

BRITISH EDUCATION GUIDE



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BRITISH EDUCATION GUIDE 2023/2024 英国教育指南

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2023/2024



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Foreword from our Founders



Emma Vanbergen
President of BE Education Consultancy
& Co-founder of BE Education

A well-known international education expert and former education columnist for The Wall Street Journal, Emma has 20 years of education consulting experience. She has helped many students into Eton, Harrow, Winchester and other elite educational institutions.

As we reflect on the previous academic year, it is clear that the British education system and the country's renowned boarding schools have continued to provide an unrivalled educational experience for students from all over the world. At BE Education, we're proud to have played a part in connecting students with some of the most prestigious institutions in the UK.

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, British boarding schools have demonstrated resilience and flexibility in adapting to the changing circumstances. With the implementation of strict safety protocols and the use of innovative technology, students have been able to continue their studies and maintain a sense of community even during periods of lockdown.

As a result of the pandemic, we have also seen a shift towards more personalised and holistic approaches to education. Schools have recognized the importance of supporting students' mental health and wellbeing, as well as providing a diverse range of extracurricular activities to enrich their educational experience.

At BE Education, we have been working closely with schools to ensure that our students receive the support they need to thrive academically and personally. Our goal has always been to provide a seamless and rewarding experience for our students, and we are delighted to see the progress they have made over the past year.

As we look ahead to the future, we do so with optimism, noting that since Covid travel restrictions have been lifted, the appetite of overseas families for British education has returned! We very much look forward to building new relationships with families who are just discovering the exceptional education opportunities that the UK has to offer. We are excited to continue our mission of promoting cultural exchange and providing educational opportunities for students from around the world. We believe that the British education system and the country's boarding schools offer an unparalleled experience, and we are committed to helping more students benefit from it. We hope that this magazine will serve as a source of inspiration and information for students, parents, and educators alike.

William Vanbergen
Founder of BE Education

BE Education's Old Etonian Founder William started the enterprise in 2003. Under William's leadership, BE Education has established five offices for study abroad consulting, as well as four international schools, Wycombe Abbey Changzhou, Hong Kong, Hangzhou and Nanjing.





Trends and Analysis of International Students in the UK

As one of the UK's greatest exports, it is no surprise that promoting and protecting our education system was always going to be a priority for the government in the face of the challenges presented by Brexit and Covid. Encouraging figures for 2022 show that both the independent schools sector and the much larger university sector have rallied strongly and are proving popular to international students, even if the trends for the students' countries of origin have evolved over the years.

Every year, the Independent Schools Council publishes a census of students in UK independent schools based on data provided by member schools on a date in January. The wider picture for the 2022 census was optimistic with total numbers of pupils in independent schools in 2022 up by 2% on the previous year and ahead of pre-pandemic levels.

Most encouraging of all was the 7% increase in 'registered' boarders on the previous year. This is based on children who were registered as boarders at any point during the 12 months as it gives a clearer picture than those who were registered on one particular day. Of these, a total of 25,079 were non-British pupils whose parents live overseas, representing a 1.6% increase on the previous year.

As ever, children from Mainland China and Hong Kong were the largest groups making up nearly 43% of all international students whose parents live overseas. However, there was a significant drop in the numbers from Mainland China to 4882, down from 6033 in 2021 and 8290 in 2020. At the same time, the numbers from Hong Kong rose to 5845, up from 5466 in 2021 and 5127 in 2020. This means that for the first time since



Dean Close School



Raff Flackett

Director of BE Education UK

Raff graduated from Eton College and then read Russian Studies at Durham University. He taught English in Moscow and Uzbekistan and served as an educational adviser for disadvantaged children based in London. In 2014, Raff joined BE Group to help BE Education develop its business model in the UK, serving numerous families with professional consultation and helping develop students' true potential.

2015, the numbers of students from Hong Kong whose parents live overseas exceed those of Mainland China. The fall in the numbers from Mainland China was offset by continued growth in pupils from Europe (particularly from Spain and Germany) and the USA as well as from other nascent markets.

It is also noteworthy that the number of students from Hong Kong in independent schools who DO live with their parents in the UK, has trebled since 2021 to over 1500 from just under 500 while the number from Mainland China living with their parents has risen by 23.5%. This is partly because of improved post-pandemic mobility but also due to an increase in the numbers of parents of younger children wishing to accompany them to the UK.

Better higher education opportunities continue to be the most important factor for international families choosing to study in UK schools. In terms of higher education destinations, those completing their school qualifications in British independent schools continue to achieve the best outcomes with 58% of school leavers going on to the top 25% of global universities as defined by the highly regarded Sunday Times Good Universities Guide. The most popular destinations in 2022 for independent school leavers were Exeter, Durham, UCS, Edinburgh and Bristol, with 4% going to Oxbridge and 5% heading abroad, mainly to North America.



Rugby School

UK universities continue to attract more students from abroad year on year as the Government's International Education Strategy bears fruit. The strategy, published in 2019, was a plan to increase UK education exports and raise the number of international students in UK universities to 600,000 by 2030. So successful was the plan that the target was achieved in 2020-2021, a decade ahead of schedule. International student numbers hit 605,000, an increase from nearly 557,000 in 2019/20 and 496,000 in 2018/19.

This was achieved through considerable investment in the education sector, improved access to information, promoting higher education through free trade agreements and by improving employment outcomes for graduates of UK universities.

Probably the most appealing factors for international students are the post-study work rights in the UK which allow students to stay and look for work for 2 years after graduation, as well as the vastly improved and faster student immigration routes.

The number of visas issued to higher education students in the year ending in September 2022 was up 25% compared to the previous year. The most noteworthy development saw the

number of Indian students surpass those from China in 2022. Indeed, the number of visas issued to Indian students in the year before June 2022 increased by a massive 89% compared to the previous year while the numbers from China remained relatively static. The third highest country was Nigeria who have seen numbers increase by nearly 700% between 2019 and 2022.

The increase in students from Nigeria and India is largely down to targeted marketing by the UK government to Commonwealth Countries as they aim to attract students who can ultimately fill the skills gap which many attribute to Brexit. There has also been a significant increase in the number of scholarships made available by universities to international students as they aim to attract students from less privileged social backgrounds.

The UK remains a popular destination due to the high reputation of its schools, and even the most traditional of institutions recognise the value that international students bring. At Higher Education level, with the wide and expanding range of courses on offer, combined with improved employment opportunities and reduced immigration barriers, the numbers can only be expected to rise.

An introduction to the UK National Curriculum

Key Stage 3

Key Stage 3 (KS3) encompasses Years 7 to 9, after which students begin the GCSE curriculum. It covers three core subjects: maths, science and English, and nine compulsory subjects: history, geography, modern foreign languages, design and technology, art and design, music, physical education, citizenship and computing.

Years 7 and 8 are typically the last two years in UK preparatory schools, or the first and second year of girls' senior schools. For prep school pupils, these years are focused on preparing for the senior school entrance exams. Year 9 is the first year of most UK independent co-ed and boys' schools. It is therefore a transitional period from prep school to senior school, during which students meet new friends and settle into their new environment. The Year 9 curriculum involves a wide range of subjects to allow students to identify their interests and decide which subjects to choose at GCSE level.

GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education)

Year 10 and Year 11 students will study either the GCSE or IGCSE curriculum, which include both compulsory and elective subjects, and schools vary in their subject offering. The



Ellen Xu

Executive Director of UK Education

A top Chinese expert on international education, Ellen has 14 years of experience in applying for British schools. She leads a team that has helped more than a thousand students successfully enroll in well-known British and American schools and universities, including Eton, Harrow, Oxford, Cambridge and many other leading destinations across the world.



Westminster School

traditional two-year GCSE curriculum requires students to study 8 to 11 subjects and is what the vast majority of schools offer. Some schools offer IGCSE, which only requires students to study 5 to 6 subjects in one year and can appeal to international students with lower English language skills.

The broad scope of the GCSE curriculum means students are able to develop a wide spectrum of knowledge whilst discovering where their strengths lie. The knowledge and skills gained then provide a strong foundation for students' Sixth Form studies. If you study biology at GCSE, for example, you will find it much easier in the Sixth Form, and it is essential if you plan on choosing a biology related degree at university.

Students typically apply to universities at the beginning of Year 13, but since they have not yet completed their exams, universities will assess students based on their predicted grades along with their GCSE results to determine whether the students' abilities meet their requirements. As such, GCSEs are important not only for entry to senior schools, but also for university admission.



Eton College

A-level (General Certificate of Education Advanced Level)

In the last two years of senior school, most students in the UK study A-level courses. The first year is referred to as AS-level, and second year A2-level. Year 12 students (AS-level) typically study three to four subjects, while in Year 13 (A2-level) they can focus on just three subjects.

Choosing A-level subjects must be done carefully; if students are already clear about which undergraduate degree they would like to study at university, they need to take into consideration the requirements of the degree programme. For example, students who want to study medicine at university would need to choose related subjects at A-level, such as maths, chemistry and biology.

Students take A-level exams at the end of the second year, for which the results will determine whether or not they are accepted onto the undergraduate programme they applied to. If students are not satisfied with their A-level results, they can choose to retake exams the following year in May and June.

The IB (International Baccalaureate)

In the Sixth Form, some schools offer students the choice to study the IB Diploma Programme instead of A-levels. It is accepted by many top universities around the world and has three core elements: theory of knowledge, in which students reflect on the nature of knowledge and on how they know what they claim to know; the extended essay, which is an independent, self-directed piece of research, finishing with a 4,000-word paper; creativity, activity, service (CAS), in which students complete a project related to these three concepts. Students can choose courses from six subject groups, ranging from sciences to the arts, and it encourages both personal and academic achievement, challenging students to excel in their studies and in their personal development.

IB students are invariably busy with their studies and consequently learn to manage their time effectively. The demands of the curriculum also require students to possess strong language skills and responsibility for their own learning. As such, the IB tends to suit students who are proactive in their learning and at an advanced level in their English.

Preparing our pupils to be 'World Ready'



Matthew Godfrey

Deputy Head at Downe House School

Most pupils join Downe House aged 11 years old and remain with us for seven years, leaving when they are 18 years old. Some join us at 13+ and 16+, but however many years they are at the school, Downe House remains who they are for the rest of their lives.

That is because during their years at the school, our pupils' characters are shaped and nurtured by the seven key strands of the Downe House 'DNA'. These are a set of skills and characteristics that our girls develop during their time with us and which prepare them for life beyond school.

The seven strands are: Collaboration, Resilience, Creativity, Aspiration, Compassion, Communication and being Outward Looking. In the classroom, on the playing field, on stage and everywhere in between, these core values are the hopes, aims and challenges for every girl. We give our girls every opportunity to develop these important skills through all aspects of life at Downe House.

Collaboration: our pupils are encouraged to work together from their first day in the school. There is a strong sense at Downe that we are stronger together. Our boarding ethos creates a close community between our pupils, their parents, and our academic and pastoral staff. At our core is our very strong house system, whereby each girl builds loyalty and affection for her own boarding house where lifelong friendships are forged and a healthy competition between houses exists.

Resilience: it is striking how our alumnae talk about how their years at Downe House taught them to build positive relations with all sorts of different people, to 'have a go' when opportunities present themselves and to persist with good humour and tenacity.

Creativity: Downe House enjoys an outstanding reputation in the creative and performing arts. However, we aim to nurture creativity amongst all our pupils, irrespective of their ability in music, drama, art or dance, since we believe having a creative mindset and a lively imagination are essential assets in the modern world.

Aspiration: while Downe House is an academic school, we prefer to be known as an aspirational school, whereby all our pupils aim to be the best they can be as individuals. Our girls build an impressive and positive work ethic and there is a sense of aspiration whereby every girl gives her best, irrespective of her interests or abilities.

Compassion: it is essential that our pupils enter the adult world with a sense of responsibility and compassion towards their fellow citizens. Our programme of service instils in our girls a sense of purpose and responsibility. It includes: mentoring younger pupils academically and pastorally; connecting with our local community in a variety of ways, such as reading in local primary schools; and raising funds for charities which they have researched and selected themselves.

Communication: a strong set of qualifications is an important aspect of preparing for the real world, but our girls learn to combine these with the ability to express themselves. We help our girls to become confident, articulate, and thoughtful communicators, both verbally and in writing. One of the ways we achieve this is by giving our pupils opportunities to take on responsibilities at school, to present in assemblies and to showcase the school to visitors. As a Microsoft Showcase school, Downe House is also well equipped to give our pupils the IT skills needed to use technology effectively and responsibly.

Outward Looking: at Downe House, we are proud of our global perspective and reputation. We have built close links with a dozen other leading schools across every continent, and when our pupils are in Years 10 and 12, they can apply to spend time in these schools as part of our Global Schools Exchange Programme. Furthermore, Downe House has a sister school near Toulouse, in southwest France, and all our Year 8 pupils spend one term there, building a range of skills from the French language to independence. We have also opened sister schools in Muscat and Riyadh. In the modern era, our society is truly global and so it is important that our pupils leave Downe with a global perspective.

Beyond our distinctive DNA strands, there is no 'typical Downe House girl'. At Downe House every girl is treated as an individual and whether she is an artist, a scientist, an actress, an athlete, a musician, or all of these, she will be valued, supported and challenged.

Our 'World Ready' programme allows the DNA strands to be nurtured and explored in stages, enabling each girl to develop at her own pace. It is organised into three main stages – the Lower School years, the Upper School years and, finally, the Sixth Form years.

For the Lower School (Years 7 and 8), our 'World Aware' programme focuses on the development of Compassion, Collaboration, Resilience and Creativity. Confidence is built through leadership roles and responsibilities, by challenging their critical thinking during debates with their tutors, and gaining valuable skills by organising in-house activities. Other features of the Lower School years are:

- An immersive term in France in our own chateau near Toulouse
- The Gift of Service, community volunteering and/or fundraising
- Investigating global issues and current affairs
- Becoming a Downe House Eco-warrior
- The Wakefield Award – Bronze, Silver and Gold – to reward progress

In the Upper School (Years 9, 10 and 11), we encourage our girls to pursue their emerging aptitudes and interests through our 'World Explore' programme. Here are just some of the opportunities provided for the girls:

- The super-curricular Elective Programme
- Day of Discovery: exploring possible futures
- Learning for Life lessons which include personal development and wellbeing
- Personal skills training via AS Tracking, Girls on Board and Elevate Education
- The Phoenix Society (debating and public speaking)
- Visiting a Global Exchange school

In the Sixth Form, the final stage of the 'World Ready' programme empowers our students to take their place as global citizens. The pupils are invited to join the DH LINKS initiative, introducing them to the global Downe House network of alumnae, ready to offer mentoring, work placements and so much more. The Higher Education department provides a supportive pathway for university applications. A Sixth Form lecture programme allows the discussion of thought-provoking and topical issues with the latest thinking from industry experts. Sixth Form pupils are also encouraged to take on leadership positions, whether it be through mentoring, in-house activities, arts or science, the possibilities to lead the school are wide-ranging. They can also complete the following programmes:

- The Mini MBA or Ivy House Leadership Award
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award
- Global internships and work mentors
- Joining or forming clubs and societies
- Microsoft Office Specialist certification
- DH LINKS, alumnae networking and UniMentors
- CV writing and interview skills workshops

No matter what the girls go on to achieve beyond Downe, and the sheer variety of the career paths of our alumnae is testimony to our ethos, they all have the enduring imprint of the Downe House DNA to carry with them throughout their lives.

As our Headmistress, Mrs Emma McKendrick says: "It is essential to prepare our students proactively for the wider world of which they will be a part. The path to success will require many skills and personal attributes including compassion, creativity, the ability to work hard and lead, but also to work collaboratively and with resilience."



Downe House

Keeping Independent Schools in tune with the wider world

Keeping Independent Schools in tune with the wider world



Harry Hammond
Ex Senior Master at Radley College

If you have visited one of the amazing independent schools in the UK, it is easy to see how one could want to live and work there, and rarely sortie outside the grounds. The beautiful architecture, cosy rooms, lush grounds, great food and coffee shops, laden with high street goodies, give them an irresistible pull. Yes, it is true that these are inspiring places to live and they foster a great sense of collegiality as well as a life-long love of learning. But, if left unfettered, there is a danger that this familiarity can lead to a view which is too homogeneous and inward looking. The pupils need to look outside the environs of the school and challenge themselves with the greater competitiveness of the wider world.

There are a number of ways in which this is achieved and each one is part of building up a truly holistic education for the children. When they leave the children have so much more than stellar academic results – it is their ability to get along with others and their quiet confidence (not arrogance) which helps them to lead fulfilled and, often, important lives.

One way to challenge the children is to bring in external speakers who take them well beyond the confines of an exam scheme of work. Children will be encouraged to attend lectures from whatever age, even if at first, the topic may go a little over their head. The formula being that they will grow into the topic and learn to absorb new ideas. The ability to assimilate information and form one's own ideas is crucial to the cognitive process. Over their years at the school, we see the students grow in broader knowledge and that knowledge brings confidence that their opinion matters. One of the joys of the modern world is that youth truly have a voice – far more so than previously – it may be idealistic at times, but fresh ideology moves society forward.

A big part of school life is trips outside the school gates and at independent schools these are numerous and sometimes of a grand scale. There are the traditional visits to the plethora of museums, galleries and theatres in the UK, but also those trips which live long in the memory and can inspire a future direction in life. For example I recently took some children to hear about ReMake – a charity helping ex-offenders find work through small businesses. They heard from human rights lawyers, prison Governors and ex-offenders themselves. As a result of the visit, two students decided to change their university options as they now wanted to work within the Criminal Justice System. Other trips can be more physically demanding, such as hikes in many of the beautiful wild landscapes in the UK through the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. Many people have participated in this and most of them will tell you a similar story – it was very hard at times, but ultimately hugely rewarding. These kinds of expeditions do more than test a child's physical ability, they show how one responds when the chips are down: when it is getting dark, starting to rain and fatigue is setting in. These are the times when you learn to be resilient and put your friends' needs before your own. Of course, sport teaches these skills as well, but there is something about the outward-bound trip which stays with you forever.



Radley College

Keeping Independent Schools in tune with the wider world



Radley College

But probably the most important way in which independent schools engage on a bigger stage is through service. The children are having the kind of education and opportunities others only dream of and it is so important that they recognise their privilege and look to put something back into society. So, any school will have an extensive programme of community service, whereby the students go out into the local area and help others less fortunate than themselves. This could involve helping children to read in a local primary school, visiting an elderly person or doing a day's work for a charity. Through the charitable sector they learn about so many aspects of the tough lives that many people lead. There are often no quick fixes, but at least by understanding the issues, they may be able to help work towards possible solutions.

Many independent schools now have established connections with local State schools, which enables partnership at a number of levels. Pupils from those schools come into lessons, bringing a fresh perspective on life, thus helping to break down barriers and foster greater understanding. At Radley College we used to visit our partner school regularly and work together in drama and sport as well as academic debates and classes. Through their collaboration with Radley, some boys at the academy

went on to gain places at elite universities, including Oxford.

An education at an independent school is not just about the years you are there – it is for life. Friendships are forged that will stand the test of time, as the same old jokes get rehashed at every reunion! But it is not just friendships that are the lasting legacy, it is the advice and support the children receive through other ex-pupils which will be a great ballast and practical help in their careers. This won't just be from people they knew at school – alumnae feel such gratitude and loyalty to the place that they are only too happy to help 'one of their own'. Those wishing to pursue careers in law or medicine particularly benefit from kind alumnae who will help set them up with work experience or internships. But this is also true of the huge array of careers that are out there in the financial, business and even entertainment world.

So, the next time you visit an independent school in the UK, don't just ask about what goes on at the school, challenge them as to how they make their brand relevant to the wider world and how that will set your child up for a successful and happy future.

What are online standardised tests and why are they so important for applications to UK boarding schools?

What are online standardised tests and why are they so important for applications to UK boarding schools?



Sophie Smith

Director - Admissions Management (UK Schools),
BE Education

Sophie was one of the first UK study abroad consultants to work in China, having joined BE in 2014 and since then has helped over a hundred children to win places at their dream schools. Over the years, Sophie has worked personally with many UK schools on developing their admissions procedures in Mainland China, conducting interviews on behalf of schools as well as supporting her own clients.

In the UK, online standardised tests are now used as a key part of the admissions process for many independent schools. They are designed to assess not only the applicant's current academic ability, but also their potential for future development. This is done through a combination of various reasoning questions, plus English and mathematics problems. In many ways, the reasoning sections are similar to the questions used in an IQ test. To do well in these tests requires intelligence, patience, attention to detail, as well as problem-solving and critical thinking skills. The aim being to ascertain how quickly a child will grasp new content, even if it is complicated or explained in a way which may be difficult to follow.

If a child has been following a different curriculum and so is lacking knowledge in some subject areas, knowing that they are likely to be a fast learner can help to reassure the school that the applicant has the ability to catch up with the other children. This is particularly so if the child has previously been learning in another language rather than English, as the school will also need to check whether the applicant's level of English is sufficient to access the curriculum. This is more important the older the applicant is: the older the child, the less time they will have to catch up before important public examinations such as GCSEs and A-levels.

When will my child be required to sit one of these assessments?

This will depend on the child's target schools and entry point. Some schools require reasoning scores prior to considering the applicant's registration, while others will require a specific test at a fixed time during the application process. Many schools will use these online tests as an easy way to rule out unsuitable applicants near the start of the application process, before even inviting the child to progress to the next steps such as an interview or paper tests, which require more of the school's time. This can be required anything up to three years before entry to the school and if the correct window is missed, the child may not be allowed to register for that entry point.

To complicate things further, the frequency at which a child is allowed to sit a certain test is usually limited, with some restricted to once per year and others restricted to once per 6-month or 4-month period. As such, an experienced education consultant will aim to plan exactly when a child should sit each test to maximum effect.

How can I help my child to prepare for these online reasoning tests?

A lot will depend on which test the child has to sit and when. The key standardised tests which might be required by UK schools are UKiset, Atom, CAT4, ISEB Pre-test and CEM. All of these have slightly different requirements, so it is important that you are aware of exactly which tests the child will be required to sit and when, with lessons planned accordingly. These tests are designed to assess a child's natural ability without the need for preparation beforehand, so many of the exam companies deliberately refrain from releasing official materials or practice tests. We have, however, found that while the child's natural ability is undoubtedly important, test scores can generally be improved over time if the applicant is following the correct tuition plan.



Sevenoaks School

Preparing for UKiset: how to ensure success in one of the most common standardised tests

Preparing for UKiset: how to ensure success in one of the most common standardised tests



St Mary's Calne School

but must be considered as a whole. As such, they are easily confused by non-native speakers. Consequently, this is one area we focus on at BE Academy, using material published by Cambridge English along with our in-house grammar lessons to ensure that students are well prepared.

For the essay section, we help students to practise writing discursive and expository essays on a wide range of topics. It is important that students can structure each paragraph and the overall essay correctly, with relevant signposting and a coherent argument. Whilst this forms the basis of a students' preparation, it is only half the battle as logic, line of argument and opinion are also essential for a successful and interesting essay. For that reason, at BE Academy we develop students' critical thinking skills, providing sessions on global topics to help students form and articulate their own opinions. We also encourage students to provide opinions verbally alongside their written essays to lay the groundwork for interviews with schools.

English ability is not only important for the English assessment, but for the entire test. For many Chinese students, mathematical ability is not a problem as they are often ahead of their UK counterparts. The mathematical portion of the exam is so broad that success depends on competence in mathematical terms and theory relevant for the age of the student. It is important that students know the correct English terminology and can understand the question, especially if they are not currently at an international school. At BE Academy we focus on reviewing the main types, sequences and analogies, so students are confident with these before the exam.

Like any exam, it is important that students are familiar with both the types of questions and the best techniques to solve them before sitting the UKiset. This is especially important for the reasoning component of the exam, as it is likely to be unfamiliar. Ensuring that students can recognise and answer different types of questions can be achieved by practising those that appear regularly, such as number analogies in the mathematical reasoning section. Understanding how best to approach these questions requires help from an experienced tutor who understands how the questions work and what they are testing. For example, when dealing with antonyms in verbal reasoning questions it is helpful to first eliminate answers that have no clear opposite and are unlikely to be correct. Think of the word 'spotted'. What would the antonym be? 'Striped,' 'plain,' or something else? Whilst almost every word has a synonym, not all words have antonyms. Techniques such as this help to maximise success in the UKiset exam.

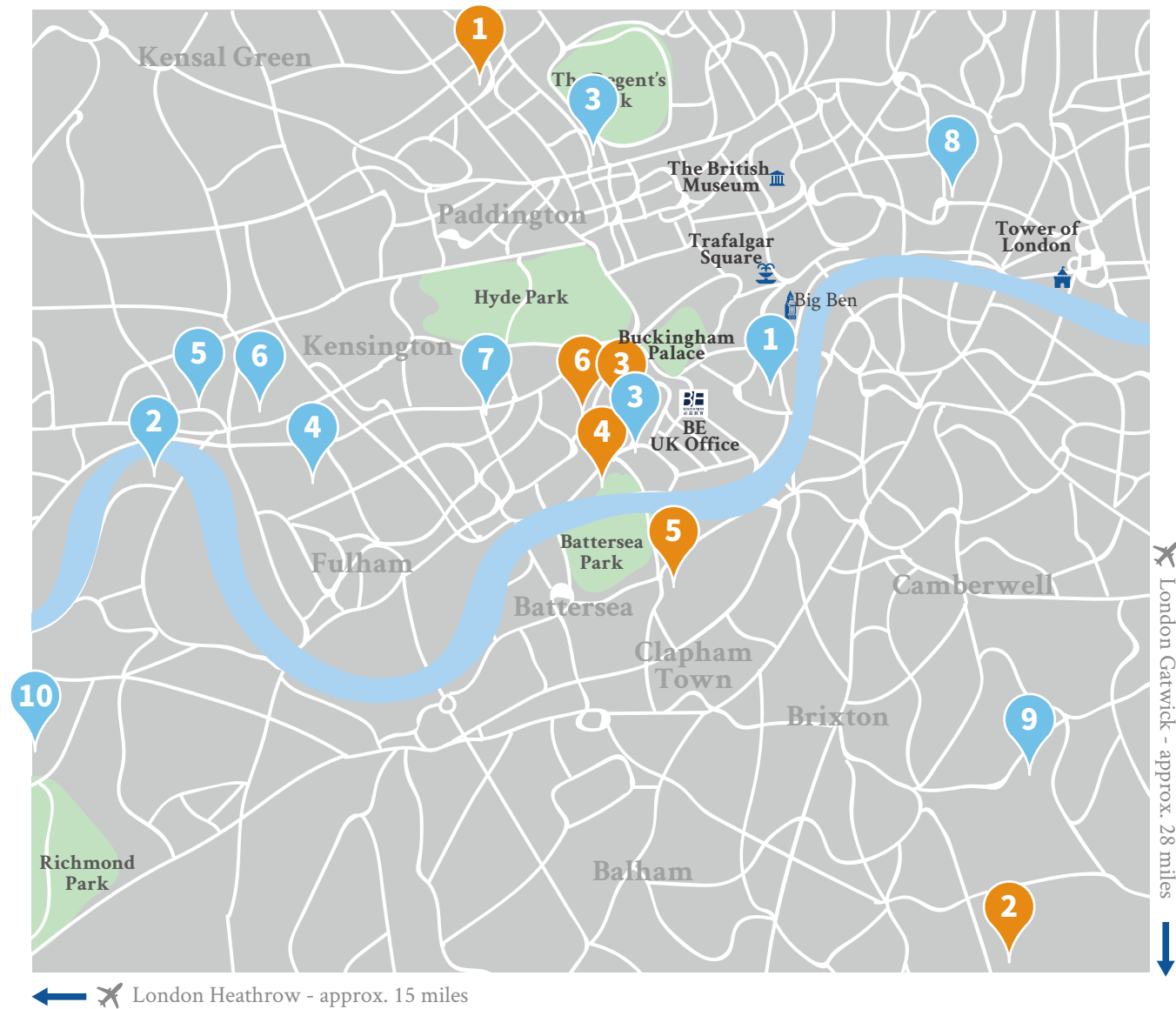
While the UKiset exam might seem like a daunting hurdle, all the work done to prepare for it will stand students in good stead for entrance exams and interviews. At BE Academy we can help students to excel in the exam and use it as a springboard for success in their school applications.

Unlike many tests designed to measure students' attainment which state that 'no preparation is needed,' UKiset actively encourages preparation; indeed, it is necessary if a student is to maximise their potential. The UKiset website gives brief recommendations and the organisation previously posted sample questions on its Twitter account to help candidates practise. However, knowing how to prepare can be challenging since there are no official past papers, and practice questions are no longer shared on Twitter. Consequently, our team of experienced tutors at BE Academy has created a 30-hour core preparation course, utilising in-house resources to help students improve in the main areas of the UKiset tests. Below are some tips from the BE Academy tuition team about how to succeed.

According to the UKiset website, one of the best ways to practise is to work on improving overall English skills. The English language section of the exam uses Cambridge English Assessment, so the texts, skills tested and question format all follow this. UKiset results indicate a student's CEFR level and so our goal is to improve students' overall command of English and therefore their CEFR score. Some of the most challenging grammar questions in this section are phrasal verbs. There are a vast number of phrasal verbs in everyday use, so they are particularly important and the frequency with which they appear in the exam reflects this. Phrasal verbs are semantic units that cannot be understood by looking at individual parts,



Map of London Day Schools (Selected)



Map of London Day Schools (Selected)

Prep

1. Abercorn School
2. Dulwich Prep London
3. Eaton House Schools
4. Garden House School
5. Newton Preparatory School
6. Sussex House School

Senior

1. Westminster School
2. St Paul's School
3. Francis Holland Schools
4. Fulham School
5. Godolphin & Latymer School
6. St Paul's Girls' School
7. Queen's Gate School
8. City of London School for Girls
9. Alleyn's School
10. Ibstock Place School

*North London Collegiate School (approx. 10 miles from central London)

London Day Schools Profiles

London Day Schools Profiles

London Prep Schools

Abercorn School

Established in 1987, Abercorn School is a co-educational nursery, pre-prep and preparatory school for students aged 2-13, operating on separate sites across St John Woods and Maida Vale. The school is led by Headmaster Christopher Hammond, who took over the role in 2020. Abercorn places great emphasis on pastoral care and a happy learning environment, and it is not quite the same hothouse you will find at other London day schools. Leavers' destinations are strong nonetheless – with students going on to schools such as City of London, Francis Holland, Highgate School and Godolphin and Latymer. Girls leave at 11+, whereas boys stay on for Common Entrance at 13+. The school also caters well to working parents, with gates opening at 8am and a number of after school activities available such as tennis, golf and taekwondo.

Dulwich Prep London

Not to be confused with Dulwich College Junior School (the prep school to the famous College), Dulwich Prep is an all boys' school located half a mile up the road. In terms of enrolment, the school is the largest all boys prep in the country and boasts considerable space for a London school with impressive facilities (including a 25m swimming pool) as well as many modern surprises hidden behind the traditional façade. The school is very popular with local British families, many of whom will apply to the College eventually, but who will keep their options open, with many boys going on to top boarding schools and other local day schools including Alleyns and Whitgift.

Eaton House Schools

Eaton House is a family of schools in central London, comprising a nursery, two pre-preps, two prep schools and a girls-only prep. Although the schools are non-selective, leavers' destinations would suggest otherwise. Many of their students go on to join top UK day and boarding schools, such as St Paul's, Westminster, Dulwich, Eton, Benenden and Tonbridge. Eaton House also sees a number of students leave with scholarships each year. As a result, places are often served on a 'first come, first served' basis, so early registration is strongly encouraged. Taking note of how academic pressure can affect children, the schools now also have a dedicated Head of Wellbeing, assigned to cater for the wellbeing needs of the whole school community and ensure students thrive personally as well as academically.



Dulwich Prep London

London Day Schools Profiles

Garden House School

Established in 1951, Garden House Prep is an independent day school situated in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in London. The school is unique from others in that it has two separate prep schools within one. Girls and boys receive academic lessons in single sex groups but are brought together to enjoy extracurricular activities, ensuring that students benefit from the best of both worlds. The school shares its grounds with the Royal Hospital Chelsea, giving students the opportunity to enjoy beautiful open spaces in the heart of London. Students are extremely articulate and perform well above the national average in English, maths and sciences. It is without surprise that students from Garden House School are accepted into some of the very best senior schools in the country.

Newton Preparatory School

Despite being located in Battersea, southwest London, Newton boasts a large campus with excellent facilities including four all-weather pitches, three sports halls, two dance studios, a cutting-edge science lab and a new lower-school library. These impressive facilities provide pupils with the opportunity to develop their wider talents around a core of rigorous academic study. The school has been led by Head Alison Fleming since 2013, previously the Head of Dulwich College Junior School. Newton is selective, and only accepts highly academic students, though extracurricular activities and accomplishments are taken into consideration. A large number of academic scholarships are awarded to leavers every year, making Newton an excellent prep school for students with ambitions of joining the UK's top senior schools, both boarding and day.

Sussex House School

Led by Headmaster Nicholas Kaye, Sussex House is an all-boys preparatory school in Chelsea that serves as a major feeder to some of the UK's leading boarding schools, particularly Eton and Winchester. A small school with less than 200 students, Sussex House is able to offer individualised learning with limited class sizes. It has a reputation for excellent music, art and drama teaching, with the boys performing their own musical annually at the nearby Royal Court Theatre. In sport, fencing is a particular strength. The school has produced more national fencing champions than any other school in the last 25 years. Its reputation as a feeder school of top senior schools has made Sussex House one of the most competitive prep schools in London. It has an outstanding record of placing boys in top schools and prides itself on its 100% success rate in the Common Entrance examination for the last 15 years.



Newton Preparatory School



Westminster School

London Senior Schools

Westminster School

Originally established as a charity school by the Benedictine monks of Westminster Abbey, Westminster School can trace its origins back to the 14th century; it has sat on its current site since 1461. Located between Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament, the school is led by Dr Gary Savage, who took the headship in 2020 having previously held senior positions at both Eton and Westminster School itself. Despite the challenges of its central London location, Westminster boasts an impressive sports centre with 6000m² of indoor space and has enjoyed considerable sporting success over the past decade. With exceptionally high entrance requirements, it is no surprise that the pupils here are both highly intelligent and very ambitious. Around 40% of leavers gain Oxbridge places each year, with an increasing number choosing to attend some of the top universities in the US.

St Paul's School

A finalist of the 2020 Independent Schools of the Year, St Paul's School was

founded in 1509 and moved to its current 43-acre site by the River Thames in 1968. High Master (St Paul's term for Headmaster) Susan-Anne Huang arrived in 2020 with over 12 years of experience heading schools. She writes a weekly school blog to keep pupils and parents abreast of all school news. Major new developments and refurbishments to the school have recently been completed, including the two general teaching buildings and a Drama Centre which overlooks the Thames. There are over 40 clubs, ranging from space and medical to filmmaking and volunteer work, many of which convene during the school's generous 100-minute lunch break. Only weekly boarding is available in Year 9, with very limited spaces, but full boarding is an option for 16+ entrants. Academic demands are rigorous, with overseas applicants expected to attend at least two years at a UK prep school prior to joining. As a consequence, pupils consistently achieve excellent grades and typically between a quarter and a third of leavers go on to Oxford and Cambridge each year.

Francis Holland Schools

Sharing the name of their founder, Francis Holland, who was a chaplain to Queen Victoria and Edward VII, the Regent's Park school opened in 1878, while the Sloane Square school opened three years later. The main entry points for both schools' are 11+ and 16+, although Sloane Square also has a junior school with 4+ entry. Lucy Elphinstone has headed the Sloane Square school since 2012 and has overseen a number of new developments, including the Centre for Creative Learning, library, rooftop garden and fitness studio. There is an emphasis on creativity and innovation, with sixth formers having the chance to work with entrepreneurs as part of the academic enrichment programme. The Regent's Park school is headed by Katharine Woodcock, who took over in 2022. Prior to joining Francis Holland, Mrs. Woodcock was the Head at Sydenham High School GDST for five years. Supporting the academic curriculum is the Stretch and Challenge Programme, which promotes and inspires independent learning in all areas. The majority of graduates remain in the UK and take up places at Russell Group universities. Recent overseas leavers' destinations include Princeton, NYU and the University of Virginia.

Fulham School

Now under the management of a global education group, Fulham School expanded in 2017 to include a senior campus, and is now a co-ed day school for children aged 4 all the way through to 18. Having three campuses fits in well with their philosophy of education as it allows each age group to 'graduate' at each stage of their academic development. While the school strives for excellence across their academics, performing arts and sports programmes, it broadly strikes a balance between these pursuits and does not leave anyone behind. The school has recently collaborated with Berklee College of Music in Boston, resulting in a pioneering curriculum and artists-in-residence program that helps to develop music, dance and theatre in the school. Every year, children successfully enter top senior schools such as Eton, Harrow, Downe House and St Paul's Girls, some with academic and sporting scholarships.



St. Paul's Girls' School

Godolphin & Latymer School

Originally opened as a boys' school in 1861, Godolphin & Latymer became a girls' school in 1905. It is currently headed by Dr Frances Ramsey, previously the Principal at Queen's College, London for eight years. The main entry points are 11+ and 16+, with both IB and A-level channels offered in the Sixth Form. There are occasional places at 13+, but these are rare and fiercely competitive. Facilities include a new sports centre and a converted church where performing arts take place. There are a wide variety of student-run clubs on offer, such as Anime, Language Chats and Tech Club, and in 2018 the school introduced a new entrepreneurship programme which covers areas including investment, market research and sustainable development. Additionally, two student committees were launched in 2020 which work closely with charity organisations; they focus on promoting compassionate leadership among the students. 10% of leavers in 2022 were admitted to Oxford or Cambridge, with many now opting for top universities in the US, including Yale, Brown and Columbia.

St Paul's Girls' School

St Paul's Girls' School was founded in 1904 to complement the boys' school, and enjoys outstanding academic success, topping The Times independent schools' rankings for the last 10 years. High Mistress is Sarah Fletcher, who previously headed City of London School and Kingston Grammar School. Entry points are 11+ and 16+, with occasional places available in Years 8 and 9, for which applicants would need to be top of their year group in most subjects and already be studying two foreign languages. A wide range of clubs and societies support the academic curriculum, including Journalism, Art History, Coding and the Friday Lecture Series. Expansions to the school's facilities are in progress, with the sports pavilion and Garden Building completed in 2018, and The Centre for Design and Innovation and new Staff Hub in the works. Oxford was the most popular destination for leavers in 2022 with 21 students receiving offers, followed by Cambridge with 16 students.

Queen's Gate School

Located in South Kensington, Queen's Gate was founded in 1891. In September 2022, Amy Wallace succeeded the

previous Head of 16 years. The main entry points are 4+ and 11+ with only a small intake at 16+. Early morning sports are on offer at 7am and the curriculum is complemented by a number of clubs including Songwriting, STEM Club and Drone Engineering. On-site sports are limited but the school has access to facilities at Kensington Leisure Centre and Imperial College Sports Centre, as well as nearby parks. Edinburgh and Exeter are the most popular destinations for leavers, with a handful going to American universities every year.

City of London School for Girls

City of London Girls' School (CLSG) was founded in 1894 and moved to its current location in the Barbican in 1969. Main entry points are 7+, 11+ and 16+. The Headmistress is Jenny Brown, who arrived in 2019 and previously headed St Alban's High School for five years. CLSG's vision is encapsulated in its "Finding Space to Pioneer" initiative, which incorporates reflecting, innovating and sharing. Extracurricular activities typically take place first thing in the morning, lunch break or late afternoon, and range from gymnastics and K-pop to

anime. Facilities include a dance studio, swimming pool, gym and all-weather pitch. Results are strong with 85% A*/A at A-level in 2022. 12 girls gained places at Oxbridge last year.

Alleyn's School

Named after its founder, Edward Alleyn, the school opened in 1619 but moved to its current site in Dulwich in 1887. Alleyn's welcomed new Head Jane Lunn in 2021, who won the accolade of Best Head of a Public School at the 2020 Tatler Schools Awards for her stewardship of Wimbledon High School. Academic studies are strengthened by Alleyn's "Learners' Programme", which aims to enhance learning skills through strategies, reflection and individual support. Additionally, there are over 180 extracurricular activities and 60 weekly sports clubs on offer, with facilities including a newly refurbished swimming pool and 30 acres of playing fields. Main entry points are 4+, 7+, 9+, 11+ and 16+.

In 2022, 81 per cent of A-level grades were A*/A, and there were 17 offers from Oxbridge.

Ibstock Place School

Boasting a prime location in South-West London, Ibstock Place has provided education to boys and girls since the end of the 19th century. Christopher Wolsey took up the headship in 2021 from his previous position as Deputy Head within the school. Ibstock is described by some as humane and liberal, but this does not take away from its desire to thrive academically. Mind-expanding clubs such as debating encourage children to think differently. With over 70 different activities on offer, students are encouraged to find their strengths and develop them. The majority of students go on to study at top universities across the country, with Bristol and UCL amongst the most popular destinations. Roughly 3-5 students are accepted to Oxbridge each year.

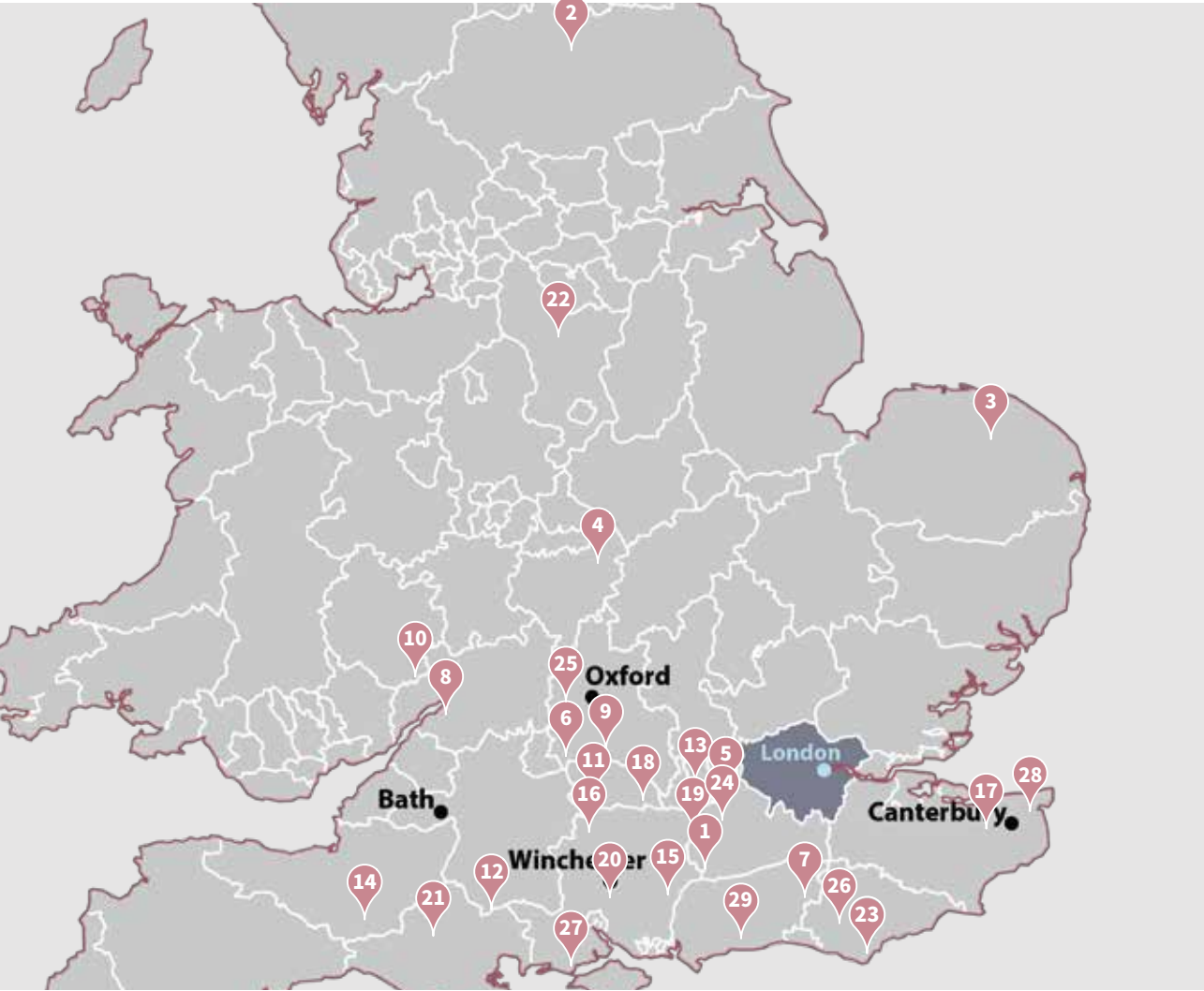
North London Collegiate

Considered to be the first girls' school in the UK to offer the same educational opportunities as boys, North London Collegiate School was founded in 1850, moving to its current location in 1940. Headmistress Sarah Clark joined in 2018 and was previously Head of the Queen's School in Chester for 8 years. A 20-year expansion programme has recently been approved, which will include a new engineering and DT centre (the IDEAS Hub), improvements to the sports centre and expansions to the performing arts centre and music school. The main entry points are 4+, 7+, 11+ and 16+, with IB, A-Levels and Pre-U offered in Years 12 and 13. STEAM is especially strong here and the school has a separate website dedicated to it. In 2022, 20% of leavers received offers from Oxbridge and another 20% are going on to study medicine.



Alleyn's School





Map of Prep Schools

1. Aldro School

2. Aysgarth School

3. Beeston Hall Prep School

4. Bilton Grange Preparatory School

5. Caldicott Preparatory School

6. Cothill House

7. Cottesmore School

8. Dean Close Preparatory School

9. Dragon School

10. The Elms School

11. Elstree School

12. Godolphin Prep School

13. Godstowe Preparatory School

14. Hazlegrove Preparatory School
15. Highfield Prep

16. Horris Hill

17. The Junior King's School, Canterbury

18. Ludgrove School

19. Papplewick School

20. The Pilgrims' School

21. Port Regis School

22. S. Anselm's School

23. St Andrew's Prep

24. St John's Beaumont

25. Summer Fields School

26. Vinehall School

27. Walhampton School

28. Wellesley House

29. Windlesham House School

Prep School Profiles

1. Aldro School

Since 1940, Aldro School has been based in the picturesque village of Shackleton, Surrey. This intimate academy of 200 pupils over 30 acres of land may sound modest, but the impact on all who attend is anything but. The Headmaster, Chris Carlier, came to Aldro in 2019 after 21 years at Bradfield College. He has sought to keep the traditions of the school, whilst preparing it for the modern age. Previously all-boys, Aldro started admitting girls from September 2021. Though perhaps best known for academic prowess, pupils are encouraged to engage in all aspects of school life. The performing arts theatre hosts several big productions a year and over 50% of students take advantage of LAMDA courses. Other facilities include an art and D&T block, a new sports pavilion and a heated outdoor swimming pool. Sports are important and pupils must participate in it for at least an hour each day. Academic results are consistently strong, with numerous senior school scholarships. A large section of the leavers go on to Charterhouse School, but other destinations included Eton, Harrow, Winchester, Bradfield, Tonbridge and Wellington College.

2. Aysgarth School

Opened in 1877, this all-boys prep school moved to its current Newton-le-Willows premises in 1890. Under Headmaster Rob Morse's successful tenure, the school was awarded Tatler Prep School of the Year 2019/20. Sports are strong, with a number of cricketers selected to play at a county level, and several boys chosen to represent the national prep school rugby side; tennis, skiing, shooting and riding have also seen success in recent years. Music is no less of an important a part of school life, with facilities including 8 practice rooms, a performing arts hall, purpose-built music classroom and a chapel complete with organ. There are a number of ensembles to choose from, and the senior choir has performed in cathedrals across the country. Creative arts are also keenly cultivated here, illustrated by numerous Art, Drama and D&T scholarships. Although the school is non-selective, it has achieved impressive results over the years, sending more students to Eton, Harrow, Radley and Winchester than any other northern prep school.

3. Beeston Hall Prep School

Established in 1948, Beeston Hall is the largest boarding prep school in East Anglia, occupying 35 acres of woodland. Fred de Falbe, an old Etonian, has been Head since 2016. Despite a small enrolment of 120 students, he oversees a school that punches above its weight in the sports department. Several students play at a county level and students have secured 39 sports scholarships over the last dozen years. Its extensive facilities include an Astroturf pitch, 4 rugby pitches, 7 floodlit tennis courts, an indoor shooting range and a 20m outdoor swimming pool. Pupils can now also benefit from the newly opened Luke Caswell Cricket Academy and the Tom Fisher Tennis School, offering access to one-on-one professional coaching. In addition to the traditional sports, which students must play daily, there are over 30 other extracurricular activities to choose from, with art, music and drama popular choices. Academic results are hard to fault: students have a 100% success rate to their first choice of senior school, with 65% awarded scholarships. Recent leavers' destinations include Eton, Rugby, Harrow and Wycombe Abbey.





Bilton Grange Preparatory School

4. Bilton Grange Preparatory School

Nestled in 90 acres of woods and parkland, the main Bilton Grange mansion was designed and built in 1846 by the architect behind the Houses of Parliament. Pupils were brought on site in 1887, and now a student body 330 strong enjoy the school's blend of historic charm, forested playgrounds and modern facilities. A DT department to rival any senior school is housed in a converted stable, a floodlit Astro hockey pitch and a 9-hole golf course sit side by side with a Victorian kitchen garden. The merging with nearby Rugby School in 2020 has also seen Bilton students benefit from the senior school's professional sports coaches, sure to continue the school's strong sporting track record at both county and national levels for athletics and hockey. Meanwhile, the extensive school grounds allow for more niche pursuits, such as clay pigeon shooting and a gardening club. The arts take particular prominence, with a dedicated theatre that sees frequent use, in addition 75% of students practise a musical instrument. The new Head, Gareth Jones, took over in September 2021, coming from St Andrew's Prep in

Eastbourne. Unsurprisingly, around 50% of Bilton students move on to Rugby, but offers from Eton, Uppingham, Repton, Oundle and beyond have also been forthcoming.

5. Caldicott Preparatory School

Caldicott has come a long way since it opened its doors in 1904 to eight young pupils. It now occupies 40 acres in the verdant village of Farnham Royal and its numbers have swelled to 250 boys. Headmaster Jeremy Banks, an old Uppinghamian who previously worked at Dulwich College, has been in the role since 2018. Sports are a major draw, with 15 rugby pitches, 11 cricket pitches, squash and tennis courts and an outdoor swimming pool. Music is encouraged, with 75% of boys learning an instrument. With a dedicated LAMDA staff, the school also takes drama seriously, and there are house plays as well as major productions. Academic results are extremely strong, with the school considered a feeder for Eton and Harrow.

6. Cothill House

Founded in 1860, Cothill House has

occupied its current site in the village of the same name since 1870. Set in 26 acres of verdant grounds, it offers ample opportunities for boys to explore the natural world. Headmaster Duncan Bailey, an old Etonian, took up the role in 2011. His previous experience includes 8 years at the Château de Sauveterre – a sister school in France under the Cothill Educational Group where all boys spend a term in Year 7. The French connection is further enhanced through the choir, which regularly tours the country. Musically, both classical and modern forms are encouraged; there are a plethora of ensembles, from orchestras to jazz and rock bands, as well as regular lunchtime recitals for the boys. The creative arts are no less encouraged, with a pottery room on site and regular visits to galleries. The main sports are rugby, football, hockey and cricket, complemented by a vast range of other activities. Sporting facilities offer something for everyone, with an indoor pool, 6 tennis courts, a 9-hole golf course, and a fleet of BMX bikes. Leavers' destinations are impressive: Eton, Radley, Harrow and Winchester were the most popular choices in recent years.



Cothill House

7. Cottesmore School

Founded in 1894, Cottesmore settled at its current site, the red-brick Buchan Hill mansion on the road from London to Brighton, after World War II. A wondrous domain of oak carvings and baronial fireplaces, the main building's splendour is only matched by the school's 30 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds, complete with a lake used for rowing and fishing. Little wonder the majority of staff live on-site and 80% of the school's 200 pupils board full-time. Head since 2008, Tom Rogerson, is the third in his family to take up the Headmaster's post, adding to the family feel. Facilities have grown to accommodate the school's many boarders. A spacious cellar contains a shooting range, ten pin bowling alley and an electric railway. On last count, 33 sports could be played on site, with activities such as archery, shooting and billiards adding variety to the usual sports. Yet, though spoilt for choice, sporting prowess in the main sports has not been diminished and students have competed nationally in athletics, hockey and netball with great success in recent years. Make no mistake, the school's many extracurriculars do not distract from the pursuit of academic distinction at Cottesmore. Significant numbers progress to senior schools of the likes of Eton, Harrow, Charterhouse, Benenden and Marlborough. The many awards bestowed on the school, like Tatler's "Prep School of the Year 2020", have been well-earned.

8. Dean Close Preparatory School

Sharing grounds and sports facilities with

Dean Close senior school, around 95% of Dean Close Prep's 285 pupils progress to the senior establishment in Year 9. Formed as an independent institution in 1949, DCPS enjoys its own considerable indoor and outdoor provisions, including a floodlit play area, four boarding houses, and a multi-purpose building with theatre, music suite, IT room and hall. Around a quarter of students board, enjoying 50-acres of grounds, complete with wooded oasis and brook, just minutes from the picturesque city centre of Cheltenham. Musical opportunities are numerous at DCPS, a member of the Choir Schools Association, with exclusive access to the Schola Cantorum, an acclaimed choir for boys who sing services in nearby Tewkesbury Abbey and across the country. Around 70% of pupils learn an instrument and each boarding house has its own personal music tutor. The performing arts as a whole are well-developed at DCPS, with three spaces for students to showcase their talents: its own 360-seat theatre, the senior school's even larger Bacon Theatre and a wooded outdoor

amphitheatre. Paddy Moss has manned the helm since 2015. Having spent years as Head of a British prep school in Kenya, he is keen to inspire students to grow into global citizens.

9. Dragon School

The Dragon is one of the largest prep schools in the UK, both in size and in status. Founded in 1877 for the children of Oxford professors, numbers have since swelled to 800 students between the prep and pre-prep. Emma Goldsmith took over as Head in 2021, coming from Winchester House School where she won Tatler's "Best Head of a Prep School" in 2019. Occupying a peaceful 15-acre site beside the River Cherwell, the prep school is notable for its long cricket pitches stretching down to the water's edge. All kinds of other sports are also available onsite, most notably, canoeing and paddle boarding, permitted by direct access to the river. With an extensive list of famous actors among alumni, the Dragon's performing arts and music facilities are set for an overhaul this year to match this legacy and add to the experience of the colossal 70% of children who play not one, but two or more instruments. Broadening horizons is a serial pursuit, with the school instituting the Quest program to encourage exploration of further hobbies such as filmmaking, orienteering, anthropology and ceramics. Yet there's no fear of extracurriculars interfering with academic success, 2022 leavers received a total 61 awards and scholarships to destinations such as Eton, Winchester, Wycombe Abbey, Radley, Cheltenham Ladies College and the nearby St Edward's Oxford.



Cottesmore School



The Elms School

10. The Elms School

Founded in 1614, The Elms can proudly claim to be the oldest prep school still on its original site, with over 400 years of continuous history. One of the school's most distinctive points is its working farm, where students learn about environmental issues and sustainability, as well as how to care for livestock and grow their own vegetables. There is even a whole subject "Rural Studies" dedicated to these pursuits. Athleticism is an important part of school life and pupils must play sports every day, with opportunities for all ability levels. Sports facilities include a floodlit Astro turf, numerous fields and pitches, as well as a dedicated equestrian department. A heated indoor swimming pool, professional standard cricket nets and the sports hall have also all been recently refurbished. The Elms is fertile ground for the performing arts as well, with one big play each year, complemented by weekly Drama Club sessions and bi-termly musical theatre performances. Edward Lyddon will be taking over the role of Headmaster in April 2023 and is currently the Deputy Head (Pastoral) at Sandroyd School. Academics are strong, with about 40% of students gaining scholarships to senior schools every year.

Popular destinations in recent years include Rugby, Shrewsbury, Cheltenham College, Eton and Cheltenham Ladies' College.

11. Elstree School

Established in 1848, Elstree has occupied its current Georgian mansion since 1938, accompanied by 150 sprawling acres of Berkshire countryside. Headmaster Sid Inglis, an old Radleian, was appointed in 2013; not afraid to roll up his sleeves, he still teaches Latin and is an active fundraiser for mental health charity Place2Be. He was also a driving force in the school's transition to co-education last September. Sports are of great importance here, with facilities including a modern sports hall, a 9-hole golf course and a shooting range. Other facilities are no less impressive. The school boasts a new science block and music school, with art and D&T buildings to follow. In addition to a broad range of extracurricular offerings, the school even offers its own "Elstree Award", a home-grown Duke of Edinburgh-style programme. Though non-selective, the school has a reputation for strong academic results, helped by its intimate class sizes. Recent leavers won places at Eton, Harrow, Radley and Winchester, among others.

12. Godolphin Prep

Originally established in 1726 by Elizabeth Godolphin, Godolphin Prep is the Junior section of Godolphin School for Girls, located just outside the picturesque southern market town of Salisbury. From a very young age, girls are encouraged to try a variety of different sports and activities in order to find 'something they love and that they can smile about'. The school is a caring and friendly environment that benefits from a wonderful rural setting. The school has a mixture of both boarders and day girls. Efforts to integrate students that board with those that don't are extensive to ensure the 'family-like' feel of the school is found throughout. Overseas students are expected to visit the school and to have a face-to-face or online interview with the Headmaster prior to entry.

13. Godstowe Preparatory School

Godstowe was one of England's first all-girls prep schools when it opened in 1900. Starting with just 12 pupils, numbers on the attractive 12-acre site have surged to 330 today. This is still a modest register by modern standards, allowing for small class sizes and a quality of teaching which saw 30 girls secure scholarships to senior schools in 2022. This academic excellence has ensured that its historical ties with Wycombe Abbey, a neighbouring High Wycombe institution, remain firmly in place. Many of the old traditions persist too: shaking hands with teachers at the end of the day and a uniform complete with boater hats. Though academically successful, Godstowe is far from single-mindedly pursuing strong results, sports are also impressive here; a competition-sized swimming pool was the latest addition to



Highfield Prep School

the site in 2019, while the Jubilee Sports Hall allows for tennis, badminton, netball, basketball, indoor hockey, gymnastics, ballet and lacrosse among other sports. 90% of Godstowe girls also play an instrument. Kate Bailey took over the headship in September 2022. Before moving to Godstowe she had established a brand-new school as the Founding Head of Wetherby-Pembridge School, Manhattan.

14. Hazlegrove Preparatory School

Whilst one of numerous schools in the county of Somerset, Hazlegrove's 200 acres still feel many miles from anywhere. This well-groomed rural prep has occupied the 17th-century Hazlegrove House since 1947, and made many additions since. Most recently, the Fitzjames Teaching and Learning Centre has brought modern teaching spaces and a double height exhibition area to the site. Students are taught to become 21st century citizens, enjoying the likes of STEM festivals, a drone club and the integration of iPads into classes. Around a third of the school's 350 pupils and half of the staff live on site fulltime, making the most of the extensive grounds and facilities like an attractive 25m indoor pool, two Astros, tennis courts, a go-karting track and laser pistol zone. Previously the Deputy Head at Cothill House, Ed Benbow became Headmaster in September 2022. From Hazlegrove, it's on to nearby King's Bruton for around half of each year group, while places and scholarships to the likes of Sherborne, Radley and Bryanston account for remaining leavers' destinations.

15. Highfield Prep School

From its expansive 175-acre grounds on the West Sussex, Hampshire and Surrey borders, Highfield & Brookham offers students room to breathe, while being within an hour's drive from central London. Founded in 1892, the school took root at its present location in 1907. Made up of a nursery, pre-prep and prep school it has gradually expanded to a roster of 400+ students. Around 50% of prep school students board, making the most of the grounds, which include mountain biking tracks and a woodland cinema. With so much space available,

sports facilities in particular have had ample room to grow. They now include spacious playing fields for rugby, hockey, lacrosse and cricket, an archery range, a squash court, a 20m pool and a 9-hole golf course. Supported by professional quality coaching and sports timetabled five days a week, students have raked in the sporting accolades, with undefeated seasons in rugby, netball, rounders and cricket in particular. Since September 2022, Suzannah Cryer has been the Head. This was a return to Highfield after previously being Head of Drama and the boarding at the school, after which she spent several years as the Deputy Head at Thomas' Prep School in Battersea. Highfield sends students to a broad range of senior schools, with Charterhouse, Marlborough, Bryanston, Eton, Canford and Epsom among the most popular.

16. Horris Hill

Founded in 1888, Horris Hill is situated within an 85-acre estate in rural Hampshire, surrounded by sports fields, woods, a kitchen garden and a golf course. Rob Stewart became Headmaster in September 2022, bringing a wealth of experience with him as the previous Head at The Oratory and teaching at Eton for 16 years before that. School days are long-running until 6:30pm –

encompassing sports, activities, tutorials, music practice and prep, but no pupil is expected to do any homework after this time. A recent addition to the school is the David Brownlow Theatre, which serves as an assembly hall and performance space for concerts and drama productions. In the past five years, top leavers' destinations have included Winchester, Harrow, Eton, Radley, Charterhouse, Marlborough and Sherborne.

17. The Junior King's School, Canterbury

Founded in 1879, Junior King's School occupies an idyllic 80-acre site on the River Stour, three miles from the senior school. Headed by Emma Károlyi since 2017, the school is organised by "Sections" of which there are three: Junior House (Y3-4), Middle School (Y5-6), Upper School (Y7-8). There is a wide range of activities on offer, from bushcraft and ballet to debating, riding, and a leadership programme for Years 5-7 students. Facilities include two science labs, two computer suites, a huge galleried sports hall and The Barn, which is where the performing arts are based. Upon completion of Year 8, the majority of pupils go on to The King's School, Canterbury.



Horris Hill



Ludgrove School

18. Ludgrove School

Founded in 1892, Ludgrove sits in 130 acres of marvelous grounds, 40 miles west of central London. The school is headed by Simon Barber, who has been there since 2002, originally as a teacher and then Assistant Head. The school's impressive games programme operates five afternoons a week and facilities include a large sports hall and a 9-hole golf course. October 2020 saw the completion of the £2.5m Exploration Centre, dedicated to scientific and creative learning. Ludgrove is highly selective and there is a strong focus on progression to the top public schools, for which pupils receive extra lessons dedicated to preparing them for entry to their top choices. In 2022, 14 boys received offers from Eton with other notable destinations including Harrow, Wellington and Marlborough.

19. Papplewick School

Founded in 1947, Papplewick School occupies a 15-acre campus in the town of Ascot and is within walking distance of a championship golf course and one of the most famous racecourses in the world. Headmaster Tom Bunbury has been at the school since 1993, taking over as Head in 2004. Under his tenure the

school was awarded the accolade of Tatler UK Prep School of the Year 2018/19. Sports take place every day of the week except Thursdays, where boys can choose from a wide range of activity options including photography, scuba diving, polo, riding, golf and chess. The school offers a wide range of extracurricular clubs, such as their Antiquarian Book Club, and musical students have the opportunity to perform at the Newbury Festival. Between 2017 and 2022, 42 leavers have accepted places at Eton and 30 at Harrow, with other notable destinations including Winchester, Wellington and Charterhouse.

20. The Pilgrims' School

Founded in 1931, The Pilgrims' School is located between Winchester College and Winchester Cathedral. Indeed, the biggest draw for many parents is that almost half of the boys go on to Winchester College, with other popular destinations including the top senior schools across the country, such as Eton, Charterhouse, Radley, Marlborough and Sherborne. It's therefore very academic and has especially high entrance requirements. Science is particularly strong and is taught as separate subjects from Year 5 onwards. Music is also exceptional, with many Pilgrims'

students winning musical scholarships to senior schools. Most pupils belong to one of school's the many ensembles or choirs, of which the Winchester Cathedral Choir is regarded as one of the finest in the country. Former Pilgrim's pupil and teacher Tim Butcher will become Headmaster of the school in September 2023, moving from his current position as the Deputy Head at Hallfield School.

21. Port Regis School

Founded in 1881, Port Regis is set within 150 acres of grounds in Dorset, south-west of London. The school welcomed Titus Mills as Headmaster in 2021, an old Etonian who has taught around the world and was previously Head of Walhampton. Facilities are impressive, with its sports complex serving as a National Centre for junior gymnastics, and one of its sports halls was opened by Queen Elizabeth II while two of her grandchildren were at the school. Music and drama are also strong, with a number of music and drama scholarships awarded by leading senior schools to pupils each year. The purpose-built Farrington Music School includes a 132-seat concert hall, a music technology room and 17 large practice rooms; drama productions are performed at the 350-seat Centenary Hall, and LAMDA training is offered from Year 5 onwards. In the last three years, pupils have gone on to over 40 senior schools, with the most popular destinations in 2022 being Bryanston, Sherborne, King's Bruton, Eton and Canford.

22. S. Anselm's School

Founded in 1888, S. Anselm's is located in the Peak District, set in over 20 acres of lush English countryside. Headmaster Frank Thomson joined the school in



Port Regis School

January 2020, having held previous positions as Deputy Head at Mount St. Mary's College, Head at Stoke College and Head at Kilgraston. 2016 saw the opening of the LEGO Innovation Studio, which serves as a robotics centre, STEM club, 3D design studio, architecture workshop and filming studio, as well as supporting all areas of the curriculum. After school clubs are varied and include drama, fine arts, rock band and sailing. In 2022, the school ended its senior school provision for Years 9-11. Now the most popular destinations for leavers are Eton, Harrow, Winchester, Oundle and Repton.

23. St Andrew's Prep

Founded in 1877, St Andrew's Prep is located in the coastal city of Eastbourne, just five minutes walk from the beach and one mile from Eastbourne College, with both belonging to the same charity organisation. The two schools share a number of facilities, such as the Astroturf pitches and the Birley Centre, where concerts and plays are held. St Andrews' Prep also makes the most of its coastal location with its weekly "Beach School", during which pupils spend time studying nature at the beach. In 2021, Tom Gregory became the Headmaster of St Andrew's. A former pupil of St Andrew's Prep and Eastbourne College, Mr. Gregory worked for 10 years as an investment banker before moving into education and has since been Deputy Head of Vinehall and Ashfold. The school facilities have been enhanced in recent years, with the Goodwin Sports Hall and Dance Studio opening in 2016 and the refurbishment of the school pavilion and boarding house in 2019 and 2020 respectively. From 2019, St Andrew's Prep introduced The Bridge Curriculum for Years 7 to 9, combining aspects of Common Entrance with other programmes, which it believes will better prepare pupils for their future. A welcoming home for international students, St Andrew's was a 2022 finalist for the Independent Schools of the Year prize for International School Experience, having been a finalist for the same prize in 2020. Most leavers enter Eastbourne College, with other destinations including Benenden, Brighton College, King's Canterbury, Lancing, Roedean, Tonbridge and Wellington.

24. St John's Beaumont

St John's Beaumont opened in 1888 as a feeder school for a local Jesuit senior school. Today, the school welcomes children of all faiths but retains the Catholic values on which it was founded. The school sits in 75 acres of countryside, just a few miles from Windsor and Eton College. It also has excellent transport links, with Heathrow Airport just 12 miles down the road. These days the school sends boys to a wide range of senior schools with the most popular since 2018 being Eton, Harrow, Wellington and Winchester - in that order. The school was purpose built as a boarding school and retains many of the original features. The most noticeable is

the old dormitory which allows senior boys to be together in one long room while enjoying the privacy of their own cubicle. St John's boasts excellent sporting facilities which are available seven days a week to boarders including floodlit tennis courts and a heated swimming pool. Swimming is taken particularly seriously and the school performs strongly in inter school competitions. Art is also noticeably strong at St John's and the well-lit and well-stocked art room inspires boys to astonishing and mature levels of creativity. From September 2023 the school will start accepting girls into the Pre Prep and will over time become fully co-ed as they move up through the years.



S. Anselm's School



Walhampton School

25. Summer Fields School

Founded in 1864, Summer Fields sits in 70 acres of grounds in the north of Oxford, where boys are able to attend concerts and drama productions. Headmaster David Faber is an old Etonian and, prior to joining the school in 2010, was an author and member of parliament for nine years. Facilities include a large sports hall, two swimming pools and a nine-hole golf course, and over £2 million has been invested in new developments, such as the library and D&T workshop. Summer Fields has a history of sports excellence, with many boys representing the school at county and national levels. Football, rugby and cricket are the main sports, but one afternoon a week is given to minor sports such as badminton, table tennis, fencing and polo. Additional extracurricular activities take place two afternoons a week, ranging from chess to archaeology. Leavers go on to top senior schools across the country, with Eton the most popular destination in 2022 (18 pupils), followed by Harrow, Winchester, Radley and Marlborough.

26. Vinehall School

Founded in 1938, Vinehall School is located near the town of Robertsbridge in East Sussex, a mere 10 miles from the coast. Headmaster Jonathon Powis joined in 2017, having previously served as Deputy Head of Papplewick since 2008. As well as offering the typical subjects, Vinehall's curriculum also includes Engineering and Life Skills, the latter covering topics from global citizenship to financial literacy. Another core area of learning is sustainability, for which the school is working closely with both The Eden Project and The Harmony Project to raise awareness of sustainable living among its pupils. Numerous sports are taught, including swimming, basketball, gymnastics, badminton, volleyball, tennis and golf. Facilities include a 9-hole golf course, outdoor 'forest school', dance studio and the 270-seat Chaplin Theatre, where concerts, plays and musicals are held. Various academic and non-academic activities are on offer on Saturday mornings, ranging from Maths Olympiads and Science Investigations to Carpentry and Drama. Recently, the

most popular leavers' destinations have been Eastbourne College, Benenden, Brighton College, King's Canterbury, Battle Abbey and Bede's.

27. Walhampton School

Founded in 1948, Walhampton is located in Hampshire's New Forest National Park on the southern coast, and is set in 100 acres of countryside, providing an idyllic setting for pupils. The school takes full advantage of its extensive grounds, not only in terms of its extracurricular programme but also the academic learning, much of which takes place beyond the confines of the classroom, with a strong emphasis placed on outdoor education. A huge range of sports and activities are offered, including golf, archery, fencing, sailing, dance, woodwork, as well as horse-riding, thanks to its on-site equestrian centre. Two large art studios provide facilities for painting, sculpture, pottery, woodwork, photography and textiles; while for music, in addition to the orchestra, jazz band, string quartet and chapel choirs, Walhampton also

maintains two in-house rock bands. Headmaster Jonny Timms joined in January 2021, having previously served as Senior Deputy Head at Caldicott for five years. Leavers' destinations include Canford, Bryanston, Eton, Wycombe Abbey, Winchester, Marlborough, St Swithun's, Radley and Stowe.

28. Wellesley House

The history of Wellesley House dates back to 1866. However, the school didn't move to its current location, in the town of Broadstairs on the southeast coast, until the early 1900s. Headmaster Gavin Franklin, previously a Housemaster at Wellington College for eight years and a former professional cricketer, has been in the role since 2017. He oversaw the opening of the pre-prep department in 2019 and the refurbishment of the boarding house in 2020. Beyond the curriculum, over 20 clubs and activities are on offer, including art, dance,

carpentry and music technology. Sports options include archery, pony club, fencing and golf, for which pupils have the privilege of receiving coaching from the club professional at Royal St George's Golf Club, one of the top courses in the country. King's Canterbury, Downe House and Rugby are among the most popular destinations for leavers, with other schools including Benenden, Charterhouse, Eton, Harrow, Rugby, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Winchester.

29. Windlesham House School

Founded in 1837, Windlesham House was the first prep school in the UK and the first to become co-educational in 1967. Set in 65 acres of grounds in the Sussex Down National Park, the school boasts an exceptional learning environment and adopts a policy of no school uniforms to help create a more homely feel. September 2020 saw the arrival of new Headmaster Ben Evans, who

previously served as Head of Edge Grove for eight years. A recent addition to the curriculum is the 'Windlesham Diploma' for Years 7 and 8, aiming at expanding pupils' skillsets and better preparing them for the 21st century workplace. For Years 4 to 6, The Windlesham Challenge has been introduced, covering aspects such as creative expression and global responsibility. Music and drama are strong, with over four major theatrical performances staged each year, and alumni include a number of famous actors, such as Tom Hiddlestone and Game of Thrones star Alfie Allen. Sport is also an area where the school excels, and facilities include a state-of-the-art sports hall and swimming pool opened in 2018 and a 9-hole golf course. Leavers went on to 26 different senior schools in 2022, the most popular being Oundle, Marlborough, Hurst, Charterhouse and Stowe. Roughly a quarter of students each year are awarded scholarships to their chosen school.



Windlesham House School

A good education is a way of life, not a product to consume

A good education is a way of life, not a product to consume



Tom Rogerson

Headmaster of Cottesmore School

Introduction

Cottesmore is an academic boarding prep school, for girls and boys aged 8 to 13, near London in the United Kingdom. Cottesmore's beautiful buildings are set in the countryside of West Sussex on Buchan Hill in Pease Pottage, halfway between London and Brighton.

True Family Ethos

The word 'family' comes up often when talking about Cottesmore and this word applies to the school in many ways. I have been the Headmaster since 2008, my father was the Headmaster for 30 years and my grandfather was the Head before him. The sense of continuity, purpose and passion is palpable in this family line.

The nature of Cottesmore is that it is a boarding school, so the family feel is an absolutely essential part of its strategy and offering - there are 200 pupils in the school and this allows each child to be known by each adult. This mission is made clear to all adults working at the school and we all take responsibility for the well-being of each girl and boy.

Boarding

Boarding is intrinsic to everyday life at Cottesmore.

There are 24 dormitories (known as 'dorms') where the pupils sleep. The matrons and boarding assistants look after the children's pastoral and household needs upstairs. The Head of Boarding and Senior Boarding assistants manage the care of the girls and boys on a day-to-day basis. The Nurse lives on site and is available to look after the children's holistic medical needs - she is ably helped by qualified matrons and many First

Aiders on site. I live with my family on site so my wife and I can be available to help on any front.

This level of care is indicative of the boarding nature of the school. It is hugely important for all adults to understand the family nature of the school and to take time to stop and listen and care for the children, no matter what is going on in the school day.

On Saturdays we have normal lessons in the mornings and in the afternoons we have sports matches against other schools. In the evening the famous 'Popcorn Movie Night' is organised with three different screenings for the different age groups and preferences. On Sundays we have an outing; this year, for example, we have been Go Karting, to Laser Quest and even to Airhop. A traditional Sunday Roast is served for lunch and Chapel finishes off the day.

Academic Life

Cottesmore is a successful school academically. We are very near to London - a half hour train ride on the Gatwick express - so the relentless hot-housing is not far away. There are elements of this approach, which Cottesmore transposes into its own environment, first removing the more pressurised elements to take into account the well-being of the girls and boys. We compete directly with the London schools for places at the top boarding schools in the UK, so it is necessary for Cottesmore to be very sharp academically. However, our approach is radically different from our urban competitors.

The entire school is set up to find and develop the talents of each girl and boy. We believe firmly that 'everyone has a talent'. These skills and passions, which are found at Cottesmore, serve to bolster the confidence and self-esteem of each girl and boy; they then use this strength and confidence in the academic classroom. The philosophy is that a child is encouraged to believe, 'if I can be good at one thing, I can be good at many things'.

Cottesmore believes in a renaissance education, with many, many subjects in the curriculum, and a huge number of extracurricular activities available. We believe that one needs to experience many different aspects of intellectual life to be truly enlightened.

Leadership and emotional intelligence

At Cottesmore, there are many opportunities to develop one's leadership skills. We believe that one is a far more empathetic leader, if one has experience of many different modes of thought. There are many examples throughout history of people, who are extremely intelligent, failing to catch the

imagination of the people that they are trying to lead. This lack of empathy and social activity means that their own leadership tenure is cut short, and they were not able to achieve all that they set out to achieve, through a lack of understanding of others.

One of the many ways in which this is achieved at Cottesmore is by creating many teams for the pupils to join. These can be sports teams, theatre production teams, chess, debating, swimming and maths teams - the list goes on. This commitment to team life ensures that the girls and boys are able to practise their soft, social and emotional skills on a daily basis. We believe that this is an essential part of success in life and, without these skills, progress and achievement in one's career can be elusive. We believe that becoming as good as one possibly can be in the pure academic subjects, is as essential as learning to communicate, to persuade, to follow, to lead, to compromise, and to drive an idea forward.

This plays into Cottesmore's search for balance. We believe that transformation and enlightenment stem from an understanding of a wide variety of ideas and also a variety of different types of vigorous physical activity, preferably in the form of a competitive sport which requires leadership and strategic thinking.

Fun gatherings, parties and celebrations

Part of this balanced life is the concept of fun. At Cottesmore, there are plenty of opportunities for parties and social gatherings. Parents are invited to big events such as Sports Day, the School Concert, the School Play and Bonfire Night, which all provide highly social atmospheres. Parents are also invited to come for a tea party every Wednesday and Saturday; this happens at around 3.30pm after matches against other schools. The girls and boys also have plenty of opportunities to celebrate with each other, most commonly for their birthdays, and at the end of term.

Creative life

Cottesmore's creative life is another key aspect of the education here. There are multitudes of creative opportunities in which to throw oneself throughout the week. We have a designated art studio, a Design Technology studio, 3-D printing facilities and an ICT suite where children learn to code. There are several theatre productions every year for both the senior and junior pupils. Music also plays a very big part in Cottesmore life. Pupils learn individual instruments from the traditional piano, violin, cello to more modern choices like the electric guitar and drums. We have several choirs, the most formal of which is the Chapel Choir, which comprises of 24 of the school's best singers.

The key to a truly full education is breadth but also the flexibility to specialise if necessary; to be a passive consumer is discouraged as selfish and sedentary. To be an active participant is revered as virtuous.

Above all, a good education is a way of life, not a product to simply be consumed.

A good education is a way of life, not a product to consume

Information about Cottesmore and Tom Rogerson

Tom Rogerson has been working in the independent school sector for 32 years and is about to enter his 15th year of headship at Cottesmore School, an academic boarding prep school for girls and boys on the border of Surrey and Sussex. Cottesmore is 'Prep School of the Year 2020/ 21' Tatler Schools Awards and 'Boarding School of the Year' Times Educational Supplement Schools Awards 2019.

Educated at Eton and Cambridge, he has since taken only one year out of teaching in order to work for Vivendi-owned conglomerate Universal Music International in the A&R department looking after American artists such as Eminem, Nelly Furtado and Erica Badu.

His only other aspiration is to become a rock star and he hopes to pick up on this in retirement.

He is in a rock band called The Replicant Saints who met at school; he would like to start a band made up of Heads. His wife wants him to get rid of some of his 24 guitars.

Mr Rogerson says, "My job is to combine Cottesmore's 128-year story of academic and sporting excellence with a fresh and dynamic vision to ensure that Cottesmore continues to deliver a world-class education to prep-school-aged girls and boys for the next 100 years.

Cottesmore is a fast-moving and tech-savvy environment; a dynamic approach to maths, coding and a multi-platform ICT strategy place the school at the forefront of cutting-edge pedagogic practice. Arts, humanities and sport also thrive.

But much more importantly, we expect the traditional values instilled at Cottesmore to be reflected in the girls' and boys' actions socially, creatively and intellectually both today and in their future professional and personal lives.

These enlightened, enriching principles help girls and boys negotiate an unpredictable future with kindness, intellectual agility, flexibility and social acuity.

After Cottesmore, girls and boys continue to thrive at a variety of senior boarding schools which embrace a broad academic, sporting, creative and social education.

Ofsted labelled Cottesmore "Outstanding" and The Independent Schools Inspectorate found Cottesmore to be "Excellent" in their most recent reports.

"I love Cottesmore and hope that I can continue to be of long-term service to this wonderful prep school, following in the footsteps of my father and grandfather by continuing to lead this treasured establishment to even greater success."

The power of prep – Oliver Jing



Windlesham House School


Oliver

Current School
Windlesham House School

Offer Received
Winchester College

UK preparatory schools offer so much to young overseas students: an immersive, low risk language environment in which to boost English skills; a head start in experiencing UK culture and boarding life; and of course, that all important headmaster's reference for senior school application! But for the brightest sparks, arguably the greatest value that prep schools offer are the unrivalled academic and extracurricular opportunities beyond the national curriculum.

Oliver, who came to BE in 2018, was one of those bright sparks. The academic opportunities Windlesham House Prep supplied him with, turned him from a bright boy into a truly special senior school applicant. Fast forward four years and Oliver is now enjoying his first year as a Winchester College academic scholar, and it is hard to believe he would be in this incredible position without the priceless

guidance and opportunities afforded to him by his prep school, Windlesham House.

Oliver had always been a gifted mathematician with a keen curiosity for how the world worked. Prior to starting at Windlesham House, he had taken an interest in coding and mechanics, attending summer camps in China where he learnt to build basic coded devices and robots. When he started Year 5 at Windlesham House in January of 2019, he was quickly introduced to two brand new classes on his timetable: ICT (Information Communications Technology) and DT (Design Technology). Oliver was immediately fascinated by these two new disciplines and demonstrated a natural gift and curiosity for both. Windlesham's attentive subject teachers recognised his potential and talent over the first two terms of his study and encouraged Oliver to start spending time outside of timetabled classes to

complete projects – offering their own lunchtime breaks and afterschool ECA periods to open computer suites and workshops for him. They encouraged Oliver to step outside of his comfort zone and become evermore ambitious and creative in his projects.

Following success in his ISEB pre-test during the first term of Year 6, Oliver was invited to interview with Winchester College, one of the most academic boys boarding schools in the country. Windlesham were keenly aware that boys have no place to hide in this hour-long, comprehensive interview and understood the qualities Winchester are looking for in their applicants. Oliver was immediately encouraged to spend even more time on his DT and coding projects, while his maths teacher set him tailored problems to solve to stretch Oliver as far as he could go. Subject teachers recommended more advanced and technical books in the subjects he enjoyed the most, encouraging him to learn beyond the curriculum. Windlesham provided him with lunchtime and after school sessions to help him code more complex devices using software such as python and even build a flight simulator PC from scratch.

The time and dedication from the Windlesham House staff were not in vain and through opportunities the school offered, along with the disciplined mindset the school had instilled in Oliver, he gained an offer from Winchester College and the chance to test in the prestigious Election scholarship. Over Oliver's next couple of years preparing for Common Entrance and Election, Windlesham once again stretched Oliver in his academics, offering tailored scholarship classes for core subjects and encouraging him to participate in nationwide maths and technology competitions such as First Lego League where he successfully led his team to regional success and a National Championship. In his final year Oliver was offered a sizable responsibility in becoming the school's primary Digital Leader, with the opportunity to present his skills and knowledge to younger students and even parents. By the end of his Windlesham education, Oliver had matured from a curious boy into an intellectual young man and a worthy scholar of Winchester College. He is now looking forward to grasping a whole new range of unique opportunities at senior school.



Windlesham House School



Senior School Exam Results Ranking: 2022 GCSEs and A-levels



Lancing College

Rank	School Name	A-level (% A*/A)	GCSE (% A*/A/9/8/7)	A-level/GCSE Average
1	Westminster School	90.7	98	94.35
2	Wycombe Abbey School	89.9	96.4	93.15
3	Sevenoaks School	89.1	96	92.55
4	Brighton College	89.6	93.8	91.7
5	Tonbridge School	84.9	97.3	91.1
6	Eton College	84.5	94.2	89.35
7	Dulwich College	81.8	92.9	87.35
8	St Mary's School Ascot	78.2	94.6	86.4
9	Concord College	81.2	88.1	84.65
10	Cheltenham Ladies' College	76.7	92.2	84.45
11	Winchester College	76.3	91.2	83.75
12	St Catherine's, Bramley	76.8	90.4	83.6
13	Abingdon School	78.6	86.9	82.75
14	Radley College	77.1	86.8	81.95
15	Wellington College	72.8	90.4	81.6
16	Downe House	74.6	88.4	81.5
17	St Swithun's School	75.7	85.3	80.5
18	City of London Freeman's School	75	86	80.5
19	Caterham School	70	90	80
20	Whitgift School	67	91.3	79.15
21	Benenden School	67	89.3	78.15
22	Headington School	72	83	77.5
23	Roedean School	70.1	84.4	77.25
24	Badminton School	73.7	79.8	76.75
25	Canford School	72.9	79.6	76.25
26	Oundle School	67.1	84.9	76
27	St Mary's Calne	68	82	75
28	Rugby School	66	83	74.5
29	Mayfield School	61.2	82.2	71.7
30	The Royal High School Bath GDST	65.8	77.3	71.55
31	Berkhamsted School	67.6	75	71.3
32	Marlborough College	64.6	77.4	71
33	Haileybury	62.9	77.9	70.4
34	St Peter's School	65.1	74.4	69.75

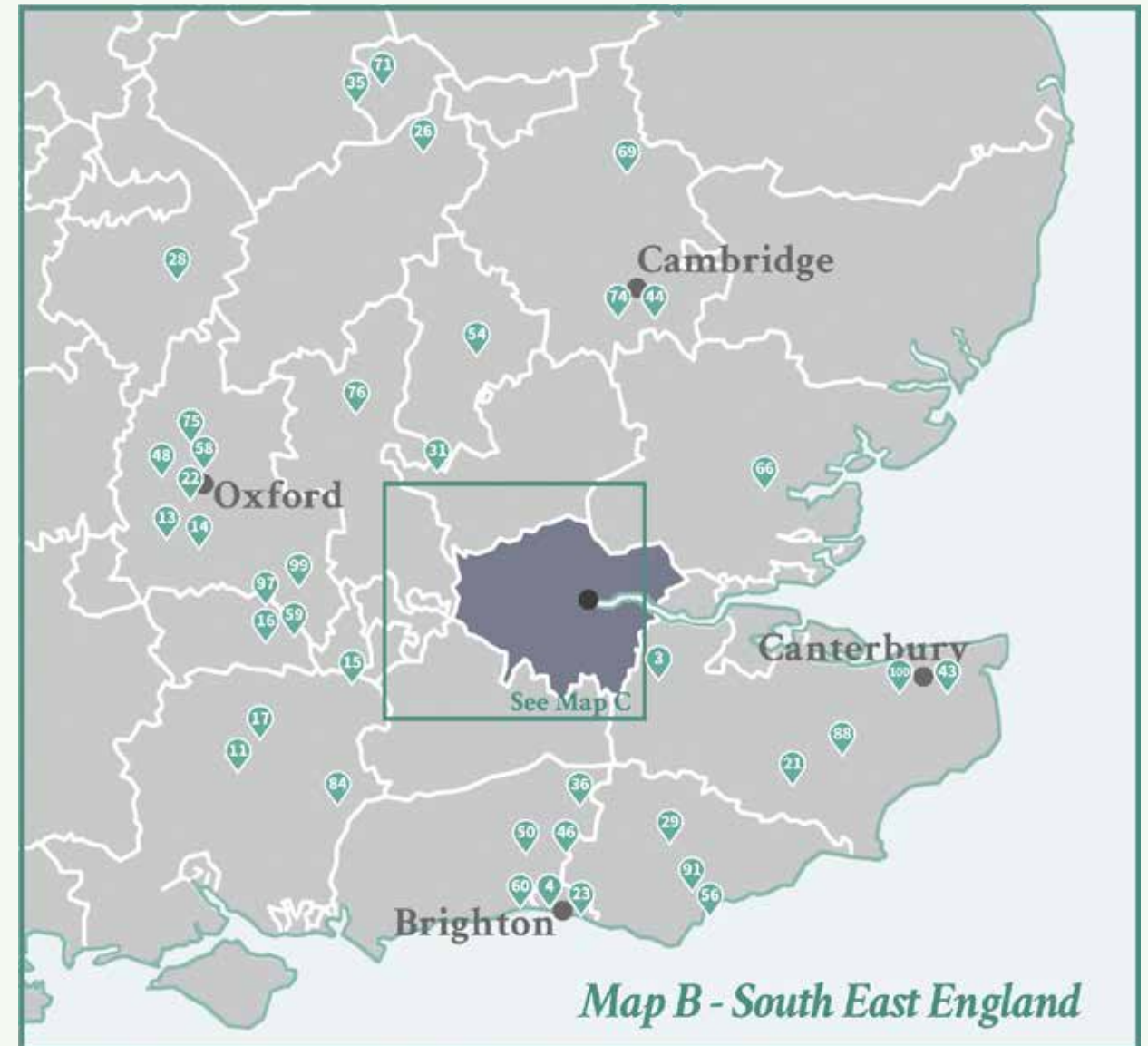
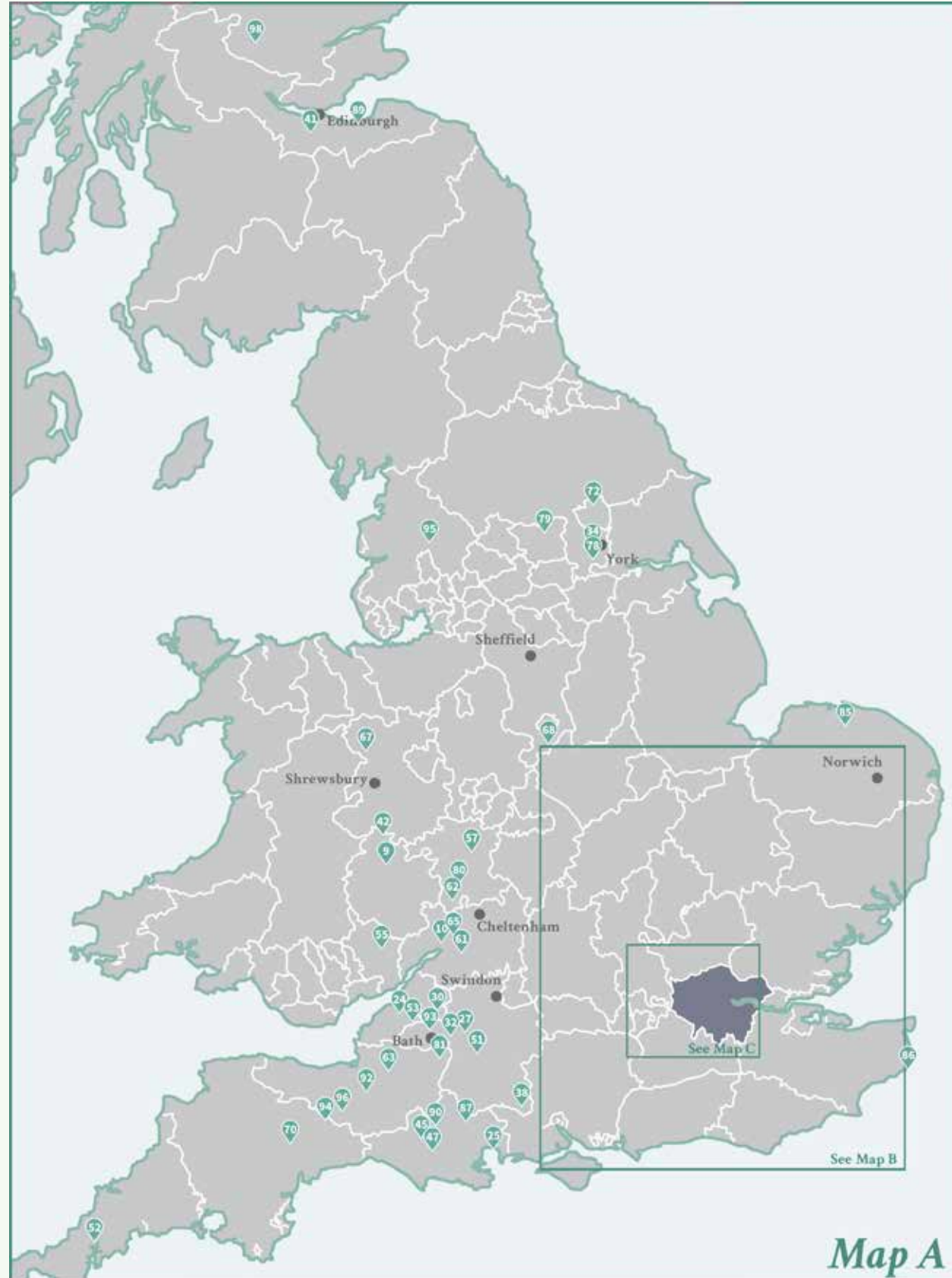
Senior School Exam Results Ranking: 2022 GCSEs and A-levels

Rank	School Name	A-level (% A*/A)	GCSE (% A*/A/ 9/8/7)	A-level/GCSE Average
35	Uppingham School	64	75	69.5
36	Ardingly College	59.4	79.3	69.35
37	Bishop's Stortford College	62.7	76	69.35
38	Godolphin School	69.8	68.5	69.15
39	Epsom College	61.5	74.5	68
40	Woldingham School	55.1	78.3	66.7
41	Fettes College	58	74	66
42	Shrewsbury School	58.2	72.9	65.55
43	The King's School, Canterbury	59.2	71.4	65.3
44	The Leys School	51.3	79.3	65.3
45	Sherborne Girls	56	73.2	64.6
46	Burgess Hill Girls	58	71.2	64.6
47	Sherborne School	62.5	66.6	64.55
48	d'Overbroeck's College	64.9	63.4	64.15
49	Charterhouse	62	65	63.5
50	Christ's Hospital	53	74	63.5
51	Dauntsey's School	52.7	70.6	61.65
52	Truro School	63	60	61.5
53	Clifton College	53.7	68.5	61.1
54	Bedford School	52.4	68.7	60.55
55	Monmouth School	56.6	64.2	60.4
56	Eastbourne College	55	65	60
57	Bromsgrove School	53	65	59
58	St Edward's School, Oxford	53.1	64.4	58.75
59	Bradfield College	55.1	62.2	58.65
60	Lancing College	55	62	58.5
61	Dean Close School	52.4	61.6	57
62	Malvern St James Girls' School	54	60	57
63	Wells Cathedral School	56.9	55.7	56.3
64	Queenswood	50	62.5	56.25
65	Cheltenham College	52.4	59.6	56
66	New Hall School	52.8	59	55.9
67	Moreton Hall	61	50.3	55.65

Senior School Exam Results Ranking: 2022 GCSEs and A-levels

Rank	School Name	A-level (% A*/A)	GCSE (% A*/A/ 9/8/7)	A-level/GCSE Average
68	Repton School	51	60	55.5
69	The King's School Ely	46	65	55.5
70	Blundell's School	52	58	55
71	Oakham School	50.8	58.2	54.5
72	Boothham School	54	55	54.5
73	Queen Anne's School	45	64	54.5
74	St Mary's School, Cambridge	43	65	54
75	Tudor Hall School	50	57.2	53.6
76	Stowe School	48	59	53.5
77	Mill Hill School	45.7	60.4	53.05
78	Queen Margaret's School, York	47	59	53
79	Harrogate Ladies' College	42	64	53
80	Malvern College	43	63	53
81	King's Bruton	58	47.7	52.85
82	Cranleigh School	32	72.9	52.45
83	St George's School	42.5	59.3	50.9
84	Bedales School	44.8	53.7	49.25
85	Gresham's School	48	49.1	48.55
86	Dover College	53	44	48.5
87	Bryanston School	40	55	47.5
88	Ashford School	34.5	58.8	46.65
89	Loretto School	40.6	51.9	46.25
90	Leweston School	49	43	46
91	Bede's Senior School	47	45	46
92	Millfield School	38.6	51.4	45
93	Downside School	38	51	44.5
94	Wellington School	39	50	44.5
95	Stonyhurst College	42	46	44
96	Taunton School	-	43	43
97	The Oratory School	39	45	42
98	Glenalmond College	34.4	48.2	41.3
99	Shiplake School	41	35	38
100	Kent College, Canterbury	40	35	37.5

Map of Senior Schools



Schools Omitted from the Ranking

1. Harrow School

Senior School Profiles



Wycombe Abbey School

Ranked schools

1. Westminster School

Originally established as a charity school by the Benedictine monks of Westminster Abbey, Westminster School can trace its origins back to the 14th century; it has inhabited its current site since 1461. Located between Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament, the school is led by Dr Gary Savage, who took over the headship in 2020 having previously held senior positions at both Eton and Westminster School itself. Despite the challenges of its central London location, Westminster boasts an impressive sports centre with 6000m² of indoor space and has enjoyed considerable sporting success over the past decade. With exceptionally high entrance requirements, it is no surprise that the pupils here are both highly intelligent and very ambitious. Around 40% of leavers gain Oxbridge places each year, with an increasing number choosing to attend some of the top universities in the US.

Location Westminster, London
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 40 minutes
School Type All-boys with plans to become fully co-educational by 2030
Founded in 1179
Number of Students 766

Ages 12-19
Boarder Ratio 24%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £45,432

2. Wycombe Abbey School

Founded in 1896 and set within a spectacular 170-acre estate, Wycombe Abbey is led by Headmistress Jo Duncan, who took up the post in 2019 and has a daughter currently studying at the school. Already boasting exceptional facilities, Wycombe Abbey has an ambitious ten-year renovation plan which will rejuvenate the boarding houses and main abbey building as well as seeing a brand-new STEM centre built. The students here are very bright, hard-working and academically ambitious. Rightly regarded as an academic powerhouse, Wycombe Abbey's success outside of the classroom is sometimes overlooked, but it shouldn't be. The school teams regularly reach national finals across various sports, and training benefits from excellent indoor and outdoor facilities. About one third of all leavers secure Oxbridge offers, with the majority of the remaining girls going to Russell Group universities and a significant group heading to top institutions across the globe.

Location High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 25 minutes
School Type All-girls
Founded in 1896
Number of Students 644
Ages 11-18
Boarder Ratio 90%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £44,100

3. Sevenoaks School

Founded in 1432, Sevenoaks' modern and open-minded approach to education is not what one would first expect from a school with almost 600 years of history. Its 1000+ pupils enjoy a 100-acre campus in the leafy town that shares the school's name. Well-known for academic prowess, the school consistently secures the country's best IB results. Current Head Jesse Elzinga, incumbent since 2020, graduated from both Oxford and Harvard. However, this is no hothouse. Pupils are as passionate about co-curricular activities as they are about academic pursuits. Sports are an important part of Sevenoaks life, with recent success in hockey and netball, and a sailing team which regularly triumphs at the National School Sailing Championships. The Head embodies this fusion himself - he is a three-time national champion for rowing and a competitive cyclist. Meanwhile, budding musicians will benefit from the school's 400-seat concert hall and 40+ concerts each year, whilst thespians can perform in the refurbished Sackville Theatre. Academic results, as noted, are impressive. Its 2022 cohort achieved an impressive IB average of 40.3, with 15 pupils achieving the maximum 45-point score. About 20% of leavers go on to study at Oxbridge, with the remaining students heading to Russell Group universities and 25% attending universities around the world.

Location Sevenoaks, Kent
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 1 hour
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 1432
Number of Students 1164
Ages 11-18
Boarder Ratio 33%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £42,921

4. Brighton College

Founded in 1845, Brighton College is located in the centre of Brighton, one of England's most vibrant cities. Since 2006 the school has been led by Headmaster Richard Cairns, and has flourished under his leadership - in November 2020 Brighton College was named England's 'School of the Decade' by the Sunday Times. In terms of academics, Brighton is undoubtedly one of the U.K.'s top performing co-educational schools and around 10% of graduating pupils are accepted to Oxford or Cambridge each year. Unsurprisingly, the school is highly selective and the pace of learning is very demanding. The college opened a brand-new School of Science and Sport in January 2020, and their sixth international school (in Vietnam) will be opening in August 2023.

Location Brighton, East Sussex
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 1 hour 20 minutes
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 1845
Number of Students 1231
Ages 11-18
Boarder Ratio 36%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £55,290

5. Tonbridge School

Founded in 1553, Tonbridge School is located in the eponymous town. While the main school buildings are located on the campus, a number of the boarding houses are situated just off-site, giving the school a more open feel. Tonbridge is best known for its academic prowess and its sporting success. The school's 150 acres of sports pitches and £11m athletic centre should be enough to satisfy even the keenest sportsman. The many musically-inclined pupils are catered for too, with a professional conductor leading a music department that boasts two recital halls, a soundproofed room for jazz, a music library and a recording studio. The atmosphere here is studious - walking around the school, one is likely to hear boys discussing their classes or extracurricular activities. It should come as no surprise that entrance requirements are high, or that each year a significant number of leavers are accepted to Oxford or Cambridge (13 in 2022).

Location Tonbridge, Kent

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 1 hour
School Type All-boys
Founded in 1553
Number of Students 800
Ages 13-18
Boarder Ratio 57%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £46,740

6. Eton College

Eton College was founded in 1440 by Henry VI and is located within walking distance of Windsor Castle. It is currently led by Simon Henderson, a former Head of History at Eton who returned to the college to take up the headship in 2015. Unquestionably one of the most selective schools in the country, Eton is looking for more than just good grades. The typical successful applicant today combines a keen intellect and curiosity with a talent for sport/music/art/drama, which ensures that the school's outstanding facilities do not go to waste. The college is keen to open itself up to the less privileged: in 2020-21, 90 of its 1341 students paid nothing in school fees and Eton aims to increase this number to 140 by 2025. [While Eton doesn't publish details of its sixth form leavers' destinations, it seems safe to assume that the majority go onto Oxbridge and other Russell Group universities. Roughly 15% of graduates apply to universities in the USA]

Location Windsor, Berkshire
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 20 minutes
School Type All-boys
Founded in 1440
Number of Students 1341
Ages 13-18

Boarder Ratio 100%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £46,296

7. Dulwich College

Founded in 1619, Dulwich College prides itself on its 400-year history and clearly seeks to inspire its 1000+ boys to do the same. The vessel famously sailed through the Antarctic by Ernest Shackleton, a former pupil, is proudly displayed in the Laboratory and every year, Founder's Week encourages students to connect with alumni and reflect on the lessons of history. The Master, Dr Joseph Spence, is keen to stress that the college looks forward and outward as much as back. To date, it has partnered with 11 international schools and offers a generous bursary scheme to attract the brightest to its stunning south London base, regardless of circumstance. Sound academics are a given, yet artistic pursuits and sports are prioritised equally. Students include national champions for rugby and rowing and the school calendar annually makes room for 3 drama festivals, 20+ theatrical performances, 50 active societies and an annual Free Learning week for the unfettered pursuit of knowledge.

Location London
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 45 minutes
School Type All-boys
Founded in 1619
Number of Students 1854
Ages 11-18
Boarder Ratio 9%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £47,949



Eton College

8. St Mary's School, Ascot

Established in 1885, St Mary's is a leading Roman Catholic boarding school for girls and is set in 55 acres of grounds just 30 miles west of central London. The current Head, Mrs Danuta Staunton, held a number of positions at the school since 2010 before assuming the headship in 2019. Applicants should be aware that preference is given to Roman Catholic girls, so much so that 98% of the girls there are Roman Catholic. The chapel is the focal point of life at St Mary's, where the school gathers four mornings a week, with the other two mornings involving prayer sessions in boarding houses. Academic results are excellent, with 10% of the 2022 leavers being admitted to Oxbridge, while 78% of the year group achieved places at Russell Group universities or the equivalent abroad. **Location** Ascot, Berkshire **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 20 minutes **School Type** All-girls **Founded in** 1885 **Number of Students** 397 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 93% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £45,570



Cheltenham Ladies' College

9. Concord College

Concord College was founded in 1949 as a small, privately owned language school by Mr Paul Oertel and Miss Monica Carr-Taylor. The aim was to help reestablish trust and harmony in an international community damaged by WWII. Headmaster Michael Truss joined in September 2021 from Barnard Castle School where he was Deputy Head. The school boasts a stunning rural location with plenty of space for activities and a mature academic atmosphere. The school has earned its status as one of the premier international schools in the UK, with 81% of A-level grades A*/A in 2022. A vast range of extracurricular activities is on offer, with student-led activities encouraged to nurture leadership qualities. The application procedure is challenging with students expected to produce two years of school reports as well as sit numerous online exams. Students will only be accepted if they have a high chance of achieving 8-10 A*/A' s at GCSE and

majority A*/A' s at A-level. **Location** Acton Burnell, Shrewsbury **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 2 hours 40 minutes **School Type** Co-ed **Founded in** 1949 **Number of Students** 592 **Ages** 13-18 **Boarder Ratio** 80% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £48,900

10. Cheltenham Ladies' College

Established in 1853 as a school for girls, CLC is located in the beautiful and historic town of Cheltenham. Since 2011, the school has been led by Headmistress Eve Jardine-Young, who still tries to ensure she meets every single applicant. CLC exudes a sense of happy busyness, which is to be expected in a school which recruits some of the brightest girls in the world and offers them around 200 clubs and activities every single week. CLC's award-winning Engineering, Enterprise

and Technology department has exemplified the school's all-round excellence, with girls now regularly winning the prestigious Arkwright scholarships (awarded to potential future engineering leaders). As you would expect, competition for places here is incredibly fierce and CLC's graduates go on to some of the world's top universities. 2022 saw 19 girls accepting places at Oxbridge and most of the others going onto Russell Group universities. A significant minority of pupils accepted offers at overseas universities, mostly in the USA, with girls winning places at Princeton, Stanford and Columbia. **Location** Cheltenham, Gloucestershire **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 1 hour 40 minutes **School Type** All-girls **Founded in** 1853 **Number of Students** 886 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 80% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £46,950

11. Winchester College

Founded in 1382, Winchester College sits at the heart of the picturesque city of Winchester. Elizabeth Stone will be taking over the headship in August 2023. A Rhodes Scholar, former Principal for nine years at a girls' school in Sydney and previously a teacher at Winchester for three years, Ms Stone will take over at Winchester as they try to increase the admission of girls to the school. Unlike at most schools, meals are eaten in the boarding house, which helps to promote pupil integration. Also unlike the majority of its 'competitors', Winchester requires 13+ applicants to sit its own assessments, as opposed to the Common Entrance. Fiercely competitive at entry, the school seems to look for a combination of high intelligence and a genuine passion for learning. This passion is supported and encouraged by 'Div' - a subject unique to Winchester which is designed to promote learning for its own sake, not just as a way to pass exams. 2022 saw 11% of leavers take up places at Oxbridge and a further 11% going on to top universities in the US and Canada. **Location** Winchester, Hampshire **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 50 minutes **School Type** Co-ed **Founded in** 1382 **Number of Students** 714 **Ages** 13-18 **Boarder Ratio** 97% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £45,936

12. St Catherine's, Bramley

Founded in 1885, St Catherine's is led by long-standing Headmistress Mrs Alice Phillips, who has held the post since 2000. Situated on a 25-acre campus in the village of Bramley, St Catherine's boasts a central complex containing an auditorium, music practice rooms, a recording studio, the sports hall, gyms, changing rooms, dance studios and a single squash court, all under one roof. The prep school is located just across the road from the senior school. Half of the sixth formers board, enjoying a brand-new boarding house just for girls in the final two years. A significant number of girls accept offers from Oxbridge every year, with 9 in 2021 and 4 in 2022.

Location Guildford, Surrey **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 45 minutes **School Type** All- girls **Founded in** 1885 **Number of Students** 625 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 20% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £32,865

13. Abingdon School

Founded in 1256, Abingdon School sits in 35 acres of grounds, located in the centre of Abingdon town. Headmaster Michael Windsor has led the school since September 2016. Abingdon boasts impressive facilities, including 21 science labs, a boathouse, a 450-seat theatre and an eight lane swimming pool. The 'Other Half' (extracurricular activities) is taken seriously at Abingdon, with over 150 activities on offer to the boys. There is no shortage of academic ambition though, with 9 boys accepted to Oxbridge in 2022, as well as 8 medics. **Location** Abingdon, Oxfordshire **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 1 hour **School Type** All-boys **Founded in** 1256 **Number of Students** 1050 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 14% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £45,600

14. Radley College

One of the very few remaining full-boarding boys schools in the UK, Radley is unique in that when established in 1847 it was modelled on an Oxford college, a university which sits just 15 minutes up the road. This heritage carries through to a variety of school traditions: students wear gowns to lessons and meals, celebrate formal occasions like Gaudy and live alongside college "dons" (teachers) and their families. Yet, decidedly unlike an Oxford college, Radley is also home to 800 acres of manicured lawns and parkland, extensive art and sports departments, and facilities like an on-site golf course and indoor rowing tank. The Warden, John Moule, stresses that despite these luxuries, the school's core values of humanity, compassion and understanding are thoroughly instilled, not least thanks to whole school chapel at least four nights a week. **Location** Abingdon, Oxfordshire **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 1 hour **School Type** All-boys **Founded in** 1847 **Number of Students** 758 **Ages** 13-18 **Boarder Ratio** 100% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £44,550



Abingdon School



Downe House

15. Wellington College

Established in 1853 as a living memorial to the Duke of Wellington, Wellington College is set in 400 acres of beautiful parkland just one hour from central London. It is led by Master James Dahl, who joined Wellington in 2013 and ascended to the headship in 2019. Like a number of other independent schools, the college offers both A-levels and the IB Diploma in the sixth form. Unlike most, it sees many (almost half) of its students opt for the IB each year and results are strong – 41.3 points on average in 2022. In 2022, 16 graduating Wellingtonians gained places at Oxbridge, and a further 17 went on to study in the US. **Location** Crowthorne, Berkshire **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 36 minutes **School Type** Co-ed **Founded in** 1853 **Number of Students** 1094 **Boarders Age** 13-18 **Boarder Ratio** 79% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £45,090

16. Downe House

Founded in 1907 at the former home of Charles Darwin, Downe House moved to its current site in 1922. The school is led by long-term Headmistress, Emma McKendrick, who has held the reigns since 1997 and whose down-to-earth, soft-spoken manner invariably makes a positive impression on girls and parents alike. Downe House boasts a beautiful 110-acre campus and it definitely has a

greater air of tranquility than some of its town-based rivals. Though not a pressure-cooker, the school is amongst the most selective boarding schools in the country. Academic results are strong: 2022 saw 7 graduates accepting places at Oxbridge, with 15 girls choosing to continue their studies abroad and the majority of the rest moving on to Russell Group universities. **Location** Thatcham, Berkshire **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 1 hour **School Type** All-girls **Founded in** 1907 **Number of Students** 570 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 95% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £44,220

17. St Swithun's School

Established in 1884, St Swithun's moved to its present site in 1932 and since 2010 has been led by Headmistress Jane Gandee. Set within 45 acres of rural Hampshire and located within easy walking distance of Winchester city centre, St Swithun's is also just 1 mile from Winchester College, one of the country's top all-boys boarding schools. St Swithun's also has its own prep school and each year a significant proportion of the senior school's Year 7 places are filled by girls moving up from the prep. The senior school boasts a performing arts centre with a 600-seat auditorium, a music school, an art and technology block, a sports hall and a full-size indoor swimming pool. St Swithun's is highly selective and academic standards are

rigorous, with 75% of A-level grades A*/A in 2022. **Location** Winchester, Hampshire **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 1 hour 10 minutes **School Type** All-girls **Founded in** 1884 **Number of Students** 521 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 44% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £38,340

18. City of London Freeman's School

Despite its name, City of London Freeman's is situated in the Surrey countryside, southwest of London. Founded in 1854, it is a sister school of the City of London boys' and girls' schools in central London. Headmaster Roland Martin joined in 2015 following an illustrious career which included 13 years as a teacher and housemaster at Eton. A-level results have improved year on year and the school is consistently one of the top ranked co-ed boarding schools. 87% of leavers were accepted by their first choice of university in 2022. The school is currently undergoing several ambitious building projects, including the conversion of the old, imposing main building into a state of the art sixth form centre. Already completed are a modern boarding house and music department, as well as a recently completed award-winning swimming pool which has been ingeniously and discreetly built into the landscape. The atmosphere is bustling but with a real sense of open space. Well-integrated, junior school pupils can be seen wandering amongst the older students. Predominantly a day school, boarding numbers are small and mainly comprise of international students in the sixth form. The school offers around 150 activities each week with many run by the students themselves.

Location Ashted, Surrey **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 25 minutes **School Type** Co-ed **Founded in** 1854 **Number of Students** 525 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 11% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £39,552

19. Caterham School

Founded in 1811, Caterham moved to its current site in 1884. Its students enjoy 200 acres of grounds, including sports fields, woodland, and an outdoor learning centre. Headmaster Ceri Jones has held his post since 2015, having previously been Deputy Head at Tonbridge School. Caterham has a reputation for exceptional teaching and achievement in STEM, although the school is keen to point out that this is not their only strength. Caterham is academically selective, and students need to be bright and hard-working to keep up with the workload. Sixth form results are always strong: in 2022 75% of students went on to Russell Group universities and 70% of A-levels were A*/A. Caterham has its own prep school and the majority of pupils move up to the senior school at 11+, although they are still required to sit entrance examinations.

Location Caterham, Surrey **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 50 minutes **School Type** Co-ed **Founded in** 1811 **Number of Students** 900 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 17% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £44,835

20. Whitgift School

Founded in 1596 by the Archbishop of Canterbury, John Whitgift, this all-boys school is located in the London borough of Croydon. In addition to his name, Whitgift School also maintains its founder's strong sense of social responsibility through a range of initiatives and its vision that pupils will leave the school "ready to give back to the society in which they will be leaders". Under current Head, Chris Ramsey, the school was named the 2020 Independent Boys' School of the Year in recognition of its academic and co-curricular achievements. Over the last decade, Whitgiftians have won over 300 national titles across a range of sports. The school offers both A-level and IB; an impressive average score of 40.2 was achieved by IB students in 2022. That year saw 71% of leavers admitted to Russell Group universities, including 9 pupils to

Oxbridge. **Location** South Croydon, Surrey **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 50 minutes **School Type** All-boys **Founded in** 1596 **Number of Students** 1555 **Ages** 10-18 **Boarder Ratio** 7.5% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £43,629

21. Benenden School

First established in 1923, Benenden moved to its current site in 1924, where it is surrounded by 250 acres of parkland. The school's stated aim is "to give each girl 'A Complete Education' in which she realises her academic potential, grows as an individual and is well prepared for life beyond school." Students here enjoy some of the best food of any British boarding school as Benenden won the Best Food category at the 2020 Tatler Schools Awards. The school is led by Headmistress Samantha Price, who took up the post in 2014. 2022 saw 66% of girls taking up places at Russell Group universities, including 6 at Oxbridge. 10% of students went on to overseas universities, mostly in North America. Many students are daughters or granddaughters of old girls, and despite the school's consistently strong academic record, the atmosphere appears relatively relaxed. Benenden recently opened a stunning new music school, finished in 2021.

Location Cranbrook, Kent

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 1 hour 30 minutes **School Type** All-girls **Founded in** 1923 **Number of Students** 550 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 100% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £39,372

22. Headington School

Established in 1915, Headington School is located just one mile from the centre of Oxford and set in 23 acres of grounds. Headington has its own prep school, located just across the road from the senior school. Each year around 90% of the prep school girl leavers move up to the senior school. Headmistress Mrs Jordan has overseen considerable change and development since she took over the headship in 2011. 2015 saw the completion of the Dance & Fitness Centre, with a new library completed the following year and the new Sixth Form Centre in 2019. Despite strong IB results in 2020, the school is no longer offering the IB Diploma to its sixth form students. **Location** Oxford, Oxfordshire **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 45 minutes **School Type** All-girls **Founded in** 1915 **Number of Students** 1,062 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 26% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £43,245



Benenden School



Badminton School

23. Roedean School

Established in 1885 during the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, the imposing Roedean school buildings capture some of the former queen's austerity from their clifftop location on the outskirts of Brighton. Since then, the school's 45-acre campus has seen numerous refurbishments, most recently an overhaul of the boarding houses, library and performing arts centre, with new STEM facilities on the way in the next couple of years. Headed by Oliver Blond since 2013, numbers have swelled from 320 to over 700 under his tenure, with increases in the intake of local girls to balance significant numbers of international students. An ambassador scheme which sees repeat visits from inspiring figures - including an astrophysicist, successful jewellery designer and Olympic gold medallist - offers girls ample inspiration to explore and nurture their passions. Accordingly, around a third move on to science and maths subjects at university. **Location** Brighton, East Sussex **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 1 hour 30 minutes **School Type** All-girls **Founded in** 1885 **Number of Students** 715 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 49% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £44,235

24. Badminton School

Founded in 1858, Badminton moved to its current location (10 minutes drive from central Bristol) in 1924. The site also houses Badminton's prep school, whose students need to pass the same exams as external candidates to secure places at the senior school. Unlike the vast majority of independent schools in the UK, Badminton has no chapel and does not state the promotion of Christian values among its aims. Acting Head Stuart Dalley has now taken the helm following the departure of previous Headmistress, Rebecca Tear. Badminton is selective on entry and academic results are consistently strong. 2022 leavers' destinations were a broad range of top Russell Group universities including Oxbridge, UCL, St Andrews and Bristol with a large cohort reading medical and veterinary sciences. **Location** Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 2 hours **School Type** All-girls **Founded in** 1858 **Number of Students** 550 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 45% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £40,500

25. Canford School

Founded in 1923, Canford's original aim was "to fit boys to take their place in the battle of life and develop their character in every way," which, of course, has now been extended to girls as well. Since 2013, Headmaster Ben Vessey has led the school, which is surely one of the most beautiful and best equipped in England. Canford boasts 250 acres of grounds, containing a boathouse, 12 grass sports pitches, 2 full-sized all-weather pitches, 30 tennis courts, a 9-hole golf course, a theatre seating nearly 300 and a music school which can seat close to 200. The school opened a new library in 2021 and also hopes to build new boarding houses and sixth form facilities before reaching its centenary in 2023. Canford is academically selective, with competition for Year 12 places particularly fierce. The majority of graduates go on to attend Russell Group universities, with 33 students receiving offers from Oxbridge in the last 5 years. A small number of pupils apply to overseas universities and in recent years pupils have earned scholarships to US universities for academics, athletics, golf and rowing. Those applying to schools in the USA can sit their SATs at Canford. **Location** Wimborne, Dorset **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 1 hour 40 minutes **School Type** Co-ed **Founded in** 1923 **Number of Students** 647 **Ages** 13-18 **Boarder Ratio** 62% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £42,147



Canford School

26. Oundle School

Oundle can trace its origins back to 1556 and today is one of the largest boarding schools in England. The school's size allows it to offer both a wide range of subjects at GCSE and A-level, in addition to some truly first-class facilities; the school's Design and Technology department, unquestionably one of the best in the country, had a significant upgrade in 2016. The school is led by Sara Kerr-Dineen, who assumed the role of Headmistress in 2015. Unlike most schools, pupils at Oundle dine in their own boarding houses, along with Housemaster or Housemistress, teaching staff and Matron. This system helps to break the large student body into more manageable chunks and to foster a strong sense of community. Most students board and, since Oundle doesn't offer weekly or flexi-boarding, the school remains full and busy over the weekends, unlike many of its rivals. Oundle's buildings (dating from the 17th to the 21st centuries) are dispersed throughout the town, which gives the school an open feel many students relish. **Location** Peterborough, Northamptonshire **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 1 hour 40 minutes **School Type** Co-ed **Founded in** 1,140 **Number of Students** 1102 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 75% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £42,270

27. St Mary's Calne School

Founded in 1873, St Mary's moved to its present site in 1907 where it sits within the picturesque little town of Calne. The school is led by Dr. Felicia Kirk, who assumed the headship in 2013. Though St Mary's is an Anglican school, it welcomes girls of all faiths and none. Applicants are often attracted to the warm, cozy atmosphere that a small school like St Mary's provides. The school's strong record of academic success is another big draw: in 2022, 68% of A-level grades were A*/A and SMC regularly has success with Oxbridge applicants. St Mary's also boasts excellent visual and performing arts: the quality of artwork on display around the campus is



Rugby School

extremely high and the school's nomination for the Performing Arts category of the Independent Schools of the Year 2020 awards is testament to the strength of its music and drama. Unsurprisingly, competition for places here is fierce and many of the applicants will also be targeting schools such as Wycombe Abbey, Downe House and CLC. **Location** Calne, Wiltshire **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 1 hour 45 minutes **School Type** All-girls **Founded in** 1873 **Number of Students** 343 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 84% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £43,260

28. Rugby School

One of the original Clarendon public schools, Rugby School was founded in 1567 and sits at the heart of Rugby town. Life here is centred around boarding houses - it is one of the few remaining schools where students take all meals in-house, adding to the sense of community. With its buildings spread throughout the town, Rugby's sprawling campus suits the kind of pupil who would feel stifled in the isolation of a

more closed environment. Former Head Peter Green has stepped into the role of Executive Head, while Gareth Parker-Jones has been the Head since 2020. In 2020, the school merged with Bilton Grange, Rugby's main feeder school, though entry to Bilton Grange does not guarantee acceptance at the senior school. From 2021, Rugby's sixth form students have been able to choose between the IB diploma and A-levels. 2023 is due to see the opening of Rugby's second international school, Rugby School Japan. Unsurprisingly, entry to Rugby is highly competitive and academic standards are high. On average, the school sends around 10 students to Oxford and Cambridge each year, with the last few years seeing that number exceeded. **Location** Rugby, Warwickshire **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 1 hour 45 minutes **School Type** Co-ed **Founded in** 1567 **Number of Students** 863 **Ages** 13-18 **Boarder Ratio** 76% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £38,454

29. Mayfield School

Established in 1872, Mayfield School occupies historic buildings in the village of the same name in East Sussex. Although well-known for its Catholic ethos, the school is now open to female students of all faiths and none. Headmistress Antonia Beary has been in charge since 2008; previously Deputy Head, her professional experience includes roles at The Leys School and Ampleforth College. Educated at Cambridge herself, she is a keen advocate of the school's commitment to academic pursuits. Yet, sports are equally well-catered for, with facilities including an Astroturf, six netball courts, eight tennis courts and a 25 metre swimming pool. Several girls have been asked to compete at national and county levels, and the athletics team is a regular at the regional finals of the English Schools' Cup each year. In addition to traditional sports, Mayfield also has its own purpose-built equestrian centre onsite and a modern dance studio. Performing arts are another important part of school life, with several major productions each year complemented by an annual inter-house drama competition. Textiles too are well provided for, and students are encouraged to enter national competitions such as the Royal Opera House Design Challenge. Not to be outdone, there are numerous ensembles available for musically-minded girls. A broad range of university destinations reflects this well-rounded cohort, with offers including Oxford, Durham, St Andrews and UCL.

Location Mayfield, East Sussex
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 1 hour 35 minutes
School Type All-girls
Founded in 1872
Number of Students 414
Ages 11-18
Boarder Ratio 48%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £38,925

30. The Royal High School Bath GDST

Both Queen Victoria and Florence Nightingale had a hand in the opening of Royal High in 1865, and this affiliation with strong female figures has carried over to the present day, offering ample inspiration to the school's 500 girls.



Mayfield School

Former Headmistress, Jo Duncan, oversaw an almost complete refurbishment of school interiors, so that an extravagant neo-gothic facade now gives way to stylish and inviting décor, as perhaps to be expected from a school in Bath, England's most picturesque city. Ms Duncan's successor as of early 2020, Kate Reynolds, is continuing her good work. In partnership with piano makers, Steinway and Sons, the school has just inaugurated a state-of-the-art music school, complete with recording studio. The sports centre is next in line for a modern renovation. The only IB school in Bath, around one third of sixth formers take this qualification, achieving an impressive average of 40 points in 2021. A-levels are distinguished by the numbers of girls taking STEM subjects, resulting in around 40% progressing to STEM-related degrees at university. One of 25 Girls' Day School Trust (GDST) schools across the UK, Royal High students benefit from mass shared trips, an alumnae network 75,000 strong, and plentiful opportunities for competitive sports, noted in particular for prowess in netball, athletics, riding, swimming, fencing and taekwondo.

Location Bath, Somerset
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 2 hours
School Type All-girls
Founded in 1865
Number of Students 550
Ages 11-18
Boarder Ratio 20%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £32,286

31. Berkhamsted School

Berkhamsted operates a 'diamond' model where girls and boys are taught together in the prep school and in sixth form but separately during Years 7 to 11. Boys' boarding starts in Year 9 and girls' from Year 12. The senior school is sited on two main campuses - Kings for girls and Castle for boys and sixth form, though many facilities are shared. For example, the impressive school library is found on the Castle Campus site and the 500-seat theatre on the Kings Campus. Sports facilities such as the gym, pool and astro pitch are split across the two. Headmaster Richard Backhouse has been at the school since 2016 and has overseen an upwards trend in results which places Berkhamsted in the top cohort of co-ed boarding schools at A-level. From 2023, A-level students will have a new Sixth Form Centre. The school's annual Higher Education, Careers, Apprenticeships and Gap Year Fair is one of the best in the country and all students will do a week's work placement at the end Year 12.

Location Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 48 minutes
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 1871
Number of Students 901
Ages 11-18
Boarder Ratio 5%
Weekly Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £37,575

32. Marlborough College

Founded in 1843 in an affluent area between Oxford and Bath, Marlborough's 286 acres include grand Victorian and Georgian buildings, backed by the mysterious neolithic "Merlin's Mound". Essentially full boarding, the college boasts no fewer than 16 boarding houses, each with a distinctive personality. Traditional but by no means conventional, diversity is a guiding principle here, demonstrated by the numerous multidisciplinary "electives" and uncommon facilities like the school observatory and firing range. A state-of-the-art Innovation Centre is currently in development, promising to further boost the school's capabilities in engineering and AI. The current Master, Louise Moelwyn-Hughes, was a former housemistress and teacher of Classics and Arabic at the school. Appointed Head in 2018, she has been a firm proponent of the college's core values: self-discipline, commitment to service and intellectual curiosity. Academic results are remarkable across the board but sporting achievements no less so, with many pupils competing internationally in sports such as cricket, hockey, netball, and rugby. This is the alma mater of no fewer than four England rugby captains.

Location Marlborough, Wiltshire
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by

car) 1 hour 20 minutes
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 1843
Number of Students 1009
Ages 13-18
Boarder Ratio 96%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £42,930

33. Haileybury

When founded in 1862, 20 miles north of London, Haileybury's 500-acre campus grew atop a college which had trained men linguistically for service with the East India Company. Headmaster Martin Collier, a history graduate, is keen this origin not be forgotten. It is reflected in the wide range of languages offered at Haileybury today (Italian, French, German, Spanish, Latin and Classical Greek) and its enthusiastic uptake of the globally-minded IB programme over 20 years ago, is now taken by around one third of sixth formers. Plenty of neoclassical architecture keeps the school's heritage front and centre, such as the expansive domed dining hall and the iconic central Quad. Yet, it is also a school far from stuck in the past, with recent talk of building AI profiles of students' learning styles and facilities which include a recently renovated music centre, state-of-the-art DT suite and

sports complex (complete with climbing wall, golf simulator and professionally operated tennis centre). Little wonder the school has distinguished itself sportingly. It fields teams for national competitions in football, tennis, rugby, netball and lacrosse, with particular accolades in cricket and hockey. Despite such a diverse range of activities, 13 boarding houses and a campus 15-minutes' walk from end-to-end, chapel four times a week for the whole school ensures a sense of community.

Location Hertford, Hertfordshire
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 1 hour 10 minutes
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 1862
Number of Students 902
Boarder Ratio 64%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £40,740

34. St Peter's School

Founded in 627 AD, St Peter's School is the fourth oldest school in the world and is situated along the banks of the River Ouse in the historical city of York, which was named 'The Best Place to Live' in 2018 by The Sunday Times. Headed by Jeremy Walker since 2019, the school is spread across 47 acres and boasts excellent sporting facilities, including multi-surface pitches, two sports centres, a boathouse, and an award-winning swimming pool. There are over 50 co-curricular options, and St Peter's supports students' learning outside the classroom through its Academic Extension Programme, which encompasses academic clubs, societies and competitions. The school's forward-thinking approach to education and steadfast values have enabled it to continually flourish and maintain its long history of academic excellence, with over 70% of the students consistently gaining places at Russell Group universities including Oxford and Cambridge.

Location York, North Yorkshire
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 3 hours 55 minutes
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 627
Number of Students 583
Ages 13-18
Boarder Ratio 25%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £36,570



Marlborough College



Godolphin School

35. Uppingham School

Founded in 1584 by Archdeacon Robert Johnson, the school is located in the small town of Uppingham. Most of the school buildings are situated in the town centre, while the science, art, sports, and theatre facilities are located in a £40m campus at the west end of the town. Dr Richard J Maloney has held the post of Headmaster since 2016 and presides over a school which still feels very much like a traditional boarding school. Uppingham is one of the few remaining schools where students dine in their boarding house instead of a central canteen. Lunches are formal affairs: students sit with teachers and are expected to hold up their end of the conversation. This is a busy school, best suited to students who like to stay active and who will take full advantage of Uppingham's 125 acres, 65 of which are given over to sport. The majority of pupils are full boarders. Uppingham is a selective school, with 16+ entry particularly competitive. Unsurprisingly, academic results are strong: in 2021 the majority of leavers gained places at Russell Group universities, including 8 at Oxbridge. **Location** Uppingham, Rutland **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 2 hours **School Type** Co-ed **Founded in** 1584 **Number of Students** 847 **Ages** 13-18 **Boarder Ratio** 99% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £41,955

36. Ardingly College

First established in 1858, Ardingly College moved to its current site in 1870, where it enjoys 230 acres of grounds. Headmaster Ben Figgis has held his post since 2014, during which time the school has undergone considerable development, including total refurbishment of all the girls' houses and a £4.5 million refurbishment and extension of the Science Centre. Recent years have also seen the addition of a new girls' day house; a Sixth Form house; a contemporary Economics and Business Studies Centre; a second all-weather sports pitch; a state-of-the-art Strength & Conditioning Centre. In 2022, 7 leavers gained places at Oxbridge. **Location** Haywards Heath, West Sussex **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 1 hour 10 minutes **School Type** Co-ed **Founded in** 1858 **Number of Students** 1,080 **Ages** 13-18 **Boarder Ratio** 31% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/-Year)** £40,560

37. Bishop's Stortford College

Established in 1868 by a group of non-conformists (protestants not belonging to the Church of England) the school sits on the outskirts of the town of Bishop's Stortford. It believes that part of its role is to "promote and reinforce British values to our pupils; democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance". Headmistress

Kathy Crewe-Read is new to the school, having taken up the post in September 2020. Bishop's Stortford has its own prep school, whose students automatically move up to the senior school, subject to satisfactory behaviour and academic progress. The majority of 2022 leavers went on to Russell Group universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. **Location** Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 1 hour 20 minutes **School Type** Co-ed **Founded in** 1868 **Number of Students** 588 **Ages** 13-18 **Boarder Ratio** 26% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £38,061

38. Godolphin School

Ranked among the oldest girls' boarding schools in the UK, Godolphin was a champion of equal educational opportunities for girls when founded in 1726. In 1891, the school moved to its current 16-acre campus near Salisbury Cathedral, where these values remain just as strong for the school's 380+ senior and 80 prep students. An impressive arts building offers everything from textiles, ceramics and photography to 3D printing, ensuring significant numbers move on to arts degrees. On the opposite end of the spectrum, 70% progress to studying a science for A-level. Reflecting the fundamentally friendly ethos of the school, Headmistress Emma Hattersley holds tea parties for new students and frequently plays the piano in assemblies, having trained as an opera singer with the Royal Academy of Music. Instilling independence is also a priority here, embodied in Mrs Hattersley's initiation of the Elizabeth Godolphin Award to teach sixth formers important yet often overlooked life skills like financial management and basic mechanics. **Location** Salisbury, Wiltshire **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 1 hour 20 minutes **School Type** All-girls **Founded in** 1726 **Number of Students** 432 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 28% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £43,170

39. Epsom College

Originally known as The Royal Medical Benevolent College, Epsom was formally opened in 1855 by Prince Albert as a school for the sons of medical professionals. This Victorian influence is still evident in its stunning period architecture. Proudly co-ed since 1976, the school now offers a modern curriculum, with Mandarin lessons available as early as Year 7. Headmaster Jay Piggot has been in the role since 2018, having previously been a housemaster at Eton and Head of Campbell College, Belfast. He has had a lasting impact on the school, bringing a renewed focus on academic enrichment and extracurricular involvement. Musically inclined students have twelve ensembles to choose from, whilst numerous drama performances are complemented by LAMDA programmes and stage technology courses. The DT department is particularly strong, with five students awarded the prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarship in recent years. Not to be outdone, comprehensive sports facilities include a swimming pool, two sports halls, as well as six squash courts and a fencing salle. The college also boasts connections with professional sporting clubs, notably Chelsea FC and Harlequins rugby club. Its holistic approach to education has borne fruit: 2022 saw leavers gain places at UCL, Imperial and York among other leading institutions. **Location** Epsom, Surrey **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 40 minutes **School Type** Co-ed **Founded in** 1855 **Number of Students** 1069 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 29% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £40,479

40. Woldingham School

Founded in 1842, Woldingham School moved to its current location in 1946, where it is surrounded by 700 acres of beautiful Surrey countryside. Despite its picturesque setting, Woldingham is within easy reach of London - there is a train station within walking distance of the school from which girls can ride to central London in around half an hour. Woldingham is currently led by Dr

James Whitehead, who joined the school in September 2020 from Rugby School. Art is definitely one of the school's strengths and is a popular choice at both GCSE and A-level. Though Woldingham is a Catholic school, it welcomes girls of all faiths or none. The school is academically selective and its entry requirements, while not as stringent as schools like Wycombe Abbey or CLC, have risen considerably over the past few years. Around two thirds of leavers go on to Russell Group universities and a small number go on to overseas universities including prestigious US institutions. In 2022, two girls received offers from Oxford and one from Cambridge. **Location** Woldingham, Surrey **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 45 minutes **School Type** All-girls **Founded in** 1842 **Number of Students** 630 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 47% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £42,330

41. Fettes College

Perhaps best known as the alma mater of former Prime Minister Tony Blair and

Ian Fleming's James Bond, Fettes is an architecturally stunning school in the heart of Edinburgh. Founded in 1870, the baronial main building reflects the strong sense of tradition at the college. It has been led by Mrs Helen Harrison, the school's first female Head, since 2019. Well-known in the past for sporting prowess, it is the art facilities which catch a modern visitor's eye. The purpose-built art department is home to double height studios, a specialist library, a ceramics room and permanent gallery space. Drama is no less impressive, with ample opportunities both on and off the stage. Academics are strong, with 2022 A-level results 72% A*-B. Pupils received offers from top universities in Scotland, England and beyond. **Location** Edinburgh, Scotland **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 7 hours **School Type** Co-ed **Founded in** 1843 **Number of Students** 780 **Ages** 7-18 **Boarder Ratio** 75% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £39,990



Woldingham School

42. Shrewsbury School

Founded in 1552 by King Edward VI, Shrewsbury is one of the original 9 public schools, and has continually sought innovation and evolution in education. Located 50 miles west of Birmingham and headed by Leo Winkley, Shrewsbury was recently named the 2020 Independent School of the Year. It has also received the Community Outreach 2020 Award for its extensive community work both locally and across the UK, a reflection of the school's focus on nurturing a strong sense of social responsibility among its pupils. Shrewsbury is especially impressive in sport, music and drama and has an extensive range of clubs and societies, including its Darwin Society for science, named after its most famous alumnus, Charles Darwin.
Location Shrewsbury, Shropshire
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 2 hours 50 minutes
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 1552
Number of Students 810
Ages 13-18
Boarder Ratio 76%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £42,210

43. The King's School, Canterbury

King's can trace its roots back to 597AD and is situated in the very heart of Canterbury, a stone's throw from the city's famous cathedral. The school feels both part of the city and secluded from it: boarding houses are either on the main campus (also home to the majority of the teaching buildings) or are located a short walk away on a secondary campus. Since September 2022, Liz Worthington, formerly Senior Deputy Head, has taken up the role of interim Head. From September 2023, the Head will be Jude Lawson, currently acting Head at King's College, Wimbledon. She will be the school's first female Head. King's has high academic entry requirements, particularly at 16+, so the pace of learning is quick. King's has its own prep school located a short drive away and most of the students there move up to the senior school at 13+. The majority of students graduating from the senior school take up places at Russell Group universities. 2022 saw an A*-B



The Leys School

percentage of 83% which was an improvement on the already strong 2019 cohort.
Location Canterbury, Kent
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 1 hour 50 minutes
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 597
Number of Students 877
Ages 13-18
Boarder Ratio 79%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £41,775

44. The Leys School

Founded in 1875, The Leys is the only co-educational boarding and day school in Cambridge and is where many of the university's academics send their children. With strong ties to the university, The Leys has welcomed world-renowned speakers to its 50-acre campus, as well as inviting Cambridge postgraduates to mentor the sixth form students. Headed by Martin Priestley since 2014, the school attaches equal importance to academic studies, pastoral care and the wider curriculum, and was named East Anglia's Independent School of the Year by The Sunday Times. Popular universities among 2022 leavers included Exeter, Newcastle, Oxford Brookes and Nottingham, with three students winning a place at Oxford.
Location Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 1 hour 35 minutes
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 1875
Number of Students 568
Ages 11-18
Boarder Ratio 70%

Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £37,740

45. Sherborne School for Girls

Established in 1899, Sherborne Girls is set in the bucolic Dorset countryside. Essentially full boarding, its modest 491 student body allows for small classes and a close-knit community. Dr Ruth Sullivan, previously Deputy Master at Haileybury College, has been Headmistress since 2017. Her tenure has seen significant fundraising and development; a new £11 million Arts centre is due to open this summer, complete with recital hall, recording studio, and modern gallery. Drama and music take-up are high, with over 80 girls taking Trinity Speech and Drama exams each year, and 45% of pupils enrolling in music lessons. Performing arts opportunities also include a playwriting course run by the National Theatre. Pupils benefit from a vast array of facilities, including a 25m swimming pool, 27 tennis courts and a floodlit Astro turf pitch. All this extracurricular activity does not detract from academic success. 80% of the 2022 cohort accepted places at Russell Group universities, with Exeter and Durham the most popular choices; 3 to Oxbridge and 6 medics.
Location Sherborne, Dorset
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 2 hours
School Type All-girls
Founded in 1899
Number of Students 491
Ages 11-18
Boarder Ratio 90%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £41, 682

46. Burgess Hill Girls

Established in 1906, the school moved to its current location in 1928. It now sits in 14 acres of grounds, a short walk from the centre of Burgess Hill town. The school is led by Headmistress Liz Laybourn, who has held her post since 2017. BSG has its own prep school, which is located on the same site as the senior school and whose students qualify for automatic entry to the senior school. The school is essentially unselective but is very proud of its "value-added" - the amount by which students outperform the grades they were predicted by baseline test results. According to Durham University's Centre of Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM), a BSG girl's GCSE performance is, on average, at least one grade higher than predicted.
Location Burgess Hill, West Sussex
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 1 hour 20 minutes
School Type All-girls
Founded in 1906
Number of Students 564
Ages 13-18
Boarder Ratio 8%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £39,900

47. Sherborne School

Established in 1550 under the patronage of King Edward VI, Sherborne School is one of the few remaining all-boys, full boarding schools in the country. It is currently led by Dr Dominic Luckett, who took up the post of Headmaster in 2016 and won Tatler's 2020 'Best Head of a Public School' award. The school is situated in the historic town of Sherborne, with most of the school buildings located in a central location and the remainder a short walk away. As you would expect of an all-boys school, sport is big here, but music is an equally important part of life at Sherborne, with half of the boys playing a musical instrument. Sherborne School enjoys close links with Sherborne International, which it founded in 1977, Sherborne Girls and Sherborne Preparatory School.
Location Sherborne, Dorset
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 2 hours
School Type All-boys
Founded in 1550
Number of Students 585

Ages 13-18
Boarder Ratio 93%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £41,985

48. d'Overbroeck's College

Established in 1977 as a sixth form college, d'Overbroeck's is named after its founding Headmaster and is currently led by interim Principal Patrick Horne. The school is comprised of three parts: the senior school (Years 7-11), the sixth form and the international school. The senior school and the international school are situated just north of Oxford city centre, while the sixth form is located on the outskirts of the city. The senior school is day only, but boarding is available in the sixth form. d'Overbroecks is not considered a sporty school - the college does not actually have its own sporting pitches, but it does use the nearby Oxford University and Oxford Brookes facilities. The majority of senior school graduates move up to the sixth form, but a large minority choose to go elsewhere. 2022 saw pupils accepting offers at a range of British universities, including Cambridge, Oxford, UCL and Imperial College.
Location Oxford, Oxfordshire
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 50 minutes
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 1977
Number of Students 703
Ages 11-18

Boarder Ratio 41%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £51,165

49. Charterhouse

One of the original 9 Clarendon public schools, Charterhouse was founded in 1611 and is led by Headmaster Dr Alex Peterken, who took up the post in 2018. Charterhouse boasts 250 acres of grounds and is arguably one of the most beautiful schools in the country. Welcoming ambitious young ladies into their sixth form from 1971, Charterhouse became fully co-ed in September 2021 and has already established 5 new girls' boarding houses. While the majority of leavers go on to Russell Group universities, a significant portion choose overseas universities, mostly in the USA. 6 pupils gained Oxbridge places in 2022 while around 30% of students are destined for top London institutions. The school intends to open a number of Charterhouse International schools in the near future, with the first one most likely to open in mainland China.
Location Godalming, Surrey
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 40 minutes
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 1611
Number of Students 940
Boarders Age 13-18
Boarder Ratio 92%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £44,220



Sherborne School

50. Christ's Hospital

Established in 1552, Christ's Hospital can boast King Edward VI as its patron and founder. The school is situated in 250 acres of countryside, a short drive from the historic market town of Horsham and since 2017 has been led by Headmaster Simon Reid. Unusually, girls were admitted to the school right from its founding and today girls make up 50% of the student body. Perhaps best known for its highly distinctive uniform, Christ's Hospital is in fact different from most boarding schools in several important ways. Firstly, it is one of the few coeducational senior schools to start in Year 7 rather than Year 9. Secondly, it is amongst the minority of schools which offers both A-levels and the IB at sixth form. Lastly, the majority of its pupils pay reduced fees, with 13% receiving completely free education. The school is not somewhere you are likely to find the children of the wealthy and the powerful, but it is filled with bright and ambitious pupils likely to go on to become successful. 2022 saw 8 students, totalling 9% of leavers, accept offers from Oxford or Cambridge and the school is also a testing centre for US SAT examinations. **Location** Horsham, West Sussex **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 1 hour 15 minutes **School Type** Co-ed **Founded in** 1552 **Number of Students** 900 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 92% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £38,790

51. Dauntsey's School

Founded in 1542, Dauntsey's School is located on a 150-acre site in rural south-west England. Headmaster Mark Lascelles has held his post since 2012 and during this time the school has seen considerable development. 2016 saw the opening of a new classroom block, a sports pavilion and an all-purpose, multi-functional dance studio. Sport and outdoor pursuits are big here, so it's possibly not the best choice for exercise-averse children. Sporting facilities are excellent and Olympic gold medal winner David Hemery was recently appointed to the athletics coaching team. The school is moderately selective and

academic achievement is quite high. In 2022, 63% of graduates gained places at Russell Group/Sutton Trust top 30 universities and 8 went on to overseas universities. **Location** Devizes, Wiltshire **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 1 hour 40 minutes **School Type** Co-ed **Founded in** 1542 **Number of Students** 865 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 38% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £40,545

52. Truro School

Founded in 1880 with an ethos of compassionate ambition, Truro School lies in the picturesque county of Cornwall in the southwest of England. Currently headed by Andy Johnson, Truro excels on many fronts. On the sporting side, it regularly features in School Sport Magazine's top independent schools for sport and offers an Elite Sports Programme for its top athletes. For drama, Truro has a fully equipped 200-seat theatre and pupils also benefit from being able to work together with a professional theatre company in residence. The music scene is similarly vibrant, with the school putting on around 60 concerts a year, and there is a professional songwriter and producer who regularly comes to share his musical expertise with pupils. On the art front, all the school's art teachers are themselves practising artists, and there is a gallery on campus where pupils can have their work exhibited. The co-curricular offering includes over 70 clubs and activities, ensuring that pupils have the opportunity to develop their current interests as well as discover new ones. 61% of A-levels in 2020 were graded either A* or A, and there is a support programme in place for those who choose to apply to Oxford or Cambridge. **Location** Truro, Cornwall **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 4 hours **School Type** Co-ed **Founded in** 1880 **Number of Students** 834 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 9% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £33,780



53. Clifton College

Founded in 1862 by a group of local businessmen, Clifton College is situated in a peaceful area of Bristol, less than 2 miles from the city centre. The school is led by Dr Tim Greene, who has held the post of Headmaster since 2016. Students here have access to enviable facilities, including 90 acres of sports facilities located just 10 minutes drive away and a Grade II listed library building housing more than 15,000 books. In addition to the main library, Clifton has dedicated maths and science libraries. The sciences are popular at Clifton and the school has a good pedigree, having already produced 2 Nobel laureates: one for Physics and one for Chemistry. The school is selective, though not fiercely so. Clifton has its own prep school and many students graduate to the senior school, though they still need to sit entrance examinations in Year 8. In 2022, three students gained places to study at Oxford, with the most popular university destinations being Edinburgh, Exeter, Birmingham and UCL. **Location** Clifton, Bristol **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 2 hours **School Type** Co-ed **Founded in** 1862 **Number of Students** 763 **Ages** 13-18 **Boarder Ratio** 32% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £42,600

54. Bedford School

Bedford School was established in 1552 and sits at the heart of the town of Bedford, on a campus which also houses the prep school. The school is led by James Hodgson, who has held the post of Headmaster since 2014, and states its mission is teaching boys to "think intelligently, act wisely and be fully engaged in a challenging and changing world". It enjoys strong links with Bedford Girls' School, with students participating in joint theatre productions, music ensembles, debates, discos, film evenings and workshops. Around 60% of students entering in Year 9 come up from the prep school. Bedford has a reputation as being a sporty school, and with 40 different sports on offer and 1200 fixtures played annually, it's easy to see why. Bedford also boasts its very own observatory and planetarium and has a dedicated Astronomer in Residence. 6 boys went on to Oxford or Cambridge in 2022 and 4 to the United States. **Location** Bedford, Bedfordshire **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 1 hour 10 minutes **School Type** All-boys **Founded in** 1552 **Number of Students** 710 **Ages** 13-18 **Boarder Ratio** 23% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £37,113

55. Monmouth School for Boys

Founded under James I in 1614, Monmouth School for Boys is situated in the outstandingly beautiful Wye Valley in Wales. Since 2020 Simon Dorman has been the Headmaster, previously fulfilling the role of Deputy Headmaster at the school. The school has an extremely impressive sporting programme, regularly producing both national and international athletes. This is bolstered by an impressive range of scholarships on offer to help promising students from a variety of different backgrounds attend the school. The wealth of extracurricular activities does not impact the impressive academic results that students achieve; on average, around 60% accept offers from Russell Group universities each year. For entry into the school, exams are taken online

in English and maths at all age groups, as well as an interview with the Headmaster. **Location** Monmouth, South Wales **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 2 hours 20 minutes **School Type** All-boys (Co-ed in the sixth form) **Founded in** 1614 **Number of Students** 524 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 30% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £36,387

56. Eastbourne College

Eastbourne College was founded in 1867 and occupies a picturesque campus on the south coast of England. Headmaster Tom Lawson, son of former Cabinet Minister Nigel Lawson, taught at Christ's Hospital and Winchester before taking up the headship. The College's £33 million development, completed in 2019, is one of the most impressive of any school and includes 32 new classrooms,

sports hall, swimming pool, dance studio, dining hall, as well as many other features. Eastbourne has five boarding houses which have a traditional look and feel and there is a strong house ethos and loyalty amongst pupils. The school achieves excellent A-level results which are on an upwards trajectory and belie its level of selectivity, making it one of the top schools in the country for added value. The school offers many extracurricular activities and is noted for its proximity to the famous Devonshire Park Tennis where the school's top players can practise on some of the best grass courts in the country. **Location** Eastbourne, East Sussex **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 1 hour 55 minutes **School Type** Co-ed **Founded in** 1867 **Number of Students** 645 **Boarders Age** 13-18 **Boarder Ratio** 44% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £41,160





Bromsgrove School

57. Bromsgrove School

Established in 1553, Bromsgrove School is located just 30 minutes drive from Birmingham. Despite being situated within Bromsgrove town, the school enjoys 100 acres of its own grounds, which also house Bromsgrove's prep school. The majority of its prep school pupils do move up to the senior school, but they do not gain automatic entry. Since 2022, Michael Punt has been School Head. Prior to this post, Mr Punt was the Headmaster at Chigwell School for 15 years. Bromsgrove's sixth form students are free to choose between A-levels and the IB curriculum, although the Headmaster states that, "the default position for a typical Bromsgrove pupil should, increasingly, be the IB." Leavers head off to an impressive range of courses, universities and countries, in terms of pupil destination that reflects the wide sixth form clientele. Five medics in 2022, and one off to Oxford. Cardiff was by far the most popular university choice in 2022, but good numbers went to Bath, UCL and KCL and overseas to the US as well.

Location Bromsgrove, Worcestershire
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 2 hours
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 1553
Number of Students 1,046
Ages 13-18
Boarder Ratio 47%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £42,165

58. St Edward's Oxford

Known simply as 'Teddies' and established in 1863, the school is situated in the north of Oxford, allowing its students to take advantage of the city's vibrant art and music scene. July 2021 saw the arrival of the new Headmaster, Alastair Chirnside, previously Deputy Head at Harrow. Another recent change is the completion of The Christie Centre, which includes a modern library, magnificent reading area and 1,000-seat performance venue. Teddies is one of the few schools to offer both IB and A-level, and has also recently introduced a new programme to complement the GCSE curriculum, which will enhance students' transferable skills, including information retention, research and creative thinking. Teddies encourages independence in its pupils and aims to nurture leadership qualities, such as offering opportunities to get involved in its extensive community work outside the school. Top university destinations in 2021 were Exeter, London Universities and Bristol with 4 to Oxbridge.

Location Oxford, Oxfordshire
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 1 hour
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 1863
Number of Students 789
Ages 13-18
Boarder Ratio 85%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £34,650

59. Bradfield College

Founded in 1850, Bradfield College sits at the heart of the picturesque village of Bradfield. Dr Christopher Stevens has held the headship since 2015, prior to which he was Second Master at Marlborough College. The college's stated aim is to equip young people for life after they leave school by developing the following attributes: confidence, resilience, communication, open-mindedness, inquiry and innovation. Bradfield is one of the small number of British boarding schools which plays football instead of rugby. Cricket is also a strength, and is consistently named one of the top 100 senior schools in the country for cricket. The college offers students the choice between A-levels and the IB in the sixth form. The majority of graduates go on to universities in the UK, while some choose to continue their education overseas, mostly in North America.

Location Reading, Berkshire
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 50 minutes
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 1850
Number of Students 820
Ages 13-18
Boarder Ratio 89%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £42,165

60. Lancing College

Established at its current site in 1857, one of the earliest buildings at Lancing was the imposing Gothic Revival chapel which still dominates the landscape today. Said to be the largest school chapel in England, it sits in the the college's expansive 550-acre grounds. These stretch across the South Downs National Park and include an equestrian centre and working farm, utilised for hands-on biology, business studies and geography lessons. Noted for music provisions on par with specialist music schools, the chapel contains three organs and hosts an impressive chamber choir. Budding musicians can further choose from three orchestras, A Cappella Club, Big Band, Symphonic Wind Band and rock music workshops; they can partake in the 30-40 concerts the school hosts each year. Unsurprisingly, a handful of students progress to renowned music conservatories each year. Academically strong, the College's university results are also impressive. KCL and the University of Manchester were the most popular leavers' destinations in 2022.

Location Lancing, West Sussex
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 1 hour 30 minutes
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 1848
Number of Students 602
Boarders Age 13-18
Boarder Ratio 62%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £40,860

61. Dean Close School

Established in 1886, Dean Close is situated in a 50-acre plot on the outskirts of the beautiful town of Cheltenham. Headmaster Bradley Salisbury has held his post since 2015 and presides over a relatively small school which has a reputation for providing excellent pastoral support and successfully bringing quiet students out of their shell. The Christian ethos of the school remains strong, although children of all faiths are welcome. Facilities include a professional standard theatre, a £3m sports hall opened in 2007 and a spacious Art School. A significant number of pupils join in Year 9 from the prep school and continue to upper 6th where over 60% of students go on to study at

Russell Group universities.

Location Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 2 hours
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 1886
Number of Students 953
Ages 3-18
Boarder Ratio 53%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £43,425

62. Malvern St James Girls' School

Founded in 1893, MSJ was established on its current site in the spa town of Malvern in rural Worcestershire with the merging of two female-run schools. Current Headmistress Olivera Raraty, appointed in 2016, describes the school as "warm but not fluffy". Her previous roles include Assistant Director of Studies at Wycombe Abbey, so academics are an important focus. There is, however, something to suit everyone

here, and the girls are active in sport, music and the arts. Of note are the modern, spacious sports centre and new Astroturf pitch for hockey. Riding is particularly strong and the school offers a comprehensive programme for equine enthusiasts. The arts are equally well facilitated: the theatre hosts 10 performances per year, and there is always an Artist in Residence to inspire students. A-level results are competitive, with many entering Russell Group universities and a small cohort opting to study in the US.

Location Great Malvern, Worcestershire
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 2 hours 30 minutes
School Type All-girls
Founded in 1893
Number of Students 351
Ages 3-18
Boarder Ratio 44%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £42,420



Lancing College



63. Wells Cathedral School

Founded in 909AD by King Edward the Elder, the second King of England, Wells Cathedral School is situated in the heart of England's smallest city. One of four specialist music schools in England, it is the only one whose student body also includes non-specialist musicians. Music specialists are trained to pursue a career in music. They make up around 30% of all pupils at the school and graduates regularly go on to study at top music institutions such as the Royal Academy of Music and Julliard Conservatoire. Most of the pupils here will be interested in music to some degree, but it is not an entry requirement for non-specialists. Since 2018, the school has been led by Headmaster Alastair Tighe. Wells has its own prep school and most of those pupils will move up to the senior school at the end of Year 6. Non-specialists typically take up places at British universities, with the majority going on to Russell Group institutions. 2022 saw 93% of students admitted to their first-choice university.

Location Wells, Somerset
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 2 hours 30 minutes
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 909
Number of Students 779
Ages 8-18
Boarder Ratio 43%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £36,264

64. Queenswood School

Originally established in 1894, Queenswood has been located in the idyllic town of Hatfield since 1925, a mere 25 minutes train ride from London. The school's distinctive Tudor-style main buildings are surrounded by 120 acres of grounds, offering plenty of space for its 400+ pupils to explore. The arts are well-catered for here, with at least half of all pupils playing instruments, and 8 productions a year hosted in the 280-seat Helen McCrory Studio. Sports are even better provided for, and facilities include a new £3 million sports centre, 25-metre swimming pool, polo field, nine-hole golf course and an impressive 27 tennis courts. Sporting results are unsurprisingly strong, with the school now ranked first in the UK for girls' tennis and fielding strong hockey and fencing teams over the past few years. Principal Jo Cameron has been in charge since 2016. Her tenure has seen competitive academic results, with leaver destinations including Oxford, Cambridge and other Russell Group universities.

Location Hatfield, Hertfordshire
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 55 minutes
School Type All-girls
Founded in 1894
Number of Students 463
Ages 11-18
Boarder Ratio 27%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £38,400

65. Cheltenham College

Founded in 1841, Cheltenham College is set in the heart of one of England's most vibrant spa towns. A Church of England foundation, Cheltenham is well known for its classical, military and sporting traditions. The school is co-ed and has a high number of boarders. In recent years, much of the school has undergone renovation; however, the historic library, ancient chapel and wood-paneled dining room remain favourites of both students and parents. Academics are important here: in 2022, 60% of students attained 9-7 at GCSEs and 50% achieved A* to A at A level. The current Head, Mrs Nicola Huggett, leads by example and still teaches history to students. Unsurprisingly, all students head to university, with Bristol, Durham, Manchester, Exeter and Leeds amongst the top choices. Sport is huge and facilities are first rate, including an impressive sports centre, eight rugby pitches, a 25-metre swimming pool and a historic cricket pavilion all on the school grounds. There are also ample opportunities to join orchestras and choirs, as well as partake in one of their six drama productions a year. Students leave Cheltenham as well-rounded individuals ready to tackle the world.

Location Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 1 hour 50 minutes
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 1841
Number of Students 748
Boarders Age 13-18
Boarder Ratio 80%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £43,035



66. New Hall School

New Hall was founded in 1642 to educate Catholic girls during a period of religious persecution in Europe. It has been on its current site, the magnificent Tudor Palace of Beaulieu, north of London, since 1799. Once owned by Henry VIII, its 550ft façade, two great towers and eight courtyards contain ample room for the school's 1100+ pupils. The school is a rare case of an all-girls school turned co-educational, having adopted the "diamond model" of education in 2005. Under this model girls and boys are taught together for prep school, separately for ages 11 to 16 and then together again for sixth form. Headmistress since 2001, Katherine Jeffrey was behind the change, and under her tenure significant investment has also gone into new facilities, such as two sports halls, a 25m chlorine-free pool, dance studio, national-standard athletics track and ten courts for netball and tennis. Besides the standard sports awards, tennis scholarships are on offer, with the school's Tennis Academy working towards placing New Hall on the map as one of the top tennis schools in the country. Performing arts are another highlight, with Years 7-9 working towards Trinity exams in speech and drama, and training for LAMDA and ESB qualifications is also available. Outside of exams, there are a plethora of workshops and productions for older students, hosted across the school's three performance spaces: the Walkfares Centre, Walkfares Canopy and Eaton Theatre. Students' holistic development is encouraged over hothousing here, but academic results have nonetheless risen year on year, with 52% of the 2022 A-level grades being A* or A.

Location Chelmsford, Essex
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 1 hour 35 minutes
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 1642
Number of Students 1,351
Ages 1-18
Boarder Ratio 24%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £33,867

67. Moreton Hall

Starting life in 1913 as a small family boarding school of 11 students on the

Welsh border, Moreton Hall has expanded to include 500+ pupils. Its current offerings include co-ed nursery and prep, as well as a girls-only secondary school and sixth form. Overlooking the rugged Berwyn Hills, the school's 100-acre grounds combine the best of nature and technology; a new farm and plenty of woodlands blend seamlessly with state-of-the-art medical science labs and the 180-seat Holroyd Community Theatre, inaugurated in 2019. All students receive lessons in public speaking, taking an exam in Year 12. 100% of students entered for LAMDA exams received distinction last year. The arts in general are a priority at Moreton, and at A-level students can study fine art, history of art, photography and even textile design from the two-story Design Centre. Unsurprisingly, plenty progress to well-known arts universities. New Principal Sarah Davis is keen to make her mark. Upcoming developments include a new modern languages centre and a Sports Performance Centre to promote young talent in lacrosse, hockey, tennis, and golf.

Location Oswestry, Shropshire
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 3 hours 30 minutes
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 1913
Number of Students 443
Ages 11-18
Boarder Ratio 38%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £39,660

68. Repton School

Founded in 1557, Repton School moved to its current site in 1906, where it sits

within the peaceful village of Repton. The school is led by Mark Semmence who took up the Headship in 2019 and then became CEO in September 2020 when Repton merged with its prep school to create a single school for pupils from 3-18 years old. While it boasts some impressive modern facilities (e.g. music recording suite and recently revamped sports center), Repton is very much a traditional boarding school. There is no weekly or flexi-boarding in the senior school and day pupils remain at school until the end of prep at 9pm. All meals are eaten within the boarding houses, which helps to foster a strong sense of community and all teaching staff must live within 1 mile of the school. Perhaps most famous for being the alma mater of beloved author Roald Dahl, Repton is also considered to be one of the top sporting schools in the UK, with hockey, football, tennis and cricket particular strengths. The school is selective and academic standards are high. Over 70% attend Russell Group universities, although the school does also provide SAT training to those interested in continuing their education in the USA (9 in 2021). 2022 saw 4 students accepting places at Oxbridge and one medic.

Location Derby, Derbyshire
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 2 hours 30 minutes
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 1557
Number of Students 616
Ages 13-18
Boarder Ratio 70%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £38,163



69. The King's School Ely

Founded in 970AD and granted a Royal Charter by King Henry VIII in 1541, the King's School Ely boasts a rich history as one of the oldest schools in the world. It is located 2 hours north of London in the small town of Ely in Cambridgeshire. Headmaster Jonathan Shaw joined the school in 2018 from his previous post as Deputy Head at Elizabeth College, Guernsey. He is first to assert that Kings' outstanding results are achieved through inspiration rather than pressure, and that building character and life skills are a greater priority than raising its A* rate. The school began as an institution to educate choristers and this musical tradition remains important. King's has two cathedral choirs, one for boys and less commonly one for girls, with choral scholars of both genders in the sixth form. Academics remain strong, with 29 A-level pupils achieving all A*s and As and 56 securing all A*-B grades in 2022.

Location Ely, Cambridgeshire
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 1 hour 49 minutes
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 970
Number of Students 695
Ages 13-18
Boarder Ratio 28%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £35,958



Oakham School

70. Blundell's School

Founded in 1604 with a bequest from Peter Blundell, one of the wealthiest merchants of Elizabethan England, Blundell's School relocated to its present site, on the outskirts of Tiverton, in 1882. It is currently led by Headmaster Bart Wielenga, who has been in the post since 2018. Blundell's is a small, friendly and unpretentious school which provides an ideal environment for students who need to be gently drawn out of their shells. Blundell's has its own prep school and most of the prep students move on to the senior school in Year 7. Of the graduating class of 2022, 85% were accepted by their first-choice universities, the majority being Russell Group universities.

Location Tiverton, Devon
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 3 hours
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 1604
Number of Students 622
Ages 11-18
Boarder Ratio 65%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £41,325

71. Oakham School

Founded in 1584, the school sits at the heart of the historic market town of

Oakham and has been led by Headmaster Henry Price since 2019. With its buildings spread throughout the town, Oakham has an open feel to it which will appeal to students not enthralled by the thought of a campus school deep in the countryside. Despite its pedigree and impressive facilities, Oakham conveys the impression of being a thoroughly down-to-earth school with something for everyone. Sport is big here and Oakham is considered one of the top schools in the country for hockey. The quality and variety of meals provided by the school are excellent, as prospective applicants discover when they visit. The school is selective, though not fiercely so. Students can choose either A-levels or the IB curriculum in the sixth form and Year 13 pupils move to separate boarding houses located in the quietest part of the school. On average, just over 50% of leavers go on to study at Russell Group universities and a small minority choose to continue their education overseas.

Location Oakham, Rutland
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 2 hours
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 1584
Number of Students 1045
Ages 10-18
Boarder Ratio 49%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £40,640

72. Bootham School

Founded in 1823 as a Quaker school in the city of York, Bootham's ethos is still rooted in those of its founders, even after all these years. Chris Jeffery, who has been Head for the last 7 years, is set to retire in 2023 and will hand over the reins to Deneal Smith, a former science teacher, housemaster and Head of Sixth Form at institutions as highly esteemed as Winchester College, Westminster and Magdalen College School, Oxford. Mr Smith was drawn northward by Bootham's Quaker heritage and emphasis on all contributions being valuable. This is reflected in the teaching across the school. As well as a strong academic record, the extracurricular activities available are impressive, with the drama department supporting students applying for top drama colleges after Bootham. Despite only being a mildly selective school, the academic results speak for

themselves. In 2022, the first year since returning to pre-covid testing procedures, well over a third of A-level students achieved at least three A grades, with multiple pupils achieving a sweep of three A*s.

Location York
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 3 hours 30 minutes
School Type Co-ed
Founded in 1823
Number of Students 580
Ages 11-18
Boarder Ratio 15%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £35,100

73. Queen Anne's School

Queen Anne's School, founded in 1894, grew out of the Grey Coat Hospital, a Christian foundation which received a royal charter from Queen Anne in 1706. Ms Elaine Purves took over as Headmistress in 2022. The ethos at the school remains the same, with the goal of creating happy, successful and independent young women. An academically strong school, at Queen Anne's 59% of girls in 2020 received all A/A*s at A-level. Pupils secured places at top universities including Manchester, UCL, Exeter, King's College London, Leeds, Durham, St Andrews, York and Nottingham.

Location Berkshire
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 40 minutes
School Type All-girls
Founded in 1894
Number of Students 410
Ages 11-18
Boarder Ratio 48%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £42,405

74. St Mary's School, Cambridge

Established in 1898 by the sisters of the venerable Mary Ward, the school promotes the ethos that "women will come to do much". It is a part of a global network of 200 Mary Ward schools worldwide. The current Head is Ms Charlotte Avery who joined the school in 2007 after a stint as Deputy Head at Highgate School. St Mary's has an excellent 'sport for all' ethos and pushes girls to find an activity that they will



Tudor Hall School

love. Recent additions to its facilities include a restored rowing club in the centre of the city. The school also benefits from its location in the city of Cambridge, with many world-class libraries and other amenities nearby. It boasts strong academic results with languages, mathematics and the arts taking centre stage. Inspired by the school's proximity to Cambridge University, it is of little surprise that many girls achieve places at top institutions, with 2022 university destinations including Oxford, UAL, LSE, Imperial and the University of Hong Kong.

Location Cambridge
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 1 hour 30 minutes
School Type All-girls
Founded in 1898
Number of Students 519
Ages 11-18
Boarder Ratio 14%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £37,887

75. Tudor Hall School

Founded in 1850, Tudor Hall is one of the oldest girls' boarding schools in the UK and is situated 30 miles north of Oxford. Headed by Ms Julie Lodrick, the school has recently introduced its Aim Higher programme to support learning

beyond the curriculum, and includes weekly lectures and discussion groups, as well as The Tudor Diploma which develops pupils' research, reading, communication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. Another new initiative is the Life Skills programme, where workshops have covered areas such as finance and managing deadlines. Art is especially strong at Tudor Hall and there are a range of art clubs that girls can join. For drama, the school's Studio hosts numerous productions each year and was opened by Academy Award winning producer and alumna, Serena Armitage, in 2016. Dance is also popular at Tudor Hall, with specialist teachers offering a range of dance classes and a dance club which meets twice daily. On the sporting front, pupils have access to horse-riding facilities and several girls have competed at national equestrian events. In 2022, 50% of A-level grades were A*/A.

Location Banbury, Oxfordshire
Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 1 hour 30 minutes
School Type All-girls
Founded in 1850
Number of Students 324
Ages 11-18
Boarder Ratio 74%
Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £39,450

76. Stowe School

Founded in 1923 and set within 250 acres of landscape gardens, Stowe is blessed with magnificent natural surroundings with impressive buildings to match. Headed by Anthony Wallersteiner since 2003, the school has recently invested £30m into enhancing its facilities. These include The Henry Worsley Science Centre, The Chung Music School, a modern Art School and the Roxburgh Theatre, as well as three new girls’ boarding houses (of which one - Queen’s - was opened by the Queen herself). Future developments include a £6.5m state-of-the-art DT and Engineering Centre, which is scheduled for completion in 2023, Stowe’s centenary year. This will be accompanied by the upgrading of all indoor sports facilities, complementing an extensive sports offering of 27 tennis courts, four football pitches, a golf course and an on-site equestrian centre. The substantial investment in all areas of the school demonstrates Stowe’s commitment to providing a truly well-rounded education, also reflected in its recently launched award programme, for which all students are regularly reviewed on their level of extracurricular engagement. Main leavers’ destinations in 2022 were Oxford Brookes, Exeter, Newcastle and Edinburgh, with the most popular degree subjects being business and management, geography and history. **Location** Buckingham, Buckinghamshire **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 1 hour 30 minutes **School Type** Co-ed **Founded in** 1923 **Number of Students** 883 **Ages** 13-18 **Boarder Ratio** 90% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £40,794

77. Mill Hill School

Situated among hills 10 miles northwest of London, the 150-acre Mill Hill school grounds offer tranquility, soaring views and instant access to the capital. Founded in 1807 at the home of a famous British botanist, the site is a mix of ancient trees, historic buildings like 16th century Ridgeway House and newer additions, like a recently remodeled Sixth Form Centre. Sporty children benefit from

acres of playing fields, and a partnership with Middlesex University provides top quality coaching. Accordingly, Mill Hillians have seen particular success at local and regional levels in cross-country, cricket, netball and golf in recent years. The musical are equally accommodated, with a well-developed department preparing ensembles and choirs for around 230 performances a year. The on-site international school, The Mount, is home to 70 pupils, most studying 1-year IGCSEs and pre-A-level courses. Many of these students progress to the senior school of 650+, around a fifth of whom board. Though the school went fully co-ed in 1997, boys still outnumber girls by a significant margin. This has begun to be redressed at a senior level, and the school’s first female Head, Frances King, passed the torch to Jane Sanchez in 2018, Deputy Head of Pastoral since 2003. Besides increasing student numbers, one of her first acts has been to commence renovations of the school’s McClure Music School, sports and science facilities, bringing them fully into the 21st century. **Location** Mill Hill, London **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 40 minutes **School Type** Co-ed **Founded in** 1807 **Number of Students** 884 **Ages** 13-18 **Boarder Ratio** 11% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £39,810



Stowe School

78. Queen Margaret's School (York)

Established in Scarborough in 1901, Queen Margaret’s moved to its current site in 1941. With an enrolment of around 300 and an 80% boarding rate, it is a small school which offers an intimate family feel. This is further enhanced by its innovative house system, which combines horizontal, year-group based boarding with vertical house teams in order to ensure effective integration across year groups. Music plays an important role here: almost half of girls learn an instrument, and a quarter learn more than one. The fabulous music facilities include 14 practice rooms, complete with pianos, as well as access to the grand piano and pipe organ in the school chapel. Girls are encouraged to take an active role in all of the performing arts, and the state-of-the-art Chapman Theatre hosts full-scale junior and senior productions annually, in addition to smaller plays throughout the year. There are also numerous dance recitals, with the school offering classes in ballet, jazz, hip hop, tap and modern. Sports are strong, notably lacrosse, with the U19 team achieving success in the 2021 National Schools Championship. The recently renovated riding school trains girls for dressage, show jumping, cross country and gymkhana skills, with hacking also taking place at the nearby Escrick Park Estate. However, the extensive extracurriculars do not come at the expense of academics; roughly 50% of

girls achieved two or more A*-A grades in 2022, accepting offers to Oxbridge, Imperial and The Royal Drawing School. **Location** Esrick, North Yorkshire **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 3 hours 45 minutes **School Type** All-girls **Founded in** 1901 **Number of Students** 221 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 87% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £42,480

79. Harrogate Ladies

Founded in 1893 to meet the need for a girls’ school in North Yorkshire, and as part of a nationwide movement to allow girls greater access to UK universities, Harrogate Ladies continues to offer opportunities to girls in the 21st century. Situated just 5 minutes from the town centre of Harrogate, its leafy 22 acres include three boarding houses, a dedicated sixth form centre, arts studios, a purpose-built business suite and a sizeable sports hall. Sports form the bulk of girls’ extracurriculars, with the accolades to show for it, such as regional successes for lacrosse and in a variety of northern competitions for tennis, netball and rounders. A strong support system and the individual attention afforded by a modest school roster of just under 300 pupils sees strong all-round results. 70% move on to Russell Group universities, with a good showing among northern institutions like Durham, Edinburgh, York and Glasgow. A-levels are offered in accounting, business studies, economics and statistics, among other interesting topics like psychology. Around a third of girls progress to business-related degrees. Principal Sylvia Brett, who has filled the post since 2013, has been an educator for 25 years. Her experience enables her to achieve her goals of truly knowing the young people in her care while also being a changemaker in the North. **Location** Harrogate, North Yorkshire **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 3 hours 55 minutes **School Type** All-girls **Founded in** 1893 **Number of Students** 305 **Ages** 11-18 **Boarder Ratio** 38% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £35,520



Malvern College

80. Malvern College

Founded in 1865, the school owes its location to Malvern’s popularity as a nineteenth century spa town. It sits on a large rural campus in Worcestershire around 2.5 hours northwest of London. Keith Metcalfe is the current Headmaster, having previously been Deputy Head at Harrow School. He believes in a well-rounded education where students are challenged and happy. Recent upgrades include the opening of the new Rogers Theatre in 2019 and becoming an All-Steinway school with the purchase of the best in class grand and upright pianos. The school offers both IB and A-level options with roughly 80% of students achieving their first-choice universities. These mostly consist of Russell Group universities, with a few going to Oxbridge and American universities. **Location** Malvern, Worcestershire **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 2 hours 20 minutes **School Type** Co-ed **Founded in** 1865 **Number of Students** 653 **Age** 13-18 **Boarder Ratio** 75% **Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £41,700

81. King's Bruton

Established in 1519 by Richard Fitz James, then Bishop of London, King’s School Bruton is set in the beautiful Somerset countryside. Its extensive grounds include numerous rugby and

cricket pitches, two Astroturf hockey fields, eight tennis and netball courts and a modern sports hall. According to the school’s pyramid sporting structure, everyone is encouraged to participate, both on dedicated sports afternoons and as part of the wider activities programme. Those at the top-level benefit from the school’s Athlete Development Programme, which assigns personal mentors to ensure each student achieves their goals. Sporting success is illustrated by the hockey teams, who have been in eight indoor and outdoor finals in the last four years. Music is equally encouraged, and pupils have access to the new state-of-the-art Queen Elizabeth Music School, Hauder & Worth Recital Hall and a private recording studio. With over 40 public performances annually and a vast range of ensembles and choirs to choose from, there is provision for all levels and interests. Additionally, the school offers students a further 70 extracurricular activities to choose from, ranging from drama and school magazine editing to silversmithing. 58% of recent graduates achieved A* to A at A-level with offers from Oxbridge, Russell Group universities and medical schools. **Location** Bruton, Somerset **Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car)** 2 hours 43 minutes **School Type** Co-ed **Founded in** 1519 **Number of Students** 370 **Ages** 13-18 **Boarder Ratio** 55% **Weekly Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year)** £34,200



St. George's School, Ascot

82. Cranleigh School

Established in 1865 for the sons of local farmers, Cranleigh School is located on the outskirts of the town of Cranleigh, nestled within 280 acres of grounds. The school is led by Martin Reader, who took up the headship in 2014. Cranleigh's small size gives it a cosy feel and very low numbers of international students keep it feeling very "British". Cranleigh opened its first international school on the Chinese mainland in October 2020, with a second scheduled to open soon. Back at home, Cranleigh was shortlisted for School of the Year 2022. Cranleigh has its own prep school, located just across the road, and about half of its Year 9 joiners come from there.

Location

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 50 minutes

School Type Co-ed

Founded in 1865

Number of Students 686

Boarders Age 13-18

Boarder Ratio 71%

Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £42,720

83. St George's School, Ascot

Unusually, St George's was founded as a boys' prep school but converted to a girls'

senior school in 1904. Headmistress Liz Hewer joined in 2016 and has an illustrious career and education, including captaining the Cambridge University Hockey Team. Unsurprisingly, sports and extracurriculars feature heavily at the school under her tenure and its 30 acres are packed with facilities to keep the girls busy, including a state-of-the-art 350 seat theatre, a mirrored dance studio and three lacrosse pitches. Equestrians can even participate in polo at the Royal Berkshire Polo Club. St George's is a moderately selective school but ranks highly for added value, based on the pupils' outcomes compared to their level at entry. Following the pandemic, the school has made a push to modernise, training a majority of its staff as 'Google Educators' and adding qualifications in computer science to the curriculum. Many girls win places at Russell Group universities, but each year a cohort go on to study subjects like fine art, drama or music at one of the UK's prestigious colleges. With 270 girls enrolled, it is comparatively small and provides a comfortable, safe environment for those not suited to the bustle of larger schools.

Location Ascot, Berkshire

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 25 minutes

School Type All-girls

Founded in 1904

Number of Students 270

Ages 11-18

Boarder Ratio 32%

Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £40,050

84. Bedales School

Founded in 1893 as an alternative to the authoritarian regimes of contemporary schools, Bedales has always done things differently. Girls were admitted as early as 1898 and today there is no school uniform and staff and pupils address one another by their first names. Bedales is currently led by Will Goldsmith, who took up the post in Sep 2021. Students enjoy 120 acres of grounds and a curriculum like no other: in Years 10 & 11, pupils can study a number of Bedales Assessed Courses (BACS) instead of GCSEs-though some GCSE courses are compulsory. In the sixth form, the Bedales Enrichment Programme (a series of one term courses) provides an alternative to a fourth A-level.

Location Petersfield, Hampshire

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 1 hour

School Type Co-ed

Founded in 1893

Number of Students 468

Ages 13-18

Boarder Ratio 49%

Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £40,140

85. Gresham's School

Established in 1555 on a beautiful tract of Norfolk countryside, Gresham's natural advantages amply compensate for the lengthy trip from London. The school's 200 acres include an outdoor activity centre complete with ziplines, a theatre in the woods and a variety of outward bound courses, on which students can trek, climb and sail. It is an ideal setting for the dogs of Headmaster Douglas Robb and the various animals in each of the boarding houses. Just four miles from the coast, weekends often see boarders take trips to the beach or stay with friends from various surrounding market towns. Yet, there is also plenty to keep them on site, with arts, drama and sports all well-represented. The professionally-run Auden Theatre hosts three school

productions a year and a variety of touring companies in between, while the recently completed Dyson Building, funded by alumnus Sir James Dyson of vacuum technology fame, looks set to take the school's STEAM curriculum in new, innovative directions. The school adopted the IB in 2007 and today between a quarter and a third of students opt for it.

Location Holt, Norfolk

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 2 hours 50 minutes

School Type Co-ed

Founded in 1555

Number of Students 540

Ages 13-18

Boarder Ratio 55%

Weekly Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £41,385

86. Dover College

Dover College was founded in 1871 by a group of local businessmen, led by the Mayor of Dover. The school is located in the centre of the town of Dover and run by Headmaster Mr Simon Fisher, who took up the post in September 2020. Dover College is a small, unselective school: entry to the senior school is by interview and school reports - there are no written papers required. Class sizes are correspondingly small, allowing teachers to provide students with a lot of individual attention. Dover College could be a good choice for students who are looking for a warm, supportive environment. However, international applicants may be put off by the fact that only a minority of students are full-boarders, and most of these are from overseas.

Location Dover, Kent

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 1 hour 42 minutes

School Type Co-ed

Founded in 1871

Number of Students 386

Ages 13-18

Boarder Ratio 21%

Weekly Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £36,750

87. Bryanston School

Founded in 1928, Bryanston School is situated just outside a small town in the south-west of England and enjoys 400 acres of beautiful grounds. Since 2019, the school has been led by Headmaster

Richard Jones and in 2020 was selected as one of seven finalists in the 'Boarding' category for the Independent Schools of the Year. Unlike most British boarding schools, Bryanston does not require pupils to wear a school uniform. Do not make the mistake of assuming the school is lax when it comes to behaviour and academic progress though: Bryanston has one of the most comprehensive feedback systems in the country. Every week, pupils receive comments, effort marks and achievement grades from each of their teachers, as well as having weekly meetings with their academic tutors. The majority of graduates go on to universities in the UK, including many Russell Group institutions, with the most popular destinations being Bristol, Edinburgh, Leeds, Manchester, Bath and Oxford Brookes.

Location Blandford Forum, Dorset

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 2 hours

School Type Co-ed

Founded in 1928

Number of Students 690

Ages 13-18

Boarder Ratio 86%

Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £40,890

88. Ashford School

Originally opened as a 'small school for ladies' in 1898, Ashford became fully co-educational in 2006 and has grown to encompass over 900 pupils across a senior school, prep and nursery. Michael Hall has been the Head since 2018, having previously been Headmaster at one of the world's largest British curriculum schools in Dubai. Comparatively tranquil, Ashford sits amid green lawns in the centre of bustling Ashford. The school believes in an ethos of giving students freedom to make mistakes and develop their creativity as a collective. Sixth form students are given the necessary independence required to explore their individuality and gain maturity before heading on to further education. Academic results are strong, with 88% of students achieving A*-C grades at A-level in 2022.

Location Ashford, Kent

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 80 minutes

School Type Co-ed

Founded in 1898

Number of Students 516

Ages 11-18

Boarder Ratio 33%

Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £38,778



Bryanston School

89. Loretto School

Founded in 1827, Loretto School is located just outside the historical city of Edinburgh, Scotland. It is a school dedicated to academic excellence, as well as to providing a wealth of opportunities beyond the classroom. The Headmaster is Dr Graham Hawley who previously held the position of Headmaster at Kelly College until 2014. Loretto produces some excellent athletes and, with Scotland being the birthplace of golf, it is unsurprising that the school's golf academy offers world-class tuition to over 200 students weekly. The limited number of students at the school and large campus, give students plenty of space to enjoy their leisure time and the warm family-like environment. 2020 results saw 66% of grades at A* to B, with 14% of students attaining the top A* grade. University offers included Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, St Andrews and Durham.

Location Musselburgh, East Lothian, Scotland

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 6 hours 41 minutes

School Type Co-ed

Founded in 1827

Number of Students 509

Ages 3-18

Boarder Ratio 70% (after Year 7)

Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £36,945

90. Leweston School

Established by nuns in 1891 and transferred to its current 46-acre site in 1948, Leweston has undergone several transformations through the years. It adopted the current school name in 2007 and began admitting boys in 2018. Yet, it has done so thoughtfully, adopting a "diamond model" of co-education; boys and girls are taught together from reception to Year 8, separately for maths and science from Years 9 to 11, then together again for sixth form. Academic achievement suggests that the model is highly effective. 2022 A-level candidates achieved 100% A* & A grades for Fine Art, English Literature and Religious Studies, and over 50% of A-level grades were A* or A for the fourth consecutive year. Beyond the classroom, music is a special strength at Leweston, with a large modern music school which hosts the



Bede's Senior School

school's numerous ensembles and award-winning choirs. For sports, it is one of only a few training sites in the UK for the Modern Pentathlon (a test of swimming, fencing, riding, running and shooting) and has nurtured several national and international competitors in these disciplines. Headed by John Paget-Tomlinson since 2020.

Location Sherborne, Dorset

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 2 hours

School Type Co-ed

Founded in 1891

Number of Students 617

Ages 8-18

Boarder Ratio 45%

Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £31,620

91. Bede's Senior School

Founded in 1979, Bede's Senior School grew out of the success of Bede's Preparatory School, which was established back in 1895. The school is led by CEO and Headmaster Peter Goodyer, who took up the post in 2016. The school has an excellent dance

academy, which supports and develops pupils hoping to pursue a career in dance. Graduates have gone on to study at prestigious dance colleges and universities around the UK and overseas. This is not a school just for budding dancers though - plenty of the students have no connection to dance whatsoever. The school's 100 acres of grounds also house Bede's own zoo, which currently cares for 70 species of animals. In 2021, many graduates went on to a variety of top Russell Group universities, popular destinations being Edinburgh, Exeter, King's College, Manchester and Loughborough, with the remainder going to other institutions across the UK, or a small minority to universities and colleges overseas.

Location Hailsham, East Sussex

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 1 hour 40 minutes

School Type Co-ed

Founded in 1979

Number of Students 760

Ages 13-18

Boarder Ratio 40%

Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £38,970

92. Millfield School

Established in 1935 as a school for Indian princes, Millfield now occupies 240 acres of Somerset countryside. Always dedicated to a modern education, the school became co-ed as early as 1939 and has been one of the first to incorporate iPads into all aspects of academic life. Sports are particularly strong here, with almost 60 international youth representatives at any one time, and numerous alumni going on to play at a professional or Olympic level. Facilities are top-class across the board and comparable with most universities. Thespians perform in the excellent Meyer Theatre and have opportunities for professional experience through the Shakespeare Schools Festival. Art, D&T, music and dance are all similarly well catered for. The Headmaster since 2018 has been Gavin Horgan, an Oxford educated classicist who has bolstered the school's academic credentials. The school has sent students to many Russell Group Universities as well as several destinations in the USA.

Location Street, Somerset

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 2 hours

School Type Co-ed

Founded in 1935

Number of Students 1,272

Ages 13-18

Boarder Ratio 75%

Weekly Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £43,830

93. Downside School

Interestingly for a British boarding school, Downside was established in France in 1606 by exiled English and Welsh monks, who later returned to England with the school in tow. They moved to the present site beside the immense Downside Abbey in 1814. With such a religious heritage, an unsurprising 80% of the school's 330 pupils are Catholic. Yet, faith is certainly not a prerequisite for students to benefit from the school's sprawling 500-acre grounds, which include traditional architecture, a spectacular monastic library of 400,000 volumes and more modern facilities besides. The school's 450-seat theatre and extensive art department have both been refurbished in recent years, with the latter offering 3D printers, a photography studio and glass making facilities.

Andrew Hobbs, a Cambridge Classics graduate, has occupied the Headmaster's seat since 2018, after 10 years as Deputy Head at the school. After all these years at the helm, he is well versed in instilling the school's Christian values of welcome, humility and service in its students.

Location Bath, Somerset

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 2 hours

School Type Co-ed

Founded in 1606

Number of Students 342

Ages 11-18

Boarder Ratio 50%

Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £37,905

94. Wellington School

Founded in 1837, Wellington School is set at the base of the beautiful Blackdown Hills on the edge of the market town of Wellington, from which the Duke of Wellington's name was derived. Wellington's ethos is set on three

principles: outstanding relationships, a love of learning and the pursuit of excellence. The current Headmaster, Eugene Du Toit, has been at the school for three years after a post at the Trinity School of John Whitgift, where he was the Deputy Headmaster. The extracurricular activities available at the school are impressive, with a very strong tradition of participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, as well as school CCF, both making the most of the surrounding countryside. In 2022, 64% of A-levels were graded A*-B, the majority securing offers from their first choice of UK university.

Location Wellington, Somerset

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 2 hours 33 minutes

School Type Co-ed

Founded in 1837

Number of Students 620

Ages 13-18

Boarder Ratio 25%

Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £36,750



Millfield School



Taunton School

95. Stonyhurst College

Founded in 1593, the College started life in France as a place for English students to receive a Catholic education away from Elizabethan Protestant rule. It was reestablished in 1794 at its current location in Lancashire, England. Its rich history is reflected in its alumni, which includes 3 saints and 7 winners of the Victoria Cross. Headmaster John Browne, in the role since 2016, has a wealth of experience. This is his third headship after previously holding roles at both Westminster Cathedral Choir School and St. Aloysius' College, Glasgow. The school is one of only a few to offer both A-level and IB courses in the sixth form, ranking in the top 20 in the UK for IB last year. A broad curriculum is on offer here, with small class sizes creating a fantastic learning environment. Accordingly, in 2022, students came away with an IB average of 34.4 points and A-levels which were 69% A*-B. The majority of students were offered places at Russell Group universities, with a handful heading on to top European institutions such as Maastricht University in the Netherlands and IE University Madrid.

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 4 hours. Approximately 60 minutes by car to Manchester International Airport

School Type Co-ed

Founded in 1593

Number of Students 456

Ages 13-18

Boarder Ratio 49%

Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £41,265

96. Taunton School

Founded in 1847 and covering 56 acres in the south-western town of Taunton, the school provides education from nursery right through to senior school. A major draw for international students is the language school which offers a range of courses, such as a one-year GCSE and pre-IB programmes, providing ideal preparation for either the IB or A-level curriculum in Year 12. All pupils from Year 9 onwards can benefit from individualised academic support from the Educational Progress Department in the form of learning strategies and study skills. Head Lee Glaser stepped down in 2022, to be replaced by James Johnson, the former Head of Ardingly College. Yet, Taunton's educational approach remains unchanged, and is based on five 'pillars': Academic, Pastoral, Co-Curricular, Global Outlook and Community. This is reflected in its Horizons Programme, wherein students are encouraged to pursue activities spanning the areas of academic enrichment, performance, culture and volunteering. Recently ranked 7th best school in England for sport by School Sport Magazine, Taunton boasts excellent sports facilities which include three

sports halls, two indoor swimming pools, a fitness suite and a dance studio. In 2022, 42% of all A-level grades were A*-A, while for IB, the average point score was 34.3 points. Over 40 pupils have been offered Oxbridge places in the last 10 years.

Location Taunton, Somerset

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 2 hours 30 minutes

School Type Co-ed

Founded in 1847

Number of Students 590

Ages 13-18

Boarder Ratio 45%

Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £37,920

97. The Oratory School

Originally founded in 1859 in Birmingham, the school later moved to Woodcote in south Oxfordshire, approximately an hour west of London. The school was founded by arguably the greatest educational thinker of the Victorian age, Saint John Henry Newman. With values underpinned by the Catholic Church, students leave possessing a strong moral compass, ready to take on the challenges of the modern day world. The Oratory was placed in the top 3% of schools nationally for value-added at A-level in 2018 and again in 2020, meaning students achieve beyond their ability academically. There is also a wealth of co-curricular activities on offer with an impressive list of overseas excursions for sports and expeditions. The small size of the school, and consistently strong academic performance, are making The Oratory more competitive year on year. The vast majority of leavers are offered places at top Russell Group universities.

Location Woodcote, Reading

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 55 minutes

School Type Co-ed

Founded in 1859

Number of Students 358

Ages 11-18

Boarder Ratio 39%

Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £40,104

98. Glenalmond College

Originally opened in 1847 for 14 boys, Glenalmond is set on a huge 300-acre campus in the Perthshire countryside,

around 1 hour's drive from Edinburgh. Previously the Deputy Head at Durham School, Dr Michael Alderson took up the post of Headmaster in 2020. Despite its strong academics, the school's focus is unashamedly on having fun and learning from a wide range of experiences. This is facilitated by the plethora of extracurricular activities on offer, from CCF and Duke of Edinburgh to climbing Scotland's famous Munros and kayaking on local lochs. Every year, Glenalmond sends a number of students to Oxbridge and other top Russell Group universities. This is thanks in no small part to a specialist department which prepares students for competitive university applications particularly for medicine, law and veterinary science.

Location Perth, Scotland

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 7 hours 15 minutes. Approximately 1 hour from Edinburgh airport.

School Type Co-ed

Founded in 1847

Number of Students 350

Ages 12-18

Boarder Ratio 75%

Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £41,145

99. Shiplake College

Established in 1959, Shiplake College is set in 45 acres of grounds by the banks of the River Thames. Headed by Mr Tyrone Howe since 2019, the school emphasises individualised education and has created The Shiplake Seven framework (curious, openminded, motivated, reflective, determined, creative and independent) to guide and inspire success in their students. This is exemplified by The Thinking Space, a modern learning facility dedicated to providing educational resources and encouraging creativity. There is an extensive range of co-curricular activities and sports, most notably rowing, which are supported by high-quality facilities such as their purpose-built music school with a fully-equipped recording studio. 40% of students gained entry to Russell Group universities in 2021, up from 32% in 2020.

Location Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 35 minutes

School Type Co-ed

Founded in 1959

Number of Students 486

Ages 11-18

Boarder Ratio 36%

Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £37,350

100. Kent College

Established in 1885, Kent College is a relative newcomer to the historic city of Canterbury, and houses both modern facilities and a modern outlook behind its traditional exterior. It has sister schools in Dubai and Cairo and an online school based in Hong Kong. On site in the UK, the 600-seat Great Hall auditorium is an amazing facility, while a large modern music school facilitates the training of seven orchestral ensembles and five choirs. Perched as it is on the outskirts, between city and country, the college does not want for space, and its 80 acres are also home to a sizeable sports hall, 26 acres of playing fields, a riding arena, a nature reserve and a working farm. In terms of sport, hockey is the standout, with teams frequently well-decorated at regional and national tournaments. The college is unique in offering Cambridge Technical courses alongside A-levels and the IB, so that every one of its 575 pupils can forge their own path. Dr David Lamper, Executive Head since 2007, was the mastermind behind the multi-pronged curriculum. He is himself a man of breadth: a music graduate, who wrote and produced the sell-out school play with which the Great Hall was inaugurated.

Location Canterbury, Kent

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 1 hour 50 minutes

School Type Co-ed

Founded in 1885

Number of Students 592

Ages 11-18

Boarder Ratio 33%

Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £38,649

Schools Omitted from the Ranking

Harrow School

Harrow was founded in 1572 by John Lyon to educate the local children of the surrounding parish. Since then, the school has gone from strength to

strength and is one of the last all-boys boarding schools left in England. Harrow has remained on its current site since its establishment in 1572 and the buildings are blended into the fabric of the surrounding town. The Headmaster, Alastair Land, took up his post in April 2019, having previously been Headmaster of Repton and then Deputy Headmaster of Harrow before that. Harrow students have access to some of the best facilities of any independent school; the 1st XV rugby pitch even has underfloor heating and is regularly used by international sides to practise. The opportunities that students at Harrow have are truly exceptional, and are demonstrated by the achievements of its old boys, including Winston Churchill. Strong academics, fantastic facilities and an international outlook all ensure that Harrow, whilst steeped in tradition, today remains at the apex of British education.

Location Harrow on the Hill, London

Distance from Heathrow Airport (by car) 25 minutes

School Type All-boys

Founded in 1572

Number of Students 832

Boarders Age 13-18

Boarder Ratio 100%

Full Boarding Student Tuition (GBP/Year) £46,710



Harrow School

Rethinking critical thinking: a deeper look at what it means to think critically



Luke Pollard

Head of Religious Studies at Bryanston School

A pen and a pad of paper together cost £3.50. The pen costs £3 more than the paper. How much does the paper cost?

Most people's first answer is that the paper costs 50p. But this would mean that the pen would cost £3.50 on its own. The answer is that the pen costs £3.25 and the paper costs 25p. Cheap paper.

This was an example adapted from Daniel Khanemann who argues that we often get simple things like this wrong because most of the time we operate on autopilot. Our brains apply the rules we've already learned to a new and relatively non-novel situation. But when you slow down, and think with more concentrated energy, you can see the truth.

Slow careful thought is the essence of critical thinking. It enables us to see the truth.

You have, like me, driven home only to realise that you have not noticed the road passing by. You have interpreted the words in this sentence without having any introspective knowledge of how it is done. Your brain performs most of its operations without you ever being conscious of them. Your consciousness is drawn to the unusual – the person unexpectedly crossing the road – and makes decisions. It is woken by the need to process the unusual. Education is the practice of making the usual unusual. In science we discuss the space field qualities of the mass in a pen and paper. In maths and business, we calculate their cost and value. In art we learn to manipulate the pen on the pad to create new beauty. In all of this, our full, critical attention is being awoken and honed. We are being taken off auto-pilot and taught how to think.

The term "critical thinking" is used frequently in education, but its meaning is often unclear. It's a term that has been misused, abused, and overused until its definition has become hazy. The purpose of critical thinking is to produce a clear line of reasoning towards a judgement. This term is not widely accepted in schools because it conditions the mind to scrutinise everything, including classroom teaching.

Critical thinking involves suspending judgment, identifying biases, and underlying assumptions, and then drawing accurate conclusions. It is a process of pulling apart ideas and looking inside. Critical thinking is the skill of questioning viewpoints and arguments inquisitively, curiously, and most importantly, logically. As such, it is both an attitude and a skillset.

In education, critical thinking and critical pedagogy overlap almost entirely. Critical thinking requires the thinker to analyse the subject matter, scrutinise its form and function, evaluate its merits and flaws, and then articulate these findings for a specific audience. It's a rigorous process that involves bringing one's own distinctive cognition to bear on the subject matter to arrive at informed criticism.

To think critically, one must first circle the subject matter entirely, walking around it until one understands it in a way that is unique – as unique to the thinker as one's own thumb-print – relying on background knowledge, schema, sense of identity, and meaning-making skills.

We develop our thoughts about the subject matter by circling and poking at the idea. We try to find inconsistencies and holes in the theory. Socrates developed this mode of reasoning two and a half centuries ago. Through dialogue with teachers and fellow students, a person's inquiring mind can explore ideas in



Bryanston School



Bryanston School

a focused way. Critical thinking is not an abstract skill, useful only to the intellectual elite, but a core skill misused by most. Like any skill, it can be trained. Students don't learn the Pythagorean theorem in order to measure the sides of triangles in later life, but in order to know how to think about problems.

Socrates' great lesson was delivered in his defence speech, when on trial in front of a jury of five hundred of his fellow Athenians. It was not a propositional truth, but a direction for learning: ask questions, examine the answers, and draw your own conclusions. Learning how to choose the questions, how to apply logic to the answers, and what conclusions can rationally be drawn from the discussion is the skill of critical thinking.

Thinking critically is a logical skill that allows the thinker to get inside the mind of the author, designer, creator, or clockmaker and critique their work. By analysing and dismantling the work of others, especially experts, pupils learn by imitation, running alongside giants who act as pacesetters. By combining angled thought with the works of master workers, we force pupils to dance with giants, developing the courage to scrutinise and articulate their findings.

Critical thinking is a rigorous and intimidating process that requires the thinker to accumulate knowledge, form an understanding, get inside the mind of the subject matter, and judge its work. It is powerful when critical thinking and curiosity are the fuel that powers creativity, the spark that ignites innovation and the bridge that connects imagination to reality. Thinking critically is an essential skill that produces judgment and is a driver of personal and social change.

At Bryanston we encourage you to slow down. To develop your ability to dissect and analyse. To understand and not merely know. To become conscious, and not simply drive. As Socrates says in Plato's Republic (6.506c): "Anyone who holds a true opinion without understanding is like a blind man on the right road."

Bryanston's distinctive culture, inspired by 95 years of innovative educational practice has created a unique school that allows pupils to learn to love their minds, free their spirit and find their mission. Alongside high academic standards and expectations, we provide an emotionally and intellectually supportive environment, allowing pupils to develop independent, creative, and unbounded thinking. We encourage innovation in all areas of the curriculum, passionately believing that it is not what you learn, it is how you learn.

At the heart of our unique approach to education is the Bryanston Method. The Method encourages a creative, curious, innovative, and analytical approach to learning. The curriculum is broad, and critical thinking and challenging ideas intelligently are encouraged in all subjects. Each pupil has one tutor for the entirety of their time at Bryanston. The School's innovative monitoring tool, the E-Chart, enables pupils to fulfil their own academic potential.

Bryanston is committed to breadth and stretch both within the academic and beyond. We encourage our pupils to look further to enhance their personal development and prepare for life beyond the School. Of course, academic results are important, but we also care about what each pupil gains from their time at Bryanston – the success of their experience and the value we add, and that Bryanston gives them – along with the destinations they head to after they leave us and the lives they lead beyond Bryanston.

Our approach is firmly focused on the individual and we work tirelessly to ensure that each pupil not only achieves the results they deserve, but also learns to think independently, be self-reliant and explore new interests – they often surprise us and themselves. Our culture fosters an open-minded, challenging, and inspiring environment for personal growth where we provide the space for pupils to find their passions.

The wellbeing of our pupils is at the heart of everything we do, and we provide pastoral care and support as an integral element of our approach. In the boarding houses, the houseparent takes a close interest in every pupil's academic progress and welfare, and together with the deputy houseparent and tutor, they support and nurture the interests of each child. The houseparents are supported by a matron, residents and a house team made up of teaching staff who help to supervise work in house, evening activities and bedtimes. The pupils also have access to the school Chaplain, who is a resident on the site, the nurses in the medical centre, two school counsellors and an independent listener.

As part of the co-curricular programme, Bryanston offers all pupils the opportunity to explore their interests well beyond the classroom with an extensive range of activities. Pupils are encouraged to follow their co-curricular passion and to learn a new skill or interest. Participation in these activities enables pupils to build relationships with teachers and fellow pupils in a less formal environment. Many pupils get involved in the running of these activities as they move through the School.

Our relationships are different from the conventional dynamics of pupil and teacher – we see the journey through the School as a collective endeavour to better prepare our pupils for their lives ahead. Mutual respect, trust and pride in the approach, is critical to its success – not just between staff and pupils, but with parents too. Our unique take on creativity as a practical and essential element across all disciplines makes Bryanston a very different learning experience – building a distinctive independence of thought, self-reliance, realism, and authenticity. We don't 'do education' to our pupils, we travel beside them and guide them on their journey.

Five top school offers after only four months of preparation

Five top school offers after only four months of preparation

Helen Dagleish, Senior Premium Consultant



Tonbridge School



Louis

Offers Received

Tonbridge School
Radley School
Abingdon School
City of London Freeman's
Caterham School

Louis and his family entered the BE Beijing office on a balmy afternoon at the end of July, 2021. Straightaway, Louis's self-assurance and academic drive were clear – he joined his parents in asking detailed questions about the application process and his possible school choices.

Louis had been studying at Chinese public schools since he was young, where he was consistently a top student. He demonstrated strong intellect in his interview with me and genuine passion for his hobbies: cars, racing and his debate team. But his spoken and written English needed work and he had no experience studying any of his A-level choices in English. As a top Chinese student, he and his family were understandably intent on only very ambitious UK school choices for him. With

just over 3 months until 16+ assessments would begin, this was clearly going to be a challenging case.

I began by setting Louis tests in his A-level subjects, maths, physics, biology and economics. His scores mostly hovered around the 60% mark, with the exception of economics, in which he couldn't yet answer a single question. Using these results, I crafted a study plan for his BE teachers and Louis began 6 hours of classes in each subject a week, as well as English. At the time, BE Beijing had opened our new training center, and I was able to visit Louis's teachers at regular intervals to discuss his progress and suggest study and review methods. Louis and I also began weekly meetings, in which we considered school choices, worked on personal statements and



Tonbridge School

prepared for the UKiset test which he would take in August. Louis proved himself to be a real grafter and approached his classes with determination, making steady progress. With the help of some targeted vocabulary and Cambridge English reading and listening preparation, he passed the UKiset test with the strong C1 English result he needed and a wonderful set of reasoning scores.

In the middle of September 2021, BE hosted the BE Top Schools Event, with 20 elite boarding schools offering advance interviews to BE students, a rare chance for Louis to make an early impression on his target schools. He and I began intensive interview training, working on his ability to emphasise his strengths and passions and approach tricky "outside the box" questions analytically, as well as researching the unique features of each school. Naturally he was nervous, and I gave Louis encouragement at the event, reminding him of his "selling points". He couldn't have had more success, and was encouraged to register by all his target schools, with glowing feedback from almost all.

The next two months may have been the most difficult for Louis in the admissions journey as a whole. With his agreement, we increased the frequency of his past paper practice, so he would aim to complete one set of papers per week on top of his weekly classes. Yet, after a summer of intensive tutoring, Louis quickly entered a fatigue period. Noticing that he had stopped completing homework and was making half-hearted efforts at progress tests, I had a serious conversation with him, and we decided to halt his classes for 2 weeks to relieve some of the pressures he was facing. Attitude is everything when it comes to studying, and this adjustment had the desired effect. Louis returned to his studies with renewed energy.

November soon arrived and I supported Louis throughout the month with last-minute interview preparation and pep talks prior to days of testing, asking Louis to review the content of the test questions he had found challenging.

After 4 months of immense effort, expectations were high as December rolled around and the offers rolled in. Louis received unconditional offers from Tonbridge, Radley, Abingdon, City of London Freeman's and Caterham. Our final step was just to try to choose between them.

Louis settled on the illustrious Tonbridge, where he is now happily enrolled.



Tonbridge School

Five top school offers after only four months of preparation

A supportive environment gave Elisa the opportunity to flourish

A supportive environment gave Elisa the opportunity to flourish



Downe House



Elisa

Offers Received
Downe House

Elisa has come a long way since she first came to us in the autumn of 2019. Her journey, and subsequent transformation, epitomises the power of choosing a school that fits. In her case this was the warm, inspiring and ambitious atmosphere of Downe House, an academic full-boarding girls' school in Berkshire.

Elisa came to us as a capable girl academically but was shy and lacking in confidence. Her international school background made for technically solid English skills; however, her writing was uninspiring and her vocabulary range was narrow. Her lack of strong reading habits also meant her general knowledge was weak and she didn't have her own opinions. We knew Elisa was bright, but she needed a school that could push and challenge her in an environment of compassion and encourage-

ment. We felt Downe House was a perfect fit and, with the support of her premium service team, Elisa made significant progress in English and maths, cleaning up her writing and boosting her vocabulary range through systematic reading targets and regular testing. Her mentor Oliver encouraged Elisa to consider her future ambitions, gave her research projects to expand her general knowledge and helped guide her in how to express herself thoughtfully and articulately in both group and individual interviews. With the advantage of in-house tuition, we were able to keep Elisa's English and maths classes efficient and zone in on weak areas quickly. Elisa performed well by the time her assessments came around between the summer of 2020 and the spring of 2021 and gained offers from a number of schools, including her target

A supportive environment gave Elisa the opportunity to flourish



Downe House

Downe House. In the months that led up to her school entry, we worked on consolidating her reading, continued expanding her opinions on current affairs and discussed what life in a boarding school and the wider UK would be like.

Elisa entered Downe House in the autumn of 2021 and found the first few weeks challenging in a new environment, away from her family. Having experienced girls go through the same issues countless times before, her housemistress and tutor were extremely supportive and helped to arrange for Elisa to see her mother at weekends for the first half of term. Elisa grew more familiar with the routine of school and pushed herself further out of her comfort zone to make firm friends within her house. Downe House encouraged her to take up new and exciting activities like netball, lacrosse, textiles and woodwork and gave her the opportunity to do sport competitively against other schools regardless of her level. In turn she opened up more, became more socially engaged and started to embrace new opportunities rather than to shy away from them. Two terms into her Downe House experience, Elisa's transformation into a confident young lady was complete and by the summer she was even speaking in a British accent! Her success from her first day at BE all the way to the end of her first year at Downe House was built upon loving support and encouragement to push herself. Now the world is Elisa's oyster, and we are excited to see where it takes her!



Perseverance and hard work led to success for Emme

Perseverance and hard work led to success for Emme



Benenden School



Emme

Offers Received
Benenden School

Emme is an intelligent, fun loving and artistic young person. When we first met, she was not the hardest working of young students and would much prefer to read or draw than do any homework. She was very clear that she wanted to move to the UK and go to an all-girls school but was not especially keen to put in the work.

Painting still life or cartoons, reading Roald Dahl and playing the piano were Emme's main interests, but she wanted to go to a large school in the UK where she would be able to make new friends, gain independence and spend as much time on art as possible. Together we selected Cheltenham Ladies College, Benenden, St Mary's Calne and Woldingham as her choices.

Emme's initial online tests for us showed that she was struggling in her maths and literacy in particular, but her Non-Verbal Reasoning was good. This indicated that her baseline intelligence score was strong but the maths and English (two key areas in assessment) were behind where we wanted them to be. That gave us a clear area to focus on. We had to prepare for the key UKiset, CEM and CAT tests as well as ensuring that she was ready to interview. Not an easy task!

We began working together in March, so we had a few months to slowly start classes before the big work over the summer began. Whilst Emme started well it became clear that she resented the extra classes and was losing her desire. This came to a head in the summer

break when there were some instances of poor behaviour. We came together as a team to bring her back on side, ensure that the workload was not too high and that she was able to remain motivated. Over the summer Emme's attitude shifted and she was able to see the reason for the preparation and really knuckled down to improve her key academic skills.

Alongside preparing for the tests we also had to think about the interviews. Passing the test is just the beginning, most important is shining in the interview. Emme is naturally not outspoken and as an artist would much rather express her feelings through painting than speech. She had interviews at our top school events with school registrars, we created mind maps of her areas of strength for her to draw inspiration from and she took part in a myriad of workshops to expose her to other ideas and conversations.

After all this preparation, the assessments were upon us. Emme gets very nervous before testing so we supported her to ensure she was in a good frame of mind. Initially Emme quickly gained a Woldingham offer and was put on the waiting list for Benenden. She was then hit by two rejections by CLC and SMC. Despite the disappointment, we did not give up. We continued to communicate with Benenden about Emme's



Benenden School

successes at school and in her extracurricular activities, sending reports and building the relationship. Eventually the waiting list place turned into a firm offer. Emme started at Benenden this year and is very happy.

Sometimes an application journey does not go smoothly – that's life – but with perseverance and hard work success can be gained!



Benenden School

A note from our Hong Kong Office

A note from our Hong Kong Office



▲ Keira at Wellington

A note from our Hong Kong Office

2022 saw the BE HK team grow so that it now includes Emma Van Bergen (Co-founder), George Loup (Area Manager), Alex Peers (Senior Consultant) and Janice Leung (Consultant). Alex and George joined from the Shanghai and London offices respectively, bringing experience to an already successful team. They operate from the Wycombe Abbey School in Tin Wan Hong Kong and are excited to help students see success with their applications to the UK.

More importantly, the past year saw some of BE's Hong Kong students gain excellent offers from elite British schools. Cathy gained offers from all her choices and is currently deciding between an Art Scholarship at Downe House or starting at North London Collegiate School, Angelina is off to Wycombe Abbey this September, Keira has offers from Cheltenham Ladies' College and Charterhouse, while Lucie has offers from Benenden, Downe House and CLC whilst waiting on Wellington and Sevenoaks. Ava showed excellent determination and is soon to join Headington School in Oxford.

Angelina has been working with Alex since last year and is a talented musician, artist and dancer with plans to run her own business in the future. She applied for King's Canterbury, Charterhouse, Brighton and Wycombe Abbey with Wycombe being the top choice. After hard work on formal spoken English, Verbal Reasoning, English literature analysis and maths she is thrilled to be heading to Wycombe Abbey to start 13+ this year!

Keira worked closely with Janice and our tuition team focusing on English, Verbal-Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning and, after visiting the UK last year is thrilled to have been offered places at CLC and Charterhouse. A dancer, dramatist and pianist – Keira will fit in quickly at CLC for 13+ next year and is hopeful to be offered a place at Wellington and Sevenoaks too.



▲ Cathy at Edge Grove



▲ Alex and Angelina

Having spent more than a year in the UK already at Edge Grove Prep School, Cathy has had the opportunity to become accustomed to British school life and focus on her art. Having chosen a prep school with Alex's help and continuing with her senior application, Cathy has shown massive growth in maturity and attention to detail whilst enjoying all that English schools can offer. A sportswoman, artist and budding dramatist, Cathy has offers from NLCS, Downe House, Benenden, CLC & Woldingham. She is currently deciding between 11+ day school life at NLCS and boarding with an art scholarship at Downe House.

Ava came to BE uncomfortable voicing her opinions and lacking confidence in her own abilities. After taking an active role in the BE Young Explorers at Wycombe Abbey HK and with Alex's guidance, she was able to gain offers at Headington and Tudor Hall. Ava is a charming artist and athlete with a musical focus – she will flourish at Headington starting 13+ this year and has found her voice. Bravo!

Since moving from Shanghai to Hong Kong, Lucie has been planning to move to the UK and has gained offers from wonderful girls' schools. Hoping to join Benenden or CLC she has offers from both and is in the running for Wellington and Sevenoaks too. An artist, swimmer and musician, Lucie has dreams of being a doctor or vet in the future and is feeling incredibly positive about the scientific opportunities in the UK. Lucie and her family will visit the UK this June with Alex to help make final decisions.



University Overall Ranking

Rankings	University
1	University of Oxford
2	University of St Andrews
3	University of Cambridge
4	London School of Economics and Political Science
5	Imperial College London
6	Durham University
7	University College London
8	University of Bath
9	University of Warwick
10	University of Edinburgh
11	Loughborough University
12	Lancaster University
13	University of Exeter
14	University of Glasgow
15	University of Bristol
16	University of Southampton
17	University of York
18	University of Strathclyde
19	University of Aberdeen
20=	University of Birmingham
20=	University of Sheffield
22	University of Surrey
23	University of Leeds
24	University of Manchester
25	Cardiff University
26	King's College London
27	University of East Anglia
28	Queen's University, Belfast
29	Royal Holloway, University of London
30=	University of Nottingham
30=	University of Reading
32	University of Dundee
33=	Newcastle University

Rankings	University
33=	University of Liverpool
35	University of Leicester
36	Queen Mary University of London
37	SOAS University of London
38=	Ulster University
38=	University of Stirling
40	University of West London
41	Aberystwyth University
42=	Falmouth University
42=	Nottingham Trent University
42=	Swansea University
45=	Aston University
45=	Bangor University
47	Harper Adams University
48	University of Kent
49	Northumbria University
50	University of Sussex
51=	St Mary's University, Twickenham
51=	Glasgow Caledonian University
53	University of Lincoln
54	University of Essex
55	Coventry University
56	University of the Arts, London
57=	Heriot-Watt University
57=	Oxford Brookes University
59	Edinburgh Napier University
60	Manchester Metropolitan University
61	University of the West of England
62	University of Portsmouth
63	University for the Creative Arts
64	Keele University
65	Robert Gordon University
66	University of Chichester

Rankings	University
67=	Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
67=	University of Hull
69	City, University of London
70	Norwich University of the Arts
71=	Liverpool John Moores University
71=	Leeds Arts University
73	University of Huddersfield
74	Plymouth University
75	Bishop Grosseteste University
76	Arts University Bournemouth
77	Bath Spa University
78	Edge Hill University
79	York St John University
80=	Liverpool Hope University
80=	Plymouth Marjon University
82=	St George's, University of London
82=	Sheffield Hallam University
84	University of Greenwich
85	University of Buckingham
86	Teesside University
87	University of Winchester
88	University of Salford
89=	Abertay University
89=	Bournemouth University
91	University of Hertfordshire
92	Kingston University
93	Cardiff Metropolitan University
94	Birmingham City University
95	University of Bradford
96	University of Derby
97	University of Chester
98=	University of Brighton
98=	University of Sunderland

Rankings	University
100	Leeds Trinity University
101	University of Roehampton
102	Royal Agricultural University
103	University of South Wales
104	University of Wales Trinity St David
105	Hartpury University
106	Staffordshire University
107	University of Central Lancashire
108	Goldsmiths, University of London
109	Anglia Ruskin University
110=	Brunel University London
110=	University of Worcester
112	University of Gloucestershire
113	Leeds Beckett University
114	Solent University
115=	University of Westminster
115=	Middlesex University
117	University of Suffolk
118	Newman University
119	Canterbury Christ Church University
120	Wrexham Glyndwr University
121	Bucks New University
122=	University of the West of Scotland
122=	De Montfort University
124	University of Bolton
125	University of Northampton
126	London South Bank University
127	University of Wolverhampton
128	London Metropolitan University
129	University of Cumbria
130	Ravensbourne University, London
131	University of East London
132	University of Bedfordshire

Subject Rankings

Accounting & Finance

- 1 London School of Economics and Political Science
- 2 University of Strathclyde
- 3 University of Warwick
- 4 University of Bath
- 5 University of Leeds
- 6 Durham University
- 7= University of Glasgow
- 7= University of Exeter
- 7= University of Manchester
- 10 King's College London

Chemistry

- 1 University of Cambridge
- 2 University of St Andrews
- 3 Imperial College London
- 4 University of Oxford
- 5 University of Edinburgh
- 6 University of Strathclyde
- 7 University of York
- 8 University of Warwick
- 9 University of Aberdeen
- 10= Durham University
- 10= Northumbria University

Engineering - General

- 1 University of Cambridge
- 2 University of Bristol
- 3 University of Sheffield
- 4 Imperial College London
- 5 University of Oxford
- 6 University College London
- 7 Durham University
- 8 University of Exeter
- 9 Heriot-Watt University
- 10 Cardiff University

Physics & Astronomy

- 1 University of Cambridge
- 2 University of St Andrews
- 3 Durham University
- 4 University of Oxford
- 5 Lancaster University
- 6 University of Birmingham
- 7= University of Warwick
- 7= University of Manchester
- 9 University of Glasgow
- 10 University of Edinburgh

Architecture

- 1 University of Cambridge
- 2 Loughborough University
- 3 Cardiff University
- 4 University of Sheffield
- 5 University of Bath
- 6 University of Edinburgh
- 7 University of Strathclyde
- 8 Ulster University
- 9 Univeristy of Nottingham
- 10 Manchester School of Architecture

Computer Science

- 1 University of Cambridge
- 2 University of Oxford
- 3 Imperial College London
- 4 University of St Andrews
- 5 University of Southampton
- 6 University College London
- 7 University of Edinburgh
- 8 Durham University
- 9 University of Birmingham
- 10 University of Sheffield

Law

- 1 University of Cambridge
- 2 University of Glasgow
- 3 University of Oxford
- 4 University College London
- 5 King's College London
- 6 University of Strathclyde
- 7 University of Edinburgh
- 8 Durham University
- 9 London School of Economics and Political Science
- 10 University of Aberdeen

Politics

- 1 University of St Andrews
- 2= University of Oxford
- 2= University of Warwick
- 4 University of Cambridge
- 5 London School of Economics and Political Science
- 6 University of Strathclyde
- 7 University College London
- 8 King's College London
- 9 University of Surrey
- 10 University of Exeter

Biological Sciences

- 1 University of Cambridge
- 2 University of Oxford
- 3 Imperial College London
- 4 University of Dundee
- 5 University of Glasgow
- 6 University of York
- 7 University of Strathclyde
- 8 Durham University
- 9 University of Bath
- 10 University of Edinburgh

Economics

- 1 University of Warwick
- 2 London School of Economics and Political Science
- 3 University of Cambridge
- 4 University of Oxford
- 5= University of Strathclyde
- 5= University College London
- 7 University of St Andrews
- 8 University of Glasgow
- 9 Durham University
- 10 University of Exeter

Medicine

- 1 University of Oxford
- 2 University of Glasgow
- 3 University of Dundee
- 4 Queen's University Belfast
- 5 Swansea University
- 6 University of Aberdeen
- 7 University of Edinburgh
- 8 Imperial College London
- 9 University of Cambridge
- 10 University of Leicester

Psychology

- 1 London Schoool of Economics and Politics
- 2 University of Oxford
- 3 University of Cambridge
- 4 King's College London
- 5 University of Glasgow
- 6 University of St Andrews
- 7 University College London
- 8 University of Bath
- 9 University of York
- 10 University of Exeter

University Profiles

Imperial College London

Imperial College London was established in 1907 with the aim of achieving enduring excellence in science, engineering, medicine and business for the benefit of society.

Imperial is committed to developing the next generation of researchers, scientists and academics through collaboration across disciplines. Breakthroughs associated with the college include the discovery of penicillin, the development of holography and the foundations of fibre optics.

The main campus is located in the South Kensington area of central London, with an innovation campus in west London. The college also has a research centre at Silwood Park, Berkshire, and teaching hospitals throughout London. Imperial has an international community, with more than 59% of students coming from outside the UK and 140 countries represented on campus.

In 2023, Imperial was ranked 6th in the QS World University Rankings and 5th in The Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

Alumni have included 14 Nobel laureates, 3 Fields Medalists, 75 Fellows of the Royal Society, 100 Fellows of the Royal Academy of Engineering and 78 Fellows of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

The London School of Economics

Established in 1895, the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) is one of the foremost social science universities in the world. It has just under 12,000 students coming from more than 148 countries globally. The central London campus is a busy, international hub of academic excellence and debate.

All LSE undergraduates take LSE100 ('The LSE Course'), an innovative course that takes an interdisciplinary approach to thinking like a social scientist.

Working collaboratively with peers from across the school, students draw on contributions from leading LSE academics to explore and debate the causes of and potential solutions to salient social issues. LSE also runs one of the world's most extensive and distinguished university public lecture series.

The university is 4th in the world in The Times Higher Education ranking tables and 3rd in the QS World Rankings for Social Sciences and Management.

LSE alumni and faculty members have been awarded 18 Nobel Prizes in economics, peace and literature. 37 world leaders have studied or taught at LSE.

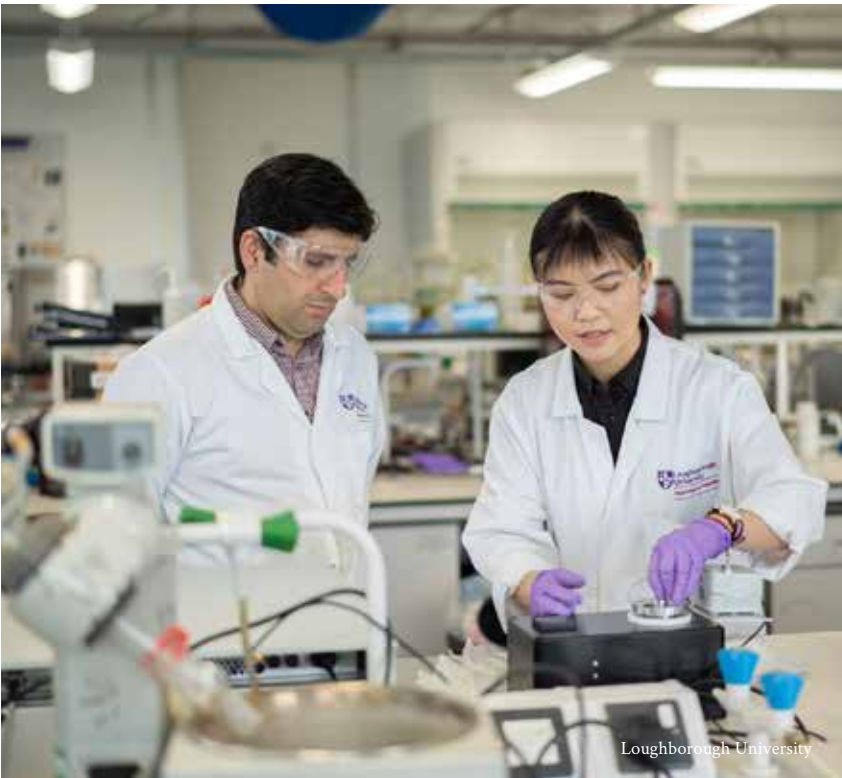
Loughborough University

Consistently ranked amongst the top-performing institutions in the country, Loughborough University holds an array of awards and accolades that evidence their strong performance across

all areas of what they offer, including research, sport, student experience and facilities. They currently rank 11th in The Times Good University Guide 2023.

The university campus is based in the heart of England and in stunning surroundings. With world-class facilities and plenty of green open space, it has everything students, staff and visitors need on site, crowned by a global reputation for sport and world-leading coaching.

Loughborough University is well known for offering a life-changing experience, both academically and socially. It delivers innovative programmes that span a broad range of disciplines and equip students for every aspect of their life and career, by supporting them to gain vital experience and skills. Employers are impressed by the energy, enthusiasm and competitiveness that Loughborough graduates demonstrate.



Loughborough University



tional collaborations at the forefront of discovery in their respective disciplines, focused on finding answers to the issues facing our society and economy today.

Teaching at the University of Aberdeen is organised across four faculties and 12 schools which encompass a broad range of disciplines including Arts and Social Sciences, Life Sciences and Medicine, Physical Science and the Business School.

Five Nobel laureates have since been associated with the University of Aberdeen: two in Chemistry, one in Physiology/Medicine, one in Physics and one in Peace.

University of Cambridge

One of the oldest collegiate research universities, Cambridge still dominates the world of academia with around 20,000 students from all corners of the globe. Of this number, 25% are international, proudly representing 100 countries. The university is located right in the centre of the ancient city of Cambridge and many of its buildings have a wonderful view of the beautiful River Cam.

Students at Cambridge enjoy belonging to one of the 31 distinct colleges where they study, live, eat and socialise. The colleges provide access to pastoral and academic support and teaching is conducted in small groups to complement lectures, seminars and practical work. Studying at Cambridge is intense and intellectually demanding and there is a strong emphasis on independent and self-directed learning. The selection process is therefore demanding. Although Cambridge typically interviews about 80% of their applicants, only 20% of those interviewed are eventually offered places.

Cambridge has been ranked 2nd in the QS World rankings and 3rd in The Times for 2023. The university is a member of the Russell Group, a network of research-led British universities; the Coimbra Group, an association of leading European universities; the League of European Research Universities; and the International Alliance of Research Universities.

University College London

Founded in 1826, UCL is London's leading multidisciplinary university, with more than 13,000 staff and 42,000 students from 150 different countries making it the largest university in the UK. UCL is ranked 7th in The Times and 8th in the 2023 QS World University Rankings.

UCL is a diverse global community of world-class academics, students, industry links, external partners and alumni. This powerful collective of individuals and institutions work together to explore new possibilities.

'Transforming UCL' is their extensive building and refurbishment programme and it is over halfway through its ten-year £1.25 billion investment. This is about creating amazing, inspiring, sustainable spaces within its central London Bloomsbury campus, that meet UCL's world-class aspirations and commitment to academic excellence, collaborative learning and innovation.

Every student at the university gets the opportunity to engage in research as part of the connected curriculum framework. With 30 Nobel prize-winners among its staff, researchers and graduates, UCL's strength in research is towering which

means the university receives the second highest research grant in the UK.

UCL is home to eleven faculties offering a total of 440 undergraduate programmes. The University has the highest volume of research in medicine, biological sciences, science, technology, engineering and maths globally. It also has the biggest share of top grades in the social sciences. The medical school, with several associated teaching hospitals, is amongst the largest in Europe.

University of Aberdeen

The University of Aberdeen was founded in 1495 and is Scotland's 3rd oldest university and the 5th oldest in the English-speaking world. It is currently 19th in The Times Good University Guide 2023. Notable for its student support facilities, the University of Aberdeen ranks 4th in the UK for overall student satisfaction (National Student Survey 2022).

Studying at this university are over 15,000 students from undergraduate to doctoral level, including many international students. Undergraduate and postgraduate students benefit from being taught by academic staff who are active in research, many involved in interna-

University of Glasgow

Founded in 1451, the University of Glasgow is the fourth oldest university in the English-speaking world. The University of Glasgow is ranked 14th in The Times 2023 University Rankings and 81st in the world in the QS World University Rankings 2023. Like other universities in Scotland, the university offers four-year degree programmes providing students with greater flexibility and choice in their chosen subject. The University is consistently placed within the top five of the Russell Group for student satisfaction.

The 35,000 students from more than 140 countries study and live on three campuses. The main, Gilmorehill Campus, is based in the west end of the city, within easy reach of the city centre by public transport or on foot. At the centre of the campus lies the stunning Gilbert Scott building, with an iconic bell tower that is one of Glasgow's most notable landmarks.

The university is undertaking a £1 billion estate investment to expand campus research and teaching facilities, including a new home for the Adam Smith Business School, which provides world-class facilities for teaching, research and collaboration with stakeholders, and ensuring Glasgow can continue to attract the very best students and academics.

Helping build the strong sense of community, the University of Glasgow's college system has four colleges representing the different departments: the Arts; Medicine, Veterinary & Life Sciences; Science & Engineering; and Social Sciences.

Its alumni include the father of economics Adam Smith, Scotland's architect of devolution Donald Dewar and renowned physicist and engineer Lord Kelvin.

University of Oxford

The University of Oxford has been producing leaders for 900 years, through a distinctive and personal method of teaching. This modern, research-driven university is comprised of 45 colleges, each having its own character and history. Supervision and teaching are

provided by individual academic departments, so no matter which college students belong to, access to teaching staff is not limited and course content is the same.

It's surprising to hear that Oxford welcomed their first international student - Emo of Friesland - in 1190. That outward-looking legacy continues today with 45% of students and 48% of academic staff hailing from countries outside the UK. Oxford is at the forefront in studying topics of worldwide interest and conducting research that has a real global impact.

Entry to undergraduate courses at Oxford continues to be very competitive:

there are usually only around 3,300 places and over 24,000 people applied to start in 2021.

The most popular courses at Oxford are Politics, Philosophy and Economics, (PPE), Medicine, Economics and Management and History, all of which are highly competitive.

An interesting fact about Oxford: it has more published authors per square mile than anywhere else in the world. Famous authors connected to Oxford include JRR Tolkien (The Lord of the Rings), Lewis Carroll (Alice in Wonderland), CS Lewis (The Chronicles of Narnia) and Mark Haddon (The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time).





University of York

University of St Andrews

Founded in the 15th century, St Andrews is Scotland's first university and the third oldest in the English-speaking world. Teaching began in 1410 and the university was formally constituted in 1413. In 1892, they accepted the first female students, at a time when the majority of British universities still did not. Over 900 degree courses are now offered, organised across four faculties: Arts, Divinity, Medicine and Science. The institution even has its own wind farm, making St Andrews self-sufficient for electrical energy.

Located on the east coast of Scotland, with good train links to the international airport in Edinburgh, the town of St Andrews is exceptionally pretty with some of the best golf courses in the world. The town is small, meaning that university staff and students make up about half of its population.

About a third of its 10,000 students come from Scotland while just under half are

international, hailing from 130 different countries in total, and the university has one of the lowest drop-out rates in the country. The university itself refers to the 'three people rule'. Supposedly a student walking down the street in St Andrews is bound to know at least one in every three people they pass.

The University of St Andrews has been ranked the best university in Scotland and only second in the UK, behind Oxford, in The Times Good University Guide 2023. It also features in league tables for its excellence in specific subjects with many offered by the university ranked within the UK's top 10, particularly theology, divinity and religious studies, philosophy, arts and humanities.

University of York

The University of York was established in 1963. Since this time it has expanded to more than 30 departments and centres, covering a wide range of subjects

and ground-breaking research which underpins their inspiring teaching and encourages students to dream big and think critically about the world. In 2012, York joined the prestigious Russell Group of research-intensive British universities.

Over 20,000 students from 150+ countries study at the university which is located within walking distance of York's busy city centre. You can expect a safe and beautiful campus that is home to ten colleges and most teaching departments. Other departments are located in the city centre at the historic King's Manor, and there is ongoing investment in the sustainable development of the campus as a whole.

All York students become members of the college system, which provides an inclusive and a valuable sense of community on campus alongside the cultural offerings of the thriving city of York.

Should a student do an EPQ?

By Timothy Jervis, UK Higher Education Adviser

In Sixth Form, many Year 12 and Year 13 students have the opportunity to complete an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), an independent research project which can be linked to an intended degree subject that takes approximately 120 hours of participation. An EPQ can be completed alongside typical university entry qualifications such as A-levels, the IB Diploma or BTEC. Students often ask me if they should undertake an EPQ; it takes a considerable amount of time and effort but does have a number of potential benefits for the right student.

As EPQs follow the scientific process employed by universities, drawing conclusions on a carefully selected research question through analysis and evaluation, they offer students academic project management, research and extended writing skills which are vital to success during degree study. Most universities recognise these benefits. Meanwhile, as the first focus for developing an outstanding Personal Statement is to complete subject-relevant activities that can be described in detail, an EPQ is a strong, highly respected choice which can be linked to other accomplishments. What is more, students can receive recognition for any high grades achieved for their EPQ by reporting these in the education section of the UCAS application form (grades A* to C are awarded).

In addition, some universities that we know well at BE Education do in fact include EPQs as part of a conditional offer. A student might receive an 'alternative offer' where there is a grade reduction for the A-level requirement if a strong grade is achieved in the EPQ. For example, a degree course that stipulates a standard offer of grades AAA for A-level might accept AAB with an added grade B or higher in an EPQ. To balance risks, a student with an EPQ could therefore select one or more universities that make such alternative offers as part of their UCAS application. Another consideration is that EPQs do earn UCAS tariff points; if a student is applying to a university that accepts tariff points for entry, then the EPQ could be combined with other qualifications to meet the entry requirements.

However, it is also true that a few UK universities explicitly state that they do not consider the EPQ during the application process. I have also had many students successfully apply to Oxbridge and other prestigious universities without an EPQ. Meanwhile, if a student has a high workload at school, such as completing 4 A-levels or the IB Diploma, then it might be prudent not to take on an EPQ, as it could detract from the time and effort required to achieve high grades in these qualifications which should always be a priority.

In summary, completing an EPQ is as much about the process and learning curve as it is about gaining a qualification. It can develop important academic skills in readiness for higher education, and as part of a UK university application, it can enhance a student's possibility of achieving an offer, either by being part of the narrative within a Personal Statement or as a vital component of receiving an alternative offer. The thing to consider before you embark on one is that an EPQ is a significant commitment and should not be a distraction from the main focus of developing the knowledge and skills required to perform well in final school examinations. The EPQ should always enhance your profile rather than be a burden, and is most effective when a student can commit the time and energy required.



University of St Andrews

A few tips on writing a successful UCAS Personal Statement

A few tips on writing a successful UCAS Personal Statement

Xueyao Cheng

Why is a personal statement important?

A personal statement is arguably the most important component of a UCAS application. It is the only piece of application material that you have full control over (your predicted grades will be set by your school, and references by your teachers); on top of that, if you are applying to Oxbridge or Imperial College, a good personal statement paves the way for a successful interview.

How did I choose a focus for my personal statement?

When I decided to apply to the Natural Sciences course at Cambridge, I struggled to decide on the ‘theme’ of my personal statement. I had interests in almost everything natural sciences could offer, from molecular biology to particle physics, and did not know where to start. Then I realised personal statements were about strengths and skills as well as passion. Given my interests, it was easy to demonstrate a burning passion for sciences, but I was certainly better at some areas than others. Since I did not do biology at IB, I wrote only a sentence or two explaining my ‘wider’ interests in biological sciences. For chemistry and physics, I achieved very high grades in both, but my Extended Essay (an independent research project in the IB curriculum) was in physics, and the research topic – magnetic fluids – was something I would be very happy and confident to talk about. It was also a topic on which I had much more professional knowledge than my peers. Furthermore, it showed that I was ready for the challenges of university-level teaching, experiments, and research. In the end, I spent an entire paragraph talking about my Extended Essay and was therefore not surprised when the first half of my interview was spent discussing the physics of magnetic fluids a month later!

How to make the most out of the personal statement?

Personal statements are short. They are set to 4000 characters including spaces, so it is important to know what you are trying to tell the readers (i.e. admissions). I was tempted to tell a long story about my entire academic career and overshoot the word limit, but that obviously wouldn’t have worked. Therefore, for every story written, I asked myself ‘how can readers tell that I am the right candidate from this example?’ If it tells nothing about me being a successful Cambridge student in the future, then it should probably be deleted. For example, a wonderful BBC documentary that sparked my interest in sciences at the age of seven is a touching story on its own, however it doesn’t say much about why I should be admitted to Cambridge. Almost every science student has had one such inspiration, but it is how they then committed to their



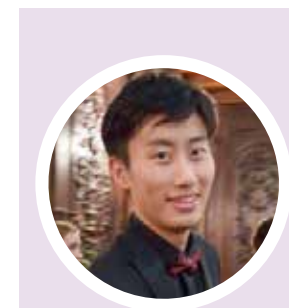
interests in their later school years that matters the most. It would have been worth writing if I had taken that interest further and dug deeper into books, research journals or articles on the subject. On the contrary, the struggles and drama that occurred during my Extended Essay project were an excellent example of how I endure the difficulties involved in scientific research, which was therefore given high priority.

Should I be worried about ‘standing out’?

I know it is hard to ignore the peer pressure. When I wrote my personal statement, I became worried that my friends had Olympiad medals, while I had nothing as shiny. My school simply didn’t offer any Olympiad training which many Asian schools did. Fortunately, universities will not be looking for how many international prizes you have won, nor how famous the companies you interned at are. Not everyone has access to activities that ‘stand out’. It is not the ‘names’ that matter, but your experiences and learning, hence the name ‘personal’ statement. A very nice story could be pulled out from simple experiences such as reading from your school library and discussing them with teachers and friends. My personal statement ended up talking about two major things: my readings and thoughts on the origin of life on Earth; and my physics Extended Essay. Both are ‘common’ enough, but ‘common’ does not necessarily mean ‘ordinary’.

How developing as an individual through personalised support and a wealth of extracurriculars gained Tommy an offer from Cambridge

How developing as an individual through personalised support and a wealth of extracurriculars gained Tommy an offer from Cambridge



Tommy

Senior School
Canford School

Offer Received
University of Cambridge

How did you find your move from China to the UK for your studies?

I found moving to the UK to be a suitable move for me. The studying method and atmosphere were more comfortable as I was able to focus on academic development while keeping up my other interests as well. Learning completely in English wasn’t that challenging for me as I studied at an international school in Shanghai for a few years before I got to England. However, studying in the UK is still very different compared to international schools in China as it has allowed me to develop as an individual and fulfil my academic potential.

Tell me a bit about your time at Canford School?

When I got to Canford, there were not many international students at all so it was initially challenging to settle in and make new friends. However, the teachers were nice, supportive and helpful and they guided me through different processes of the school, its expectations and its academic programmes. I was able to ask for help at any time and I was guaranteed the support from my teachers and peers. It fostered strong ambitions and goals in each student, and I developed a strong work ethic which has resulted in my offer and consequent place at the University of Cambridge.

Why did you choose Cambridge?

For me, I had always heard about Cambridge from a very young age. The top physicists coming from the university and its reputation

for academic studies attracted me to try for a place. Also, since I confirmed my path to study physics long ago, Cambridge’s Natural Sciences course seemed to be the best choice for me in relation to the way the programme was taught and delivered.

How did you find the UCAS application process?

On reflection, I think the university application process is straightforward. At the end of Year 12, your school and BE will guide you carefully through the whole process of setting up your UCAS account. All you must worry about is writing your Personal Statement. Only a few courses or universities may require additional entrance exams and interviews. All in all, I think the whole process is straightforward and BE keeps track of each stage so that you can maintain your progress.

For many writing a Personal Statement is difficult. How did you manage to produce such a strong document?

The Personal Statement is an easy way to express and sell yourself to the universities. Try your best to show your passion for the course to which you’re applying. For me, I shared the extracurricular activities I did in my spare time, like attending online courses on quantum mechanics and astrophysics, and an essay I published in a journal. Don’t forget to share what you learned from all these activities. In my opinion, in order to produce a strong Statement, you need to really have a passion for the subject and must be willing to devote your time to nurturing it.

Ryan's path to studying Architecture at UCL

Ryan's path to studying Architecture at UCL



University College London



Ryan

Senior School
Dauntsey's School

University
University College London

What were your reasons for studying in the UK and at Dauntsey's School in particular?

I loved the diverse culture in the UK. London, in particular, is full of opportunities that allow you to see and experience things and be constantly inspired. Dauntsey's School provided me with the environment to settle in at first and guided me through to achieve more and more. The teachers encouraged an interactive style of teaching, which made the learning process more like a conversation between the teachers and the students, and I think this kept me interested in the subjects.

Did you always know you wanted to study Architecture at university; what inspired you to explore it further?

I was always interested in creative works at a young age, especially the process behind them. I also fell in love with physics after studying it at school, so architecture seemed like the perfect subject for me at university as it combined both elements. However, I was never really that interested in it until I read a book called 'The Eyes of the Skin' by Juhani Pallasmaa. It opened my eyes to see what else there was in architecture, concepts that go beyond the physical building, and more importantly, what I'm truly interested in within this vast subject of architecture.

Ryan's path to studying Architecture at UCL



Dauntsey's School

How did you feel sitting official external exams for the first time this year for your A-levels (GCSE grades were centre assessed)?

Internal mocks at Dauntsey's School were definitely handy. Although they were the first 'real' exams for our year group, I felt I had enough practice beforehand.

Was the UK university application process complicated? How did BE help?

It was complicated at first when I didn't know anything. BE made a very clear path for me to follow during the process and with the help of BE and my school, I was able to keep up-to-date on everything and prepare things in advance.

From your experience, what are the most important things to consider when choosing universities and courses?

Definitely choose a university according to the course. Those considered to be the 'best' universities might not be the best for your course. The course content and method of teaching are very important, as each uni has its different ways of teaching and assessing a subject. Also, it's important to do some research on the city where the uni is located, such as its demographics and transport.

What inspired you to create the pieces for your portfolio?

My portfolio pieces were mostly from my A-level Art project, which was based on the experience between architecture and the human body.

Did you find writing the Personal Statement more or less difficult than compiling the portfolio?

The portfolio took less time, as I find images are an easier way to convey a message than words. A piece of work in the portfolio can say a lot, but writing the Personal Statement with the word-count constraint was a real headache!

Was it difficult choosing between all your offers to study Architecture?

I've always leaned towards the Bartlett School at UCL because I love the really creative environment and forward-looking design concepts championed there. I also think London has more opportunities.



Dauntsey's School



Navigating the Art of Creative Writing

Oscar Jefferson, BE Mentor

Creative writing is the hardest and most mercurial of the hurdles many Chinese students have to leap over to secure a place at a top UK public school. This is because it combines two very disparate skills, creativity, and linguistic rigour. Take, for example the following two sentences.

The man went down the stairs into the living room.

A people goes quick down the tall dark stairs to the bright, cold downstairs room.

The first is completely grammatically correct, and equally dull. It sounds like a stage direction. The second is far more exciting and uses much more description but will score equally poorly for its grammatical clumsiness. What can a student do then, to address these two points?

The best place to start is with vocabulary. Learning vocabulary is the cornerstone of sophisticated writing, as even the most grammatically perfect piece is useless without a broad and interesting selection of words and phrases. This vocabulary must be learned for use, not just recall. Many children, for example, would be able to define the word 'extraordinary' in a verbal reasoning paper, but many fewer would think to use it in their own writing.

The second cornerstone is grammatical accuracy. This allows you both simply to write accurately and not lose marks, but also to write with more complex structures and thus gain marks. For example, using relative pronouns can take you from:

The man came into the house. Gertrude was afraid of the man.

to the much more orally aesthetic:

The man, of whom Gertrude was afraid, came into the house.

This conveys the same meaning but adds density and flow to one's writing, allowing you to use shorter sentences more strikingly and show off your grammatical skills.

Then there is the hardest element to teach: panache. How can you elevate your writing to be more readable, without opening yourself up to grammatical mistakes? The answer is both the rigour above and the willingness to take risks. When to be attacking and when to be defensive. The best way to build this 'feel' is to write a lot, but also to have it dissected by someone else. By being bold in your practice essays you will get a sense of which structures and vocabulary you have mastered, and which needs more work. Being unafraid to make errors in your practice through being ambitious will help you to know your scope come the real thing.

Conversely, however, lazy practice is the enemy of success. Too often students will churn out essays without checking them or being careful, perhaps while distracted. It is so important that practice is done within a fixed window of devoted time and that the student takes care to address basic errors -- tense and subject-verb agreement are public enemies numbers one and two. This way your feedback can be more focused on the trickier 'panache' elements and more complex grammar, not simply in reminding the student for the umpteenth time of the conjugation of 'to be'.

So then, how can we succeed in creative writing? Growing vocabulary through active learning, as well as passive consumption. This means memorising words and listening to audiobooks. Appetite for language is the author's friend. Secondly, grammatical accuracy. This is achieved through exercises and reviewing structures regularly in class to make sure you understand not just how to use them but their mechanics and implications. Thirdly, be brave in practice and try hard things but also fourthly, ensure you are disciplined in practice, not simply putting words on paper to placate a teacher!

Finally, try to learn to enjoy writing. This can be difficult, especially early on, but it is a rare opportunity to be funny, emotive, creative, or insightful that the other elements of school admissions simply do not permit. It is the one chance you have in an exam to show your talents, your insight, and your personality. That you relish this opportunity to express yourself is more obvious to those reading your work than you might expect. If you didn't enjoy writing it, you cannot expect anyone to enjoy reading it!



Online Tuition: why it is a worthy alternative

Liam Phillips

One of the biggest changes in the education sector in recent years was a shift towards online learning, as many schools closed their doors as part of global lockdown policies. This has brought online teaching into the spotlight and provided the opportunity to reflect on the potential benefits to both educators and students. With this dramatic shift away from the classroom, it is useful to consider how online learning will continue and the impact it will have.



It is important to note that 'online learning' in its various capacities is not a new concept. The extremely popular study support website, BBC Bitesize, was launched in 1998 and continues to expand; BBC's virtual school, Bitesize Daily, launched this year. Even before lockdowns forced schools to move online, the education technology sector had seen huge changes. A hybrid approach provides increased flexibility and academic benefits for students, and has helped us to refine our curricula and develop new teaching methodologies, providing a positive impact for all.

It is often said that adversity provides opportunity, and this is definitely true when it comes to the challenges posed by teaching online. One of the benefits of going digital is the possibility to foster innovation, not only in terms of technological development, but also teaching methods and the content that we deliver. Online learning has given educators a chance to rethink their teaching styles, material and content—specifically, how can we ensure a class is engaging and compelling for a student without in-person interaction?

Since BE's adoption of a hybrid online/offline model, we have created new courses and curricula that can be taught using either format. Online teaching has allowed us to diversify and vary our content, setting more interesting homework assignments and embracing the power of alternative mediums, such as online videos and games, for learning. Students have the chance to learn essential 21st century skills outside of IT classes, with more opportunities to conduct online research,

make their own videos, code and explore the digital world under the guidance of a tutor.

One benefit of online learning is the ability to record a class, either in part or in full. If students are unsure of a concept, having the opportunity to go back and listen again to a teacher's explanation can be invaluable. If a teacher knows that students commonly struggle with a particular topic or idea, they can record a full explanation and send it to students to revise from, rather than the student relying on what they can remember or what they managed to take notes on. If a teacher has a board full of notes they can send a picture of the board, saving the notes from being lost when they are wiped from the board for good. If a student falls behind in class, loses their notes or struggles to write everything down, students can access the information at their own pace.

This is particularly useful for students whose first language is not English and for those who are less confident in the classroom. In a traditional classroom setting, students might fall behind because they cannot keep up with their peers. In this situation, some students are embarrassed to ask for help or for the teacher to slow down. Although grouping students by ability sets goes some way to rectifying this, being able to access the material online means that students who aren't feeling confident can re-watch the lesson, pause and digest it at their own pace. Should they have questions, they can email or message the teacher directly without having to do so in front of the entire class.

Reviewing material is vital for effective learning, but previewing material is another powerful and important part of the learning process and is not always practised by students in a classroom setting. Online learning makes it easier to distribute material ahead of time. The time saved travelling to school can be used to increase the time spent on studies outside of the classroom. Students can study the content in advance, at a time that suits them, and come to the class with ideas and questions to hand, rather than thinking about them on the spot. For Chinese students taking online classes in the UK, BE Academy has provided support groups helping them review or preview content in the morning before their afternoon classes.

Some parents worry about younger students, who have shorter attention spans. Studying online in an environment of their choosing gives greater freedom which can help them. Studying from home gives students time to take a break if things are getting too much or if they begin to lose focus. Whilst the routine and rules of a classroom setting help some learners, others find it stifling. Without a teacher demanding that all students complete and understand everything at the same pace and at the same time, students have increased flexibility in their learning. This can help increase productivity.

Some of the earliest adopters of online teaching were universities, particularly at post-graduate level. This enabled them to reach a wider pool of students, many with pre-existing work or personal commitments. Indeed, one of the biggest factors in deciding to offer online services at BE was to give students greater flexibility in when and where they had classes. Online tuition allows students to access specialist tutors who are right for them anywhere in the world, as opposed to only at their nearest office.



St Swithun's School

Before 2020, there was no doubt that online education was on the rise, particularly online courses and tuition. The challenges we all faced over recent years have accelerated demand. While technological limitations mean that it is unlikely that online learning will completely replace offline classrooms and schools, the flexibility, accessibility and innovation of learning online is an attractive alternative. Online learning will never replicate the experience of attending school or university in person; it isn't trying to. However, it provides a host of other benefits that can help revolutionise teaching.



Clifton College

BE Mentorship: ensuring students make the most of the incredible opportunities ahead of them

Elizabeth Jellie

Our Mentoring team is made up of the highest quality people from a wide variety of backgrounds. All of our Mentors are Russell Group educated. We firmly believe that instilling a sense of ambition and academic pride in students is one of the most important aspects of working with young people! Every member of our team has experience working closely with UK boarding schools; all team members maintain positive and close relationships with schools. Our team experts are London locals, and they are on hand to answer any and all questions a parent might have about their child's school life.

Each Mentoring student is assigned an experienced Mentor, who will help them grow and develop as they work their way through the UK school system. The Mentor is part school liaison, part personal advocate and part academic advisor and one hundred percent on your child's side. Each student is respected as an individual and is therefore given tailored and specific advice on everything from increasing classroom participation and accessing increasingly important extra-curriculars, to which museums in London are the best for a rainy day out!

We aim to develop our students holistically—and our past experiences working with students all over the world have allowed us to develop the skills necessary to do so! Our Mentoring team is familiar with the inner workings of the UK education system, and therefore we are able to make the system more transparent and allow parents to truly have access to their students' education. Our Mentors attend Parent Teacher Meetings, but also speak with teachers and housemasters on a regular, informal basis, which gives our parents unparalleled ability to understand how their child's education is really progressing.

The primary goal of our Mentoring programme is ensuring that students make the most of their experience living in the UK—academically and emotionally. Adapting to the pressures of life in a British school, especially as an international student, is not an easy task—and the rapidly changing world defined by COVID has only made it more difficult. Our Mentoring team is prepared to help students juggle academics, extra-curriculars, and their social and emotional health – all of which have faced added difficulties during and since the pandemic.

We assisted students such as B, a young boy who had been due to start school in the UK at the outset of the pandemic. Unfortunately, B's plans to move to Britain were changed abruptly and he was unable to safely move into his boarding house. B began online school in earnest and with the help of his Mentor, he was able to adapt to the British curriculum despite having to do so all the way from China! B's Mentor worked with his boarding school to ensure that he received the



Westminster School

best education, and the attention he was due, all from the safety of his own home in China. B went on to perform at the top of his class that year!

One of our Mentors also worked with W, a horse-riding enthusiast, to ensure that she continued to have access to the best riding instructors and riding camps during the UK lockdown. W's Mentor worked with BE partners to find W safe and healthy riding camps to attend during the half-term holiday periods. This allowed W to develop her talent (and thus her CV) at a time when access to such extra-curriculars was impossible for many students.

Throughout the pandemic, BE Mentors did their utmost to ensure that students received the best possible learning experience, despite ongoing instability. We liaised with schools to arrange shipments of textbooks to students located all over China and posted extra PPE and cleaning supplies to students remaining in the UK. We even helped our quarantining students by ensuring they had all of their food shopping done for them!

Mentors are always prepared to go the extra mile for students—not just because it is their 'job', but because of the caring and personal relationships that are formed with each student. Mentoring is ultimately about giving parents and students a pair of 'boots on the ground'. Even now, while travel between the UK and China has begun to return to normal, Mentors continue to provide families with the comforting knowledge that there is an adult in the UK who is looking after their student with individual attention—from helping the student pick GCSEs and arrange extra-curricular activities, to developing their independence and checking up on them during the busy term.

Importantly, Mentors encourage students to develop their independence and grow their personal interests. Attending a British boarding school is a once in a lifetime opportunity—it is so important that your child has the right guidance during their time here in the UK.

Student Route Visa: what you need to know

UK Student Visa

There are two categories of Student Visa. The first is the Child Student Visa, which is for children between 4 and 17 years old coming to the UK to study at independent schools. The other is the Student Visa, which is for students coming to the UK for post-16 education, for which students must be at least 16 years old.

Visa Application Required Documents

Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)

The Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) is not an actual certificate or paper document but rather a digital record. Each CAS has a unique reference number and contains both information about the course of study for which it has been issued and the student's personal details. Once a student has received the CAS, they must check the information carefully. If something is incorrect, they will need to contact their school as soon as possible as a CAS with wrong information may cause the visa to be refused or extend visa processing time. Students cannot arrange their Student Visa more than six months before the start of their course, and this date can be found on the CAS. Students also need to check the validity of their CAS when making the visa application since a CAS is only valid for six months, and cannot be used more than once. If the visa application is refused, a new CAS will have to be requested from their school.

Passport/Travel Document

To make a Student Visa application, students need to have a valid passport or other travel documentation. The passport or travel document should be valid for more than six months when arriving in the UK for the first time and have at least one blank page (front and back) in order to paste the visa vignette.

Tuberculosis Certificate

Students from listed countries may need to obtain a Tuberculosis certificate if they are coming to the UK for over 6 months. These students must go to the approved tuberculosis testing clinics. If the test shows that a student does not have TB, they will be given a certificate which is valid for 6 months. If the test result is abnormal, the clinic may ask the applicant to do a sputum test, for which it may take about two months to receive results.

Qualifications

If the student is 16 years old or over and their sponsor has assessed their qualifications in order to assign the CAS, they must then provide these qualifications with their application. Students who hold passports from certain countries do not need to provide such documents, but they still need to prepare the documents as the visa decision maker has the right to require applicants to submit such documents if deemed necessary.



Downside School

Parental Consent

If the student is applying for a Child Student Visa or a Student Visa under the age of 18, they are required to provide the consent of their parents/legal guardians to travel to the UK. They must also provide evidence of their relationship with their parents/legal guardians, such as a birth certificate.

Financial Documents

The student must show they have enough money to cover their course fees and living costs whilst studying in the UK. They can use money held in an account owned by themselves or by their parents/legal guardians. If the student will be using the money of parents/legal guardians, they need to provide evidence of their relationship with this party and prove that they have permission to use these funds.

The student must provide specified documents which show that the funds have been held for a consecutive 28-day period, ending no more than 31 days before the date of the visa application.

We suggest that students prepare the required funds even if they do not need to provide financial documents with their application, as some may be from countries listed under the 'differential evidence requirement'. The visa decision maker may ask the applicants to provide financial documents when processing the visa application.

Other Supporting Documents

The student may need to provide further supporting documents due to their personal situation.

Please note:

- Do not provide any false documents, since providing false documents may cause the visa application to be refused. The result will be retained by the UK Home Office and is likely to jeopardize any future applications.
- Where a document is not in English, the document must be accompanied by a fully certified translation.

Immigration Health Surcharge

The immigration health surcharge is a financial contribution to the UK's National Health Service. Students will pay the surcharge if they are granted immigration permission to enter the UK to study for a time-limited period of more than six months. The exact amount the students have to pay depends on how long the visa is they will be granted.

Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)

If the Student Visa application is successful, the student will be given a vignette valid for 30 days, which will be pasted into their passport/travel document. This will allow the student to enter the UK. The student will also receive a digital BRP letter via email. Please check the email inbox or junk box for the digital version. Next, the student needs to collect their BRP no later than 10 days after their arrival in the UK. Then the student needs to bring the BRP when they leave and enter the UK. The BRP is very important, so please keep it safe!

Graduate Visa

The Graduate visa gives international students the opportunity to stay in the UK to work or look for work after they graduate. Undergraduate and master's degree students will be able to apply for a two-year Graduate visa, whilst PhD students will be able to apply for a three-year Graduate visa.

Students must apply for Graduate visas when they are in the UK after they successfully complete a course in the UK. Students need to provide a valid Student Visa with their application.



Oakham School

Study English Language Courses in the UK

Should students want to study an English Language Course in the UK for longer than 6 months and up to 11 months, they should apply for a Short Term Study Visa. In order to apply for the visa, the course must be organised by an accredited institution, and the institute should issue a support letter for the applicant. The applicants must be 16 or older when making the application. Since the applicant will stay in the UK for more than 6 months, they need to submit a TB certificate if they are from a country where they have to take a TB test. In order to use the National Health Service (NHS) in the UK, the applicant also needs to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) as part of the application. When making the application, please make sure you have provided the relevant documents to show you will leave the UK after finishing your studies and you have enough money to cover your course fee, transportation fees and any living costs during your time in the UK. You can stay in the UK for the length of your course plus an extra 30 days as long as your stay is no longer than 11 months.

If an applicant wants to study English Language Courses for less than 6 months, they may be able to apply for a Visit Visa if they hold a passport from certain countries. Depending on your nationality, you might not need a visa to stay in the UK as a student for up to 6 months, but you will still need to bring a letter of acceptance issued by your accredited institution which states the course name, duration and costs.

Applicants under 18 years old will need to provide additional documents, such as documents showing the relationship between their parents/legal guardians, consent letters from their parents/legal guardians, and their living arrangements and care in the UK.

Parent of a Child Student Visa

If a child has or is applying for a Child Student Visa, one parent only can apply for a Parent of a Child Student Visa if they meet the following requirements:

- The child must be aged between 4 and 11 when the parent applies.
- The child is attending an independent school in the UK as a day pupil.
- The parent is the only parent accompanying the child in the UK.
- The parent maintains his/her main home outside the UK.
- The parent plans to leave the UK when his/her visa expires.

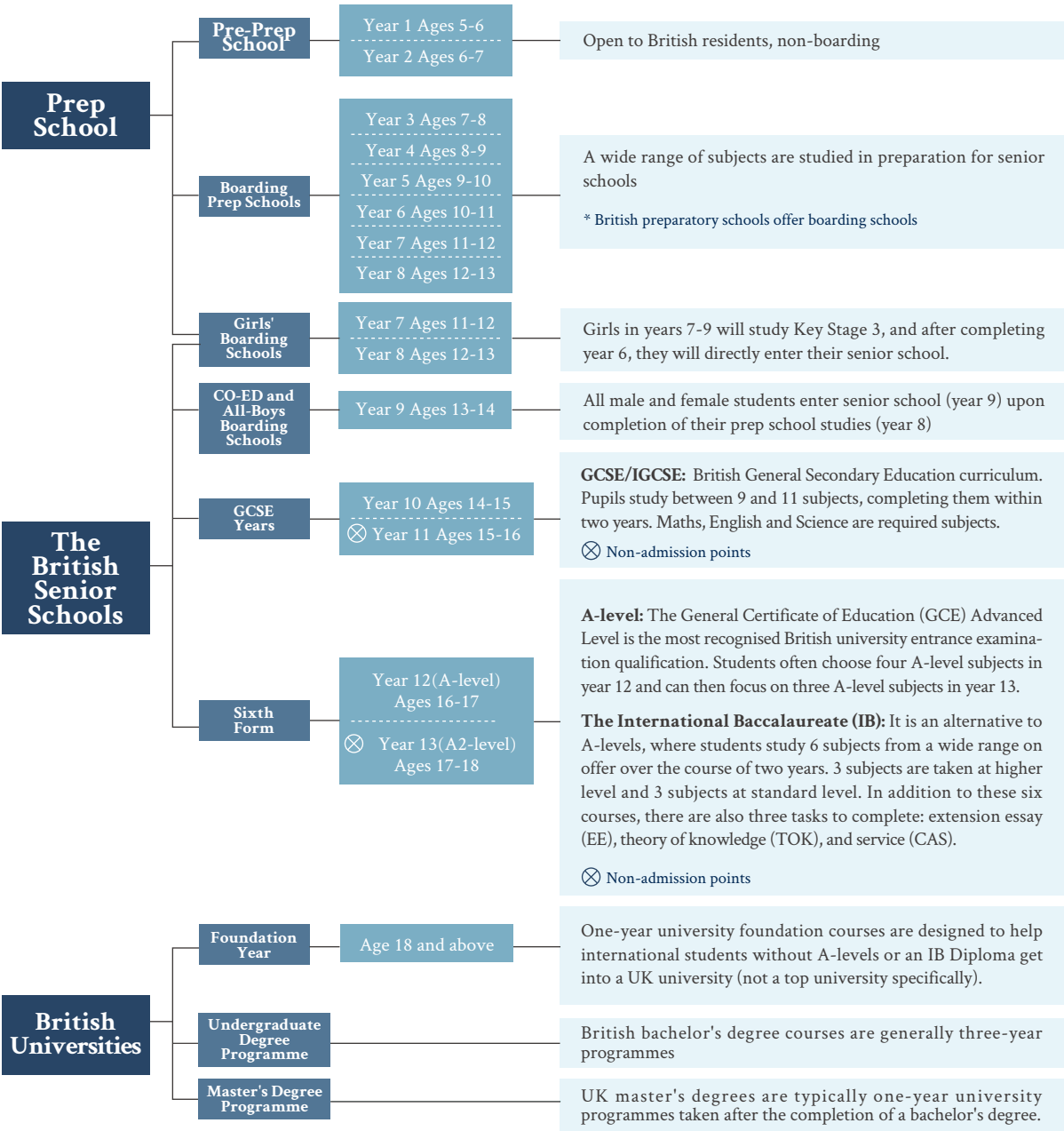
The parent can stay in the UK until his/her child's visa expires or they turn 12 years old, whichever happens first. Parents may not apply for a Parent of a Child Student Visa if their child will reach 12 years old or the child's course will finish very soon.

In order to make the application, the parent needs to show that he/she has enough money to support himself/herself and his/her child in the UK. The parent also needs to provide a TB certificate if he/she is from a country which is required to take the TB test. Along with the visa application fee, the parent still needs to pay for Immigration Health Surcharge. Please be aware that the parent who has a Parent of a Child Student Visa cannot study or work in the UK.



STAGES OF UK EDUCATION

The following chart introduces the key admission ages, entry points and curriculums for British schools. The learning content is gradually enhanced from elementary to advanced.



*IGCSE courses are offered at some international schools. It is a flexible curriculum designed specifically for international students. With over 70 subjects on offer, the typical "core" subjects for IGCSE candidates include a First Language, Second Language, Mathematics and one or more subjects in the Sciences.