



LEWESTON  
SHERBORNE

# SCHOLARSHIP GUIDE 2026



# INTRODUCTION

Leweston has a proud tradition of recognising and nurturing talent. For entry in 2026, we are pleased to offer scholarships in: Academic Excellence, Art and Design, Drama, Equestrian, Music, Sport and Pentathlon.

## The Talent Pathway

Talent Pathways are designed to identify and nurture exceptional ability across key disciplines including Academia, Sport, and the Visual and Creative Arts. Open to pupils from Prep 5 onwards, the programme offers tailored support, mentoring, and enrichment opportunities to help individuals thrive in their chosen field. This invitation-only scheme complements the Scholarship Programme by fostering personal growth, leadership, and high performance, encouraging pupils to reach their full potential both within and beyond the classroom.

## Special Awards

### The Headmaster's Award

This discretionary award may be granted to a pupil who demonstrates exceptional talent, dedication, and community spirit, but who narrowly misses out on a scholarship in a specific discipline. It is awarded based on performance in the scholarship assessment, interview, and school reference. Applications cannot be made directly for this award, and it may not be given every year.

### The St Antony Award

Available to Sixth Form entrants, this award recognises students who show outstanding leadership, enthusiasm, and a commitment to community and service.

## When to Apply

Scholarship applications are invited on entry to Year 9 or Sixth Form. Both internal and external candidates may apply. Candidates should contact the admissions team to express interest well in advance of the relevant deadline. Application forms are available on the school website and can be submitted at any time. **Candidates must make themselves available on the relevant assessment date or their application will not be considered.**

Please note: Sixth Form applicants are expected to achieve a minimum of six GCSEs at Grade 5 or above, including Grade 7 or higher in subjects they wish to pursue at A Level or BTEC.

### 13+ Scholarships (Year 9 Entry)

Application deadline: Monday 5 January 2026

Assessment days: Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 January 2026

### 16+ Scholarships (Year 12 Entry)

Application deadline: Monday 10 November 2025

Assessment days: Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 November 2025



## Expectations and Eligibility

Scholars are expected to make a meaningful contribution to school life and their chosen discipline. For this reason, candidates may apply for only **one** scholarship area. Typically, one award is made per discipline, per age group however a second award may be given if two outstanding candidates present themselves. If no candidate meets the required standard in a given year, a scholarship may not be awarded in that discipline.

A reference from the candidate's current school will be requested prior to assessment. We strongly recommend that parents consult their child's current Head before applying, to ensure the candidate is likely to meet the required standard.

As part of the assessment process all candidates will be asked to attend a short interview with a member of the school's Senior Leadership Team to assess their broader interests and commitment.

Scholarships are awarded until the end of Sixth Form, subject to continued progress, commitment, and conduct. Awards are reviewed regularly.

## Financial Information

Scholarships are honorary and not means-tested. They represent recognition of talent rather than a significant fee reduction. Families requiring financial support may apply for a bursary in addition to a scholarship. Scholarship candidates are prioritised in bursary assessments. Bursary applications must be submitted in full before the scholarship deadline.

Please note: Families receiving the MoD's Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) are not eligible for fee reductions, though the scholarship title may still be awarded.

If a family chooses not to accept the financial element of a scholarship, the funds will be redirected to support other talented pupils.

## How to Apply

All scholarship candidates must be registered with the school. Application forms are available at: [\*\*www.leweston.co.uk/admissions/scholarships\*\*](http://www.leweston.co.uk/admissions/scholarships)

For further information, please contact:

Mrs June Smith, Registrar

+44 1963 211015 [smithj@leweston.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:smithj@leweston.dorset.sch.uk)



# ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Leweston's Academic Scholarship Programme is designed to recognise and support pupils with exceptional academic ability and intellectual curiosity.

One scholarship is awarded per age group, offering a £1,500 annual fee remission.

## Assessment

### 13+ Entry (Year 9)

- Candidates sit papers in Maths and English with a wide choice of questions; no revision is required.
- A 5-minute pre-prepared presentation on a favourite academic topic is delivered to a Head of Department or Deputy Head, followed by questions.

### 16+ Entry (Year 12)

- Applications are based on predicted GCSE results.
- Candidates sit two subject-specific scholarship papers, typically in subjects they intend to study at A Level.
- Those offering a modern foreign language also complete an oral exam.
- A 5-minute pre-prepared presentation on a favourite academic topic is delivered to a Head of Department or Deputy Head, followed by questions.

## Application Criteria

- Proven academic track record of performance across a breadth of subjects – based on reports and/ or exam performance.
- 'A' band Midyis/Yellis/Alis baseline testing score (or equivalent) with most scholars obtaining a score of 120+.
- Applicants for 16+ scholarships will be expected to achieve grade 7+ at GCSE in their intended Sixth Form subject choices.

## Opportunities

Academic scholars benefit from a rich programme of enrichment and leadership opportunities, including:

- Participation in workshops, seminars, lectures, and societies tailored for high-achieving students.
- Membership in the Scholars' Club, Rhetoric, and the Head's Essay Society.
- Entry into subject-specific competitions and academic symposia.
- Opportunities to organise debates, host book discussions, and present research projects.
- Engagement with visiting speakers, career-focused events, and subject-specific trips.
- Development of leadership skills through involvement in the academic pathway



# ART AND DESIGN SCHOLARSHIPS

Leweston's Art and Design Scholarship Programme is designed to inspire, challenge, and support students with exceptional creative talent. It offers a rich programme of artistic development, and opportunities to showcase work both within and beyond the school.

One scholarship is awarded per age group, offering a £1,500 annual fee remission. A second award may be granted if two exceptional candidates specialise in different disciplines.

Candidates should indicate on the application form which areas of Art and Design they are most interested in: Fine Art, 3D Design, Ceramics, Fashion and Textiles, and Photography.

## Assessment

**Portfolio Review:** Candidates submit a portfolio showcasing a range of media and techniques, including:

- Observational drawing and painting
- Sketchbooks (including independent work)
- Mixed media (digital, photography, collage, print, textiles)
- One 3D piece (e.g. clay, plaster, wood, card)
- Photographs may be submitted for large or fragile works

**Creative Task:** On the assessment day, candidates complete a hands-on piece using various materials.

**Interview:** A short interview with the Head of Art and Design to discuss the candidate's work and aspirations.

## Application Criteria

### Portfolio Requirements

- A diverse range of media and techniques
- Evidence of independent, self-initiated work
- Sketchbooks showing experimentation and development

### Artistic Qualities

- Strong visual communication and creativity
- Critical thinking and self-reflection
- Engagement with galleries, exhibitions, and artistic culture

### Commitment & Engagement

- Active participation in extracurricular art activities
- Intention to study Art or Design throughout school
- Leadership potential and willingness to mentor others

## Opportunities

- Participation in scholars' projects, masterclasses, trips, museum visits and workshops with visiting artists
- Access to specialist materials, portfolio development clinics, studio time, and enhanced tools
- Annual independent creative projects with mentor support and exhibition opportunities
- Creative industry talks and career preparation
- Leading and assisting with art clubs and workshops, acting as creative ambassadors
- Producing artwork for school exhibitions, events, and cross-disciplinary projects
- Entry into competitions, Arts Award, and sketchbook challenges
- Weekly invitation-only scholarship club



# DRAMA SCHOLARSHIPS

Leweston's Drama Scholarship Programme celebrates students with exceptional talent and passion for the dramatic arts. It offers a dynamic and enriching experience that nurtures performance skills, creativity, and leadership. Scholars are immersed in a wide range of theatrical opportunities, both curricular and extracurricular, and are supported in developing their craft to a high level.

One scholarship is awarded per age group, offering a £1,500 annual fee remission.

## Assessment

- **Performance Audition:** Candidates prepare and perform two contrasting 2-minute extracts from different plays, showcasing vocal, physical, and interpretive skills. Hard copies of scripts must be brought to the audition.
- **Interview:** A discussion with the Teacher in Charge of Drama to explore the candidate's understanding of theatre, their performance experience, and plays they've seen.

## Application Criteria

### Performance & Experience

- Proven track record of involvement in drama, either in or outside of school.
- Strong performance ability across vocal, physical, and interpretive elements.

### Commitment & Engagement

- A genuine passion for theatre and the dramatic arts.
- Willingness to take on leadership roles in productions and school events.
- Sixth Form candidates must study Drama and Theatre; younger scholars are expected to take GCSE Drama.

## Opportunities

- Participation in LAMDA lessons (solo, duo, or group)
- Involvement in multiple school productions
- Access to bookable rehearsal space for personal projects
- Masterclasses and live theatre trips with fellow scholars
- Active role in Leweston Drama Society and School Radio Station
- Leadership in House drama activities, assemblies, and school events
- Participation in the LAMDA Buddy Programme, mentoring younger pupils
- Individual mentorship with the Drama Scholar Coordinator to support academic and performance goals
- Opportunities to collaborate across year groups and contribute to the wider Arts Programme
- Encouragement to explore dramatic literature, practitioners, and performance disciplines



# EQUESTRIAN SCHOLARSHIPS

Leweston's Equestrian Scholarship Programme supports students who demonstrate outstanding ability, commitment, and passion for equestrian sport. The programme provides specialist coaching, and opportunities to represent the school in competitions, while encouraging leadership and responsibility within the Riding Academy.

Equestrian scholars are expected to represent Leweston in at least six competitions per academic year, maintain a training and competition diary and liaise regularly with the Equestrian Manager

One award is available for each age group and take the form of a financial grant of £1500 per annum to be used for:

- Entry fees for school organised equestrian competitions
- Stabling costs where the recipient is representing the school and staying away at an event
- School organised training, lectures, equestrian trips and visits
- School organised personal fitness strengthening classes if charged
- Private training sessions and external competition fees (in consultation with the Equestrian Manager)

## Assessment

- **Equestrian CV:** Includes awards, achievements, responsibilities, and qualifications.
- **Reference Letter:** From a current trainer, instructor, mentor, or Pony Club DC.
- **Video Submission:** Six minutes of footage showing competition or training, ideally in more than one discipline.
- **Interview:** With the Equestrian Manager and Director of Sport, discussing the candidate's footage, knowledge of rules, training schedules, and current equestrian topics.

## Application Criteria

### Eligibility by Age Group

- **13+ Entry:** Candidates are expected to be a Pony Club or Riding Club Member or competing BD, BS or NSEA, plus BE if appropriate; jumping confidently at 80cm+ or BD Prelim level.
- **16+ Entry:** Jumping consistently at 90cm+, eventing at BD90, and Dressage at Novice level.

### Skills & Knowledge

- Familiarity with discipline-specific rules and training programmes
- Basic horse management understanding
- Awareness of current equestrian topics, innovations, and welfare issues

## Opportunities

- Access to specialist coaching, mentoring, and training programmes
- Involvement in workshops, lectures, and online seminars
- Participation in school-organised fitness and strengthening classes
- Active role as a representative voice for equestrian sport within the school
- Leadership and mentoring to younger riders



# MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Music is at the heart of Leweston's community, enriching school life through performance, creativity, and collaboration. The Music Scholarship Programme supports talented musicians with specialist tuition, performance opportunities, and mentorship.

One scholarship is awarded per age group, offering a £1,500 annual fee remission.

## Assessment

- **Pre-Audition:** Strongly recommended with the Director of Music to assess suitability.
- **Reports:** Confidential references from current instrumental teachers.
- **Performance Audition:**
  - Two contrasting pieces on the principal instrument
  - One piece on the second instrument
  - Sight-reading task: 20 minutes to prepare an unseen piece, followed by a short lesson
  - Aural test
- **Interview:** With the Director of Music

## Application Criteria

### Instrumental Standards

- 13+ Entry: Grade 5 (principal), Grade 4 (second)
- 16+ Entry: Grade 7+ (principal), Grade 5 (second)

### Commitment & Engagement

- Strong performance ability and musical potential
- Willingness to study GCSE Music and A-Level Music
- Regular practice and participation in school ensembles
- Dedication to musical development and leadership

## Opportunities

- Participation in ensembles and solo performances
- Termly Scholars' Concerts
- Individual tuition from professional musicians
- Access to practice spaces and tailored support
- Involvement in major orchestral and choral concerts locally and nationally
- Music Mentor assigned from the Music Department
- Support with academic music, performance goals, and future plans
- Masterclasses with visiting professionals, concert and theatre trips organised by the department
- Leadership in Leweston ensembles (e.g. Schola Cantorum, Orchestra)
- Support for Prep School musicians through mentoring and practice sessions
- Assistance with concerts, rehearsals, and departmental responsibilities
- Promotion of a positive and inclusive music culture



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# PENTATHLON SCHOLARSHIPS

Leweston's Pentathlon Scholarship Programme supports students with exceptional ability and commitment across the five disciplines of Modern Pentathlon. The programme offers specialist coaching, mentoring, and competition opportunities, while encouraging a balanced and holistic approach to sport, academics, and wellbeing. Scholars are expected to represent the school at local and national levels and act as ambassadors for the sport.

Pentathlon scholars are expected to represent Leweston in local and national events, maintain a training and competition diary and engage in holiday training and extended events.

One scholarship per age group, offering a £1,500 annual fee remission.

## Assessment

- **Sports CV:** Detailing achievements, qualifications, and responsibilities.
- **References:** From two current coaches.
- **Video Submission:** Six minutes of footage showing performance in training or competition.
- **Assessment Day:** Includes:
  - Physical and technical assessments with the PE Department
  - Evaluation of stamina, coordination, and tactical understanding
  - Interaction with current students where appropriate
- **Interview:** With the Director of Sport and Head of Pentathlon, covering:
  - Rules and training schedules
  - Technical and tactical knowledge
  - Awareness of current topics in sport

## Application Criteria

### Eligibility

- Active participation in a Pentathlon programme
- High-level performance in at least one major sport (preferably County standard or above)
- 13+: Confident performance across disciplines
- 16+: Demonstrated consistency and competitive experience

### Skills & Knowledge

- Familiarity with rules and training schedules
- Understanding of strength and conditioning, and sport-specific tactics
- Awareness of current debates and innovations in sport

## Opportunities

- Access to specialist coaching in the different disciplines
- Monthly one-to-one mentoring with the Head of Pentathlon
- Participation in workshops, lectures, and online seminars
- Strength and conditioning support
- Act as a representative voice for Pentathlon within the school
- Support the development of younger athletes
- Promote a balanced lifestyle across sport, academics, and wellbeing



# SPORT SCHOLARSHIPS

Leweston's Sport Scholarship Programme recognises students with outstanding athletic ability, commitment, and leadership in sport. The programme supports scholars with expert coaching, competitive opportunities, and personal development, while encouraging them to be role models within the school's sporting community.

Sports scholars are expected to represent Leweston regularly in school fixtures, tournaments, and championships.

One scholarship per age group, offering a £1,500 annual fee remission.

## Assessment

- **Sports CV:** Detailing achievements, qualifications, and responsibilities.
- **Reference:** From a current coach or PE teacher.
- **Assessment Day:** Includes:
  - Performance in a range of physical and sport-specific activities
  - Evaluation of fitness, coordination, teamwork, and leadership
  - Sport-specific drills or match play where appropriate
- **Interview:** With the Director of Sport, covering:
  - Training routines, tactical understanding, and sporting goals
  - Awareness of current issues in sport.

## Application Criteria

### Eligibility

- Proven ability in at least one major sport, ideally at County level or above
- Strong commitment to training and competition
- Willingness to represent the school in multiple sports and events

### Skills & Attributes

- Technical proficiency and tactical awareness
- Leadership and teamwork
- Resilience, discipline, and a positive sporting attitude

## Opportunities

- Access to specialist coaching and strength and conditioning programmes
- Individual mentoring from the Director of Sport or designated staff
- Participation in workshops, lectures, and online seminars
- Support with goal setting, injury prevention, and performance analysis
- Opportunities to compete at regional and national levels
- Involvement in inter-house competitions and sports leadership roles
- Act as a sporting ambassador within the school
- Mentor younger athletes and support co-curricular clubs
- Promote a healthy, inclusive, and competitive sporting culture



# GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

## Duration of a scholarship

Scholarships are awarded with the expectation that recipients will remain at Leweston for the full duration of their studies. Awards continue into Sixth Form provided the pupil remains actively involved in the awarding department.

If a pupil leaves the school at the end of Year 11, they may be asked to repay the value of the scholarship received. Sixth Form scholarships are awarded for the full two-year course.

## Accepting an offer

Scholarship offers must be accepted in writing within two weeks. External candidates must also pay a deposit, which is refunded when the pupil leaves the school. Please note: this deposit is non-refundable if the candidate later decides not to take up the place.

## Financial Specifications

- Scholarships are awarded at a fixed amount, deducted from the school bill in three termly instalments.
- Any bursary awarded will be calculated after the scholarship value has been applied.
- Pupils receiving the Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) or other substantial discounts may be granted an honorary scholarship, which carries the title but no financial value.

## Obligations of the Scholar

Scholars are expected to:

- Make a significant contribution to the awarding department
- Work hard, participate positively in school life, and set a strong example to others

If a scholar's commitment or performance declines significantly, the continuation of the award may be reviewed.

If a scholar chooses to withdraw from the awarding subject, the scholarship may be withdrawn unless the Headmaster and Head of Department agree that the scholar continues to meet the expectations through other contributions.

## Obligations of the parents

Parents are expected to:

- Support and encourage their child's commitment to the scholarship
- Understand that withdrawal from the awarding subject, lack of representation, or poor academic effort may result in the loss of the award
- Ensure that school fees are paid in full by the first day of each term, in accordance with the parent contract

## Withdrawal of a scholarship

Scholarships may be withdrawn by written notice if, in the opinion of the Headmaster (acting in good faith), the obligations outlined in the Scholarship Contract are not met by the pupil or parents.

Before withdrawal, the Headmaster will issue a formal warning and allow a reasonable period for the situation to be rectified.

Withdrawal will typically take effect from the start of the following term.

Scholarships may also be withdrawn if school fees remain unpaid 28 days after a written reminder has been issued

