SHERBORNE
SCHOOLS GROUP

Leweston families: Questions and Answers

Thank you to everyone who joined our webinar on Wednesday evening. We know how difficult and unsettling this time is, and how little time you have had to take everything in. Below are answers to the questions raised. If your question isn't covered here, please contact the relevant Admissions team, who will be very happy to help.

How do I apply for a place at one of the Sherborne Schools or Hanford?
The first step is to register your child; we have waived the usual registration fee to assist with this, and to keep things as straight forward as possible. The links to our registration forms are available on the website here. Please bypass payment when completing the registration form. For registrations into Year 11 and 13, please register for the Year below (Year 10/12) and add into the form manually that your child is in Year 11 or 13 as appropriate. (This issue is a limitation of the platform).

For queries about the admissions process or if you are having trouble finding the registration form link, please contact the relevant school's admissions team.

- Sherborne Prep: admissions@sherborneprep.group / 01935 810911
- Hanford Prep: admissions@hanfordprep.group / 01258 920847
- Sherborne Boys: admissions@sherborne.org / 01935 810403
- Sherborne Girls: admissions@sherbornegirls.group / 01935 818224

Is there a deadline for applications?
There is no fixed closing date; we will continue to consider applications for as long as we can accommodate pupils. We would gently say that the sooner children know where they are going next, the sooner some of the uncertainty can lift, both educationally and emotionally.

At the same time, please don't feel you must commit to any school before you are ready. Take the time you need to decide what is right for your family. If you choose another school for now, you are always welcome to consider us in future. The transitional fee arrangements, available on our website) apply to pupils joining directly from Leweston.

Visiting and meeting us

Do I need to book a tour, or can I just arrive?
Where possible, please book through Admissions so we can manage numbers and make sure there are enough guides to show you round. If you aren't able to book, you are still very welcome. We have published some tour times over the next few days on our website, along with the sign-up link.

We can't make the tours this week. Can we visit at another time?
Yes, of course. Please contact Admissions to arrange another more convenient time for you.

Fees

What will we pay for the rest of this term?
For the remainder of this half-term, families joining from Leweston will be charged 12.5% of the current term's fee for their place at Sherborne. For example, if the termly fee were £10,000, you would pay £1,250 for the rest of this half-term. This is not a deposit. This arrangement is for pupils transferring directly from Leweston.

What about fees from January?
For the Lent (Spring) and Trinity (Summer) terms, where the Sherborne fee is materially higher, we will meet families halfway between Leweston's standard published fee and our own fee. The breakdown of fees can be found here.

My child has a scholarship or bursary at Leweston. Will this continue?
We will honour existing Leweston scholarships and bursaries of up to 20% for the Lent and Trinity terms for the remainder of this academic year. This remission will be applied to the transitional fee for Leweston families. For your current remission to be applied to the reduced fee, proof of the current Leweston fees and award you are paying, such as your most recent fee invoice or award letter, should be sent to billing@sherborneschools.group.

All existing awards (scholarship or bursary) will be reviewed in time for the 2027/28 academic year, a process that aligns with our own scholarship and bursary policies.

We are a Forces family receiving CEA. What discount applies?
For the remainder of this term, Forces families will be charged 5% of the termly fee plus the ½ term charge for daytime feeding. From the Lent and Trinity term, our usual payment of CEA, plus 10% of the termly fee and daytime feeding will apply.

Do you offer bursaries?
Means-tested bursaries may also be available for those who require financial support. Please contact bursaries@sherborneschools.group to talk through your circumstances in confidence.

Subjects and exams

Which exam boards do you use at GCSE and A Level?
Please see the tables below. Where exam boards don't match, we may well be able to support your child because Sherborne Boys and Sherborne Girls work closely together, enabling a pupil to study a subject at the other school if that subject, or its exam board, isn't available at their own school or doesn't fit their subject blocks. Some of our pupils already move between the two schools for lessons and we are looking at how we can use this to support pupils joining from Leweston. Please do contact our academic leads to talk through your child's individual situation:

- Sherborne Boys: Tim Filtness, Deputy Head (Academic), tim.filtness@sherborne.org
- Sherborne Girls: Kate Scorer, Director of Studies, kate.scorer@sherbornegirls.group
- Learning support: Kat McGreal, Group SENDCo, katmcgreal@sherborneschools.group

My child is in Year 12. Can they continue with their current A Level subjects?
We will do everything we can to honour the subjects your child is already studying, and we don't expect this to be a problem. Although there are no entrance assessments, we may ask for a conversation to make sure we can teach and support your child well. For a few subjects, such as

Maths and Further Maths, we would look for a strong GCSE grade, so that your child isn't left struggling. Please contact our academic leads to discuss this.

Does Sherborne Boys offer Further Maths?
Sherborne Boys offers Further Maths at A Level but not at GCSE. However, Sherborne Girls offers the Edexcel Extended Maths Certificate at GCSE. If your son would benefit from the extra stretch, we will look at how we can accommodate this across the two schools. If he has already completed the Maths GCSE, we will look to support an extension tutorial off timetable. Please contact the academic team.

Can you support Year 13 pupils with UCAS applications?
Yes, absolutely. We would be delighted to support your son or daughter with their application.

How are classes set at Sherborne Girls and Sherborne Boys?
Maths, English, Science and languages are set. Languages are set more loosely at first, considering each pupil's previous experience of the language, as many will be starting a language for the first time.

How are classes set at Sherborne Prep?
Pupils are taught in their form groups up to the end of Year 5. In Year 6, teaching remains mainly form-based, with setting for Maths. In Years 7 and 8, pupils have a form group and tutor, and creative and practical subjects such as art, music, drama, design technology and ICT are taught in form groups. Maths is taught in three sets; English has a faster-moving group alongside two further groups; and humanities, sciences and languages have a faster-moving set and two parallel sets. Pupils who don't take languages have dedicated academic support, including classics and extra Maths. Movement between groups is fluid, and we work closely with parents and children to find the right pace for each child.

My daughter was taking the Leiths course. Can she continue?
Leiths is taught at Sherborne Girls by Miss Archer, who also taught the course at Leweston. The course is very popular and places are limited. We are also exploring whether we could run an additional session, which may need to be at the weekend, as well as offering places to Leweston pupils in the current classes if capacity permits. Please note that Leiths is charged as an extra. GCSE Food and Nutrition is also available as part of the curriculum, at no additional charge, although spaces are usually very limited.

Life at school

What co-curricular activities do you offer?
We offer an extensive co-curricular programme, with around 150 activities across our senior schools and 120 across our prep schools; details are on each school's website.

Senior Schools - Our school day is shaped by a boarding ethos, but day pupils are fully part of school life. Pupils arrive between 8.00 and 8.15am. Lessons finish at 5pm, and activities often continue into the evening. Generally, most formal activities finish by 6pm. Many day pupils join us for breakfast and stay for supper, house meeting (in the boys' school at 7.15pm) or as late as 9.30pm, but this is flexible. Others prefer to head home after lessons, or have commitments outside school, and that is fine too. Day pupils are a fully integrated part of school life, and on Saturday evenings our joint socials see at least 850 pupils coming together from the two senior schools. We run buses to many evening sport talent academy set-ups (in Bath, for example) so if this is

something your son or daughter is already part of, or joins at some stage, then please do speak to the house team on joining the school, as we might be able to facilitate transport (with a small charge to parents).

Sherborne Prep - Pupils arrive between 8.00 and 8.15am, or earlier if they are taking part in an early morning sports session. The day finishes at 5pm, or at 6pm for pupils taking part in an enrichment activity. Pupils can also join the boarders for supper club, with 24 hours' notice, and be collected between 6.45 and 7pm. We have full boarders and a buoyant regular and flexi boarding model that operates 7 days a week. There is a full weekend activity programme for boarders.

Hanford Prep - Pupils arrive between 8.15-8.25am (Plus girls can arrive from 7.45am). All girls have sport every afternoon from Monday to Friday (Saturday for older girls too), with most girls choosing to have riding as part of their weekly timetable. If they choose riding as an option, they will ride one afternoon a week and also have a Horse & Pony Care session once a week, working towards Pony Club badges and tests as appropriate. Sports fixtures take place primarily on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, with training sessions taking place when fixtures do not take place. In addition to this, all girls have activity sessions on a Wednesday afternoon. Girls choose from a range of options. For our youngest day girls (Year 3 to Year 5), they may choose the 'Core' option, leaving school at 4.35pm. However, others may wish to take advantage of the 'Plus' option which includes an activity every afternoon until 5.30pm (Monday to Friday).

How do Saturdays work?
At Sherborne Prep, children come in their own clothes for three hours of activities, with a real mix of creative, performance, sport and academic options. Children book in for the term, and some take part every week while others attend less often. If a family needs a weekend away, that is fine as long as the school knows in good time. Pupils in Years 5–8 are asked to commit to matches unless agreed otherwise, and there are some matches and tournaments for Years 3 and 4.

At Hanford, there are no Saturday lessons, but three activity sessions run through the morning. Younger girls may choose whether to attend; girls in Years 7 and 8 are asked to come if they can. There is daily sport for all girls Monday to Friday, with matches most often on Saturdays and Wednesdays. Girls in Years 3 to 5 on Hanford Plus have a daily activity, and all girls have activities on Wednesday afternoons.

At our senior schools, there are lessons on Saturday morning, followed by lunch and sport in the afternoon. Many evening socials are held jointly between Sherborne Boys and Sherborne Girls. There is a programme of activities on Sundays, which is more structured for the younger pupils and can range from zorbing or tree climbing to fossil hunting or bowling. Day pupils are always welcome. In the older years, pupils can choose to meet friends in Sherborne, use the sports facilities, relax with friends or use the time to catch up on work.

Is flexi boarding available at Sherborne Prep?
Yes. Alongside a small group of full boarders, our regular and flexi boarding is very popular, particularly from Year 6 onwards as children prepare for boarding at senior school. Pupils can board on an ad hoc basis, book set nights for the term, or board weekly. Many families need occasional boarding for work, so there are children of all ages in the boarding house every night of the week. It is a very happy house, led by a dedicated boarding team.

What boarding options do you offer at the senior schools?
We offer three options, so families can choose what works best for their child.

- **Day:** Day pupils have a study space in House and take a full part in school life, but do not have a bed and do not board, except in a genuine emergency approved by the school.
- **Day Boarding:** for day pupils who would like to be part of boarding life. Day boarders have their own bed in House, so they can stay over whenever they want or need to, after a late fixture or rehearsal or for a social. A set Day Boarding fee is paid to secure the bed and then an overnight charge (currently £75 including VAT) applies for each night. If your child is likely to stay four or more nights a week, Full Boarding would be a cheaper option.
- **Full Boarding:** the complete boarding experience, living in House seven nights a week throughout term.

Getting to school

Is there a bus service
Yes, we partner with Vectare, a specialist school transport management company, to assist us with the school bus service.

Current routes to Sherborne are from Bruton, Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Blandford Forum, Yeovil, Dorchester and Beaminster. We will consider alternative routes if there is sufficient demand. More information about the bus service and timetables can be found on our website here.

What time do buses leave at the end of the day?
We don't currently run return buses, as our day pupils finish at such different times. However, we are currently exploring an early-evening departure (around 6pm) with our transport provider. If transport or a return trip are of interest to you, please mention this when you contact Admissions so we can build a picture of demand.

My child needs to drive to school. Is that possible?
Pupils driving to school is not usually permitted, as our priority is keeping everyone safe, but we can consider requests on a case-by-case basis for pupils in the Upper Sixth. If agreed, pupils would hand their keys to their housemistress or housemaster on arrival and collect them at the end of the day and would not be able to carry passengers (including siblings) without explicit permission. Please contact Jessica Briggs, Senior Deputy Head (Pastoral) at Sherborne Girls or Allister Sheffield, Deputy Head (Pastoral) at Sherborne Boys to discuss further.

Exam boards: A Level/BTEC

Subject	Sherborne Girls	Sherborne Boys	Leweston
Art	AQA	AQA	OCR (Art & Design: Fine Art, Photography, Textiles, 3D Design)
Biology	AQA	CIE International	AQA
Business	Edexcel	Edexcel	
Business BTEC	Edexcel (at SB)	Edexcel	Edexcel
Chemistry	OCR	Edexcel	OCR
Classical Civilisation	OCR	OCR (at SG)	OCR
Computer Science	AQA (taught at SB)	AQA	OCR
Design & Technology	Edexcel (taught at SB)	Edexcel	
Drama	WJEC Eduqas	Offered at SG (WJEC Eduqas)	WJEC Eduqas
Economics	Edexcel	Edexcel	Edexcel
Engineering BTEC	Not offered	Not offered	Pearson Edexcel
English Language & Literature	Edexcel	Edexcel	
English Literature	CAIE	U6 – OCR L6 – CAIE (at SG)	Edexcel
EPQ	AQA	AQA	AQA
Equine Management BTEC	Not offered	Not offered	Pearson Edexcel
French	AQA	AQA	AQA
Further Maths	Edexcel	Edexcel	Edexcel
Geography	AQA	CAIE	AQA
History	OCR	AQA	Edexcel
History of Art	Edexcel	Edexcel	
Maths	Edexcel	Edexcel	Edexcel
Media CTEC	OCR (taught at SB)	OCR	
Music	Edexcel	Edexcel (at SG)	Eduqas
Music Technology	Edexcel (taught at SB)	Edexcel	
Photography	AQA	Not offered	See Art
Physical Education	AQA	OCR	Edexcel
Physics	AQA	AQA	OCR
Politics	Edexcel	Edexcel	Edexcel
Psychology	AQA	AQA	AQA
Religious Studies	OCR	OCR	Edexcel
Sociology	AQA	Not offered	
Spanish	AQA	AQA	AQA
Sport BTEC	Edexcel (taught at SB)	Edexcel	Edexcel
Textiles	AQA	Not offered	See Art

Exam boards: GCSE

Subject	Sherborne Girls	Sherborne Boys	Leweston
3D Design	AQA	Not offered	OCR
Art	AQA	Edexcel	OCR
Business	Not offered	Not offered	AQA
Classical Civilisation	OCR	OCR (not offered to Fourth Form)	OCR
Computer Science	AQA	AQA	AQA
Design & Technology	Not offered	AQA	Not offered
Drama	Eduqas	AQA	Eduqas
English Language	CIE IGCSE	CIE IGCSE	AQA
English Literature	CIE IGCSE	CIE IGCSE	AQA
ESL	Not offered	CIE IGCSE	CIE IGCSE
French & Spanish	Edexcel IGCSE	Edexcel IGCSE	Edexcel
Extended Maths	Edexcel Certificate	See note above	AQA Level 2 Certificate
Geography	AQA	Edexcel IGCSE	Edexcel
History	CIE IGCSE	CIE IGCSE	Edexcel
Latin	OCR	OCR (not offered to Fourth Form)	OCR
Maths	Edexcel IGCSE	Edexcel IGCSE	Edexcel IGCSE
Music (& Music Tech)	Edexcel	Edexcel	Edexcel
PE	AQA	AQA	AQA
Religious Studies	AQA	AQA	Edexcel
Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Combined)	AQA	Edexcel IGCSE (Fifth Form); Edexcel GCSE (Third & Fourth Form)	AQA
Sport	Not offered	Not offered	Pearson BTEC
Textiles	AQA	Not offered	OCR