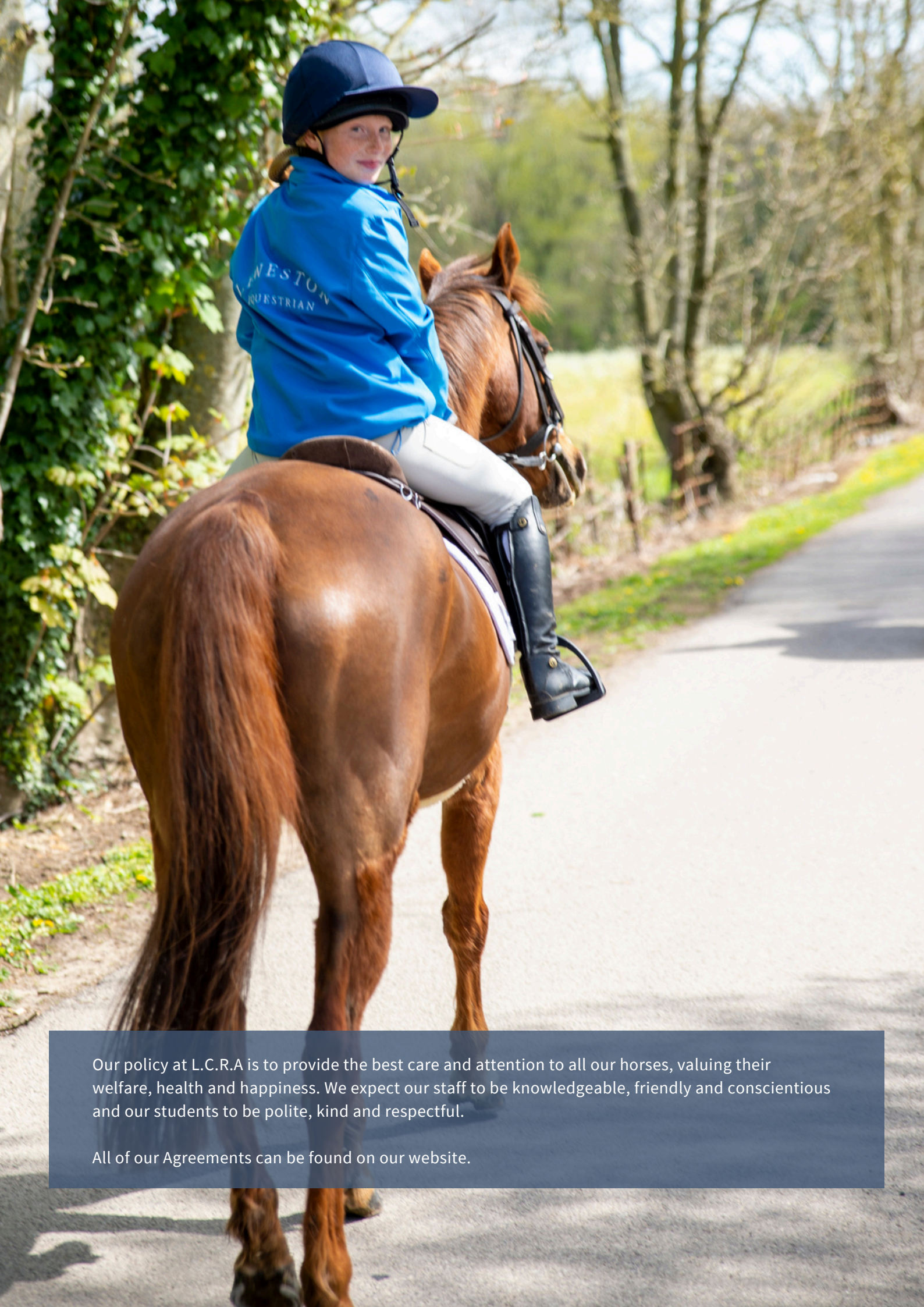




LEWESTON
SHERBORNE

EQUESTRIAN HANDBOOK 2025





Our policy at L.C.R.A is to provide the best care and attention to all our horses, valuing their welfare, health and happiness. We expect our staff to be knowledgeable, friendly and conscientious and our students to be polite, kind and respectful.

All of our Agreements can be found on our website.

STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT



**Lorraine
Roberts**
Director Of
Riding Academy

Lorraine has been involved with horses all her life (starting as a working pupil for her Aunt, before she could walk!). She has extensive horse care knowledge and has been an accomplished, well-respected accredited Pony Coach for over 35 years, and is passionate about teaching children to ride, care for, and understand their horse. From the early days of her career, when she produced young horses for eventing, show jumping and dressage to mentoring her own daughters, and the children of families she has worked for to success at national and international level. Lorraine has more recently led Leweston riders to numerous achievements and our riding team hold many national team and individual titles.



Kieran Higson
Senior Yard
Manager

Kieran (BHS Stage 3) brings with him a wealth of experience of managing a busy yard in a school setting. Kieran trained at Wellington Riding Centre before working as rider and groom for David Doel Eventing. Although enjoying his competing, Kieran decided Coaching and Yard Management was the way forward, he is now working towards his Full BHS Stage 4 and has recently bought a young horse to produce. Kieran is a dedicated coach who enjoys being part of his students' progress with a special interest in delivering a Wellbeing programme such as Changing Lives Through Horses.



**Sophie
Underwood**
BTEC
Teacher

Horses have been a constant thread throughout Sophie's life. From a young age, she spent hours in the saddle, rising through the ranks of the Pony Club. She competed at the Horse of the Year Show, winning the Prince Philip Cup and gaining recognition for her riding skills with a nomination to ride for Great Britain. After leaving university, Sophie pursued a career in journalism securing a scholarship to write for "Your Horse" magazine. This opportunity allowed her to collaborate with equestrian figures like Carl Hester and William Fox-Pitt. She also contributed to the development of "Your Horse Live," a major event in the equestrian world. 18 years ago, she embarked on a path to become a teacher. Her journey has been diverse, encompassing teaching and leadership roles in New Zealand, consultancy work for the University of Auckland, and acting as the head of a school in Hampshire.



Rebecca Slater
BTEC Teacher

Having been fortunate enough to have grown up around horses and competing for the Pony Club, at 18 Rebecca backed and brought on a yearling which she competed up to Intermediate level in Eventing. Rebecca enjoyed several years working on Eventing yards in the UK and NZ, as well as working as a Polo groom. Instructing for the Pony Club for many years, Rebecca now enjoys taking her own children to Pony Club rallies. Currently working in the IN and English department at Leweston, she looks forward to combining this passion for horses with being a part of the teaching team for BTEC Equine Management.

STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT



Millie Vickery
Coach

Millie, a seasoned and devoted instructor, is recognised as a British Horse Society Accredited Professional Coach and an affiliated British Eventing Coach. She participated in the GB Coach Pathway programme under the guidance of Yogi Briesner and had the opportunity to train alongside accomplished individuals like Pippa Funnell and Carl Hester. Millie has taught Equine NVQ courses at Kingston Maurward College and has competed at the 5* level in eventing with different horses. Her passion lies in educating riders on understanding their horses to maximise their potential, and considers it a crucial life skill.



Emma Fisher
Coach and Sports
Psychologist

Emma has competed Internationally in three sports (athletics, eventing and triathlon). She holds a degree in Sports Science and Psychology, a masters in Psychology, Level 3 Coaching Award, and recently received the Centre 10 Gold Award for Excellence in Coaching. Emma coached and developed the Irish Junior Eventing team for five years before being selected to coach, develop and lead the Great Britain Young Rider Eventing team as Chef d'Equipe (with many Bronze, Silver and Gold medals over her 14 years in post). Emma recently set up her own Mentoring and Coaching business, which supports athletes competing from equestrian grassroots to 5* level, Commonwealth Games and International athletics and clay pigeon shooting competitors. Emma feels strongly that progressing a coaching partnership with her riders is about communication, development, support and listening to the athlete so they can be confident, happy and inspired to reach their own specific goals.

Facilities

The Riding Academy's facilities include:

- Stabling for 20 horses
- Turn out paddocks
- Grass paddocks
- Floodlit outdoor arena
- Vet, farrier inspection box
- Hacking
- Tack rooms
- Lecture/teaching room
- Student changing rooms
- Washing machine and rug drying
- Wash Boxes
- Solarium

Our partnership with Chedington Equestrian provides:

- World-class cross-country training course
- Surfaced cross-country arena and warm-up
- Full-size dressage and show jumping arenas
- Indoor arena
- Elite level training
- Rehabilitation facilities
- Access to Olympic Riders and Top Trainers



Livery and Loaning

If you are in Year 5 or upwards you may bring your own horse to Leweston.

Once we have received a completed livery application form and deposit we will reserve you a stable. Mrs Roberts will be in touch with your parents to make arrangements for your horse's arrival. If you no longer wish to bring your horse to Leweston, we require a full term's notice to cancel the stable.

Horses Arriving at the Centre

At the beginning of each term the Riding Academy opens between 10.00 and 16.00 on the day before the start of term for horses to return. Mrs Roberts will contact your parents before the beginning of each term to confirm the date and opening times.

The welfare of all horses at Leweston is important to us. Please do not bring your horse if any of the following apply:

- Your horse shows any signs of ill health including lameness, fever, nasal discharge.
- Your horse has had a temperature in the last two weeks.
- There is any chance your horse could have come into contact with an infectious disease.

Procedure for horse arrivals: All horses will undergo a health check upon arrival at the Riding Academy Centre by a member of staff who will check the following:

- Your horse's passport – this must remain with Leweston whilst your horse is at livery with us. This is a legal requirement. A copy of your equine insurance details must be provided.
- Vaccination record - this must be up to date (Equine Influenza and Tetanus and for international horses EHV). Please note that the primary (first 2 vaccinations) must have been completed 7 days PRIOR to arrival, also your horse should not require to be vaccinated within 7 days of arriving. Currently, horses must have received an Equine Influenza booster within 6 months upon arrival. Failure to meet this requirement will mean your horse will be turned away.



- The health and soundness of your horse, this will involve a walk and trot up (horses with any signs of ill-health including raised temperature will not be admitted onto the yard).
- The date of when the horse was last shod/due to be shod.
- Feeding requirements.
- Tack must be safe and well-fitting, this will be checked before the horse is ridden.
- Confirmation that Livery documents are fully completed.

Horses are not allowed to enter the yard until the required checks have been completed. If you are bringing your horse from another country we do have a quarantine policy that will need to be discussed prior to arrival.

Worming: All horses must follow the Riding Academy's worming programme if they are to be grazing on the paddocks here. A copy of the annual worming programme will be sent to your parents before the start of the school year. All horses, upon arrival at the start of the school year, will be wormed in accordance with the current worming programme.

Turnout

We believe in the importance of turning horses out and allowing them time to 'be a horse'. However, this can be subject to change and restrictions due to weather, ground conditions, pasture/field management preparation. Pupils will be informed of turnout timetables.

Horsebox and Trailer Storage

Car park space is limited which means it is available on a first come first serve basis, storage of your vehicle may be available and a termly fee will be charged. You will also be required to complete a disclaimer.



Loaning

If you have applied to loan a horse you will have an assessment with Mrs Roberts during the first week of term, following which you will be allocated a horse, if there is a suitable horse available.

Once you have been allocated a loan horse, you will be responsible for the care of this horse or pony during term time. You must help muck out, etc in the mornings and evenings and will be able to ride daily (max. 6 times a week). You must follow the Academy rules for riding your loan horse when riding and exercising it.

Saddlery, shoeing, vaccinations, vet's fees and worming costs will be covered by the school. Riding lessons will be charged to school accounts.

If, for any reason, you are not able to come down to the yard to look after your horse you must email or text Mrs Roberts or the Yard Manager in advance.

If you and your horse are of a suitable standard, you will be able to take your horse to competitions. Transport and entry fees are charged to school accounts. We have a very limited number of loan horses available for competing, and would recommend that riders who are competitively ambitious bring their own horse.

Absence – Loaners and Liveries

If for any reason you are not able to come down to the yard please let Mrs Roberts, or Yard Staff, know in advance. If Leweston cares for the horse, your parents will be charged for this, so please make sure your parents are happy to pay before asking the yard.

Safeguarding

Please ensure your parents give adequate notice of horses and pupils leaving and returning from school, preferably by email. In order to ensure the welfare of pupils, access to the yard by anyone other than staff members, pupils, parents, and school approved farriers, vets, practitioners and instructors is restricted. Please see the separate guidelines on parents and family visiting.





Feeding and Bedding

All feeds are made up and horses fed by a member of the yard staff. Feeding times are as follows:

- Morning feed: 07:00
- Lunch feed: 12:30
- Evening feed: 19:30

A basic feed of fibre, nuts, and sugar beet is included within the Livery package, although you are welcome to use your own feed if you wish.

We use shavings as bedding. At the start of each term you will find your bed made ready for your horse. Over the course of the week you can add one additional bale of shavings to keep your horse comfortable.

Riding in Your Free Time

Loaners and liveries have the opportunity to ride in their free time after school and in their free periods during the school day (by arrangement with the Yard Manager and academic staff) and during yard opening times at weekends. All horses will have at least one day off a week.

Hacking will be undertaken with a member of the Academy staff escorting. Horses must not be ridden around the school grounds.

Jumping is not permitted unless you are in a lesson.

The lunge pen is only available to use under supervision unless the rider has their Pony Club Lunge Test certificate.

Extra Services

We can offer clipping and trimming services as follows:

- Trace clip
- Blanket clip
- Full clip (including legs)
- Mane pulling
- Tail pulling

The cost will be added to the school account at the end of term.

Horse and Rider Clothing and Equipment

Please ensure all rider clothing and equipment is clearly labelled. Tack must be suitable, safe, clean and fit correctly. Tack will be inspected at the start of each term and if ill-fitting or in need of repair then owners will be asked to do this as soon as possible.

There is limited space for horse equipment. Please only bring what is necessary for the term. Rugs and head collars are the only items to be stored outside stables. All other equipment must be stored in the tack room cupboards. There are racks and pegs for tack. All equipment must be clearly named.

You must wear the correct uniform when you are on the yard. No school uniform should be worn when mucking out. Please make sure you have enough spare uniform to allow for laundry.

Our Academy Riding kits colours are dark grey and navy blue and we have collaborated with Horses With Attitude Clothing (HWA), to produce an comprehensive branded kit list for riders and horses. You are able to order and purchase both our training and our competition kit online directly from them. HWA have collaborated with Premier Equine LTD who produce quality, affordable clothing and horse kit.

[View Kit List](#)



[Order Kit Now](#)



Kit List required for competitions

Azure Team Jacket
White/Cream jodhpurs or breeches
Navy or Hacking Jacket
Jodhpur boots + chaps or long boots
Red or School tartan tie
White shirt
School Stock tie (optional)
XC Colours: white Leweston base layer and white hat cover (red bobble)
British Standard riding hat (non-peak for XC)
Leweston navy hat cover (without bobble for Dressage)
2018 British Standard body protector (required for XC jumping)
Number bib
Gloves
Hairnet for long hair
White branded Leweston numnah/saddle cloth
Branded Leweston Fly Fringe if required
Branded Leweston blue $\frac{3}{4}$ waterproof rug
Branded Leweston blue Fleece rub
Baton Whip

BTEC Students

(no hoodies/or Jewellery allowed on the Yard)

Navy or Dark Grey Jodhpurs
Navy or Grey Base layer
Navy or Grey coat
Tech jacket, waistcoat, or long sleeved grey or navy jumper.
Jodhpur boots and chaps
British Standard riding hat
Navy Leweston hat cover
Yard Boots
Gloves
Hairnet
Leweston blue Hi Vis vest

BTEC students are allowed to stay in their riding kit during their other lessons in school providing they are clean and dry. Muddy footwear must not be worn into school. There are changing facilities at the Academy for BTEC Students to use.





Yard Rules

Arena Rules

- Enter when permission has been given.
- Pass left hand to left hand.
- Avoid walking on the outside track once trotting has commenced.
- No halting on outside track.
- Give way to horses in canter.
- The gates to the arenas must always be closed when riding.
- All horse droppings must be picked up at the end of your riding session.
- All jumps and poles must be left as you found them.
- Arena lights must be turned off at the end of the session.

Yard Rules

- Horses must always be tied up inside to be groomed, tacked up and mucked out.
- Maximum of two students allowed in a stable at one time.
- Horses must not be tied up outside their stables.
- Horses must be cross tied in the wash boxes and solariums.
- Tack must be cleaned after every use.
- The yard must be kept tidy and swept at all time.
- Horses should always be well groomed and never go into a lesson dirty.
- Feet must be picked out every time a horse leaves the stable and stable doors closed.
- Litter must be placed in the bins provided.
- String, sacks and plastics must be disposed off in the relevant recycling bins.
- There is no access to the feed room without permission.
- To prevent back injuries and to keep the yard tidy at all times, hay and bedding must always be carried in a wheelbarrow.
- All gates must be shut at all times including field gates, even if they were already open.
- Pupils must not ride another pupil's horse without permission.
- Pupils must always wear a hat and gloves when taking horses to and from the field.

Conduct on the Yard

- A quiet relaxed atmosphere is essential for the horses' well-being.
- No running, shouting or screaming.
- No loud music.
- No filming on mobile phones without permission.
- No smoking or vaping on the yard (including all visitors, coaches, parents).

Dress on the Yard

- Riding Academy top, polo shirt/skin jodhpurs and yard boots should be worn during morning and evening stables.
- A riding hat and gloves should always be worn for turning out, lungeing and loose schooling.
- Full and half chaps may be worn (no tassels).

Forbidden Dress on the Yard

- Trainers
- Hoodies
- Flip flops or sandals
- Vest tops
- Jewellery
- Scarves
- Ear Pods or Headphones

Yard Timetable

06.45	Hay, feed, stables, turnout
07.30	Boarders breakfast
08.00	Arrival
08.15	School Starts
16.25	School Ends
16.45	Riding lessons. exercise, training
18:30	Evening stables
19.15	Boarders Supper



Riding Lessons

Riding lessons can be booked in termly blocks online via SchoolCloud. In the Prep School and Years 7, 8 and 9 termly riding lessons are held on a rotational basis which means pupils come out of one subject lesson every half of term. In Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 lessons are held at lunchtime, after school, in free or study periods. Boarders may have lessons at weekends.

Termly riding lessons are based on 10 lessons per term but pupils may receive more or fewer than 10 lessons in any one term depending on its length. If your child is absent through illness, the academy will endeavour to make up the lost lesson, although you will appreciate that with a limited amount of spare time, this will not always be possible.

When booking for the first time you will be asked to complete a rider registration form. When you start having lessons you will receive an assessment riding lesson with one of our instructors. The riding timetable will be posted on the Equestrian Notice Board so that you can check when your riding lesson will take place. If, for any reason, the lesson you have been allocated is not convenient please let a member of staff in the Riding Office know as soon as you can.

If you are a day pupil and have your own horse at home you are very welcome to bring your horse to Leweston each week for your riding lesson. Please let Mrs Roberts know at least 48 hours before your lesson if you are planning to bring your own horse. You may book a day stable, provided there are stables available and the yard is not full. Stables must be booked in advance by contacting the Riding Academy.

Riding Kit for lessons and training

- A protective helmet (for riding and turning out) that complies with British Safety Standards. Hats must have been correctly fitted by a reputable saddler. Hats will be checked on a regular basis. Any hat not found to be of the correct standard, damaged or ill fitting will be confiscated.
- Long hair should be neatly secured in a hair band or hairnet.
- A suitable top, polo shirt or skin.
- A long sleeved skin and body protector are required for any xc training.
- Navy or dark grey jodhpurs or breeches.
- Riding gloves.
- A body protector compliant to British Safety Standards is recommended for show jumping and is compulsory for cross country. A body protector must be fitted by a reputable saddler.
- Black or brown riding boots, preferably jodhpur boots (most comfortable and easiest to ride in). Half chaps may be worn with jodhpur boots; they protect the lower leg, prevent from rubbing and also help to keep the rider's leg in the correct position whilst riding. Half chaps must be black or brown only, tassels are not allowed. Long rubber boots are not ideal for a younger rider as they make it difficult for the rider to put the leg in the correct position and therefore apply the correct aids. They may also be uncomfortable.
- A coat is necessary when riding outside in the winter and must be fastened at all times, in order not to flap and frighten the horse.
- Jewellery is not allowed.

Paddock Pantry are our preferred suppliers of safety equipment. Leweston riding kit is available to order at Horses With Attitude.

[Order Kit Now](#)





Visitors

Leweston has a duty to protect its pupils and to uphold health and safety protocol which means parental access to the Riding Academy cannot be unrestricted.

- All visitors, suppliers and contractors must sign in at Academy Office and wear a lanyard prior to access to the yard.
- The beginning and end of term (and half-term) are recognised as times in the school year when pupils may have a significant quantity of equipment to be moved between the yard and home, and at these times parents/guardians are granted access to the Academy. There will be specific times allocated for this.
- Parents/guardians are of course encouraged to watch their own children riding in their scheduled lessons. In order to facilitate this, all adult visitors to the Academy are asked to report to the Academy Office on arrival.
- During weekdays, parents/guardians will be accommodated on the yard between 16:45 and 17:45. Again, please sign in at the Academy Office.
- At weekends, parents/guardians will be encouraged to visit the yard between 09:30 and 12:30.
- Adult visitors may not enter the arena without first gaining permission from the senior member of staff on duty at the time.
- Adults visiting pupils are expected to respect the School's no-smoking/Vaping policy.
- The use of video recorders, mobile phones and cameras at the Academy is not permitted without the express permission of the Director of Riding.
- External suppliers or contractors are permitted only with permission from the Director of Riding.

Memberships

NSEA - National Schools Equestrian Association

Leweston School has a reputation for being one of the leading schools competing at NSEA affiliated competitions.

The NSEA squad is selected from riders who are keen to compete for the school at Grass Roots level (40cm-70cm) and Senior level (70-1.20m) in show jumping, dressage, arena eventing and ODE's. Riders can qualify for National Championships at Hickstead, Addington and Royal Windsor Horse Show.

Affiliation fees and all entry and training fees, are charged to school accounts. The Team Manager selects teams, enters the competitions and supports the riders at their competitions. . Regular training sessions are held within the academy and at Chedington equestrian with our discipline specific coaches.

The NSEA Squad have a Team Captain and Vice-Captain who support the Team Manager.

Saddle Club

All users of the Riding Academy including the NSEA squad, pony care groups and general riding lessons will be members of the LCRA Saddle Club which is charged at £15 per year. The money raised from the Saddle Club membership will be used to support events, buy additional equipment and improve facilities.



Competitions

Training for competitions takes place throughout the term as part of weekly training sessions for the riding squad. This might also involve training with discipline specialists from outside of the school.

A list of competitions is available to riders each term. Team selection takes place well in advance of an event. Riders and their parents are informed of their selection by the Director of Riding. Transport to events is generally the responsibility of the rider and their parents but the school will help pupils who are not local and this is not possible to arrange.

Competition Levels

Grassroots (NSEA) Team and Individual from 40cm to 70cm Show Jumping and Dressage competitions this enables anyone aged between 4 and 18 to compete for their school as an introduction to competing.

Mini (NSEA) Team and Individual 70-75cm cm Show Jumping, Eventers Challenge, Jumping with Style and ODE.

Novice (NSEA) Team and Individual 80-85cm cm Show Jumping, Eventers Challenge, Jumping with Style and ODE.

Intermediate (NSEA) Team and Individual 90-95cm cm Show Jumping, Eventers Challenge, Jumping with Style and ODE

Open (NSEA) Team and Individual 1.05 - 1.10m Show Jumping, Arena Eventing, Jumping with Style and ODE.

Dressage (NSEA) Team and Individual Prelim, Novice and Elementary

Affiliated Competitions

British Eventing
British Show Jumping
British Dressage

Inter-school competitions

Dressage, show-jumping and arena eventing



EQUINE MANAGEMENT (BTEC Level 3)

SIXTH FORM

Equine Management offers two different options to students:
BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate (Equivalent to one A Level) or
BTEC Extended Diploma (Equivalent to three A Levels)

NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

This qualification offers an engaging programme to students who want a career in the equine sector. It can prepare learners for a range of apprenticeships in the equine sector. When taken alongside further qualifications, it supports progression to a range of higher education courses in equine management and other career choices. There are four mandatory units and you will choose one optional unit.

Mandatory Units:

- Unit 1 Equine Structure, Form and Function
- Unit 4 Work Experience in the Equine Sector
- Unit 5 Horse Tack, Equipment and Rugs
- Unit 6 Equine Health and Husbandry

NATIONAL EXTENDED DIPLOMA

This qualification is equivalent in size to three A Levels and will normally be the only qualification in a two-year study programme. This qualification will serve as preparation for a higher education course. This route gives learners the opportunity to enter the sector at a higher level, or in a more specialist role. There are nine mandatory units and six optional units.

Mandatory Units:

- Unit 1 Equine Structure, Form and Function
- Unit 2 Equine Diet and Nutrition
- Unit 3 Managing Equine Disease
- Unit 4 Work Experience in the Equine Sector
- Unit 5 Horse Tack, Equipment and Rugs
- Unit 6 Equine Health and Husbandry
- Unit 7 Preparation and Presentation for Competition Disciplines
- Unit 8 Equine Behaviour
- Unit 9 Managing an Equine Yard

Optional Units might be chosen from these:

- Unit 10 Equine Business Management
- Unit 11 Horse Fitness
- Unit 14 Theory of Training horse
- Unit 18 Estates Skills and Grassland Management

For more information on these sixth form courses please speak to Ms Underwood or Mrs Roberts



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