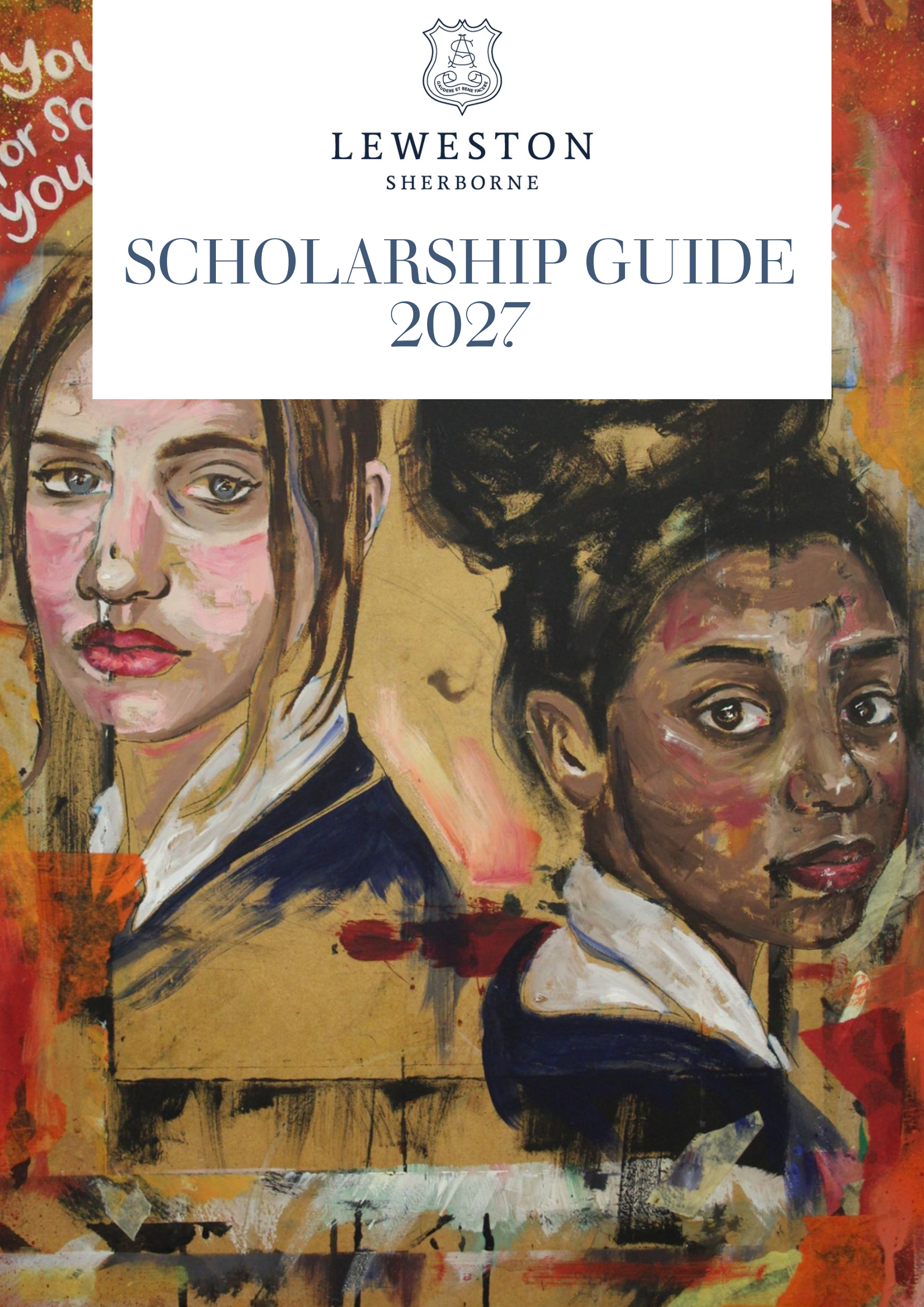




LEWESTON
SHERBORNE

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDE 2027



INTRODUCTION

Leweston has a proud tradition of recognising and nurturing talent. For entry in 2027, we are pleased to offer scholarships in: Academic Excellence, Art and Design, Drama, Equestrian, Music, Sport and Pentathlon.

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 (Sixth Form Only): 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 7 (11+), Year 9 (13+) or Sixth Form (16+). 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.

11+ and 13+ Scholarships (Year 7 and 9 Entry)

Application deadline: Monday 5 January 2027

Assessment days: Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 January 2027

16+ Scholarships (Year 12 Entry)

Application deadline: Monday 10 November 2026

Assessment days: Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 November 2026

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.

How Talent Pathways and Scholarships Coexist

The Talent Pathway and the Scholarship Programme are distinct but complementary. The Talent Pathway is available from Prep 5 onwards and is designed to identify and develop potential over time, offering structured support to pupils who show strong ability but who may not yet be at scholarship standard, or who are not at an entry point where scholarships are available.

Scholarships are awarded at the point of entry into Year 7, Year 9 or Sixth Form, and represent formal recognition of exceptional ability and commitment. Pupils on a Talent Pathway are well-placed to apply for a scholarship at the appropriate entry point, and their Pathway experience, including mentoring, enrichment activities, and performance records, will naturally support a strong scholarship application.

Where a pupil holds both a Talent Pathway place and a Scholarship, the two awards work together: the Pathway provides the ongoing developmental framework, while the Scholarship recognises the pupil's achievement and formalises their contribution to their discipline within the school community.

EXPECTATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

Scholars are expected to make a meaningful contribution to school life and their chosen discipline, providing mentorship to students on their subject Pathway and examples of exemplary behaviour and commitment. 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 to maintain a level of excellence in their chosen field and continued commitment to leadership within our pupil community.

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: <https://info.leweston.co.uk/scholarships-2027>

For further information, please contact: Miss Vera Ixer, Registrar +44 1963 211015
admissions@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

11+ and 13+ Entry (Year 7 and 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, plus a 5-minute pre-prepared presentation 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.

Expectations

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:** A range of media and techniques including observational drawing, sketchbooks, mixed media, one 3D piece, and photographs for large or fragile works
- **Creative Task:** A hands-on piece completed on the assessment day
- **Interview:** With the Head of Art and Design to discuss work and aspirations

Application Criteria

- Diverse portfolio showing independent, self-initiated work and experimentation
- Strong visual communication, critical thinking, and engagement with artistic culture
- Active participation in extracurricular art; intention to study Art or Design throughout school

Expectations

- 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, nurturing performance skills, creativity, and leadership through a wide range of theatrical opportunities. One scholarship is awarded per age group, offering a £1,500 annual fee remission.

Assessment

- **Performance Audition:** 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 covering theatre knowledge, performance experience, and productions seen.

Application Criteria

- Proven track record in drama, in or outside school, with strong vocal, physical, and interpretive ability
- Genuine passion for theatre and willingness to take on leadership roles
- Sixth Form candidates are expected to study Drama and Theatre; younger scholars are expected to take GCSE Drama

Expectations

- 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 with outstanding ability, commitment, and passion for equestrian sport, providing specialist coaching and competition opportunities while encouraging leadership within the Riding Academy. 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 scholarship is awarded per age group, offering a £1,500 annual fee remission.

Assessment

Equestrian CV; reference letter from a current trainer or Pony Club DC; six-minute video showing competition or training in more than one discipline; interview with the Equestrian Manager and Director of Sport.

Application Criteria

- **11+ Entry:** Pony Club or Riding Club Member, or competing BD, BS or NSEA
- **13+ Entry:** Pony Club or Riding Club Member, or competing BD, BS, NSEA or BE; jumping confidently at 80cm+ or BD Prelim level
- **16+ Entry:** Jumping consistently at 90cm+, eventing at BD90, Dressage at Novice level
- Familiarity with discipline rules, basic horse management, and current equestrian topics

Expectations

- Access to specialist coaching, mentoring, and training programmes
- Involvement in workshops, lectures, online seminars and small-group equestrian visits
- Participation in school-organised fitness and strengthening classes
- Support with performance goals and future plans
- Opportunities to compete at regional and national levels
- 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. 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 with the Director of Music is strongly recommended. Assessment includes confidential references from instrumental teachers; a performance audition (two contrasting pieces on the principal instrument, one piece on the second instrument, sight-reading, and aural test); and an interview with the Director of Music.

Application Criteria

Instrumental Standards

- **11+ Entry:** Grade 3 (principal), Grade 2 (second)
- **13+ Entry:** Grade 5 (principal), Grade 4 (second)
- **16+ Entry:** Grade 7+ (principal), Grade 5 (second)
- Strong performance ability and musical potential with a willingness to study GCSE Music and A-Level Music, regular practice and participation in school ensembles and dedication to musical development and leadership

Expectations

- 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



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; references from two current coaches; six-minute video of training or competition; assessment day (physical and technical assessments, stamina and coordination evaluation, interaction with current students); interview with the Director of Sport and Head of Pentathlon covering rules, tactics, and current sporting topics.

Application Criteria

- Active participation in a Pentathlon programme; high-level performance in at least one sport, preferably County standard or above
- 13+: Confident performance across disciplines; 16+: Demonstrated consistency and competitive experience
- Familiarity with rules, strength and conditioning, and current debates in sport

Expectations

- 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, supporting scholars with expert coaching, competitive opportunities, and personal development. Sports scholars are expected to represent Leweston regularly in fixtures, tournaments, and championships. One scholarship per age group, offering a £1,500 annual fee remission.

Assessment

Sports CV; reference from a current coach or PE teacher; assessment day (physical and sport-specific activities, evaluation of fitness, coordination, teamwork, and leadership, sport-specific drills or match play); interview with the Director of Sport covering training routines, tactical understanding, sporting goals, and awareness of current issues in sport.

Application Criteria

- Proven ability in at least one major sport, ideally at County level or above
- Strong commitment to training and willingness to represent the school across multiple sports
- Technical proficiency, tactical awareness, leadership, teamwork, resilience, and a positive sporting attitude

Expectations

- 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 as well as understand that withdrawal from the awarding subject, lack of representation, or poor academic effort may result in the loss of the award. Parents must 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.



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