



THE Leys

C A M B R I D G E



TEACHER OF  
ESOL/EAL

*candidate information*

# Head's *introduction*

At The Leys, we believe that school is not simply a preparation for life – it is life. That's why we aim to make every pupil's experience here rich with challenge, choice and opportunity. School should be a place of growth and discovery, where young people are encouraged to flourish emotionally, intellectually and socially. It's not a rehearsal for the future – it's a vital and vibrant part of the journey.

Founded in 1875 by the Methodist Conference, The Leys is the only co-educational boarding and day school in Cambridge. We are proud of our heritage, and we continue to uphold values such as kindness, courtesy, respect and integrity. But we are also a forward-thinking school, preparing young people for a world that is constantly evolving. Our location in the heart of one of the world's most dynamic academic and cultural cities gives us a unique advantage – Cambridge is not just where we are, it's part of who we are.

With around 570 pupils, The Leys offers an exceptional breadth of opportunity – from academic excellence to creative, sporting and leadership pursuits. At the same time, our scale allows us to know each pupil as an individual. This strong sense of community and personal attention is central to our ethos. It builds confidence – not just in the classroom, but in every aspect of school life. And that confidence, nurtured in a supportive and ambitious environment, is one of the most powerful gifts we can give our pupils.

I hope this pack gives you a sense of what makes The Leys so special, and we look forward to receiving your application.



**Dr Clare Ives**  
**Head**

# Teacher of ESOL/EAL

Emploment Status	Full Time, Permanent
Salary	Competitive
Closing Date for Applications	19 March 2026
Interview Date(s)	26 or 27 March 2026



We are seeking a committed, well-qualified and enthusiastic ESOL teacher to join this important department in September 2026.

It is expected that the appointee will be an excellent teacher able to support, stretch and engage pupils in developing their English across all age ranges. Ideally, the successful applicant will have experience of preparing pupils for IELTS, although this is not essential.

The appointee will teach 1-2-1 and small group lessons to pupils for whom English is an additional language. They will be adept at assessing pupils' learning needs and planning and designing lesson sequences that will support pupils' development. The successful candidate will be expected to participate fully in the School's extensive pastoral and wider-curricular programme. The ability to support international pupils with other subjects, such as Business, at A Level would be advantageous.



# Welcome to *The Leys*



*Life at The Leys*

The Leys is a co-educational boarding and day school for pupils aged between 11 and 18. Set in the heart of the beautiful and stimulating city of Cambridge, one of the world's leading cultural and academic centres, The Leys' unique location allows pupils unrivalled access to the vast array of cultural and educational opportunities that Cambridge has to offer.

Established in 1875, The Leys values its history, yet it blends traditional values – courtesy, tolerance, respect, decency – with a forward and outward-looking approach to education. Dedicated staff and superb facilities combine powerfully to prepare young people for the challenges which lie ahead at university and beyond.

The Leys is a close-knit, engaged, friendly community of around 550 pupils in which pastoral care is seen as the top priority. Indeed, our [2025 ISI report](#) identified our school culture and the strength of our community as a **significant strength**. Academic value-added is impressive and the breadth of the wider curriculum is renowned. The School caters for Boarding, Home Boarding and Day pupils but, with 70% of pupils accommodated in boarding houses, boarding is absolutely central to the ethos of the School and all pupils benefit from the vibrancy and structure which this provides.

# Purpose

**The Purpose of The Leys is to play our part in changing the world for the better.**

We do this by making a positive difference to the lives, values and prospects of Leysians, by being professional, caring and rewarding in developing and managing our staff, by being a responsive and trusted partner to our parents, and by making a beneficial and sustainable contribution to the wider community

By foundation and structure, The Leys is a boarding community. We also place great value on being a “big, small school” embedded in the heart of Cambridge, and on giving Leysians a rich and rewarding academic and wider school experience – one they find valuable both intrinsically and in preparing for their futures. We seek, in the spirit of our Methodist founders and our Christian values, to send Leysians out into the world ready – academically, culturally, morally, physically, spiritually and socially – to live fulfilling lives which will make a positive contribution to society.

In order to achieve our Purpose, we aim to deliver an education which is built on three foundation stones: pastoral, academic and wider curricular. Whilst interconnected, ‘pastoral’ is accepted as pre-eminent, because pupils who feel supported and confident are able to flourish in all areas of the life of the school. Our teaching staff body all contribute to all three pillars of Leys School life, thus we all work together to ensure our pupils develop into happy, confident and well-rounded individuals ready to leave school and find their place in the world.

# Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is at the heart of what we do. We know that wellbeing is crucial to success in wider school life, and we all work together as a community to ensure that each pupil flourishes in school, feeling nurtured, supported and happy. Our House structure is central to this: all pupils are a member of a House throughout their time in school. Year 7 and 8 pupils are members of our junior house, Moulton, and then pupils in Year 9 and above join one of the eight boarding or three day houses. The vertical arrangement in the senior houses creates opportunity for pupils to support each other, and the houses are staffed with a Housemaster or Housemistress (HSM), an Assistant HSM, a Matron and a team of teaching staff. Pupils also have a tutor, who supports them with their wellbeing, academic progress and wider curricular involvement as they progress through the school. All staff are expected to contribute to our pastoral support of pupils, through tutoring, supporting the teaching of PHSE and undertaking weekly house duties.



“

**Pupils contribute in a myriad of ways to school life and the local community. They are exceptionally respectful, kind and courteous to others.**



## Teaching and Learning

Education is about so much more than passing exams, and at The Leys pupils are encouraged to develop an understanding of their own learning, find their passions, curiosity, and develop a lifelong appetite for knowledge.

Pupils are supported in their learning by excellent teaching both inside and outside of the classroom, with academic enrichment and extension embedded into the culture of the school. We understand that teachers are individuals and that they will have their own ways of expressing their passion and interest in their subjects. The 2025 ISI comment that we have a “highly inclusive environment, which supports pupils to become exceptionally thoughtful and considerate citizens.” sums up the impact of that individuality. That said, we know that aspects change within education, and we just completed an exciting transition from Google Classroom to Microsoft Teams and OneNote. Pupils and staff all have a digital device, and pupils are used to working digitally as well as on paper.

Academic Attainment at The Leys is outstanding. This summer, the school achieved its best academic results on record at GCSE and close to best at A Level, placing us 67th in the Times Parent Power Rankings for independent schools nationally, and 84th for all schools. At GCSE 86% of all grades awarded were 9, 8 or 7, and 38% were graded 9, and at A Level 85% of results were grade A\*-B. The School uses value added as an important measure of success and we are delighted that all our 2025 public examination results demonstrate that we added significant value to our pupils' academic attainment compared to similar schools: a testament to the hard work and dedication of both staff and pupils.

## Wider Curriculum

The Wider Curriculum is an integral part of the school week for all pupils and staff, with a significant amount of time in the afternoons and early evenings devoted to it. In their time at The Leys, pupils are actively encouraged to experience a broad range of activities that will bring them a wide range of benefits; activities in which they find enjoyment and fun whilst developing skills, personal qualities and attitudes that are transferable to other areas of their life at school and beyond.

The Leys' Personal Development and Leadership programme (PDL) for pupils in Year 10 and above ensures that all pupils develop leadership, broaden their horizons and collaborate with their peers on projects, often trying to solve contemporary problems. Through our outstanding sporting, music and drama provision, pupils develop as confident and well-rounded young men and women, ready for life beyond school. Our broad and varied after school activities programme enables pupils to develop their interests, skills and strengths. Through this we aim to complement the pastoral and academic pillars of an all-round Leysian education alongside boosting the physical and mental well-being of all involved in the wider curriculum. All staff contribute to our extensive wider curriculum programme through involvement in games, PDL, outdoor education, and a wide range of clubs and activities.

“A thoughtfully planned extra-curricular programme, that is responsive to the interests and talents of pupils.”





## General Teacher Expectations

The Leys is a traditional boarding school, and we have lessons running across 6 days each week. Lessons happen on a Saturday morning until 11:50am, and the afternoon is filled with sporting activity including fixtures.

Teachers at the Leys are expected to contribute to all three of the School's Pillars: Pastoral, Academic and Wider Curriculum. Pastoral contributions take the form of tutoring, house duties and teaching PHSE whilst the wider curriculum includes games, PDL, outdoor education and clubs and activities. House duties vary depending on the type of house: day house duties involve breaktime, lunchtime and afternoon/after school supervision whilst boarding house duties involve working with pupils in the evenings. Staff also support the day to day running of the School through involvement in school duties, on a rota basis.

We know that working in a boarding school is busy! Our staff feel this is undoubtedly worth it for the reward gained from the wider interactions they have with pupils, coming to know each child as an individual, not just as a pupil in the classroom. We work with our teachers to harness their strengths and passions both inside and outside of the classroom, so that there is joy for all of us in what we do. In addition, class sizes at The Leys are typically no larger than 24, and are often much smaller, particularly in Years 7 and 8 and the Sixth Form. Teaching allocations are lower than in state and day schools, to account for the involvement in the wider life of the school. Saturday lesson time is 'paid back' through shorter term lengths, and thus longer school holidays. Finally, four Leave Weekends spaced throughout the year provide the entire school community with some additional rest and relaxation.



# The Department

Students from all over the world attend The Leys, adding a valuable cosmopolitan dimension to everyday life. The International Support Department helps all pupils with an international connection realise their full potential in using English for academic, social, and professional purposes and achieving the qualifications required for university entrance. The Leys understands how traditions and cultural awareness are very important in education and development. Thus, the department also plays a key role helping pupils share and celebrate their cultures with their peers.

The International Support Department is located in a suite of rooms comprising an office, and three classrooms, one for approximately eight pupils and two for smaller groups. Each classroom is fully equipped with SMART display screens, and the department is well supplied with books and audio-visual resources. The department's programme aims to balance helping pupils to adapt to life in a British boarding school, to understand cultural context, and to develop their English skills using CLIL techniques as much as possible. The department is also responsible for preparing pupils for external examinations and ensuring all pupils achieve the required language qualifications for university.

Pupils join the school in Year 7, 9 or 12, and international pupils join us in all of these year groups, making up just under 20% of the school community overall, although this percentage varies by year group. It is expected that pupils stay with us for the duration of their secondary education, although the school accepts a very small number of pupils (2-3) into Year 12 each year on a one-year place.

International pupils are assessed on application to the school, and again on arrival, by the International Support Team. Usually, pupils arriving into Years 7 and 9 would be expected to have a minimum of B1 Language skills, and pupils are expected to be a strong B2 for 6th Form. Pupils requiring additional support to develop their English are identified and then receive lessons in 1-2-1 or small group settings. In Years 7 to 11 this will be through withdrawal from one or more subjects, and in the 6th Form this occurs in study periods. It is expected that international pupils will take English Language GCSE, and the vast majority also take English Literature GCSE, with great success. In the Sixth Form, pupils receive support in preparing for their IELTS examinations, and some pupils receive additional support to help them access their A Levels. The International Support Department is currently made up of 3 Full Time teachers and 1 Part Time teacher who also contribute in different subject areas.

The International Support Department plays a crucial role in supporting International Pupils in feeling a valued part of the school community. The Department takes a lead in running the World Culture Evening, where the 30+ nationalities and cultures represented within the school are celebrated. The department also supports pupils during the International Pupil Induction Weekend prior to the start of the academic year, where international pupils are given a chance to learn about British Culture and adapt a little to this before term starts. The school takes the views of its International community seriously, with an International Boarders' committee that meets with the Deputy Head (Pastoral) on a half termly basis to discuss issues that are topical and relevant to them.

# The Post

**This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.**

## **Main purpose of the role**

The role

- To teach pupils within the school
- To create a well-ordered teaching environment in which pupils can thrive and explore their academic potential.

## **Main duties and responsibilities**

- To have a clear knowledge of the individuals in their class and differentiate accordingly. This should mean both their individual learning needs as well as their individual personality.
- To bear in mind the Christian ethos that underpins the life of the school community and bring its values into the classroom.
- To plan lessons clearly and within the departmental scheme of work
- To mark work regularly and promptly, in line with departmental and school marking policies and to keep clear and full records of pupils' progress.
- To insist upon high levels of behaviour and respect for others in the classroom
- To be a subject expert who regularly updates their knowledge to stay 'current' in their subject
- To apply the necessary health and safety procedures when appropriate
- To contribute to the pastoral care of the pupils, including weekly duties in houses
- To contribute to extra-curricular activities
- To adhere to and maintain School Policies and Procedures
- To take responsibility for safeguarding the pupils
- To carry out other associated duties as are reasonably assigned by the Head.

## **Safeguarding responsibilities**

- To have read the School's Child Protection Policy and updates to this policy as required by the School.
- To adhere at all times to the School's Child Protection procedures and to undertake responsibility to safeguard pupils.
- To be aware of and adhere to at all times the School's Staff Behaviour and Code of Conduct and confidentiality.
- A duty to report and discuss any concerns about the safety of children and their wellbeing to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- A duty to report any low-level concerns about colleagues to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- To be informed and trained to an appropriate level and to complete mandatory safeguarding training as required by the School.

## General Tasks

- To refer to and adhere to all Health and Safety procedures and policies as appropriate and other legislative requirements as required, carrying out duties by working in a safe and organised manner.
- To ensure that a safe / secure environment exists for pupils / staff and customers and meet requirements under the Health & Safety at work Act 1974 and C.O.S.H.H.
- To uphold the provisions of data protection legislation, the School's Data Protection Policy, and other related policies.
- Understand and be mindful of the School Acceptable Use Policy and Staff ICT & Social Media Guidelines.
- To adhere to and maintain School Policies and Procedures and work with regard to the ethics of the School.
- To observe / implement all relevant legislative requirements, maintain and update own knowledge as appropriate for the role.
- To work flexibly as necessary to meet the needs of the role and the School.
- To undertake any other reasonable associated request from the Deputy Head Pastoral Care, Head/ Bursar, or other senior member of SMT as appropriate.
- To refer to and adhere to all Health and Safety procedures and policies as appropriate and other legislative requirements as required, carrying out duties by working in a safe and organised manner.

The list of tasks or duties and responsibilities described above is not exhaustive, and the School is entitled to instruct you, at any time, to carry out additional duties or responsibilities, which fall reasonably within the ambit of the job description, or in accordance with operational requirements.

# Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	Good honours degree or equivalent ESOP qualification (CELTA or ESOL PGCE equivalent)	PGCE, QTS or equivalent teaching qualification
Experience	Experience of working with children and young people Experience of teaching English as an Additional Language	Experience of teaching IELTS and/or the Cambridge B2 First and C1 Advanced Exams Experience as a tutor/form teacher
Skills	Excellent teaching skills. Ability to motivate and manage pupils. Strong communication and inter-personal skills. Capacity to be efficient and organized, flexible and adaptable and ability to prioritise effectively. Ability to deal positively and constructively with pupils and colleagues. The ability to work in a busy environment and meet deadlines.	Ability to work on your own initiative and as part of a team Good working knowledge of IT and familiarisation with online digital platforms.
Knowledge	Candidates should be willing and able to commit themselves actively to support the ethos of the school Ability to support pupils in Key Stage 3 with work from other curriculum subjects	Ability to support pupils in Key Stage 4 and 5 with work from other curriculum subjects Ability to coach a sport / enthusiasm to help with extra- curricular activities (including day/ residential trips).

# How to *Apply*

## How to apply:

If you are interested in applying, please submit a completed application form including one page covering letter addressed to The Head, The Recruitment Team, The Leys School, Cambridge, CB2 7AD (recruitment@theleys.net) by 09.00 am on 19 March 2026. Interviews will be held 26 & 27 March 2026.

This role has the opportunity for regular contact with pupils and therefore is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

By applying for this role, you are consenting to The Leys School storing your personal data. Please read our 'Privacy Notice for Job Applicants' for further details.



# Benefits

Join us and experience a fulfilling career in an inspiring environment where your growth, wellbeing, and sense of community are our top priorities.

## Fee Remission

Generous fee remission (The Leys School and St Faith's), subject to the normal admissions criteria (pro-rata for part-time staff).

## Remuneration

Competitive salaries and a choice in excellent pension schemes (including the Teachers' Pension Scheme for our Teaching colleagues) with generous employer contribution. We are proud to be a Living Wage employer.

## Meals

Three-course lunch from Monday to Saturday and an evening meal on duty evenings. Our meals are mainly homemade on site using locally sourced ingredients and served in the beautiful and newly renovated Dinning Hall.

## Location

Stunning city centre location with free parking, access to electric charging, secure bike parking and a Cycle to Work scheme.

## Cambridge University Botanic Gardens

Complimentary use of a visitors pass to the beautiful Botanic Gardens (a two-minute walk from the School).

## Wellbeing

Enjoy a complimentary hot lunch when working, prepared by our professional culinary team. Plus, benefit from membership of the Sports Complex including free staff swimming, and access to a comprehensive Employee Assistance Programme that provides a wide array of resources and support services for staff and their immediate family (terms and conditions apply).

## Community

A supportive and friendly community, with regular social events and the chance to join in extra-curricular activities. Staff can also attend internal productions in our theatre (Great Hall) or external productions hosted by visiting companies (note that external companies may charge for these events).

## Professional Development

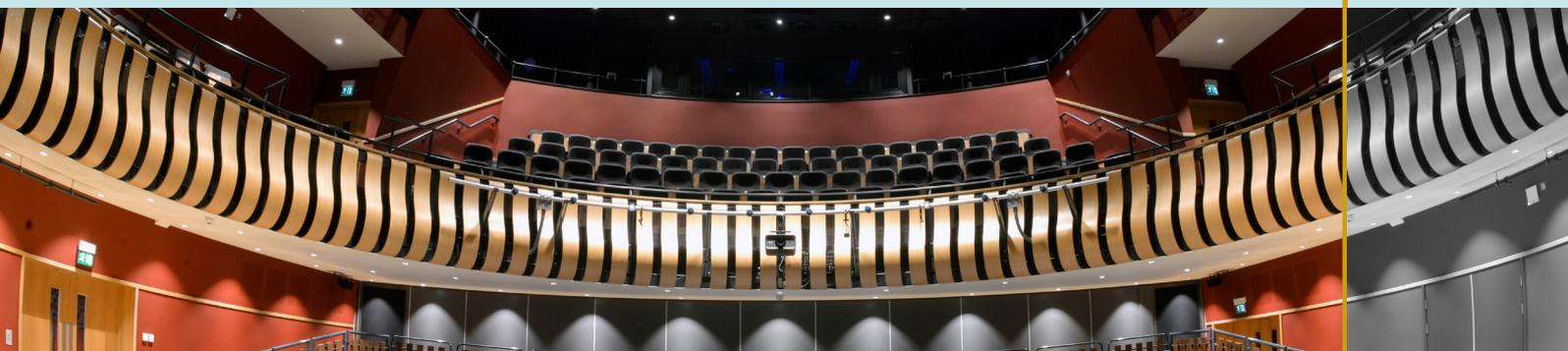
Opportunities for staff development, including regular INSET and CPD, membership of our on-site library, and funded attendance at relevant external training events.

## Extended Holidays

There are 33 weeks of term time, plus time for INSET. This means that teaching staff benefit from extended holidays compared to state education.



Please note that colleague benefits which are non-contractual may be subject to review and change at any time.





The Fen Causeway, Cambridge CB2 7AD T: 01223 508 900 E: [admissions@theleys.net](mailto:admissions@theleys.net) W: [theleys.net](http://theleys.net)  
Instagram | Facebook | LinkedIn