



LEWESTON
SHERBORNE

BOARDING PROSPECTUS



WELCOME TO LEWESTON BOARDING



Thank you for your interest in boarding at Leweston.

We offer modern and family-friendly boarding for boys and girls from age 8 to 18 across our four boarding houses: Martha, Cecilia, Eleanor and Antony.

Leweston has welcomed boarders since the school's foundation in 1891 and boarding is an integral part of life in the school. Unlike many other schools Leweston's boarding houses are found in the main building occupying different wings of the Manor House as well as subsequent developments. This creates a home from home atmosphere where academic, daily life happens 'downstairs' and boarding, family life 'upstairs'.

Whilst Years 11 to 13 have study bedrooms, younger boarders complete their evening homework in the beautiful Pensabene Library in a supervised 'prep' session. This ensures that the Houses remain a relaxed, fun environment away from some of the pressures of academic life.

This model also ensures that day and boarding pupils are fully integrated as they spend whole school day together. These strong friendships are reflected in the number of day pupils who join the busy after-school clubs and are welcomed to events in the weekend activity programme.

Our Housemasters and Housemistresses are supported by a team of Assistant Houseparents and GAP Assistants as well as our Florins, academic members of staff who spend one night per week in the boarding houses. The Headmaster, Mr Paget-Tomlinson, also lives onsite and regularly joins the boarders in the evenings and supervises boarders' prep. Our tight knit boarding family means that pupils and staff know each other well and there is a strong, supportive atmosphere.

Our boarders repeatedly tell us how much they enjoy their time here and they forge life long friendships in the Houses which we see time and again when they return to visit.

We would be delighted to welcome you for a visit and to talk more about which of our flexible boarding options could be right for your family.

Beth Simkins-Smith
Director of Boarding



"I really enjoy
boarding
because it is
like my second
home. We form
one big family"



OUR BOARDING ETHOS



We provide our boarders with a supportive and caring family community where excellent pastoral care is provided by the Houseparents and their respective teams. This makes our boarders feel confident and secure in their surroundings and relationships so that they are able to flourish personally, socially and academically.

Boarding provides an environment and routine in which boarders may aim for excellence in all they undertake, embrace new challenges and strive to be the best they can. It models and expects exceptional standards of inclusivity, care and personal conduct so that boarders develop a sense of moral awareness, self-discipline and integrity. They are encouraged to value diversity, develop self-awareness and open-mindedness.

We undertake to provide opportunities for responsibility and independence, to allow boarders to develop as individuals, team players and leaders within the boarding community and the wider school. They are encouraged to give their time willingly to others ensuring that they learn to treat each other with kindness, sensitivity and respect.

In achieving this we inspire pupils to develop their God-given gifts to become happy, confident and responsible young people, who are proud of their academic successes and personal achievements, who are resilient and equipped and prepared to never give up on the challenges they face as they enter adult life.



WHY BOARDING?

There are many reasons that families choose boarding but here are just a few of the advantages boarding can bring:

Excellent results

Boarders can study in the evenings without the distractions of home and have access to the academic boarding tutors, or Florins, in the evenings. Analysis by the Boarding Schools Association shows that 90% of boarders proceed to their university of choice.

Confidence and independence

Boarders gain in self-confidence and learn to cope for themselves in a community of peers. For Sixth Formers boarding can offer the opportunity to experience independent living before plunging into the world of university.

Responsibility

Boarding supports pupils take their first steps towards maturity, boarders learn to be responsible for their actions and understand how they may impact on those around them. They learn to be considerate and to respect the differences in those living around them.

Convenience


For busy families flexi and weekly boarding can assist family life. With the children looked after at school in the week and no Saturday school, they can come home on Friday with their work done for quality family time through to Sunday night or Monday morning. Though counter intuitive many boarders say they grow closer to their parents as a result.

Community

Students living in rural communities with limited public transport can be isolated from their school friends when they go home. Boarders have a ready-made group of same-age friends with which to share interests and activities. Boarding brings with it social interactions and the friendships formed in the boarding houses are often life-long.

Extra-curricular activities

Boarders can access the full range of after-school and weekend activities and, as a result, develop more of their potential. With almost constant access to the school's facilities and staff and no daily commute their days are longer and experience often broader.



"I feel a lot more confident and I have learnt to get along with lots of different people."

WAYS TO BOARD

For many boarding can be a good solution for the challenges of modern family life but with so many different types of boarding on offer which is the best one to suit you?

Full boarding

Full boarders stay at school seven nights a week returning home for the holidays. This option provides boarders with the opportunity to focus on their studies in the evenings and at weekends with all the school's resources on hand. They can also enjoy all of the social opportunities Leweston has to offer. A full activities programme means there is always something to do.

Weekly boarding

Weekly boarding can offer the best of both worlds freeing pupils from a daily school journey allowing them to concentrate on academic study and extra-curricular activities. As Leweston has no Saturday school, weekly boarders can return home on Friday evenings and come back to school on Sunday night or Monday morning.

Regular Flexi-Boarding

Flexis stay in school one, two or three nights a week on a regular basis. Flexi boarding is popular with pupils who have regular after school commitments and families juggling hectic modern lives. Flexis can finish their homework in supervised prep, enjoy a healthy supper and spend time with their friends ahead of the following school day.

B&B Boarding

Subject to availability, pupils can stay overnight in school on an occasional basis. This allows families to access boarding as and when they need it. Booking can be made through our Parent Portal.

Many pupils start their boarding journey as a flexi and then move to weekly or full boarding as they move to the examination years ... or they find out how much they enjoy it.

"Boarding has
made me more
independent. I
feel ready to
take the next
step"



SIXTH FORM BOARDING

Many students board for the first time in the Sixth Form to take advantages of the benefits of being onsite.

Educationally, boarding helps to form strong relationships with the tutors and academic staff who spend time in the Houses. Sixth Form boarders get access to these staff 'out of hours' and can use facilities such as the Pensabene Library, the Sixth Form Centre and Norfolk Art and Design Centre in the evenings and at weekends. Boarding can also make accessing evening academic extension activities easier.

In addition to this, Sixth Form boarders can participate in the evening and weekend activity programme. They have increased control over their free time and opportunities to go out of school at the end of the day and at weekends as well as invite guests into the house social areas. They are also permitted to use the school gym without supervision.

Developmentally, Sixth Form boarders can start to develop their own independent living skills as they prepare to move on to life at university and the world beyond school and, for those who have not boarded before, can learn about living with their peers.

Boarders in Years 12 and 13 are very involved in the wider boarding community. They are role models for the younger boarders and take on responsibility for organising social and charitable events and community duty rotas across the Houses.



"Flexi boarding has made it easier for me to access sports practices and training"



Girls Years 4 to 8

MARTHA



Martha House is a vibrant, welcoming and safe place for boarders aged 8 to 13. Boarders share traditional dormitories with around six pupils in each. Located above the Well-Being Centre, Martha House boarders are well supported by a team of boarding staff and older pupils.

The house is a fun and lively place and all boarders are encouraged to involve themselves fully in the large variety of activities that are on offer. With dog walks, hide and seek, movie nights, bikes and go karts Martha House boarders are always busy.

Weekends provide the opportunity to venture outside of school and enjoy trips to the coast or local attractions. Important 'down time' is also encouraged and a Martha House favourite are the 'sleepy Sundays' which offer the boarders a much needed lie in and relaxed breakfast in house. Birthdays and special events are eagerly anticipated and celebrated.

The Team

The Housemistress, Mrs Charlotte Ovey, also teaches French and Spanish. She lives in the House with her husband, Josh, and dog Guinness.

"Boarding is amazing because you can socialise with pupils in other year groups which means you have more people you know around school to help you out when you need it. It's also great because you can do more activities and clubs. You can get help with homework from boarding staff and other pupils".

Lauren and Hettie, Year 8



"No one is
homesick. I
would say it is
impossible at
Leweston."





Boarders in Years 9 and 10 share colourful and spacious dorms with between three and five pupils to a room. Many of the rooms have views over the school gardens.

Each boarder has their own bed, wardrobe and personal area which they are encouraged to personalise with items from home. There is also well-equipped common room for relaxation.

The years spent in Cecilia House are important, both academically and for emotional and social development, it is a time for boarders to enjoy exploring their interests; following their enthusiasms, and learning to co-operate with each other as they become more independent.

Boarders and staff in Cecilia House meet regularly at House meetings and at a variety of informal occasions to communicate, co-operate and socialise.

The Team

The Housemistress, Mrs Charlotte Ovey, also teaches French and Spanish. She lives in the adjacent Martha House with her husband, Josh, and dog Guinness.

"I am having so much fun this year, meeting new people and trying things for the first time. My favourite thing is we do a lot of activities, such as badminton or sports hall games. There are a lot of things that you can sign up for. I am doing tennis on Thursdays and Friday and riding on Tuesday, but there are many more. We also do different things every weekend."

Rocio Year 9



"Boarding means you get to know people in other year groups too, and my friends who are day pupils can join in at weekends."





Eleanor House occupies its own wing in the Manor House. The House is divided into two floors, Year 11 share Upper Eleanor and Years 12 and 13 boarders have rooms on Lower Eleanor.

All full and weekly boarders have their own individual study bedrooms but regular flexi-boarders may share a double room. The rooms on the lower floor have views over the beautiful school grounds. There is also the use of a shared common room, laundry facilities and a kitchenette. Years 12 and 13 have access to the Sixth Form Centre which provides a communal space for all Sixth Form students, day and boarding,

Life in the House sees a friendly mixing of year groups which encourages students to support each other during these critical examination years.

The Team

The Housemistress, Mrs Beth Simkins-Smith is also Director of Boarding. She lives in school with her husband Dominic, their two children and dog Rocket.

"I feel really comfortable here because I am really close with everyone. The experiences which I have had are indescribable. The boarding staff are kind and helpful. In the evenings, we supervise prep for the younger students, that allows us to form good relationships with them. Being a boarder gives me the opportunity to take part in school life and the atmosphere in boarding helps with studying. Everyone motivates each other and is willing to help."

Kamila, Year 13





"Living in boarding has given me an opportunity to make amazing friendships".



The newest member of Leweston's boarding family, Antony House offers a comforting home from home for the boys boarding at Leweston.

Based in the heart of the school Antony House's location provides boarders with easy access to all areas of the school whilst also offering a quiet environment for study and rest .

Antony has single and double bedrooms for boarders as well as its own social and communal space. Sixth Formers have their own single study rooms on a separate floor to support focus and concentration.

The Team

The Housemaster Mr Cannon is also a Sports teacher and Head of Rugby. He has additional responsibility for the school's extra-curricular clubs and activities programme.

"I love my boarding life in Leweston, it is a great family, all the boarding staff are really kind. Antony House is a lot of fun and, although we are the newest boarding house, we already have our own traditions, like choosing our 'staff member of the week' to recognise someone who has been particularly supportive. My favourite evening is a Friday when we put a film on, or play some family games, have a cup of tea and eat together. I have met some great people and made a lot of friends and I will miss Leweston a great deal when I go to university."

Steve, Year 13



A photograph of two young men playing foosball. The man on the left, with curly brown hair and wearing a dark blue hoodie and tan pants, is leaning over the table, focused on the game. The man on the right, with straight brown hair and wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt, is also leaning over, looking at the game. The foosball table is wooden with a green felt top and several rows of metal rods with black handles. Small plastic figures of players in red, yellow, and blue uniforms are on the table. In the background, there are vertical blinds with red and yellow stripes and a red cushioned bench.

"We have really exciting activities which bring our community closer together".

FACILITIES

In the House

Whilst there are minor differences between the individual Houses all boarders have access to the school grounds and sports facilities, including the swimming pool. They are also permitted to use the school cafe, Cedars, at appropriate times.

Each House has WIFI and there are Skype rooms for the younger boarders to contact home in privacy.

Common Rooms

All of the Houses have their own communal space but in addition to this there is a supervised common room outside of the Houses which allows pupils from all ages to socialise in the evenings. This encourages friendships to develop between year groups and is of particular importance to siblings who can spend time together.

The Well-Being Centre

The Well-Being Centre provides healthcare to all students onsite, as well as promoting the importance of healthy living. The Well-Being Centre is staffed by two highly-experienced nurses, Sisters Cole and Lale, who are supported by doctors from the local Apples Surgery in Sherborne.

The school counsellor is also available every week either via a walk-in clinic or for pre-booked appointments.

Catering

Boarders take the majority of their meals together in the school Dining Hall. The menus are extensive and use fresh, and where possible, local ingredients. The Catering Department regularly host themed evenings and boarders are able to contribute their views to the development of the menu.

There are three meals per day:

Breakfast 07.30 - 08.00

A selection of cereals

A selection of cooked breakfast items

A choice of fruit juices, tea, coffee and hot chocolate

Fresh fruit and yogurt bar

Lunch 12.00 - 14.00

A choice of hot main dishes, including a vegetarian option

A salad bar with a range of options

A pasta or jacket potato bar with sauces and fillings

A choice of desserts, including fresh fruit and yogurt

Tea 16.20

A hot drink and cake or pastry

Supper 18.30 - 19.30

A choice of hot main dishes, including a vegetarian option

A salad bar with a range of options

A choice of desserts, including fresh fruit and yogurt.

Dietary Requirements

We cater for pupils with dietary requirements of a religious or medical nature. We will also provide for boarding students with special dietary needs. The menus are designed to reflect the diversity of our community.

"Being here in
the evenings
makes it easier to
concentrate on
my studies as I
don't have to
travel home every
day."



THE BOARDING TEAM



Mr John Paget-Tomlinson
Headmaster
Office: +44 1963 210691
head@leweston.dorset.sch.uk



Mrs Simkins-Smith
Director of Boarding and
Housemistress of Eleanor House
Office: +44 1963 211066
Mobile: +44 7964 539463
simkinsb@leweston.dorset.sch.uk



Mrs Charlotte Ovey
Housemistress of Martha and
Cecilia Houses
Office: +44 1963 211018
Mobile: +44 7377401626
oveyc@leweston.dorset.sch.uk



Mr Cannon
Housemaster of Antony House
Office: +44 1963 211018
Mobile: +44 7772 318643
cannonl@leweston.dorset.sch.uk



Miss Lara Robinson
Assistant Housemistress
robinsonl@leweston.dorset.sch.uk




Mr Josh Purchase
Assistant Housemaster
purchasej@leweston.dorset.sch.uk





Leweston School, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 6EN

+44 1963 211 015 | admissions@leweston.dorset.sch.uk | www.leweston.co.uk

 @LewestonSchool

 @Leweston

 @leweston1891