



THE Leys

C A M B R I D G E



PROSPECTUS



Welcome to *The Leys*

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 leading 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. 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 prospectus gives you a sense of what makes The Leys so special. But the best way to understand our community is to experience it for yourself. We warmly welcome families to visit, to meet our staff and pupils, and to see the School in action. We believe that education is a partnership, and we look forward to working closely with you as we support your child on their journey.

I look forward to meeting you.

Clare Ives
Head



LOCATED IN THE
HEART OF CAMBRIDGE



Life at The Leys



Discover
more:



A rich and *vibrant 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.

The area around Cambridge is sometimes known as Silicon Fen which reflects that the region is a powerhouse of cutting edge high-tech companies and science parks. The pupils benefit from being in close proximity to such ground-breaking ideas and innovation.

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 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.

We welcome parents to join us for many opportunities, whether it be on the sports field for matches, Sunday Chapel Services or in the Performing Arts Centre, Great Hall for one of the many plays through the year. 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!



**8 BOARDING
HOUSES**
**3 DAY
HOUSES**



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100%
A Level Pass Rate

100%
GCSE Pass Rate



Academic *Excellence*

Based upon the foundation 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 pupils take from their teachers, as part of school life.

If you ask Leysians, they will testify to the warmth, energy and commitment of their teachers.



Discover
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The School is a welcoming, vibrant and inclusive environment. This is a significant strength of the School.

~ ISI Report 2025

The Wider Curriculum

Drama

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 theatre 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. There is also a very active Drama Scholars' programme that aims to foster a passion for performance and to develop pupils' performance and design skills. Regular theatre trips are made to Cambridge, London and beyond.



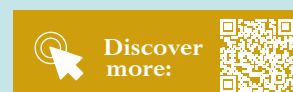
Dance

Dance is another strength at The Leys and is very popular with pupils in all year groups. In our purpose-built dance studio we offer classes in Contemporary, Street, Modern Jazz, Classical Ballet, Hip Hop, Acrobatics and the popular Aerial Hoop. Other fitness classes are also available such as Yoga and Pilates. There is an annual Dance Show which is a big highlight of the year.



After School Activities

During the School week we offer an extensive range of clubs, societies and activities that our pupils can take advantage of. Most of these run in our After School Activities programme in the late afternoon. In addition, there are talks and lectures that occur, both on site and in Cambridge. Pupils, with guidance from House staff, have responsibility for choosing their wider curricular activities and signing up for them each term.





Music

The Music School is a vibrant department at the heart of school life and there is provision for musicians at every level, both academically and practically. More than 200 instrumental lessons are taught each week, and tuition is available in most instruments. There are numerous performing opportunities, from informal break-time and lunchtime concerts to larger scale formal events including the Concerto Competition and the End of Year Concert at Saffron Hall. Choir visits are arranged to cathedrals and colleges, and recordings and tours are also undertaken.

There are a wide variety of ensembles including the Chapel Choir, Chamber Choir, Junior Voices, Orchestra, Wind Band, Big Band, String Orchestra and various smaller groups. The Music School's facilities are excellent and well resourced, including a 120-seat recital hall with Steinway grand piano and harpsichord, recording studio, ICT composition suite, percussion room, music library and numerous practice rooms. The School also has a C. Bechstein concert grand piano and a 3-manual Viscount organ.



Discover
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A thoughtfully planned extracurricular programme, that is responsive to the interests and talents of pupils.

~ ISI Report 2025







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Leaders have structured a curriculum that enables pupils to develop their interests and explore new areas...Pupils are encouraged to be reflective about their work and their place in the world.

~ ISI Report 2025

Sport

Pupils have many opportunities to enjoy competitive and recreational sport through the games and after-school activities programmes.

A team sports ethos, which develops leadership skills, social interaction and teamwork, is central to our approach and complements pupils' academic and pastoral development. Teams at all levels have the opportunity to compete in fixtures against other schools and in county, regional and national competitions. In the most recent academic year, 86% of all pupils represented the School in at least one of 723 competitive fixtures. In addition, inter-house matches encourage playing sport for fun and enjoyment.

Hockey, rugby and netball are the core team sports of the autumn and lent terms, while cricket and tennis form the mainstay of the summer term.

Rowing, swimming, badminton, strength and conditioning, dance, football and sailing are available as games options as the pupils move through the School. Furthermore, volleyball, basketball, squash, badminton, football, climbing, athletic development, rugby 7s and dance feature in the School's after-school activities programme.

Our outstanding facilities include two Astroturf hockey pitches, all-weather and grass tennis courts, 25m indoor swimming pool, climbing wall and a dance studio, as well as a modern sports complex with a high specification strength and conditioning suite, large sports hall, three squash courts and a two-lane cricket centre. The Leys also shares a boathouse on the River Cam with Churchill, King's and Selwyn Colleges, and rowing proves to be a popular option for many pupils.

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, many of whom have gone on to play high-level representative sport. This is supported by links we have with clubs in the region, including a partnership with Northamptonshire Cricket, Sunrisers Cricket Academy, Saracens Mavericks Netball and Northampton Saints Rugby. Sports tours feature in the calendar, and pupils have trained and played in the UK (Edinburgh and Belfast) as well as overseas in South Africa, Dubai and Sri Lanka in recent years.





Outdoor Education

During their time at the School, pupils have the opportunity to develop outdoor skills and participate in outdoor pursuits including walking expeditions, canoeing, orienteering, bushcraft, indoor and outdoor climbing as well as work towards qualifications such as Sailing RYA or Paddle UK. 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 residential where they receive preliminary instruction in expedition planning, camp craft and navigation, before completing their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award Assessed Expedition in Year 10.

Pupils complete the volunteering, skills and physical recreation sections through their extra-curricular activities, which can include out of School commitments. Year 12 pupils can progress to the Gold DofE Award irrespective of any previous participation.



Pupils take opportunities to help and serve others in the School and local community, developing their leadership and communication skills.

~ ISI Report 2025



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Personal Development and Leadership

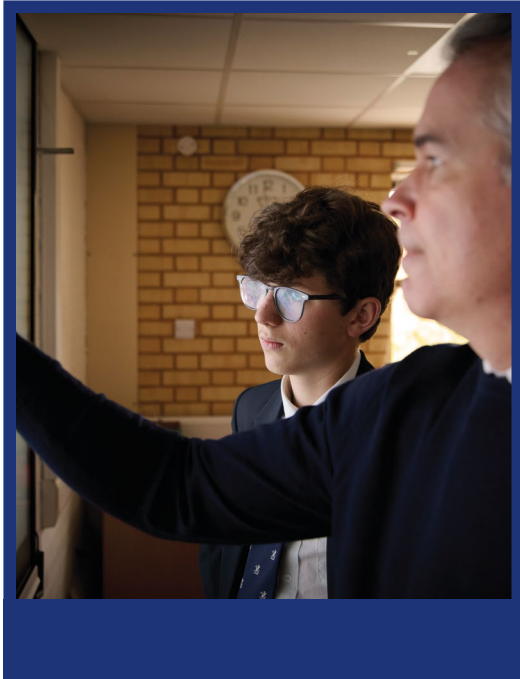
As part of the Wider Curriculum, pupils in Years 10, 11 and the Lower Sixth participate in our Personal Development, Service and Leadership Scheme. Over a three year period, the scheme develops pupils' self-confidence and leadership skills, whilst also supporting the local community. The Leys maintains strong partnerships with a number of local charitable organisations, hospitals, care homes, schools and environmental schemes, and pupils play an active role in a range of initiatives.

In Year 10, all pupils join the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) which comprises Army and Navy sections, each offering training in outdoor pursuits, leadership, practical and military skills. In Year 11 and Lower Sixth they have a broader range of choices encompassing partnership work, digital skills, sports leadership and a number of options linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



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Pastoral Care

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.



Discover
more:



20%

Home Boarding

35%

Day

45%

Boarding



Chapel

The Leys School welcomes those of all faiths, and none. 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 respect for 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.

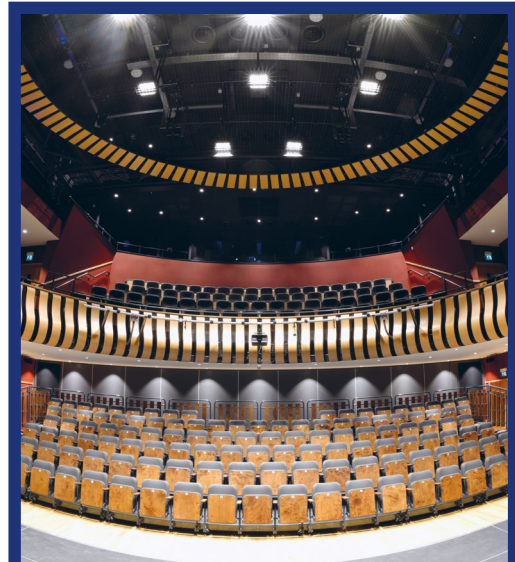
There are short mid-week Chapel services for all pupil to attend, and there are also School services held at regular intervals throughout the year. Houses attend these on a rota basis, and they include Harvest Festival, Christmas Carols and Remembrance Sunday, which are occasions where parents and family members are very 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. And the Explore Society, led by a Christian member of staff, meets weekly in term time for fun, interesting talks, Bible Study and fellowship.



Ratio of Boys to Girls

60:40



Great Hall

Great Hall is 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.

Attached to the Science Building (Thomson Building), 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.

Discover more:



Discover more:



Admissions Information

We like to make your journey through our Admissions process as simple and enjoyable for you and your child as possible, providing all the information, support and advice you require.

Applicants to The Leys are welcome to apply up to three years ahead of entry, with pre-testing options available to secure places up to two years in advance. The majority of applicants will be invited to take tests at The Leys in early January, although different arrangements are in place for pupils from St Faith's and for Sixth Form candidates.

We encourage all applicants to begin their journey with a visit to one of our Open Mornings, Small Group Visits or a private visit, where you will be able to gain a sense of what is on offer at the School.

This information should act as a guide to the process of applying for a place, and further information can be provided by our Admissions Team.

Quest

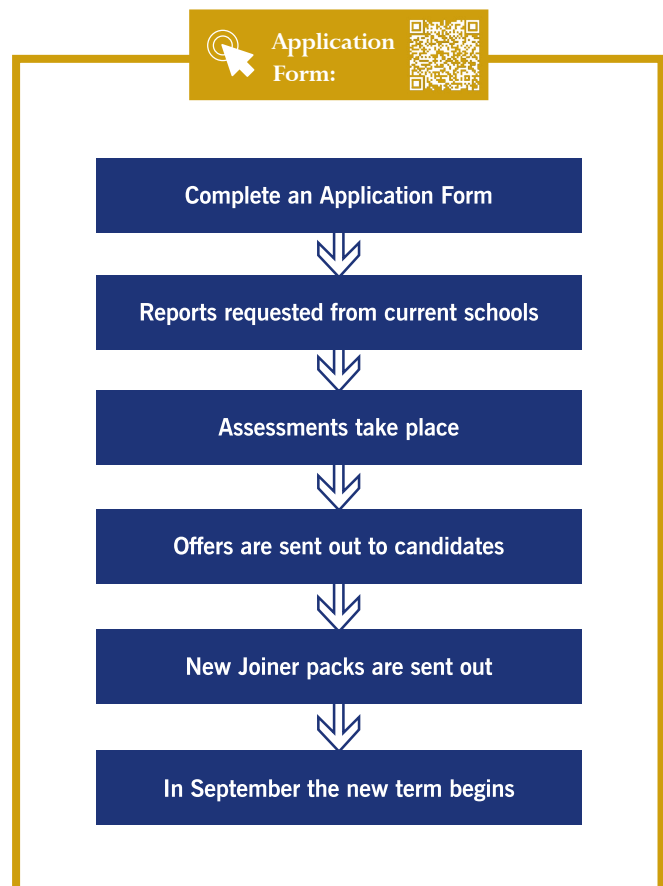
All tests for places at The Leys are delivered by Quest, an online assessment covering English, Maths, Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning.

Links to familiarisation exercises for the different points of entry, and additional guidance for parents can be found on our website.



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

~ ISI Report 2025



Scholarships

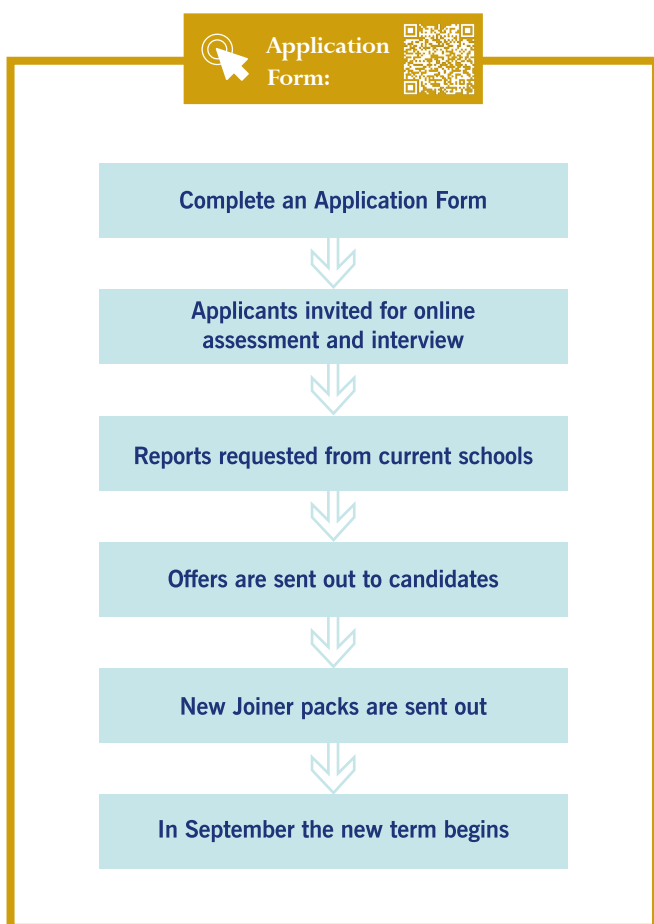
Through our Scholarships, we aim to encourage and reward the potential for excellence and leadership in the intellectual life of the School and in the wider curriculum. We welcome applications from those who display outstanding ability and a commitment to strive for the very highest standards.

Our scholars' programmes aim to support and nurture individuals to grow and develop in their particular field, giving them the confidence to achieve their full potential. We expect scholars to aspire to excellence in all aspects of life at The Leys, setting standards for others.

All our scholarships carry a value of 5%, but we are committed to widening participation in the School through means-tested bursaries and so larger awards can be made based on financial need. Contact the Admissions team for further information on Scholarships and Bursaries.

Overseas Admissions

In any given year around 25% of our pupils come to The Leys from around 30 different countries, adding a valuable cosmopolitan dimension to everyday life. Pupils regularly come from Europe, Africa, Australia, America, and East and Southeast Asia.



Candidates are welcome to apply up to three years ahead of entry and testing can take place at any time throughout the year. Many international candidates choose to work with educational agents who can help guide them through the process.

International Induction

At the beginning of the first year, before the start of term, there is a three-day induction programme for all new pupils from overseas. The induction programme includes orientation around the School and local area, a chance to meet with the international support team, as well as the opportunity to meet with key members of staff and other new pupils.

Off-site testing for international applicants must be conducted under formal invigilation. They should take place in an approved environment, such as a British Council office, a recognised school setting, or an authorised agent's office.



The Leys School is able to sponsor International Boarding pupils and issue a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) once all required information is received. We work with a specialist external agency to support families through the increasingly complex UK visa process and ensure full compliance with UKVI regulations.



For further details about the admissions process including entrance assessments, fees, bursaries or scholarships.



Call our Admissions team on:
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Email our Admissions team at:
admissions@theleys.net



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