

LEIGHTON PARK
FOUNDED 1890

Art Teacher

Candidate Information Pack



ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Leighton Park School is a high-performing, co-educational, independent school for up to 550 day and boarding pupils aged 11-18. The school is selective and has received an increasing number of applications year on year for the last three years. Founded in 1890 by the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), we maintain a strong Quaker ethos, welcoming students and staff of all faiths and none.

A member of the Head's Conference (HMC), the school is located south of Reading town centre on a beautiful 65-acre parkland estate. The school is easily reached by road and by public transport including the M4, regular buses and by Reading and Earley railway stations.

Matthew Judd, who has been Head since 2018, has led the School through a successful ISI inspection achieving 'double excellent' for academic progress and personal development. You are welcome to [read the report in full](#).

We offer a broad curriculum in the younger years, a choice of 27 GCSE subjects and both the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and A Levels in the Sixth Form. We achieve strong academic results across the board but are particularly well-known for STEAM subjects, Music and for our outreach and partnerships work supporting our Quaker values. A high proportion of our leavers attend Russell Group universities, including one or two each year to Oxford / Cambridge and to at specialist arts institutions such as Art Foundation and Music Conservatoires.

The Government's latest league tables for Sixth Form progress show Leighton Park as the best performing School in Berkshire for academic progress and in the top 1% of English schools. It is one of only eight schools to have always appeared in the top 100 best performing schools since the league tables began. Our 'value-add' contribution has secured a ranking of in England when looking at schools with a cohort of at least 50.

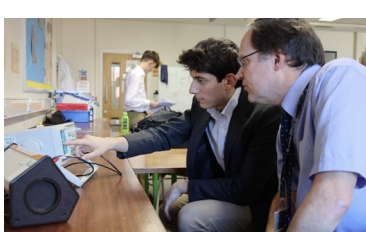




“LP means Community - I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with some of the most accepting and fantastic people I have ever come across in my career to date.” - current teacher



“Leighton Park is without a doubt one of the best places I've worked at. The atmosphere is welcoming, and the co-workers are friendly and hard working. I couldn't be prouder to work with such outstanding people.” - current staff member





OUR AIMS

Our Mission

We inspire Achievement with Values, Character and Community like no other school can.

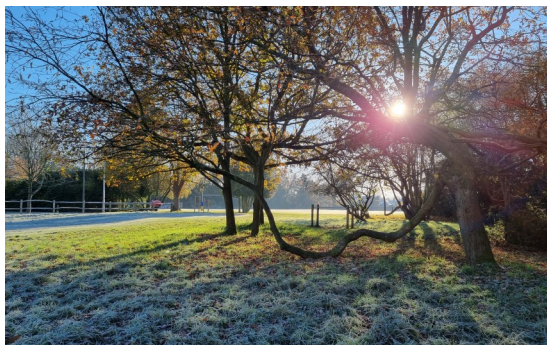
Our Vision

To develop the qualities in our young people that will help them to reach their greatest potential: to become the global change-makers of the future.

Our Purpose

We form young people of real character, independence and confidence, with a determined desire to change the world. This flows from our unique blend of deep Quaker values, the meaningful connections between our students and staff, first-class academic and pastoral support and our holistic approach to learning. We seek to deliver Achievement with Values, Character and Community and with academic excellence as the consequence of that approach.

- **Achievement:** inspiring a love of learning, deep thinking scholarship and an inner drive for realising talent
- **Values:** fostering a sense of responsibility, a commitment to helping others and a determination to make a difference
- **Character:** developing a confident sense of self, underpinned by resilience, perseverance and self-reflection
- **Community:** nurturing mutual respect, valuing the potential of each individual and seeking to understand different perspectives



VALUES AND ETHOS

Our Quaker testimonies of respect, integrity, simplicity, equality, peace, truth, and sustainability provide a 'moral compass' and we encourage all in our community to do their best to live by them.

Our values provide the foundation for some of the long-standing, distinctive and successful aspects of Leighton Park life, such as its holistic curriculum, the value placed on individuality, a strong sense of community, and collective moments of silence that punctuate the school day, offering students a much-needed opportunity for reflection.

On a practical level, Quakerism here means that students call teachers by their first names fostering more equitable relationships and students have a dress code rather than a uniform in Year 9 and above, promoting individual expression and integrity.

“The Quaker ethos has been an unexpectedly positive aspect. From time to time to reflect across the week to values which align with my own, Leighton Park has a unique feel which goes further than simply having a school motto. After teaching for over twenty years, the move to Leighton Park has reinvigorated me, boosted my confidence and I am the happiest I have been in my career.” - Current teacher



THE CURRICULUM AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Leighton Park offers a broad curriculum but within the context of a holistic education. The school is particularly known for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Maths), and places particular emphasis on creative problem solving and interdisciplinary approaches. winning the national Award for Excellence in STEAM Education in 2020.

As well as a full range of STEAM, humanities and language courses at GCSE Level, the school offers Computer Science, Engineering, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Global Perspectives, Mandarin, Music, Physical Education, Textile Design and a BTEC Level 2 in Creative Digital Media Production.

Sixth Form students can choose A Levels or International Baccalaureate options with the additional choices of a BTEC Level 3 in Digital TV and Video Production and a CTEC in Sport and Physical Activity. At A Level, the wide choice includes Business Studies, Dance, Economics, Politics, Design Technology, Computer Science and Psychology alongside more traditional subjects. Within the IB, there are language and literature offerings as well as the sciences, maths, humanities and visual arts.

Teaching is strong and based on collaborative, personal connections between staff and pupils. Learning is often interdisciplinary, breaking down traditional barriers between subjects and is based on a stimulating curriculum.

Academic outcomes are strong and the school is one of the top schools for academic achievement in Berkshire. In 2022, students achieved 74% A* to B grades at A Level and an IB Diploma Programme average of 33.3 points, reflecting the school's belief that the IBDP is an excellent programme for students with a broad range of interests as well as students who are very academically able. At GCSE level, 55% of GCSE grades in 2022 were 9-7, outstripping the TAGs from the previous year by over 5%.

The school provides learning support to those that need it via its Individual Learning Centre (ILC) and pupils are given Individual Learning Plans that identify goals, specific learning outcomes and support strategies while Classroom Support Sheets outline the student's strengths, challenges and learning strategies that work well for them.

Some children (around 25) leave Leighton Park after GCSEs to attend other schools or colleges but a similar number join the school for Sixth Form studies. The Sixth Form consists of around 170 students and is set to grow as we open our new Sixth Form Centre in 2023-24.



PASTORAL CARE

We place great emphasis on pastoral care, based on its core values, a highly developed tutor system and a House system centred on charity, community and competition.

Our parkland setting is a real benefit for students and staff, encouraging an appreciation of nature and space. Within this environment, there are weekly Meetings for Worship (silent reflection), regular Collects (assemblies), and the opportunity to share meals as much for 'togetherness' as sustenance!

Community bonds are strengthened by the boarding school atmosphere which gives a 'family feel' to pastoral care. Day students enjoy wraparound care that runs from breakfast through to tea and prep, encouraging integration with our boarders during the week.

Tutors see their ten tutees three times every day and tutors are responsible for students' personal and academic development. This close and frequent contact helps tutors to develop close relationships with their tutees and be aware of small details of concern at an early stage.

As a member of staff you will join one of the school's four Houses: Cadbury, Fox, Bentsi-Enchill or Tubman. The Houses provide shared activities like baking and sport, foster competitive spirit across a huge range of competition from music to chess and encourage links across year groups as well as between staff and students, and support staff and teachers.

"People are always willing to lend a hand, to help out and to drive the very best out of our students." - Current teacher



BOARDING

Our vibrant boarding community of around 140 full and weekly boarders includes young people from 39 different countries, with approximately 30% coming from the UK. The largest cohorts of overseas boarders are from China and Russia. The Lower School boarding accommodation opened in 2021 caters for 24 Year 7 and 8 students, with specialist, nurturing care. Senior Boarding Houses are single sex with Years 9 to Upper Sixth girls living in Reckitt House, and senior boys living in School House.

Students are cared for by a Housemistress or Housemaster, as well as their House Deputy, Resident Tutor and a House Graduate. There is a busy range of evening and weekend activities and teaching staff are expected to get involved in a limited number of boarding duties across the academic year.



“Boarding, with its multicultural diversity, is a catalyst for the respect that all pupils show towards one another.” -

ISI Report, Nov 2021

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We offer a vibrant co-curricular programme of 90+ hobbies which is available for students during lunch (Monday to Friday), before tea (4.30-5.30pm) and after tea (6.00-7.00pm), Monday to Thursday. Staff are encouraged to share their enthusiasm for interests they possess or hobbies they can lead in one of eight co-curricular zones. The zones are:

- Music and Media
- Sport and Wellbeing
- Skills
- Charities and Service
- Expression
- Academic Enrichment
- Clubs and Societies
- STEAM

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is supported by our co-curricular programme as students are able to complete their service, skill and physical elements via their hobbies. Year 9s are strongly encouraged to undertake the Bronze Award with expedition training offered termly and the expedition incorporated into the Summer Term activities week. Silver and Gold Awards are voluntary participation but are equally supported by the school and run by our Outdoor Education Manager with expeditions typically in Wales or the South Downs.

“Throughout the school, both in and out of class, and in the boarding houses, all pupils across different age groups have excellent levels of social development which enables them to work naturally, happily and effectively with others.”

- ISI Report, Nov 2021



ART AT LEIGHTON PARK

The Art Department is a hub of creativity and excellence, where students can experience a wide range of art practices, such as drawing, painting, printing, photography, digital editing and 3D work.

We offer 55 minutes lessons, to class sized between 18 and 23 students at KS3 stage and between 7 and 12 at GCSE level.

GCSE classes have 5 periods over a two week cycle. Students study the AQA art and design syllabus. A good number opt to advance to A Level, where we study art, craft and design through the AQA syllabus.

We also offer the holistic programme of IB Visual Arts through year 12 and 13, where students develop work towards their own exhibition, that reflects their character, personal interests and cultural background.

Students consistently achieve high results at A Level, enabling them to gain entry to some world class degree courses at UAL, Bristol, Bath and Kingston to name a few.

The department currently consists of three full time teachers and a technician to support and enrich students experience. Creative, caring, determined, energetic, agile and forward looking would be the best words to describe the members of our Art department.

The Art building has a host of specialist studios to develop and encourage art practice across disciplines. There are two main art teaching studios, a specialist textiles studio, a print room with etching and Columbian presses, photography and pottery spaces as well as individual sixth form study spaces.

The use of ICT is integrated across all years, through the use of the digital online editing software part of Google Classroom and the Adobe suite.





Each year students are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities for fresh inspiration from a number of enriching educational visits, which can include international collections of art on display in London and Bristol, as well as residential trips to European destinations. In the past, we have run trips to Bilbao, Venice, Barcelona, Paris, Madrid and the historical South Coast.

The department holds an annual art show to showcase the work of our wonderful students, which is often a highlight of the creative calendar.

Within school, there are a number of competitions held to enable students to gain recognition through their contribution to the community.

The department offers a rich and varied co-curricular programme, with different options available on a daily basis to ignite and nurture new creative activities.

CPD is actively encouraged within the department, be it developing skills and pedagogy or growing professional capacity withing leadership and pastoral roles.



Benefits

Currently LP Teachers enjoy a range of benefits, including:



Continuous Professional Development



Employee Assistance Programme



Fee Remission of up to 66%, pro rata for part time



Teachers' Pension Scheme



Lunch in Oakview restaurant and possibility to eat there for breakfast/dinner when on duty



Hot drinks and snacks



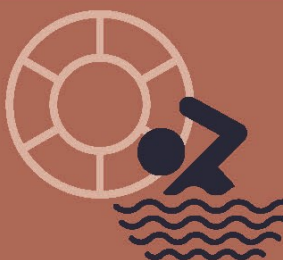
Cycle to work scheme



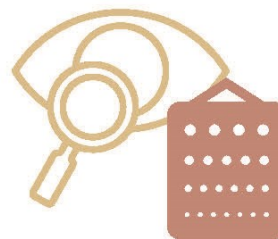
Free on-site parking



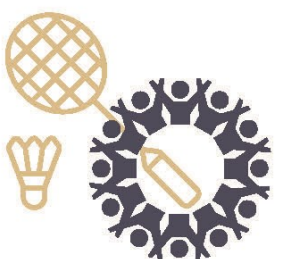
Use of cardio suite



Use of swimming pool



Free eye tests



Clubs and activities for staff



Generous holidays: 34 weeks term time

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, please visit our website to download an application form. Once completed, email this to apply@leightonpark.com. If you require further information, please call HR on 0118 987 9600.

Leighton Park is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, therefore the successful candidate will be required to undergo an enhanced DBS check as part of our recruitment process.

Leighton Park recognises and values the enriching contribution which people from a range of backgrounds and experiences can bring to the life and development of the School. We therefore aim to provide an education service which, in its teaching, and administration and support services, actively promotes equality of opportunity and freedom from discrimination on grounds of age, cultural background, disability, ethnicity, gender, religion or sexual orientation.

Closing date for applications: Midday, Monday 24th April 2023
Interview date: week commencing 2nd May 2023
Start date: September 2023

