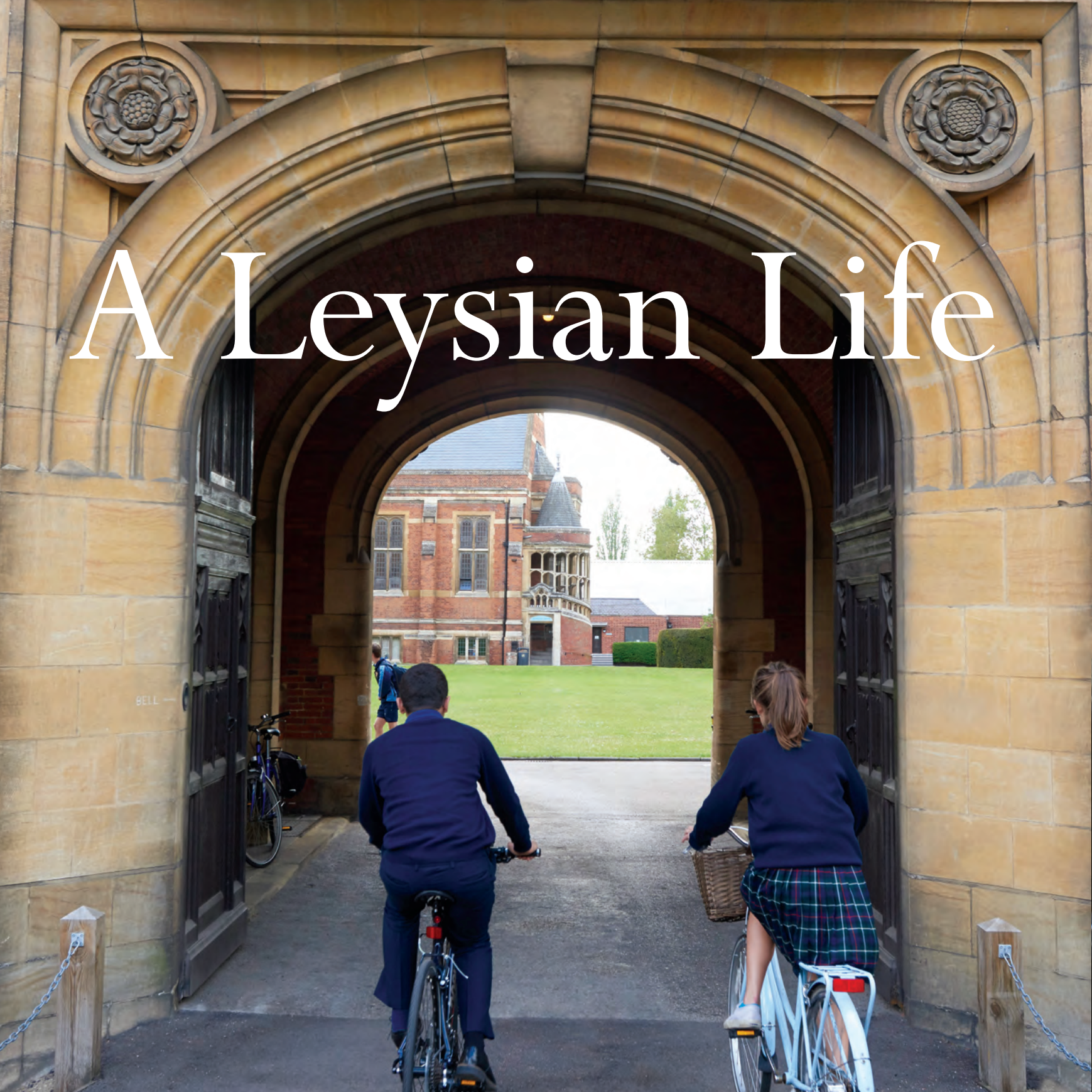




THE Leys

C A M B R I D G E

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS



# A Leysian Life

## Welcome to The Leys, Cambridge

I have always believed that school is not merely a *preparation for life*, but life itself. For this reason, at The Leys we believe that our pupils' school lives should be full of challenges, choices and opportunities for growth and flourishing, for emotional and intellectual enrichment. School is not simply a rehearsal for what is yet to come.

The Leys, founded in 1875 by The Methodist Conference, is the only co-educational boarding and day school in Cambridge. It blends traditional values – courtesy, tolerance, respect and decency – with a forward-looking approach to education. We take full advantage of our location in the centre of one of the world's most intellectually and culturally stimulating cities to ensure that the curriculum is qualitatively different from what other schools are able to offer. Cambridge, in other words, is not just a descriptor of where we are, but of what we seek to do.

With 560 pupils, we sometimes describe ourselves as a 'big,

small school'. The Leys is big enough to offer a huge range of opportunities, but small enough that we are able to get to know individuals really well. One of my chief joys is that this allows me to play a prominent role in the pastoral care of all the boys and girls here. The result of this: confidence. The confidence which our pupils gain from this encouraging family atmosphere is perhaps the greatest gift we can offer them – without it, they cannot hope to fulfil their potential in work and play.

I hope you enjoy what you read and see in this prospectus. If you do, then I would urge you to come and visit us, so that you can see the School in operation. You will, I am confident, discover for yourself that this is a special place. I look forward to meeting you and I can assure you of a warm welcome.

*Martin Priestley, Headmaster*





# Cambridge ~ a rich and vibrant city

The Leys is situated in the heart of a thriving cultural and educational city

Cambridge is one of England's most historic and cultural cities and its university ranks amongst the best in the world. It is also a centre of innovation and development and has risen to be the UK's leading technology and biotechnology cluster.

This gives pupils at The Leys unparalleled opportunities to hear leading figures speak on matters from biotechnology to astronomy and cultural affairs.

Graduate students from the University also act as mentors to Sixth Form pupils who undertake Independent Research Projects. All of this is complemented by a lively calendar of local theatre and performance arts events.

Cambridge is only 50 minutes away from the capital and there are a number of excursions to London each year.





# A home from home

*“The outcomes for boarders are excellent... Boarders are confident, personable, articulate and display admirable pride in both their houses and the School.”*

*ISI Report, 2015*

## A family community where everyone is welcome

The Leys is a small close-knit community based on mutual respect and shared values. Its backbone is the House system where pupils are allocated to one of eleven Houses (this includes three Day Houses). The Boarding House is a second home for our pupils, where support is available at all times from the resident Housemaster or Housemistress (Hsm as we call them), their Assistants (also resident) and the tutor team dedicated to each House. A friendly, caring Matron is always in the House up to mid-afternoon.

At The Leys we offer Boarding for pupils from Year 7 with these younger children having their very own Boarding

House (Moulton) across the road from the main campus. For the older pupils, there is a choice of three boys' Houses, two girls' Houses and one Sixth Form House each for boys and girls.

Parents are always very welcome to come to any of the school events taking place, whether it be on the sports field, in Chapel or in the Performing Arts Centre, Great Hall. Boarders can opt to go home after their Saturday commitments, or they can choose to stay in School where one of the highlights is the famous Leysian Sunday brunch!

“ The fact that most Granta girls join the School in the Lower Sixth supports the strong bonds within the House. The light-hearted, fun and close-knit atmosphere within the House is one of Granta's defining attributes and I'm proud to be a Granta girl. ”

Head of House





*“The quality of the pupils’ achievements is excellent in their academic work and in their wider achievement. They demonstrate a high level of knowledge and understanding across all areas of the curriculum.”*  
*ISI Report, 2015*

## Inspiration to excel and exceed

Based upon the foundation stone of a happy campus environment, a strong work ethic is built from the outset. As pupils progress through the structured framework of their early years, they take on increased responsibility for planning their workloads with the full support of a co-ordinated tutorial system. Classes are small, enabling teachers to offer individual help to every pupil.

The school’s academic results reflect the expertise, vitality and enthusiasm that our teachers inject into school life. If you ask Leysians, they will testify to the warmth, energy and commitment of their teachers.

# Academic



# excellence

“ I am completely overjoyed with my A level results...[my] hard work and genuine interest in the subject had been inspired and developed by many of my teachers at The Leys. This extended beyond the classroom to an unfaltering sense of community and a warm and friendly ethos. ”  
Upper Sixth Form pupil

# From artisans to actors

## Nurturing creativity, innovation and self-expression

Creativity, innovation and self-expression have many outlets at The Leys.

The termly drama programme makes full use of the school's outstanding theatre and drama facilities in Great Hall. This provides opportunities for pupils across all year groups to try out many skills, from performance and set design to production and technical support. The School puts on at least five productions each year and there are regular opportunities for individuals or small groups to perform short extracts in Assembly. Dance is another strength at The Leys and is popular with pupils from Year 7 through to the Upper Sixth. Many pupils combine their love of acting, music and dance in musical theatre competitions and every other year we stage a musical, which is very popular with both performers and audiences alike.

Our Music School has a 120-seat recital hall, recording studio, percussion suite, music library and technology suite, as well as many practice rooms. The building was designed with specific attention to acoustic engineering. There are many concerts each term, involving a wide variety of school ensembles and groups including Chapel Choir, Chamber Choir, Orchestra, String Orchestra, Wind Band, Jazz Group and rock groups.

The Rugg Centre is the school's home for Art, Design and Information Technology, where pupils can use art and ceramics studios and well-equipped design technology workshops (with 3D printers). Workshops are open for pupils to explore a wide range of activities including ceramics, pottery, sculpture, printmaking, batik, life drawing, photography, video and web design, woodwork and metalwork.

“ I have particularly enjoyed our School productions. Drama enables me to express my feelings and it is so exciting the night the curtain goes up for the first time. ”

Cast member of The Prince and The Pauper







# Courageous Captains

## Sport at The Leys is an integral part of everyday life

Pupils have many opportunities to enjoy competitive and recreational sport. A team sports ethos, which develops leadership skills, social interaction and teamwork, is central to our approach and complements pupils' academic and non-academic activities.

Hockey, rugby and netball are the focus of the winter sports programme while cricket and tennis form the mainstay of the summer term. Rowing, swimming, water polo, badminton, squash and volleyball are also on offer, with sailing, basketball, football and dance featuring in the School's games and activities programme. Teams at all levels have the opportunity to compete in fixtures against other schools and in county, regional and national competitions. House matches encourage playing sport for fun and enjoyment.

Our outstanding facilities include two AstroTurf hockey pitches, all-weather tennis courts, indoor swimming pool, climbing wall, rifle range and a dance studio, as well as a modern sports complex with conditioning suite, large hall, three squash courts and a two-lane cricket centre. A new boathouse on the River Cam, shared with Churchill, King's and Selwyn Colleges, has just been completed. The School's Head of Strength and Conditioning works to improve pupils' athletic development and sport therapists provide physiological support.

The Leys Sports Academy encourages excellence for our most able athletes. This is supported by links we have with clubs in the region, including a partnership with Northamptonshire Cricket. Sports tours feature in the calendar, and pupils have trained and played in South Africa, Malaysia, Australia and Sri Lanka in recent years.

# and competitive spirit

“ Our wide-ranging sporting programme nurtures and develops pupils of all abilities, inspiring a lifelong passion for health, fitness and competition. ”  
Director of Sport



*“[the] quality of leadership and management including links with parents, carers and guardians is excellent.  
Senior leadership provide a clear vision and sense of direction, ensuring high standards are achieved.”  
ISI Report 2015*

# Life at The Leys is full and enriching

## A busy timetable of activities to suit all

During their time at the School, pupils have plenty of opportunity to develop outdoor skills and participate in outdoor pursuits such as walking expeditions, canoeing, climbing and sailing. These allow pupils to acquire greater independence and self-confidence, an awareness of individual strengths, weaknesses and potential, and the ability to lead and work as part of a team.

In the Summer Term of Year 9, pupils take part in an outdoor education trip to the New Forest where they receive preliminary instruction in expedition planning, camp craft and navigation, before completing their Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Award Assessed Expedition. Activities attended regularly may also count towards the *physical recreation* and *skills* section of the Award.

In Year 10, all pupils join the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and continue with the DofE Award. CCF comprises Army and Navy sections, each offering training in outdoor pursuits, leadership, practical and military skills.

Two further large-scale DofE expeditions are organised for pupils to meet the criteria for the *expedition* section of the Silver Award. Pupils complete the *volunteering* section by participating in the CCF, St John's First Aid or Communities Services Groups. *Skills* and *physical recreation* sections may be completed by participants in extra-curricular activities, which can include out of school commitments. Suitably qualified and self-motivated Sixth Form pupils can progress to DofE Gold Awards.



# Chapel ~ a space for

# prayer and reflection

## A positive and enquiring attitude to religion

The Leys is a Methodist Foundation, founded in 1875 by a leading group of Wesleyan Methodists who wanted to build an independent school on a Christian non-sectarian basis. This aim remains at The Leys today, where a positive and enquiring attitude to religion is encouraged and links to the Leysian Mission in the City of London are maintained.

The School Chapel is very much the centre of school life. As a focus for formal worship, it underpins the sense of community and encourages tolerance of religious views. Pupils are invited to feel at home in the Chapel, to enjoy it for services or to use it as a quiet area for reflection in an otherwise busy environment.

The whole school has a weekly service which everyone attends. There are school services held at regular intervals throughout the year, such as Harvest Festival and Remembrance Day, which are family occasions with parents welcome to attend.

The School Chaplain provides spiritual and ethical guidance and support, helping pupils with their everyday lives and discussing any issues which may arise.

Preparation for Confirmation is available for those who want to make a formal commitment. The Ichthus Society (the School Christian Union) meets weekly for talks, discussion and fellowship.





"Do all the good you can.  
By all the means you can.  
In all the ways you can.  
In all the places you can.  
At all the times you can.  
To all the people you can.  
As long as ever you can."

John Wesley



# Outstanding

State-of-the-art facilities  
combined with teaching  
excellence

Great Hall has been an invaluable addition to Leysian life. We have seen the level of drama and musical performances rise to new heights as the pupils relish performing in this superb and well-equipped space.

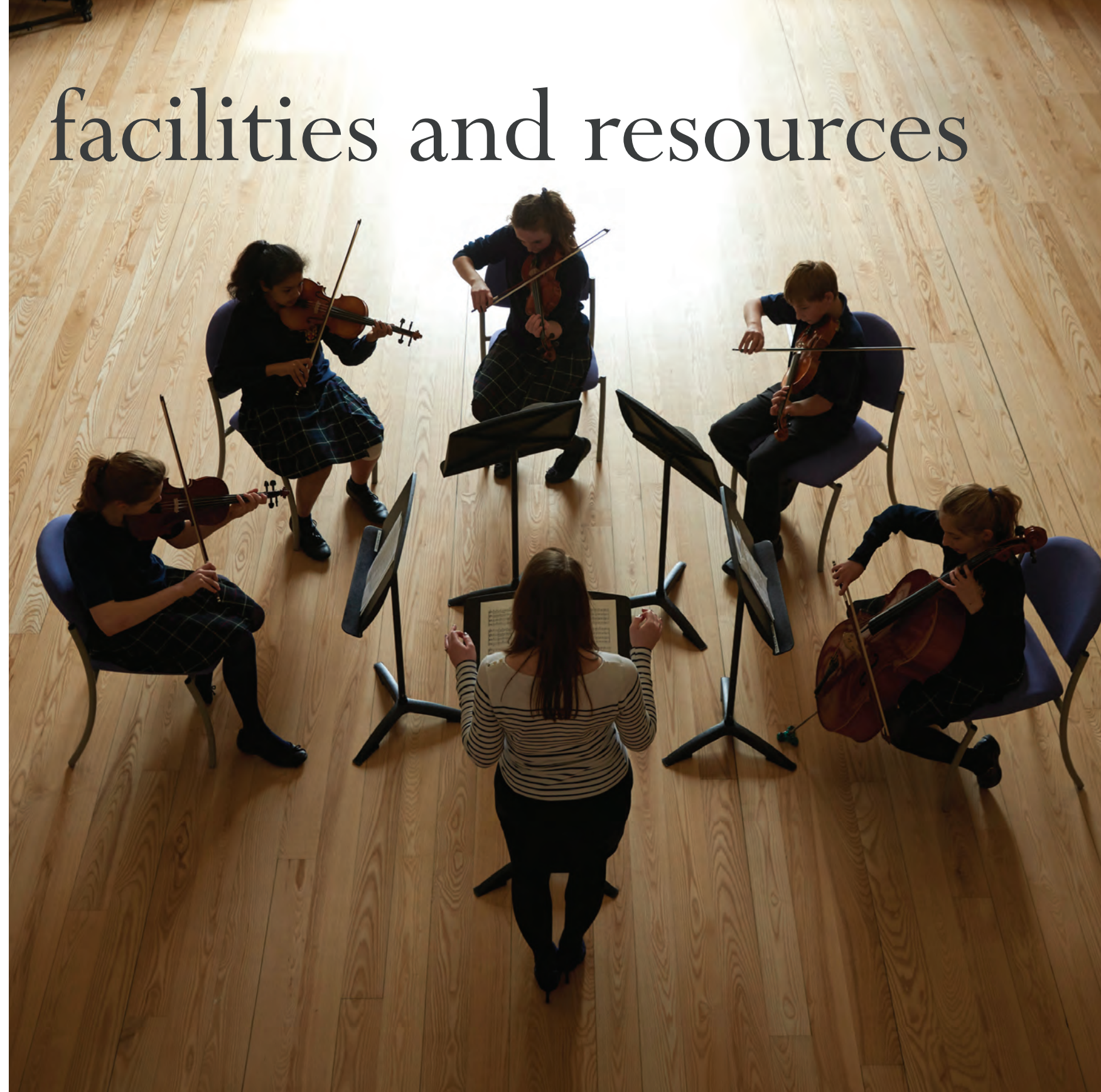
The drama studio is used regularly as a more intimate performance space, while the dance studio has been welcomed as a bright space for physical self-expression.

Our three new ergonomic science labs have benefitted teaching and learning by making movement from the theoretical to the practical more seamless.

Balgarnie's, our café, is very popular with pupils and staff as a relaxing space in which to meet and socialise and last, but by no means least, the spacious location of Great Hall makes it possible for everyone at the School to meet for weekly Assemblies.

The Leys and Cambridge itself are very fortunate to have Great Hall, which is available to use in so many guises.

# facilities and resources





Our pupils develop into



## Care for the individual lies at the very heart of our community

The Leys has a unique feel. We pride ourselves on the fact that every member of School, from the oldest serving member of staff to the youngest pupil, has a role to play in our successful community. Teamwork, shared responsibility, mutual respect and pastoral care play their part, enabling every Leysian to develop at his or her own pace whilst nurturing those abilities which carry them forward in life.

Care for the individual lies at the very heart of our support structure and we have in place a proven network to underpin the many and varied needs of Leysians as they progress through the School and into adulthood. This network includes medical care, a tutor system, learning support staff, the Chaplaincy and general pupil welfare overseen by our established team of Housemasters and Housemistresses.

well-rounded individuals



The Leys School  
Trumpington Road  
Cambridge  
CB2 7AD

T | 01223 508904  
E | [admissions@theleys.net](mailto:admissions@theleys.net)  
W | [www.theleys.net](http://www.theleys.net)

THE Leys