



LEIGHTON PARK
FOUNDED 1890

Co-Curricular Programme



90+ hobbies • 8 zones • Discover • Explore • Develop • Inspire

www.leightonpark.com/co-curricular



Building confidence, participation, resilience and friendship. Co-curricular at Leighton Park has taken on different guises across the generations of Leightonians. One thing remains a constant: our commitment to providing experiential learning opportunities, which develop important skills in our students and form part of the bespoke character education profile of our School. We are an inclusive, kind and caring school which ensures this is within everyone's reach.

Students are at the heart of everything we do, and we believe in everyone's potential to realise their interests and talents. We listen closely to our student council, co-curricular ambassadors and monthly meetings to reflect the needs of our students and offer a dynamic termly programme to keep things fresh and current.

I hope you enjoy browsing our hobby finder at www.leightonpark.com/co-curricular/ and get suitably excited about what lies ahead for you in our programme (sorry parents, you can't sign up!). If you have any questions, feel free to come and chat to me.

With warmest wishes

Tash Coccia

Senior Assistant Head: Co-Curricular



I'm delighted to introduce myself to you as the DofE and Outdoor Education Manager at Leighton Park. DofE is a unique and hugely rewarding qualification.

The DofE award provides an opportunity to discover new interests and talents. It is also a fantastic tool to develop essential skills for life and work. As a recognised mark of achievement, the award is respected by employers and universities.

The online hobby finder offers a range of activities which can support your DofE award and many of you may already be undertaking activities in or out of school that could count towards your DofE award.

There are four sections to complete at Bronze and Silver level and five at Gold. They involve helping the community/environment, becoming fitter, developing new skills, planning, training for and completing an expedition and, for Gold only, working with a team on a residential activity.

My role is to help you design a tailored approach to your award using the co-curricular programme and your outside interests to support your progress.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award at Leighton Park School is compulsory in Year 9 with many students in Year 10 and above continuing with their Silver or Gold awards. I hope you enjoy the adventure.

Isaac Walker

Outdoor Education and DofE Manager



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Sport & Wellbeing

Give it your all

Our vast range of clubs in Sport & Wellbeing ensure students enjoy a blend of traditional sports such as football, rugby and cricket alongside a wide variety of interesting options including yoga, kayaking, horse riding and judo amongst many more. We are lucky to have a GB Judo coach in our after-school programme and work in partnership with Reading Football Club Community Trust on our astro too. Discover how much better you can be with a professional coach by your side!

“I really enjoy getting to do something that I love more often and proving that I’m really dedicated.”

Cali, Year 10



Music & Media

Reach for the stars

From small jazz ensembles and a cappella groups through to the Orchestra and Senior Choir, there is rarely the sound of silence coming from the Michael Malnick Centre! Instrumental specialists are catered for with practice sessions and small group ensembles, preparing for the many concerts on offer through the school year. With so many exciting options in animation, music production and music technology too, there really is no excuse not to get involved and make some noise!



“It’s very energetic and the enthusiasm is sky-high!”

Duncan Jones, PE, Sport & Wellbeing



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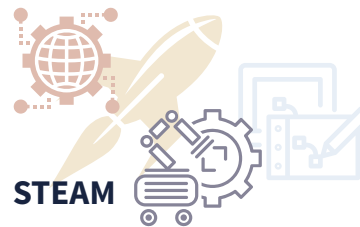
Expression

Follow your dreams

Fryer, junior and senior students all have the opportunity to tread the boards and realise their talents in studio plays and large scale musicals at Leighton Park. Perhaps you fancy some light-hearted farce courtesy of Molière or the fast-paced drama of Simon Stephens? Or maybe Dance is your thing (even if you just don't know it yet!). Calling all performers and crew to stage, your cue is coming... Art, Textiles and Ceramics are available for those who enjoy painting, sketching, photography, sewing, print-making and creating all sorts of expressive art forms in one of our specialist art studios. Get involved and be inspired!

“Drawing Club is just that place where you can go to offload and relax and try something new and something creative.”

Tomi, Upper Sixth



STEAM

Explore and experiment

We are proud to be a STEAM school, and provide a number of dedicated STEAM clubs to support our budding engineers, designers, scientists and technologists to experiment, explore, create and build. There are opportunities to work in partnership with industry, academic institutions and specialist staff in these brilliant after school clubs. From fixing up mountain bikes to programming drones - this is really where the innovation happens in team projects or on individual passions - be part of it!





Clubs & Societies

Develop your interests

Some of LP's interesting and specialist clubs can be found in our Clubs & Societies area. We are always open to new suggestions and if you are keen to pursue a hobby not already in the programme, tell us! Recent and exceedingly popular additions have included SAGE (our LGBTQ+ group), Board Games, D&D and Warhammer.

"I think Board Games is the best club in the whole school and if you are thinking about it you should absolutely join."

Liam, Year 10



Skills

Master new talents

Our skills clubs offer students a host of hobbies teaching new skills or mastering ones of old. Knitting, Cookery, Model Gliders and Chess are just some of the fascinating hobbies on offer for you to try. They provide a fantastic way to relax, unwind and chill out after a busy day of academic lessons, whilst continuing to learn. And who knows what vocational talents might lead to a future career!





Charities & Service

Value your community

Our values lie in making a difference; it is part of who we are as a school. The co-curricular programme offers opportunities to help others and to give back to the wider community. There is no better place to start than with our Junior Eco Club. The service section of the Duke of Edinburgh award, which starts in Year 9, offers the Interact Club in conjunction with Rotary. At Sixth Form level we have our student-led charity group, Amicus, and our Amnesty International Youth Group. Our Social Enterprise group for seniors is run through our Business and Economics Department.



Academic Enrichment

Extend your intellect

We know that experiential learning builds confidence in a subject and improves progress. We also know that academic subjects can become a lifelong passion, which is why we encourage students to think about how the co-curricular programme can enrich their learning and allow them to explore their love of their favourite subjects. Lower Sixth students form part of our Aspiring High group as they prepare for university interviews and seminars, the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is on offer after school as well as French Book Club, Debating and many more!

"Aspiring High will help you discover yourself and help you grow into the person you're meant to be."

Angelika, Lower Sixth



“Whether you’re a talker; whether you’re a listener, it doesn’t matter what point of view you have or what age you are... I think that’s what everyone likes about it. There’s no pressure to be anything; you can just be there.”

Queralt, Lower Sixth

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In times gone by, Leightonians could be found hosting exhibitions of their hobby crafts to visiting parents in Peckover, organising demonstrations in Townson and holding Hobby Days as a way to take a pause from their academic studies and share their passion for co-curricular pursuits in the form of galas, competitions and carousels. In the archives, we are lucky to have numerous examples of student engagement in the wider life of the School, which had a strong focus on charity and service in addition to clubs and societies which still run today. After more than 130 years of delivering these exciting opportunities for young people, staff and external practitioners continue to offer a dynamic programme for everyone to enjoy.



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