

Headteacher: Mrs. C. Vallance
Church Square
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire, LU7 1EX
01525 374907

office@leighton.cbeds.co.uk
www.leightonmiddle.org.uk
www.facebook.com/leightonmiddleschool.lms
www.twitter.com/leighton_middle



Our aim is to create a happy school where every member feels valued and able to achieve personal excellence.

Transfer to Leighton Middle School September 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

It is an exciting and challenging time for parents as you begin choosing your child's next school. I wanted to take the opportunity to say 'hello' to you all and reassure you that whilst this may be an overwhelming and potentially scary time, we truly believe that the move to middle school life will not only be nurturing but also be a springboard for opportunities and experiences.

Happiness is at the heart of the ethos and culture of our school. High quality teaching and learning alongside our high behaviour expectations support the standards, achievement and personal development of our pupils. Pupils achieve above local and national indicators in all subjects and progress is generally accelerated as they move through from Year 5 to Year 8 at Leighton Middle.

We are a happy school where pupils are encouraged to strive for personal excellence in all spheres of life. There is a strong emphasis on creating opportunities for pupils to develop their interpersonal skills. A range of experiences support the development of oneself including Personal Learning Days, weekly circle time, mindfulness and well-being activities. Leadership is entwined within our curriculum along with specific roles, for example, Digital Leaders, Sports Leaders, Peer supporters, Penpals and Librarians which enable pupils to grow in confidence and become more resilient.

We are proud to have specialist teachers and classrooms. Pupils will use bunsen burners in the Science laboratories, gymnastic equipment in PE, saws and drills in Design Technology and composition software and instruments in Music. We proactively urge pupils to experience our plethora of extra-curricular opportunities, which range from traditional sporting and musical clubs, alongside clubs driven by pupil interest, including Origami, Comic, Computing and Science Crest awards. We encourage participation for enjoyment, as well as for competition, with pupils representing the school at county and national level.

We are excited to soon be sharing with you our Virtual Tour for 2020. As middle schools we have agreed to distribute a joint letter via the lower schools with our information and virtual tours. You should receive this information the week commencing Monday 23rd November.

The current Coronavirus pandemic means we are unable to offer in person tours of the school, or to hold our Open Morning events as we would usually do. However, we do not underestimate the importance of choosing the right school and environment for your child, to enable them to flourish and be successful learners.

Our staff, Governors and I are extremely proud of our school and our aim is to share what is special about Leighton Middle. We hope you enjoy the snapshot of our successes contained within the virtual tours and information. The videos aim to give you a true feel of what it is like to be a Leighton Middler!



Our videos will be on our school website www.leightonmiddle.org.uk under the Parent tab from Monday 23rd November. The videos include;

- A short talk from myself, followed by our Year 8 pupil guides who tour you around our school.
- A short welcome from our Head of Year 5, Mrs Price, followed by talks from our current Year 5's and their experience at Leighton Middle School.

For further information about our school, please do follow us on our active Facebook page;
<https://www.facebook.com/leightonmiddleschool.lms>

In order for you to get to know our school prior to our video being released, I have included supplementary information which comprises of:

- pictures of our current pupils and their learning experiences
- quotes from our current Year 5 pupils
- quotes from our most recent external review from Challenge Partners in which we received the top 'Outstanding' grade in all areas, in both our 2019 and 2020 reviews.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the near future and hopefully welcoming you to our school. I hope our website, videos and Facebook page provides you with information and reassurance that as a school we are committed to supporting well-being, happiness and the delivery of high-quality teaching and learning.

You will receive an application form from Central Bedfordshire Schools Admission Service to apply for a middle school place, which you can complete online; www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions
A link to the application can also be accessed this via our school website. All applications should be received by Central Bedfordshire by the 15th January 2021.

We would love to welcome many of you to Leighton Middle next year. If you have any questions that have not been addressed in the videos or information we have provided, please contact us via telephone or feel free to email us at office@leighton.cbeds.co.uk. We are always happy to help.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Vallance
Headteacher
Leighton Middle School



Quotes from our Year 5 pupils 2020

"The work is challenging, it's at my level."
"It's big but easy enough to find your way round."
"I've made good friends already!"
"In the lunch hall, there's slushies and cookies!"
"It's a great school because the lunch is amazing"
"It's the best school in the world!"
"There is so much exciting equipment to use."
"My favourite lesson is Science as I love the experiments."

"My form tutor really helps me."
"Every teacher is nice and caring. They always help you if you are stuck."
"There are lots of fun clubs to go to."
"People on lunch duty help us to know where to go."
"Our learning partner helps us with our work."

"There is nothing to worry about because everyone here is kind and helpful."
"If you get lost you can always ask a teacher for help."
"You will worry but after a while you won't know why you were worrying!"
"Everyone does a lot of reading (every day) but it is fun."

"Instead of being in the same classroom all day, I get to move to different classrooms- it's great!"
"I've made new friends."
"I love being able to show that I'm grown up!"
"You get much more independence at middle school."
"I'm learning a lot more and I am better at Maths."

Challenge Partner Quotes 2020 – the report can be found on our website under "Partners"

"The quality of provision at Leighton Middle School is exceptional."

"Students benefit from learning from highly skilled teachers in an atmosphere that is unquestionably conducive to their development."

"My teachers have made me the person that I am."

"Positive relationships are a strong feature of every classroom. Mutual respect creates a caring environment and engenders a genuine love of learning."

"The caring ethos is fundamental to students' wellbeing and they also take on leadership roles to support each other."

"Leaders have created a nurturing culture where pupils are encouraged to excel academically and in a range of social and sporting activities."

"You and your senior leaders have the overwhelming support of parents and carers, many of whom praise the care and academic support their children receive." (Ofsted 2018)

"We found that pupils benefit from the high level of teacher expertise in different subject areas." (Ofsted 2018)

"Pupils make strong progress over the whole of their middle school education." (Ofsted 2018)



We have class sets of Kindles available, we use these for a range of activities including Timetables Rock Stars.



Each classroom has an interactive whiteboard to support pupils learning experience.



Practical lessons are taught by subject specialists in well resourced classrooms. These include our science laboratories, computer suite, music room, food and design technology, art and PE facilities.

