find it easiest to pay by electronic bank transfer directly into the school's account. Fees are payable termly, by the first day of each term. Lump sum payments are accepted and a monthly direct debit scheme is available, details are available from the Bursary.



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For more information call us on: **01963 211015**  
or email: **[admissions@leweston.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@leweston.dorset.sch.uk)**

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