



LEWESTON
SHERBORNE

INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS GUIDE



WHY COME TO A BOARDING SCHOOL IN ENGLAND?

You may be asking yourself 'Why send my child to an English boarding school? Will it be worth it?'

We understand that this is not a decision that should be taken lightly but, if you are looking for an educational experience that truly prepares your child for adult life, then you should consider sending them to an English boarding school.

Boarding schools offer pupils an outstanding education, supporting them to develop the skills and essential grades to progress into university. UK boarding schools are required to meet strict standards on the quality of their teaching, student care and facilities. Boarding allows students to develop academically whilst encouraging them to flourish as individuals, opening their minds and broadening their opportunities.





WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BOARDING SCHOOL?

Outstanding facilities

England has some of the oldest and most prestigious boarding schools in the world, with beautiful historic buildings alongside modern classrooms and architecture. These excellent facilities help make learning and living in the UK a great experience for all pupils by advancing their academic and extracurricular careers whilst improving their English skills.

Outstanding exam results

English boarding schools consistently produce excellent exam results, with a variety of qualifications available including A Levels and GCSEs.

High university acceptance rates

Pupils that attend a boarding school in England generally achieve high grades which gives them more chance of being accepted into top universities, whether in the UK or other countries.

Pastoral care

The most important thing for many parents is their child's happiness. Whilst excellent tutoring comes as standard in English boarding schools, pastoral care is about the whole community knowing how to get the most from each pupil both academically and emotionally. High standards of pastoral care are at the centre of everything.

Self development in a supportive environment

Boarding pupils develop lifelong independent skills that encourage them to be self-reliant and build on their personal development. Boarding pupils have a support network that includes peers, tutors, the House Parents and other staff at the school to help develop into well-rounded adults.

Dedicated careers team

Boarding schools in England offer more than a top-tier education; they provide students with the opportunity to grow, learn, and prepare themselves for future success. With the extensive and varied career advice they receive, together with mentoring programs, and presentations from industry professionals, boarding school leavers are well placed to go on to have successful careers.

International outlook

To encourage strong working relationships in the future, young people must develop the core qualities of respect and tolerance for others. Boarding develops children's capacity for communication, listening to opposing viewpoints, and conflict resolution, which are strengths that will be useful to them for the rest of their lives. A diverse boarding community encourages students to embrace their future as global citizens.

Lifelong friendships

The close bonds and strong community created in boarding houses cannot easily be replicated. The tight friendship groups cultivated by being a boarder last a lifetime. This strong sense of community help pupils settle quickly and enjoy all that boarding life has to offer.

Sporting performance

UK boarding schools are renowned for their excellent sporting facilities and expert coaching. 31% of the 2016 British Olympic medallists went to UK private schools. Independent schools' sports nurture students of every ability, from beginners to elite-level athletes who perform in the Team GB sports pathway.



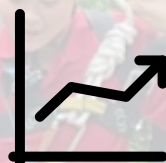
LEWESTON AT A GLANCE



21 different subjects delivered to high academic standards



Free EAL support as well as optional 1-2-1 or group lessons supporting a range of EAL qualifications



Pupils achieve above expectation thanks to excellent relationships with dedicated teachers



Director of International Students to support overseas students and families



Day and boarding fully integrated with day students joining weekend activities



Boarding houses in the main school building so no travel offsite



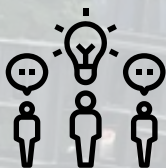
Study bedrooms for Years 11, 12 and 13



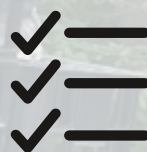
A warm, friendly, family-focused environment with an excellent reputation for pastoral care.



A comprehensive academic enrichment programme



A creative environment encouraging students to think for themselves and develop independence



Try everything, with a busy evening and weekend programme



Specialist Art and Design Centre offers Fine Art, 3D Design, Photography, Textiles, Graphics and Ceramics



Lessons in 20 different musical instruments



24 different sports included swimming, football, fencing, shooting and badminton



A specialist Pentathlon and Triathlon school with elite athlete programmes



Dedicated Science Centre - STEM subjects the most popular university destination



A safe, secure and inspiring campus providing a healthy outdoor experience



Personalised UCAS support and careers advice



No compulsory exeat, committed to no hidden costs and easy online payments



Regular contact with Houseparents and a strong induction programme

WHAT IS LIKE TO LIVE IN ENGLAND?

Beautiful countryside

England is well known for its scenery; from its rolling hills, patchwork fields, bright blue seascapes and deep green forests. Leweston sits in 46 acres of beautiful countryside which provides students with a safe, inspiring place to study. Only half an hour away is the Jurassic Coast, England's first World Heritage Site. This provides stunning cliff walks and secluded bays with plenty of opportunities for fossil hunting. The school also has Dorset's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty close by as well as countless museums, galleries, National Trust properties and Nature Reserves.

The British weather

British weather is mostly known for its rain and clouds, but this largely depends on where you are in the UK. In the South West our winters can be rainy but summers sunny and warm – so bringing clothes to suit all weathers is recommended.

Food and drink

English food is very varied, we like to adopt meals from different countries and cultures, and make it our own, so don't be surprised if your expectations are different to what you get! Our classics include fish and chips (crispy battered cod with thick chips) and Yorkshire puddings (not a pudding but part of a roast dinner eaten with meat, vegetables and crispy potatoes). At Leweston we regularly hold themed nights and each House gets to choose the menu once a month.

Uniform

During the school day all pupils in Years 7 to 11 wear the school uniform. Sixth Form students wear dark suits. In the evening and weekends, and at certain other times, pupils are allowed to wear their own clothes.





WHO CAN STUDY AT LEWESTON?

Leweston has over 600 pupils from ages 0 to 18. International pupils are welcome from Year 4 (age 8) to Year 12 (age 17).

Leweston does not have a 'type' of pupil, we embrace a wide diversity of personalities, interests, backgrounds and approaches to life. Our pupils have an impressive range of talents, both academic and otherwise. We send a number of candidates to highly selective universities every year but we are equally proud of those pupils who follow a vocational path or exceed their own ambitions.

We have a significant number of elite athletes who compete at a regional, national and international level particularly in Pentathlon and associated sports. We encourage all pupils to have a positive attitude to their physical and mental health and take an inclusive approach to everything on offer.

Music is an important part of life at Leweston with orchestras, bands, choirs and many smaller ensembles. A significant percentage study an instrument or voice. The Music Department collaborates closely with Drama with an annual school production and smaller examination and year group performances.

On a practical level, anyone aged 7 to 18 can study at a UK boarding school as long as they have a Child Student Visa (this does not apply to students coming from Europe for less than six months). They will also need to have a place confirmed by the school, have the consent of their parent/guardian, and have the means to cover the costs of their education and living.

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

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Leweston broadly follows the national curriculum, with all lessons in English and subjects that lead up to GCSEs and A Levels. Leweston delivers a broad and flexible curriculum that ensures balanced, appropriate and interesting learning opportunities for every pupil. There is a strong emphasis on independence and learning skills.

GCSE

GCSE courses are normally taught over two years and examined at the end of Year 11. Pupils study 10 subjects. Six are compulsory: 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 subjects.

Sixth Form

Leweston offers two different Sixth Form qualifications: A Levels and BTECs. Most students take three subjects, some may take four but this is usually when combining Mathematics and Further Mathematics. Subject choice is extremely important, and we understand that some pupils may experience difficulty narrowing their choice. The Head of Sixth Form and the Heads of Departments are available to discuss choices and university ambitions. All Sixth Formers have the option to study for an Extended Project Qualification.

At both GCSE and Sixth Form the timetable is built to accommodate as many choices as possible. Students are not expected to select from prescribed blocks; however, a subject may not run due to insufficient interest. Applications made after the timetable is agreed in March may be subject to limited choices.



WHAT COURSES ARE ON OFFER?

Half term

The shortest length of time available, students join for half a term (approximately five weeks) ideally at the start of term. Whilst available throughout the year, half term visits are most popular in the summer term. Due to public exams, in Year 11 a half term stay is only available in the Autumn Term.

Full term

This stay (approximately three months) allows pupils to experience a longer period in the school. Each term is different with its own events and opportunities. One term stays are available throughout the year but, due to public exams, in Year 11 a full term stay is only available in the Autumn Term. Pupils joining Years 10, 11 and 12 may be asked to complete some pre-reading before joining the school.

One and a half term

This stay (approximately six months) allows pupils to complete a term and a half in the school permitting a longer stay but one that does not require a visa. Pupils typically join from September to February half term. This is a popular option in Years 10 and 11.

Full year

A full academic year (September to July) allows pupils to immerse themselves in school life and enjoy the range of activities that every term brings.

Pre-A Level

This is a one year bespoke course for international students interested in studying in the UK, immersing themselves in British culture and gaining the skills to progress to a top university. Designed to prepare students academically, linguistically and socially for the Sixth Form, the course can also provide a stand-alone option for those who wish to spend a year at Leweston whilst gaining GCSE and EAL qualifications.

Two years or more

International students also join to complete the two year GCSE or A Level courses or for the seven years of senior education.



More information is available in
Leweston's Short Stay Brochure

INTERNATIONAL LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS 2015 - 2023

- **University of Cambridge**, Medicine, Natural Sciences
- **Birmingham University**, Psychology
- **Durham University**, Business Management, Economics
- **Imperial College London**, Mathematics, Psychology and Language Studies, Mechanical Engineering, Mathematics with Applied Mathematics and Physics
- **University of Edinburgh**, Chinese and German, Psychology, Chemical Engineering
- **University of Exeter**, Law, Exercise and Sports Science
- **Medical University of Gdańska**, Medicine
- **King's College London**, Religion, Philosophy and Ethics, Computer Science with Intelligent Systems
- **University of Leeds**, Mathematics with Finance
- **University of Liverpool**, Occupational Therapy
- **University of Manchester**, Economics and Finance, Fashion Marketing
- **Newcastle University**, Accounting and Finance
- **University of Nottingham**, Nutrition, International Management
- **University of Sheffield**, Biochemistry
- **University of Southampton**, Psychology, Computer Science
- **University College, London (UCL)**, Medicine, Statistics, Pharmacy, Natural Sciences, Mathematics with Management Studies, Arts and Sciences, Biomedical Engineering, Electronic and Electrical Engineering
- **Warwick University**, Law, Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics, Accounting and Finance
- **Bath University**, Accounting and Finance
- **Bath Spa University**, Nutrition, Psychology
- **Bournemouth University**, Graphic Design, Fashion, Computer Animation Art and Design
- **Brighton University**, Applied Psychology and Sociology
- **Cardiff Metropolitan**, Nutrition including Foundation, Food Science and Nutrition
- **Central St Martins**, Product Design
- **Coventry University**, Mechanical Engineering
- **University of Dundee**, Fine Art
- **University of Essex**, Business Administration, Psychology
- **Hong Kong University**, Civil Engineering, Bachelor of Arts
- **University of Kent**, Criminology
- **Loughborough University**, Fine Art
- **Instituto Marangoni**, Fashion Business and Buying
- **Manchester Metropolitan University**, Graphic Design, Interior Design
- **Oxford Brookes University**, Psychology
- **University of Reading**, Psychology
- **Royal Central School of Speech and Drama**, Design for Performance
- **Royal Holloway**, Criminology and Sociology, Accounting and Finance, Psychology, Zoology
- **University of St Andrews**, Molecular Biology
- **Surrey University**, Civil Engineering, Law with Criminology, International Hospitality Management
- **University of Sussex**, Business and Management Studies
- **Swansea University**, Chemical Engineering
- **University of the West of England**, Urban Planning, Psychology and Sociology with Foundation, Real Estate Management
- **University of the Arts**, Fashion Marketing
- **University for the Creative Arts**, Fashion Promotion and Imaging
- **University of Westminster**, Interior Architecture with Foundation
- **University of Winchester**, Media Studies

HOW ARE INTERNATIONAL PUPILS SUPPORTED?

Director of International Students

Leweston has a member of staff dedicated to supporting our international students. Mrs Kelly-Quick acts as an additional tutor for the international students, providing expert teaching and attentive pastoral care. She seeks to broaden students' awareness of cultural experiences and values throughout the curriculum. She oversees the placement, teaching and care of all international students, guiding other members of staff to deliver and develop their learning.

Pastoral care and well-being

UK boarding schools prioritise mental well-being and have strategies and guidelines in place to support and nurture. At Leweston our pastoral care is excellent. In classes we have a dedicated form tutor for every pupil who maintains regular contact with them and their parents. Outside of class, there are nurses, counsellors and coaches and in the boarding houses the boarding Houseparent lives on site so is always on hand. Florins are teaching staff that support the House Parents and provide an alternative point of contact.

Induction

We 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 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. We also run a peer mentor scheme where Sixth Form students are trained to support new joiners.







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HOW ARE INTERNATIONAL PARENTS SUPPORTED?

At Leweston we understand that sending children to study abroad is a significant undertaking. We recognise the importance of good communication between home and school, and take care to be responsive to parents. The parents' main point of contact is the Houseparent and tutor. All staff can be contacted directly by email or telephone; and staff are listed on the school website.

Parents visiting the UK are welcome to visit, and we can arrange meetings with teachers and other staff. Visiting parents are invited to any school events we are holding at the time.

As parents are sometimes unfamiliar with the UK, and might not speak English, they may need to use educational agents and guardians to help them. It is particularly important that parents who are not able to communicate easily with the school appoint an agent and guardian. All of the school's communication is in English, and parents need to make sure they understand our terms and conditions and other documentation, and signature of the Terms and Conditions. Our Admissions Department keep in touch with each family throughout from their enquiry to their arrival, sending information, answering questions, helping with practical matters like visas, and putting pupils in touch with teachers.

Educational Guardians

The educational guardian is there to provide support for the pupil and their parents. Parents are reassured to know that they have someone to visit their child at school, monitor their well-being, and help with communication. The guardian can also provide somewhere to stay when the pupil needs to be away from school but remain in the UK.

Educational Agents

International agents provide invaluable help to parents, especially those who do not know the UK education system. Leweston collaborates closely with our partners, to ensure that pupils choosing us are making the right decision. Agents are welcome to visit whenever they are in the country.



WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

Leweston has a comprehensive activities programme. A full timetable is published every term. Music, drama and sports practices are scheduled throughout the week. Pupils comment on the programme and suggest future ideas. Activities have included horse riding, electronics, film and movie making, chess, sailing and life drawing.

The school does not have lessons on Saturday morning but provides opportunities for private study and relaxation. Saturday afternoons are normally taken up with sports, trips or onsite games. On Sunday pupils go on excursions and outings to key cultural exhibitions and towns. They also participate in offsite activities such as caving, ice-skating and go-karting. In addition, House Parents organise a number of unpublished spontaneous events such as rambles and film parties. Day pupils are invited to join the weekend programme and often join their boarding friends on trips and in-school activities.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a national scheme designed to equip young people with skills for life. Leweston offers all 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 and a number of international pupils participate every year.

Ten Tors

The Ten Tors Challenge is attempted in teams of six who navigate routes over Dartmoor, visiting ten nominated tors / check points in under two days. Teams must be self-sufficient, carrying all that they need. All those who attempt Ten Tors will undoubtedly remember it for the rest of their lives.





PENTATHLON

In 2016 Leweston was awarded Pentathlon Academy status by Pentathlon GB. It has now transitioned to become a Pentathlon Training Hub for the Great British team. Led by our highly experienced resident coach, Mick Flaherty, the Hub organises and delivers dedicated training and mentoring programmes tailored to individual needs. This allows students to access fencing, shooting, riding, development swimming and running and individual sports, as well as a combined training package. Working with National coaches pupils can learn new skills or, in the case of our elite athletes, work towards regional, national and international competition.

A number of the school pupils have competed for international teams and taken part in European and World Biathlon, Triathlon and Laser Run Championships, winning individual and team medals.

ART AND DESIGN

The Art and Design Department at Leweston is a lively and original place which offers the pupils an opportunity to explore a range of creative areas.

The Art and Design Centre houses:

- 3D Design studio
- Textile Studio
- Ceramics studio
- Creative Graphics Suite
- Dark Room
- Fine Art Studio

As well as a dedicated studio space for Sixth Form students.

Pottery, Fine Art, Computer Aided Design, Photography, Woodworking and Textiles are part of the curriculum for Years 7, 8 and 9 and the school offers Fine Art, Fashion and Textiles, 3D Design and Photography at GCSE and A Level.

Students have gone on to study art, design, fashion and architecture courses at a range of prestigious universities and art schools including: Central St Martins, University of the Creative Arts, University of the Arts, London, University College London, Manchester Metropolitan and Bournemouth University.





WHERE DO THE STUDENTS LIVE?

Leweston has four boarding houses all of which are located within the main school building. This ensures full integration between day and boarding pupils and no daily travel to and from the House.

Martha House

Martha is a welcoming and safe place for girls from age 7 to 13. It is divided into traditional dormitories with 6-8 boarders in each room. It is close to the Head of Boarding's accommodation and has a strong 'family' feel.

Cecilia House

Girls aged 14 and 15 stay in newly renovated, 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 in Years 11 and Sixth Form 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. They have facilities to do their own laundry and are encouraged to develop their own independent living skills.

Antony House

Newly renovated and expanded, the boys' boarding house is divided into junior and senior areas. Younger boys share dormitories of 5-6 students whilst the older boys have double or individual rooms as well as a common room for social space.

Sixth Form Centre

All Sixth Form students share their own Sixth Form Centre which provides indoor and outdoor social space as well as the facilities to cook for themselves and entertain.



WHAT IS THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS?

On average 20 international pupils join Leweston every year representing a wide range of different nationalities. For the benefit of all students, we maintain a balance of British and international pupils in classes and boarding houses so availability changes throughout the year.

All enquiries are taken by our Admissions team who will request the pupil's name, age and date of birth along with copies of latest school reports and the pupil's passport. If relevant, it is helpful to know the pupil's A Level or GCSE choices. Families are then offered an online meeting with the Headmaster.

For stays longer than one term, entrants must complete English and Maths tests provided by the school to be sat under exam conditions either at the pupil's school or Agency.

After tests have been marked the pupil will be invited to an interview with a senior member of staff, typically the Director of International Students. This can take place either in person as part of a visit or online.

Offers will be made after interview and testing and may be conditional where certain documents are yet to be disclosed. Offers are typically held open for one month but this may be shorter if there are limited places available.

Places are secured with payment of a deposit and signature of the Terms and Conditions. Deposits are refunded on the pupil's final bill; they will not be returned if the pupil decides at a later stage that they do not require the place.

There is no formal deadline and we continue to accept applications until our places are full, after which we operate a waiting list. Interest in Leweston is strong. Candidates are advised to apply as early as they can, especially at GCSE and Sixth Form to ensure maximum option choice.

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