



LEWESTON

SHERBORNE

SENIOR SCHOOL
PROSPECTUS
2020



Welcome to Leweston

Leweston's motto, 'Gaudere et Bene Facere' - 'Rejoice and Do Well' dates from the seventeenth century and applies to pupils and staff alike. It suggests not only that if something is worth doing, it is worth doing well, but also that it is worth doing in the right frame of mind, one which is positive, outgoing and cheerful.

Leweston's values are based upon a Catholic ethos of self-respect and respect for others' beliefs and values. We welcome pupils from all denominations and none. The qualities to which all Leweston pupils aspire are independence, intellectual curiosity, determination and confidence without arrogance.

We believe that education is for life and our aim is that all pupils should leave us well equipped with the skills they need to excel in a changing world. With this in mind we have created an educational model 'The Leweston Learner' that helps pupils to develop learning skills which they can use across the curriculum, in the work place and beyond. The six key characteristics encourage pupils to be confident, adventurous, inquisitive, resilient, determined and creative and throughout this prospectus you will learn more about how they do this.

This is only a snapshot of life at our School; although you will hear the words of the pupils' themselves there can be no substitute for visiting Leweston and experiencing first-hand what a vibrant community we are.

We hope to welcome you soon.

John Paget-Tomlinson
B.A. Hons, M.A., MSc, MRes, PGCE.





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I am Confident

Leweston pupils are articulate and friendly, welcoming new members into the School community. They believe in themselves, regular classroom debates are healthily competitive, and they can be assertive in the face of challenge. However, they recognise when it is appropriate to change their beliefs based on the evidence or arguments of others. They are both leaders and team players.

Leweston pupils are comfortable in their own skin and are not afraid to be who they are. Whether they are presenting in class or leading an assembly they can stand out knowing that they are secure and valued by the community around them.



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Leweston as a school is an all inclusive community, full of amusing and engaging people who want the best from and for you. In retrospect taking the opportunity to come to Leweston was an amazing decision. Overall it's a delightful experience that I will never forget and prepares you for the reality of life.

Sam, Year 13

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There are lots of great things about Leweston. If I could choose one it would be the warmth of the School community that I feel very much a valued part of.

George, Year 9

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I am Inquisitive

Leweston pupils are keen to learn, they are enquiring and actively seek out the answers to their questions. Whether they are participating in the Head's Essay Society or Rhetoric group, attending Leweston Lectures or undertaking the Extended Project Qualification they are self-directed learners.

Comfortable with an ethos that sets high expectations for all, they draw on consistently applied support from staff achieving results well-beyond their initial expectations.

They work hard but appreciate the need for balance in their lives embracing the different curricular and extra-curricular experiences on offer whether it be rock climbing, sailing, language exchange or electronics club.



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Since joining Leweston I haven't looked back. I have made the best friends I could ever wish for and the teachers have never failed to be warm and understanding. I look forward to my days at school and the opportunities that are presented to me and I would recommend life at Leweston to anybody who wants their child to not only receive a great education but to be shaped as a well-rounded and down to earth person. Leweston has shaped me as the person I am today and I owe it all of my success in the future!

Scarlett, Year 13

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I am Adventurous

Leweston pupils aim high. They approach unfamiliar situations positively and seek the opportunity to move outside their comfort zone with courage and curiosity. Whether travelling to Nepal to work in our sister-school or taking on a role in the annual musical or school play, they know they will fully discover their potential if they test themselves.

They are comfortable in a learning environment which requires them to experiment and think independently, conducting regular fieldwork in Geography and Biology, practising their languages abroad and competing in Science and Maths Olympiads.

They embrace opportunities with boundless energy and enthusiasm. Leweston pupils have a great capacity for fun, dressing up for charity, ice skating on weekend trips or joining in with the tug of war at the St Antony Day celebrations.



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At Leweston we are all encouraged to be ourselves and develop our own interests and talents. The support from staff helps to increase our confidence massively. Aside from academic life there are many other opportunities available to us, it is a very close and friendly community and I could not wish to be anywhere else.

India, Year 13

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We now get responsibilities and this teaches us to be independent which really prepares us for life. In Year 7 the teachers really trust us to prepare everything ourselves; our homework, our extra-curricular activities, our rep meetings, signing in to late lunch and so on.

Dominique, Year 7

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I am Determined

Leweston pupils do not give up when things are difficult, whether that is in the classroom, sports field or music room. They expect to work hard and give of their best every day.

They are enthusiastic and passionate about all that they do and are willing to drive change when they feel it necessary, be it achieving Eco-School status or ensuring their opinion is heard by the School Council. They are concerned for both the immediate and wider society around them and look to make an impact on their world. Funding a Nepalese student through university with tuck shop purchases or visiting vulnerable people in the local community, Leweston pupils go on to make a difference, whatever their chosen field.





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Over the five years I have been at Leweston I have become so much more confident than when I first joined. The teachers and the activities I have done at Leweston have really impacted and helped me achieve this. I have also made some incredible friends and shared many great experiences with them at School, including sports matches, school plays and many different trips. I enjoy going to school at Leweston because the environment makes me feel safe and happy and, therefore I find it easy to learn.

Ellen, Year 9

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I am Resilient

Life is a challenging journey but Leweston pupils remain focused and optimistic. They treat set-backs as learning opportunities and believe that all experience is valuable. They are open-minded and reflective. Encouraged by staff, they draw links between new and existing skills and ideas and take responsibility for their own progress. Working alongside their tutors they review regular feedback provided and take responsibility for their own improvements.

With strong friendships built in a close community pupils help each other, recognising and applauding success and offering support when others are feeling discouraged. With Sixth Form Peer Mentors and Prefects providing encouragement and practical advice to new starters, pupils have a diverse network of friends. Boarders and day pupils form strong bonds and relationships build across year groups.



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When I joined Leweston in Year 7, I knew no one. I didn't know what to expect or who I was going to meet. However, from my very first day I was welcomed by everyone and made to feel instantly at home. Throughout the years since, I have taken part in so many opportunities from playing sports to completing Duke of Edinburgh treks to singing in the choir. There is something for everyone! I have thoroughly enjoyed all of it and have made so many incredible memories I will never forget. I feel that at Leweston you learn so much about the world around you and the size of the School creates a caring community where you can develop relationships with your peers and teachers and feel confident to develop and learn together. I can't believe it has gone so fast and I'm honestly going to be so sad when it comes to leaving as I have loved my whole time at Leweston and been left with the most amazing and genuine friendships, not forgetting an outstanding education. I can't recommend Leweston strongly enough as I have had the best time and will miss it so much.

Kate, Year 13

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I am Creative

A Leweston pupil works creatively to solve problems. Given the freedom to experiment, they imagine solutions, refine their ideas and put them into practice. They are always encouraged to ask 'What could I do differently?'

Supported by the School's flexible and individualised approach pupils develop a personal style and show originality in their work. They can make connections between their different experiences and transfer their learning from one experience to another.

They participate enthusiastically in Leweston's vibrant cultural life which extends into every aspect of the School's routine. Whether it be National Theatre live, Sinfonia, Jazz Band or life drawing there is no shortage of willing participants.





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I graduated from Leweston as a confident and well-rounded individual excited to begin life at university. I really could not ask more from a Sixth Form. My confidence derives from outstanding academic results – I achieved 4 A*s at A Level – which I can attribute to the high quality of teaching and academic support offered by Leweston. It also derives from other skills I acquired during my time at Leweston, particularly in leadership and communication. Leweston offers countless opportunities to lead projects and to practise speaking in front of a crowd. I am so glad I made the most of these opportunities, since they equipped me with skills needed to embrace all areas of university life.

Emma, Former Pupil

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We chose Leweston because we immediately loved the warm, welcoming feeling of the school and the caring ethos which brings out the best in every child.

Its size and strong community means that all the pupils get to know each other, not only within their own cohort but throughout the School. Equally all the children are known as individuals to the staff, who can therefore really help each one develop and blossom into confident, kind adults who achieve to the very best of their abilities. As parents too, this means we get to know the other parents, children and staff really well and feel included in School life.

We were also very impressed in the way that Leweston continually punches above its weight, not only in academic results. All the children are encouraged to be active and take part in Sports as well as Music, Drama and extra-curricular activities. These enrich their experience and reinforce friendships.

Our children are flourishing at Leweston, they are extremely happy, active and achieving and we all love being part of the ‘Leweston Family’.

Parent Year 7

I am so full of pride as I look at the young woman my Year 9 daughter is becoming ... Leweston has played such a special role in her guidance and direction creating the assertive, independent, conscientious, confident and resilient person that I see. I am delighted and grateful that her school journey is being closely monitored. I feel confident that she is open to opportunities; academically, physically and socially. I believe that she is part of a community where she is forming strong friendships and is encouraged to be the best that she can be.

Parent Year 9

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For more information call us on: **01963 211015**
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www.leweston.co.uk



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